

# And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

## Chapter 65

### Chapter 65: Taking Charge

#### Ivy POV

The conversation was over. Hoisted over Hales' shoulder, I was carried upstairs towards my room. The swears and curses of my frustration trailed behind us as I made Damian aware of how pissed off I really was.

"I'm sick of your shit, Damian!" I yelled again before my bedroom door was kicked open and Hale dropped me down on the bed with a bounce.

"Ivy, please. I know you're upset, but we are going to try and figure something out."

Sitting up on my knees, I jabbed him in the chest. "That isn't good enough. Damian's version of trying to figure things out is when he feels like it. If Talon is being poisoned, we have to help him now!"

"I'm sorry, Ivy." Hale replied as he backed away from me. "We can't risk someone else getting killed."

Jumping off my bed, I gave a frustrated groan. "It isn't his fault, Hale. He doesn't know what he is doing."

"I'm aware, but that doesn't excuse what's happening. You can't be involved in this."

"Why?" I scoffed, "because I'm so defenseless and will get killed?"

Hale was silent, and as I paced up and down my room, I couldn't help but take my frustration out on everything around me. Object after object was picked up and thrown across the room. Tears streaming down my face, with the feeling of hopelessness building in my chest.

This had all been my fault, and that was the realization that killed me the most.

"He's your fucking brother, Hale." I replied with defeat as I faced him, "how can you fucking act okay with this? Why aren't you out there yourself, fighting the situation and trying to get him home?"

Clear frustration ran through his expression, and I was aware I wasn't being fair to him. At the same time, though, he and the others were not being fair to Talon. They were acting as if Talon was a lost cause, and he wasn't.

“Ivy, as much as I want to go, if for some reason we did. if something happened to you, I would never forgive myself. I would never be able to get over losing you.”

There was raw emotion and turmoil running through his voice as he spoke. The way it cracked when he talked about losing me made it all the more real.

Hale felt guilty over what he did when I tricked his wolf into claiming me.

He felt guilt for not staying with me when the bond severed, and now he felt guilt over Talon.

He wasn't the only one, though. I felt the guilt too.

Me coming to this place had changed so much of their life, and even though I hadn't asked for any of it... I wasn't making it better.

Since I had woken up from the incident with Caleb, I had done nothing but fuck things up one thing at a time. My biggest mess up was not listening to what Damian and the others were telling me.

I couldn't help it, though.

There was a drive inside me that pushed me forward. It made me crave the attention of all of them, and for every moment I spent not wrapped in their arms, it was agony.

Like a wildfire, the bond made me crave their touch, their power. It drove me like a burning river to have them all, and I couldn't fight it.

“Sometimes in life, Hale, we have to do things we don't want to do for the greater good. Even though my life means a lot to you, it doesn't matter... Talon is part of us, and without him, we aren't complete.”

There was a hidden meaning behind my words that he didn't catch on to. Never had I wanted there to be a division between us,

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but at the end of the day, Damian had told me he would help me bring them all back.

Even if he wouldn't help me, it wouldn't stop me from getting Talon back. It would simply mean I would have to do this shit myself.

Hale's eyes watched me in silence as he processed what I was saying. Slowly stepping forward, he wrapped his arms around my waist and pulled me close, letting his lips brush against mine.

"I'm sorry, Ivy. I wish there was more we could do, but these are waters we are unfamiliar with. Allison was the one who knew about this kind of stuff and, of course, as you know, she wasn't here. Asking for her help would be like giving a child ice cream when she is already jacked up on sugar."

"I will ask her then," I said, letting out a deep breath. "I will plead with her to get him home. He was like a son to her. She won't let him die."

"We were nothing to her but an advantage, Ivy. There is a lot you don't know about the relationship we had with her. She wasn't a kind woman unless it benefited her."

"Then why did you treat her like you did?" I asked, with confusion.

Hale sighed, a soft laugh leaving his lips as he looked down at me, "because we owed her our lives. She saved us when most wanted to kill us. Granted, she wanted us for personal gain, but others saw us as monsters because of our father. The only reason Damian is Alpha is because he doesn't have the gene Talon and I do. Why do you think I'm not Alpha?"

It all made sense now. Hale had better qualities to be an Alpha than Damian did and he was the second oldest. Damian never wanted to be Alpha, but the thing was no one would accept Talon or Hale because of the Lycan gene in their blood. The ancient wolf of chaos.

"That's not fair-" | gasped.

"Life isn't fair, Ivy. I wish that we could go in guns blazing, but until we know more about Talon's situation, we just can't risk it."

His words weren't the ones I wanted to hear, but with reluctance I nodded as he kissed the top of my head before turning and walking out of the room, shutting the door behind him.

Part of me knew that he was right, but the other part didn't want to listen to what he was saying. I couldn't accept defeat in the situation. I couldn't just allow Talon to go as he was. My heart begged me to go to him, and perhaps that is what I needed to do.

I needed to give Damian a reason to follow through on his promise.

Picking up my phone, I dialed Kate's number. A plan formulated in my mind as she answered on the second ring. "Hello?" "I need your help, Kate," I said softly.

"With what?" she replied hesitantly as if she had a feeling about what I was going to say.

"With Talon."

There was silence on the other end of the phone before a sigh escaped her, “you’re going after him, aren’t you?”

“Yes, and you’re going to help me,” I stated firmly, letting her know that I wasn’t backing down from this. I wasn’t sure if I would come back alive, but it was Talon. I had to try.

Deep down, I knew I could be the one who was able to reach him. I just needed to go there, and I had no clue where to look. Kate would know though since her mate Angel was well informed of what was going on.

He was a skilled tracker, and Damian had called him in for his help.

“This isn’t a good idea, Ivy,” she replied.

“I know, but if it was Angel, you know you would do the same thing. You wouldn’t let someone keep you away from him.”

Kate let out a heavy sigh on the other end of the line before groaning. “Okay, fine. What time?”

“Be here at four in the morning. That way, the guys are sleeping.”

“Are you kidding me?!” She exclaimed, that’s so fucking early!”

Narrowing my brows, pinched the bridge of my nose, trying to keep my composure.

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Just do it, Kate, and you better not say shit to anyone else. That’s an order, man... Hoes before bros and all that shit.” I told her as a smile slowly crossed my lips, hearing her laugh.

“Whatever. We are stopping for coffee, though, and your ass is buying.”

Hanging up the phone, I smiled to myself, glad I was able to have Kate as a friend. It was crazy how quickly she and I had bonded, and through everything, she never left my side.

Relief flooded me, but beneath it was a mass of nerves, unsure if what I was planning to do was a good idea. Taking a deep breath, I took in the mess I had created around me. Books were strewn across the floor, and clothing scattered the bed and hung from their drawers.

My temper tantrum was unreasonable, but in the heat of the moment, I hadn't considered it. Slowly, I began to pick up the surrounding items. My mind went over the conversation I had with Hale. If Allison could be of some help, perhaps I should trust her, and ask her to help me.

Unless that was the plan, and she really had something to do with this.

My skeptical mind was frustrated with the information and no matter how much I tried to push it away, I couldn't. I knew how to cure Bella Donna. The ingredients we could pick up the way to where we were going and once we got there, I would have to figure out my next step.

"Ivy?" James' voice called softly from my bedroom door.

Lifting my gaze to meet his, I smiled. "Hey, you. What are you doing?"

"I was coming to check on you," he replied with wide eyes as he stepped inside the room and looked around. "I see you did a number on your room."

Blushing, I bit my bottom lip and nodded, "yeah, sorry about that."

"It's okay.. it's your room." He chuckled, "I do have to admit, though, for someone as petite as you, you can do some damage."

Chuckling a pair of panties at him, he grabbed them mid-air and laughed, "oh, do I get to keep these?"

\*If you want, but I would have thought you would prefer the ones on me."

The seductive nature of how I spoke made him grin, that's tempting."

\* As tempting as it may be, I should probably clean this up first," I replied, gesturing around my room. "It's a mess."

He slowly took steps toward me and pulled me to my feet. A rush of emotions flooded me as my heart began to race. There had always been something about James that excited me, but in a way I would have been in high school.

Perhaps it was his playful boyish charms that drew me in or the way he smiled. Something about it was comforting, and through it all, he refused to give up on me.

"Who said anything about sleeping?" Kissing the corner of my lips, he ran his hand down my side and cupped my ass, causing me to giggle.

"As much as I would love to do this right now, James, I can't."

The whispered confession wasn't one I knew he wanted to hear, but he nodded regardless and kissed the side of my head. "I'm sorry this is happening."

"So am I."

Pulling me tight against his chest, he hugged me and deeply inhaled my scent. "I know you're planning something, Ivy. I can tell by the emotions rushing through you that you are going to do something, and I'm begging you not to."

I couldn't deny what he was saying, because I knew very well he could tell. However, if I admitted it, I also knew he would stop me.

"Everything I am plotting is to help you guys bring him home. I wouldn't ever do anything without you." It was technically a lie because, at the end of the day, they would come after me once they knew I was gone. Another part of my plan would be perfectly executed.

## Chapter 66: Defying Damian

### James POV

A few hours later and I couldn't stop pacing the living room. She was planning something. I wasn't sure what it was, but my gut feeling was hardly ever wrong about things.

"Would you stop pacing?" Damian sighed as he lifted his bourbon glass to his lips and shook his head. "It's giving me a migraine."

Stopping in my tracks, I stared at him with frustration. "She is planning something. I know it."

"She has no idea where to look," Hale reassured, "she wouldn't be able to do anything. Now, if you would like to be helpful, we need to search through these books and find a cure for Bella Donna."

Hale wouldn't get off the issue of Bella Donna being the drug that was affecting Talon. The moment Ivy had suggested it, he had run with the idea, and he wouldn't allow any other suggestion to be made.

"What makes you so sure it's that?" Damian asked as if the idea was one he couldn't wrap his mind around. "I don't want us to assume something we aren't sure of."

Laying the book down in his hands, Hale sighed, shaking his head, "Ivy knows a lot more than you give her credit for, Damian. We need to start listening to the things she is telling us."

“Do you honestly think I don’t?” Damian snapped, “I have been trying to protect her since the moment she got here and every time I turn around, you both or she is going against everything I say.”

“We all have fucked up in regards to Ivy, Damian. Not just you, but me, Hale, and Talon have as well. If I could go back in time, would change things, but what happened made us stronger. She will be the Luna of this pack and even without the ceremony, she already is. We need to trust her.

Damian sat staring at us with disbelief. “Is this what you both think?”

Looking at Hale, he nodded in agreement with what I was saying. Ivy needed to be taken more seriously, and we didn’t agree with Damian trying to protect her from everything.

“Yes, and to top it off, she is changing.”

“Changing?” Damian asked with confusion, “what do you mean?”

“I know you can’t tell because you haven’t marked her, but something is different about her than it was before. Like something inside her is slowly waking up, and it really started to happen after Hale claimed her again.”

Silence fell between us as I took a seat, and Hale went back to his reading. Damian was not the kind of man to look vulnerable, but staring at him now, all I could see was fear in his eyes. He was afraid of what I said, and I wasn’t sure why he was afraid.

Damian had always been the strongest of all of us. He had been the one who had taken charge when our parents died. He was also the one who always took a back seat in things to make sure we were put first.

I didn’t understand it. In fact, his personality didn’t portray a man who would do something like that. Instead, he came off as cold and unlikeable. An Alpha who was ruthless and didn’t care for the feelings of others.

It was an act, though. My brothers and I knew the truth without him having to admit it.

Damian was terrified of losing Ivy and even more terrified she would reject him.

“Maybe we should reconsider the idea of keeping her out of this,” Damian said, breaking the surrounding silence. “Maybe it’s time I give her a chance to be a part of this instead of always trying to push her away.”

A smile lined my face, hearing his words. “I think that is a wise choice, brother. She is sleeping right now, so in the morning, I think we should all three surprise her and tell her what we have decided. It will make her happy.”

Nodding his head, Damian stood to his feet and put down his empty glass, "I'm going to head to bed. I will see you both in the morning."

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"Likewise," I replied as I joined him. "Hale, I take it you're going to stay up for a while?"

Hale was silent as he read, and a nod was the only acknowledgment that I received. No matter how much he was trying to act normal, I could see the truth. He was far from being alright and that concerned me.

I could only hope that Ivy was able to fix him like she was convinced she could fix Talon.

Ivy POV

Silence.

The sky outside was still black from the blanket of darkness that had clouded the land. I knew what my objective was, but thinking about it now, I couldn't help the doubt that seeped into my soul.

Was I really making the right choice?

Grabbing my backpack, I quietly moved through the house and down the stairs towards Kate, who had better be waiting just outside. I knew that as soon as I left pack territory, the patrols would wake Damian, but by that point, we would already have a head start.

Dim lighting from the living room had me freezing in my place at the bottom of the stairs. My eyes cast glances towards the open space, searching for a figure that wasn't where I had expected him to be.

Hale sat quietly in his chair with his eyes trained on me. "I had a feeling you were up to something. Especially after James mentioned something about it before he went to bed."

Sighing, I slowly moved forward, stopping in the entryway, and smiled. "I have to do this, Hale."

"I know," he replied, catching me off guard. It wasn't the response I had expected from him, and yet he was okay with me leaving to go after Talon.

"Why are you okay with this? The others would have chained me up to keep me from going."



The corners of his lips turned up into a small smile as he nodded. "Yeah, I know. But I think you're right, Ivy. I think it's Bella Donna poisoning, and I'm starting to wonder if someone close to us did it."

"The guys wouldn't have-"

"No, they wouldn't," he quickly said, cutting me off. "But I think someone else might have. Someone who is trying to cause issues for us, and make sure that you are not able to get to Talon. Someone who would benefit."

His words confused me, and to be honest, I wasn't sure who that would be. There were so many people that were close to us and Allison wouldn't poison Talon.

She needed them.

"Do you think it's Allison?" I asked with hesitation, unsure of how he would respond.

"As much as I don't want to think she would do that, I don't see why she would. We are more useful to her if we are alive. Otherwise, she has no way to get to power. Regardless if Damian is sitting in the Alpha position, we all rule together," he replied as he stroked his chin, staring off into the distance.

"That's not good."

Slowly, his eyes met mine again as he gestured for me to come to him. My feet moved me forward without a second thought until he pulled me onto his lap. "No, it's not, and that is why I need you to be careful. Trust no one, Ivy. Make sure that you watch your back, and when I do come, I want you to be prepared."

Nodding, I pressed my lips to his in a gentle kiss, "I won't let you down."

"You could never let me down, Ivy. Even though I have changed from how I was before, I want you to know it isn't you. I am trying to find the person I was before I lost you. Honestly, I think I am like this because I don't have Talon."

I didn't know what it was like to have siblings, considering I was an only child, but I could feel the pain of his missing brother through the link. He had opened himself to me emotionally, and the pain of losing Talon was tearing him apart.

"I will bring him back." I said again as I kissed him, "but I have to go now before the others wake up."

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Standing to my feet, he patted my back end gently, causing me to look back at him with a grin. I still remembered what he had told me before about twins and needing to mate together, but after everything I had read about their kind-it was mistranslated.

Mating with them together was how I produced an heir... Not to form the bond.

Something I didn't bother to correct them on because having children right now was not on the agenda. Although some day it would be nice. The idea itself fills me with pride.

Hale walked with me out to Kate's car, whose eyes bugged out when she saw him coming with me. "Uh-did I miss something?" she stuttered.

"No," I replied with laughter as Hale placed my bag in the car and kissed me one more time.

"Be safe, Ivy," he said, running his hand through my hair. "I expect you in one piece when we get there."

"Funny you say that because I was thinking the same about you, Hale. James and Damian are going to flip out when they find out you let me go."

Shrugging his shoulders, he glanced back at the house, and turned to Kate and I. "You need to go now. James will be up soon."

Wasting not another moment, Kate and I were speeding down the driveway towards the highway. Her lead foot became an asset in our getaway.

"How long until Damian knows you're gone?" she asked, pulling me from my thoughts.

"No long," I smirked just as a roar echoed in the distance, and my phone began to ring repeatedly. "Do you mind if I put this on speaker?"

Opening and closing her mouth, she shook her head with a grin across her face. "Go for it."

Taking a deep breath, I answered the call, "Hello, Damian."

"Get your ass back here right now, Ivy!" He yelled into the phone, causing Kate and I both to laugh. We weren't trying to be disrespectful, but it was hard not to laugh at Damian sometimes when he got angry.

A vision of him pacing the living room with his ears turning red from how pissed off he really was taunted my mind and made me smile.

"Now, Damian. This is a team effort, honey." I replied, putting on a fake heavy southern accent. "We all have to work together. Team work makes the dream work."

“Damn it, Ivy. Kate, I swear to god you better turn that fucking car around right now! This isn’t a game. Talon is fucking bent and you’re both going to get yourselves killed!”

Nervousness seeped off Kate at Damian’s words. I knew the complications for myself, but I never took into account the complications for Kate.

Reaching over, I gave her knee a gentle squeeze to help reassure her. My touch seemed to calm her racing mind as I put my attention back on Damian.

“I know what’s wrong with him, Damian. The problem isn’t with what I’m doing. You need to figure out who is behind it and why. Talon won’t hurt me, no matter what you think. Just for once in your life, trust me.”

My statement was met with silence as crashing sounds echoed through the background.

“I do trust you, Ivy,” he replied exhaustedly. “I just can’t lose you.”

There was a weakness in his words that he didn’t care if even Kate heard. It was fear that forced his choices, and now more than ever, I could see that clearly.

“I promise I will be okay,” I sighed. “And I know I will see you soon.”

Hanging up the phone, I put it on silent, and leaned back into my seat taking in what I was really doing. Part of me knew I was in way over my head, but there was something else inside me driving me to go to him.

It was a force I couldn’t ignore, and I was more than willing to take a leap if need be to save him

## Chapter 67: On the Road Again

Two hours.

That’s how long Kate and I had been driving and my ass was sore from our journey. I should have suggested we took my car because Kate’s small compact vehicle was not meant for long-distance journeys.

Even if I was short and petite, I had junk in my trunk and the seat was killing this cushioning.

“Are we there yet?” I asked her again after the hundredth time. Her eyes slowly narrowed as she looked at me with frustration.

“If you ask me that one more time, so help me, I will pull this car over.

Laughter erupted from my lips at her comment. She reminded me so much of my mother growing up when we went on trips. "I'm sorry. Why don't we pull off at the next exit and take a potty break and get coffee?"

The sound of coffee made Kate's eyes perk up, and a grin crossed her lips. "Deal, but this is the last stop, Ivy. We literally have two hours left and if you keep this up, we will never get there."

"Two hours?" I repeated with confusion. "He's that close?"

Opening and closing her mouth, she tilted her head and sighed, "not exactly."

"You know I hate it when you answer with that. It lets me know that shit's going to get more chaotic for me than just riding in your tiny ass car."

"Hey!" she snapped. "Don't you talk bad about Black Betty. This car is a machine and will out do yours any day of the week."

She was right. The damn car was a beautiful machine, but at the same time, it wasn't comfortable. "Pain before beauty."

"Damn straight, bitch," she grinned, pulling off on the exit way headed towards a small town with one gas station and a few small diners. There wasn't much here, but food and coffee sounded great.

"I want a last meal before I do." I teased her as she pulled into the gas station to fill up and turned to stare at me.

"Don't say shit like that  
you're not dying, Ivy."

Perhaps I wasn't actually going to die... or at least I hoped that wouldn't be the case.

"Regardless, I need food." I smiled at her, watching as she rolled her eyes before getting out to pump gas.

Letting my eyes wander, I took in the area two hours from the pack and admired how lush and green it was. We were high in the countryside, and the size of the small town we were in showed just how secluded life really was here.

We had only just passed through the Canadian border, and from what Damian had said before, Talon was deep within the Canadian wilderness. His animalistic instincts kept him in the forests, and my clothing was not doing anything to control the cold that bit at me.

Furrowing my brow, I pulled myself from my thoughts as Kate got back in the car. My eyes lingered on a figure walking into the gas station I swore I recognized before.

“Kate... that man right there in the black coat with the white ball cap. Doesn't he look familiar?”

Her eyes followed mine as she squinted, taking him in. “I don't think so..”

“No, seriously. I'm telling you I have seen him somewhere.”

Pulling out my phone, I waited until he exited the store, and I snapped a photo, sending it to James. My mind reeled over the ideal have seen that man before somewhere.

It only took a moment and James' number popped up on the car's Bluetooth.

“Hey, I take it you got the photo.”

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The sounds in the background let me know they were driving, and a smile crossed my lips, realizing they were indeed right behind

US.

“Yeah, that's Bennett. A guy who works on your dad's security team. Where are you guys?”

Looking around, I searched for a sign before looking to Kate for an answer. However, all she did was shrug, unsure where we were.

“We passed the border a little while ago, but not sure of the name of the town. What would this guy be doing here?” I asked as an uneasy feeling grew within my stomach.

“I don't know. We are still an hour behind you, though.” James said with hesitation.

“Damian wants you to find a place there to lie low until we get there. We're not sure if maybe your dad is involved in this. After all, he wasn't happy about being replaced.”

“We don't have time for that, James,” I replied, trying to think of what to do. “It looks like he is going into the diner. maybe we can stall him just in case.”

“Ivy.” Damian finally said through the phone, sending chills down my spine as I smiled.

“Hello, cupcake. How’s the drive?”

Kate stifled her laughter as she took a sip of her water.

“It could have been better, but instead we are chasing after you, as always.”

“Well, that’s always exciting, isn’t it?” I grinned, watching Bennet sit down at a table with a woman I didn’t recognize.

“You’re not going to listen to me, are you?” Damian finally groaned as Kate and I began to laugh.

“Nope... probably not. Talk later, though.” I said, hanging up the phone. What the hell was this guy doing here and why do I feel like he is up to no good?

“What are we doing?” Kate finally asked, pulling my attention towards her.

“I don’t know,” I replied, shrugging my shoulders. “I mean he could just be like on a date, but it feels too coincidental for my liking. What would you do?”

“Well, I mean probably slash his tires,” she said after a moment of silence. “It would make sure they can’t follow you right away or something

With wide eyes, I turned to her, “I have never slashed someone’s tires before.”

“Well, you don’t want to do it unless you’re sure, usually. Otherwise, it could be just a dick move....”

and it

Kate’s words trailed off, and through it all, the only thing I focused on was I had never slashed someone’s tires before sounded kind of fun.

“I’m going to do it,” I finally said. “I’m going to slash his tires.”

“Seriously..” Kate said flatly. “You’re going to do it?”

Looking at her with a wide mischievous grin, I shrugged my shoulders, “fuck it. Why not?”

Kate’s eyes lit up with excitement as a grin spread across her face. “Who are you and what did you do with safe Ivy?”

“Who said I was safe?” I replied with confidence. Sometimes a girl has to get dirty in order to protect her assets.”

“You mean the four sex god men that currently like to ravage you? Your Impaler’s delight?”

Staring at her dumbfounded, I laughed. “Are you going to sit there all day trying to think of things to call them or move towards that car before the guy decides to leave?”

“Good point,” I replied.

Kate quickly pulled from the gas station towards the diner. As soon as she got close, I jumped out of the car and stabbed the two back tires with the knife, watching as they quickly deflated. The sounds of Bennett running from the diner and yelling at me were amusing, and as I jumped back into Kate’s car, she stepped on the gas and took us back onto the highway.

I wasn’t sure if the guy was actually following us, but at the same time, I wasn’t going to risk it. Why else would my father’s

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security guy be this close to where Talon was, and so convenient when we were on our way there? Better not to take any chances. Something about it didn’t seem right, and I wasn’t about to allow anyone to hurt Talon or anyone I loved.

Sometimes a girls gotta do what a girls gotta do.

Just as she said, two hours later, we pulled up outside of a forest somewhere in the northern part of Canada. I wasn’t sure why! would have expected it to be warm. It was later in the year and there was more snow on the ground here than I had seen back in Idaho.

“Kate, why do you think Bennett was in that town?” I finally asked, breaking the silence between us.

Shaking her head, she looked at me and shrugged. “I don’t know. I have been wondering the same thing.”

“It’s making me wonder if my father and Allison had something to do with all of this. I mean, I don’t see why Allison would, but at the same time, I could understand my father wanting to get rid of them.”

“Honestly, Ivy, I never liked Allison. I met her years ago at a nationwide pack event and even then she flaunted herself as if she was the most important person in the room. I

wouldn't put it past her having a hand in this." Kate replied with a sigh. The statement was one I didn't want to hear.

As much as I wanted to give Allison the benefit of the doubt, there was a chance I couldn't. There was a chance that she was trying to kill Talon, and who knows if the guys were targeted next?

Opening the door, I stepped out into the cold Canadian air and froze in my tracks.

"Jesus Christ, it's fucking cold," I complained as Kate and I stepped out of the car.

"Yeah, it's a bit cold," she retorted, grabbing a bag full of gear from the trunk as I slid on my backpack.

"A bit?" | exclaimed. "It's more than a bit cold, Kate. I'm freezing my ass off."

Laughter escaped her as she closed the trunk and walked towards where I was standing. "The best thing about being a shifter". we run hotter than normal. So yeah, it is cold, but it isn't that bad."

Rolling my eyes, I turned towards the forest and contemplated what we were about to do. This was by far the most dangerous thing I had ever done, but at the same time, it was for a good purpose. This would bring Talon home, and help to complete our circle.

A circle that should have been completed so long ago.

"No matter what happens, Kate... if Talon charges me, don't interfere." I muttered, watching as her gaze met mine, and shock

filled her.

"You can't ask me to do that, Ivy. You're human and can't take him. He could try to kill you."

"He won't, Kate," I replied before she stopped in her tracks and shook her head.

"But he could!" she exclaimed. "Please don't ask me to do that."

Giving her a pointed look, she slowly caved and nodded her head, biting her bottom lip. Silence fell between us as the sound of

snow crunching beneath our boots echoed through the trees. There was no telling what was going to happen, but one thing! knew for sure was I would succeed.

I had to succeed-for Talon.



## Chapter 68: Finding Talon

The sound of crunching snow beneath my boots echoed around me. I wasn't sure what I was expecting, but the surrounding forest was silent except for the noise we made. Kate and I ventured deeper into the forest until a small clearing with a log cabin came into view.

"Is he there?" I asked as we stopped, curious about why a random cabin sat so far within the depths of the forest. It had taken us over an hour to get here on foot, but that was because I couldn't shift to make the process go by faster.

Kate hesitated before slowly nodding and it became clear that she was nervous about being here, and considering everything the guys had explained to me, I didn't blame her.

Talon was far worse than anyone had thought him to be, and even though I desperately wanted to save him, I knew there was a possibility I wouldn't be able to.

Taking a deep breath, I stepped forward. The cabin was my target, and if Talon was in there, then I had to see him. I had come too far to turn back now, and there was no way I would be leaving without him.

"It's okay, Kate. Everything is going to be okay."

My words were meant for comfort, but Kate gave me a look that showed doubt.

"Don't assume it will be all sunshine and rainbows, Ivy. The Talon you know isn't the same one out here. It's what everyone has been trying to tell you, and if you're not careful, he will kill you."

I knew what she was saying was true, but I also had faith I could bring him back.

I had faith he would return to me, and the goddess that loved them would help me do that.

As my feet hit the wooden deck of the cabin's porch, I paused, taking a moment to let everything sink in. There was a chance he was on the other side of this door. There was a chance that with everything I had gone through, I was about to be reunited with him.

The thought alone gave me hope, but as my hand hovered over the doorknob, I couldn't find the strength to open it. "It's okay, Ivy. Just open it," Kate replied, bumping me with her shoulder and giving me a smile. Nodding, I quickly turned the doorknob and let the door swing open.

I had been hoping and praying Talon was sitting inside waiting for me to come to him, but in the end, I was met with nothing but cold emptiness.

“He isn’t here,” I said as I stepped forth into the cabin and Kate joined me, shutting the door behind her. “Where is he?”

“Probably in his animal form, Ivy. We aren’t sure if he comes back here, but every time he has been seen, he isn’t in his human form.”

“Why didn’t you tell me that before?” I asked, turning to her with confusion, “you could have said something.”

“We have, in the past forty-eight hours you have been told. I’m sorry, Ivy. I wish it was just as easy as us coming here, and him waiting for you. It would make all of it so much easier, but unfortunately. We are that fortunate.”

Her words weren’t comforting, but as my eyes cast around the cabin, I couldn’t help but feel like he had been here and very recently.

The cabin was small and held no bedrooms; instead, it had a very open floor plan that was perfect for a single person. A small bed with a blue quilt sat to the side of one cabin, and a small kitchen sat on the other side. It was perfect enough for someone who was trying to escape his life, but at the same time, it felt lonely.

Tears welled within my eyes, realizing this is where Talon had escaped to escape the pain he felt when my bond with him had severed.

“I have to find him, Kate,” I whispered loud enough that Kate heard me. “I need to go out there and find him.”

## Chapter 68: Finding Talon

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“Not tonight, you aren’t,” Kate replied, catching my wrist. “We will camp here tonight, and hope that he either comes back or we can find him in the morning.”

“Why?” I asked with confusion. Not understanding why we wouldn’t go and find him now. I wanted to find him before the guys got here because I didn’t want anyone to get hurt.

Sighing, Kate pointed out the window to the sky. “The sun is setting, Ivy. It’s about to get very cold around here and hungry things come out at night. We can’t protect ourselves if we are moving in the dark.”

“You can see in the dark, though, right?”

"Yeah, silly... But you can't." she said, stating the obvious. As much as I hated remembering I wasn't one of them, I had to learn to face facts. I was useless in these kinds of situations, and no more than ever, it made sense why they hide things from me.

"So what do we do?" I asked her, letting out a heavy sigh, knowing there was nothing I could do other than take direction from Kate.

Dropping her bag, she smiled at me. "Stop moping. We will figure it out, okay? I'm just trying to keep your sweet little ass alive, Ivy. Now, I will start a fire. Why don't you look for anything useful in the kitchen."

Without another word, I made work of what she told me to do. The entire time, my mind was spinning with the idea Talon was out there somewhere in the cold. His mind slowly slipping from the poison running through his veins and time slowly slipping with the chance to save him.

An hour later, we sat near the fire drinking coffee I managed to scrounge up in the kitchen. Laughter escaped us as we talked about the escapade we had in the town with my father's man.

It was during times like this I was grateful for Kate because she had the ability to help people forget about their problems just by being herself.

"Do you think he was headed here or was already up here?" I asked her, watching as she shrugged. My thoughts of my dad having his hands in why Talon was sick sent anger to my soul.

"Maybe, I wouldn't put it past your dad. He seems like a real piece of work."

Nodding my head, I couldn't deny what she was saying. "Yeah, he isn't the man I was hoping for him to be. Then again, I have been naïve about a lot of things since I came to live with him. I think it's time I start taking responsibility for my actions."

Furrowing her brows, she looked at me with confusion before setting down her cup.

"It's expected for you to not know much about our lives, Ivy. It was kept from you forever, and no one bothered to properly explain things to you when you did find out."

I could tell she was trying to make me feel better about everything, but she couldn't deny I have made many stupid choices.

"I know," I replied with a heavy sigh. "Still, I have been a bit ridiculous at times."

With hesitations, she nudged me a little and smiled.

"Maybe a little, but you handled the news so well. I was surprised you didn't flip out when you found out I was one, too," she laughed, causing me to crack a smile.

"By the time you told me, I had already grown used to the idea of wolves and whatever else might be out there. Then they drop the whole Lycan thing on me..."

Her eyes widened at my mention of the Lycan situation, and quickly she cleared her throat. "What do you mean,"

Before she could finish her sentence, however, a low growl emitted from within the darkness outside. Both of our eyes darted towards the window on the far side of the cabin as we froze.

Something large outside was slowly circling the cabin, and even though we used the wooden barricade to lock the cabin door-it wouldn't hold back a wolf like Talon.

"Do you think-" I whispered, only to have Kate glare at me quickly and shake her head no. I wasn't linked with Kate, so communication wasn't possible, but I watched her own eyes glaze over and I knew right away what she was doing.

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She was reaching Angel.

Fear spiraled through me as the hairs on my arms raised with anticipation of Talon finding me. There was a calling between us. Something inside me that let me know the monster on the outside of the cabin was him.

As much as part of me wanted to open the door and run to him, I couldn't. I had to think smarter, and I had to be patient. It wasn't just my life out here... It was Kate's as well.

As Kate's eyes cleared, she pulled out her phone and typed out a message showing it to me.

'Angel is with the guys, and he said they are still forty minutes out. A wreck on the highway has delayed them. They said to stay in the cabin and wait for them to get here.'

Running my hand over my face, I sighed. This wasn't what was supposed to happen.

I came here to save Talon, and not sit locked away in a cabin waiting for the guys to get here to rescue me. Otherwise, why did I come in the first place?

Frustration filled me, realizing my hands were tied right now. If I went out, there I could get Kate hurt... If I stayed, the guys would be here soon and there was no way they would let me do anything.

Weighing my choices, I tried to think of a plan, but everything came to a roadblock that only upset me even more.

“NO..” I whispered, watching as she stared at me in shock before I broke contact and let my eyes drift towards the front door. “He knows we’re here..”

Within moments chaos consumed us as Talons’ wolf slammed against the door to the cabin over and over again. The wood held it together, cracking little by little against his massive weight.

I had only met his wolf once or twice before, and both times his wolf hadn’t been pleased with my presence, but I enticed him.

“Shit!” Kate exclaimed as she grabbed her bag and quickly began to pull out a tranquilizer gun and darts. The realization of what she was planning to do almost broke my heart.

“What-Kate... What are you doing?”

She turned to me with a dumbfounded look as she continued pulling things out. “What the fuck does it look like I’m doing? I’m making sure we stay alive.”

“Kate, he won’t hurt me,” I replied, moving towards the door. “He won’t.”

She grabbed my arm, pulled me back, and shook her head in disbelief. “Look, I love you dearly, Ivy, so I am going to say this the best I can and I don’t want you to take this the wrong way. But have you lost your fucking mind? He isn’t the same man you knew before.”

The cracking of the wood and the biting cold circled us as the door to the cabin gave way to his massive form. His wolf stood before us, spotted with blood from his recent kill, and a murderous look in his eyes.

Slowly, we both backed away from him one step at a time until a low growl echoed from his throat, and he snapped his jaw.

“Talon-” I whispered, his gaze quickly locking onto me. “Talon please, it’s time to come home.”

As true to their word, Talon didn’t recognize me. He didn’t know who I was, and the poison from the Bella Donna or whatever coursed through his veins.

Deranging his mind until nothing he once knew made sense.

With his gaze locked on me, Kate took the opportunity to quickly reach for her gun. Only Talon was faster, and he turned swiftly, snapping in her direction. His body blocked her from the only thing that could currently save us.

Thinking quickly, I thought back to what had happened with Hale. When I had enticed his wolf, it was enough, he couldn't keep his focus on me, and even though it could have ended badly. I had to take that chance.

"Hale!" I screamed through my mind, hoping he would feel me and open his link.

The day I was able to invade his mind like he could do me would be a miracle.

'Ivy?' Hale responded, causing me to sigh as I went between listening to him and focusing on the situation with Talon and Kate.

## Chapter 68: Finding Talon

'What's Talon's wolf's name?' I asked him.

'Ivy, why... What happened?' he asked me with a sense of panic in his voice.

"Hale!" I screamed at him. "I don't have time for this... Please, he is going to kill Kate unless you tell me."

"Volaire...his wolf's name is Volaire. Please be safe, Ivy." he replied with reluctance, giving me everything I needed.

Focusing back on reality, things were getting worse. Talon was only a foot from ripping Kate apart and losing her would be like losing a piece of my soul.

\*\*Volaire!" I screamed, watching as the wolf's ears flinched at my words. "Volaire, I command you to look at me."

The demanding tone of my voice caused Talon's wolf to look at me with anger and conflict. A painful whine left his lips as realized the name I spoke was of an ancient term, and what happened with Hale could very well happen here.

"Kate, when I get him clear, I want you to shoot him with the antidote. It's in my bag."

"What!" she screamed. "Are you fucking insane?!"

Laughing, I backed towards the door while Talon stared at me with amusement, "no matter what, Kate... don't you dare fucking miss!"

Turning on my heels, I did the one thing I was told to never do in a situation like this.

Iran... With everything I had, I ran through the snow and towards the trees hoping that Kate was as damn good of a shot as she claimed she was.

Otherwise, there was no telling what was going to happen to me.

## Chapter 69: Saving Talon

Hale Pov

I should have known letting Ivy go was going to be problematic. The moment Damian and James found out what I had done, they had a field day with me. They didn't understand, though.

They didn't understand Ivy the way I did.

Talon was important to our circle, and without him, the union would never be completed. I knew the moment I let the ancient wolf inside me claim her as our mate there was no going back.

It unlocked something deep inside her that had laid dormant and would have until she awoke the beast within me and released something I had tried to keep hidden for so long.

Even when I had claimed her the first time, I did it in a way I was connected, but not completely mated. I couldn't release the venom in my body through her. I couldn't allow her to go through the change.

A change would turn her life upside down more than it already was.

Ivy explained she gave up her chance at a human life for us because she wanted to be with us, but at the same time, I already voiced to Damian she didn't know what she was asking for.

Being a shifter came with its challenges, and if she lived the way we did, she wouldn't be able to have the things she wanted. Especially if she became what I am.

Just because Talon and I survived it, it didn't mean she would, but now all of that was gone. All of that didn't matter because she was in danger, and we were only now just arriving at the shit show that was about to take place.

Bursting from the car, we shifted into our wolves headed for the treeline. Even though as wolves we were fast, it would still take fifteen minutes to get to her and that was fifteen minutes she was left defenseless.

Fifteen minutes could cost her her life if she wasn't able to get through to him.

Pushing myself, I raced towards her, and towards my brother who was slowly falling apart. My heart beat for her, and when this was done, I would spend an eternity making it up.

An eternity making sure that she had a life somewhat normal, whether my brothers agreed to it or not.

“No matter what, Ivy must live.’ Damian said through our link with stern intent.

He may not have shown that he cared, but deep down, he did.

He was simply scared of losing something he never had-love.

Ivy Pov

“Shit!” I screamed as I stumbled through the forest, tripping over fallen logs and broken branches. Talon was behind me, there was no doubt about that. The thundering of his paws against the fallen snow sent an alarm through to my soul.

I never considered snow could be so loud, but then again, I had never run for my life. Wondering if this was going to be the moment I died.

I didn’t want to die, but I would sacrifice myself if I had to bring him back. I would give anything to make sure the ones I loved lived through all of this.

Love.. it was a thought I hadn’t had before and now that I was, I didn’t know if I would be able to survive them, to tell them.

My panting breath came out in clouds before me. The only light I had to show me where I was came from the moon reflecting against the white-breasted snow.

It was beautiful if I thought about it, but quickly those thoughts reflected the blood that would pour from me if I was caught.

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A rough shove from behind sent me tumbling through the snow, and as I did, I found myself crying out in pain. Scratches and bruises were sure to line my skin, and as I gasped, I tried to find the will to keep going.

Crawling slowly through the snow that nipped at my skin with painful delight. I found myself quickly pinned, lying beneath the belly of an angry wolf who was breathing down my neck with every intention of killing me.

“Talon, please... It’s me.” This was a moment of panic, a moment where, for once in my life, I wasn’t sure what I was supposed to do.



The realization once again I acted stupidly before thinking about what I was going to do. It was instinct, though, to protect the ones I care about

Kate had been in danger, and I couldn't allow him to hurt her.

What happened to him was my fault.

Slowly, I rolled over beneath the creature, who was standing above me, persistently growling. As scared as I was, though, I couldn't help but be amazed by his enormous beauty

Every time I saw their wolves, I was terrified, but also mesmerized by how beautiful a creature they really were. "Talon, please come back to me. I didn't leave you. The moon played tricks on us both."

As my eyes met that of the deranged wolf staring down at me, I gasped in shock. Blood and saliva dripped from his mouth as reverberations of his growl swept through me.

The only thing I could do was to keep softly talking to him, and hope Kate was able to catch up or that I was able to break through to him and get him to see it was me.

"Talon.." I whispered, causing him to growl even more. "I know you're in there.."

Slowly, moving my bare hand, I reached up and brushed my fingers through the mat of fur on his chest. It was a bold move on my part, but I didn't care.

I longed to touch him, even if it was in his animal form.

I should have known, though, it was a bad move on my part. Talon quickly snapped and growled at me, not knowing who I was anymore. Not understanding I was the woman he was destined for. The woman who loved him unconditionally.

"Shh-" I hushed, "it's okay. Please, come back to me."

It was official. I had lost my fucking mind.

I was trying to get a deranged wolf to understand what I was saying, and it was insane, but he hadn't tried to actually kill me yet... so was he actually gone?

The movements of his eyes and head made me wonder if he battled internally between the feeling I caused within him and his animalistic desires.

"I know you won't hurt me."

Slowly, the wolf's growls began to simmer and as they did, a soft whimper escaped him as his ears laid back in confusion. It was progress I hadn't expected to make so easily, but nothing in life comes without consequences.

"Ivy!" Kate screamed before the whistling sound of a dart struck Talon, causing a whimper to escape him before his eyes became bloodthirsty, and he turned, launching himself at her.

"Kate, no!" I screamed out, watching as Kate's eyes widened in shock and panic set in. To my amazement, Talon never had the opportunity to get to her though, because a large black mass burst through the trees, colliding with his form, causing them to tumble through the darkness.

Fear swept through us, followed by relief as I watched three more wolves come charging in. One headed straight for Kate. "Don't hurt him!" I screamed at them, only to have James shift and sweep me up into his arms.

"Ivy." He cooed with concern in his eyes, "oh my god. We need to get you to a hospital."

"I'm fine, James." I laughed, my eyes quickly darting towards where Talon and Damian went. "Don't hurt Talon... I think Kate got him."

## Chapter 69: Saving Talon

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"Got him?" Hale said as he walked up, completely naked. A blush set over my cheeks as I tried to remind myself this was normal. I still hadn't gotten used to them being so open with nudity, considering I have slept with them many times.

"Yes, Kate had a tranquilizer gun," I replied as James slowly set me to my feet before Kate was pushing him out of the way.

"Oh, my god... Are you okay?" she said, looking over at me. "I was so scared he was killing you,"

"I'm fine, Kate, he didn't attack me like that."

"What do you mean?" she asked in confusion.

Sighing. I shook my head, "I don't know... He just didn't. It was like he was fighting something inside him. Trying to make himself remember who I was. I thought he was going to kill me, and he proved me wrong."

"I'm speechless in a sense." Kate replied, trying to process what I said.

“I know, so am I, but I think he knew it was me.”

All of them stopped staring at me as rustling from the treeline brought forward the very naked body of Damian. As much as I would love to continue this, I think we should get out of this cold and back in the cabin. Angel, James. Come help me with Talon.”

Hearing Talon’s name perked my attention as Kate nudged me, “I got him, Ivy. I hit him with the antidote and a tranquilizer.”

Tears finally flooded my eyes with pure joy, realizing we were able to contain him. With the antidote, I hoped it would work. That he would be able to slowly get better, but only time would tell if we had the right one.

In the cabin, I watched as James, Damian, and Angel laid Talon down upon the small bed. His body was no longer that of a wolf as peaceful sleep took hold of his body.

I didn’t hesitate to move towards his sleeping form and brush my fingers against his hairline, watching as he slept.

“How long do you think he will be out?” I asked, letting my eyes drift towards the others who meandered around the small cabin.

“Depends on how much that Kate had in the dart.” Damian replied before looking towards Kate. “Kate?”

Kate’s mouth opened and closed little by little, like a deer caught in the headlights. I wasn’t sure what was wrong with her, but Angel quickly sighed. “Kate you didn’t…”

Shrugging her shoulders, she gave me an apologetic look, “sorry I wasn’t sure what we were dealing with, so I gave him a lot.”

Laughter escaped James and Hale, causing me to glare at them and shake my head.

“We can’t stay out here forever,” I said softly to Damian, we need to get him home.”

“I know we do, Ivy. At first light, we’ll make our way back towards the pack. I’m sure Kate has enough to keep him sedated until we arrive, and then we will have the pack doctor look at him.”

His hand laid upon my shoulder in a comforting gesture as I nodded my head. I was thankful on many accounts to have him here. Yes, we fought, and both acted very childish at times, but it’s what made us stronger,

It was what connected us.

Each of the guys had their own flaws and weaknesses that made them who they were, and there wasn't a thing I would change about them.

"Alright. Let's get some sleep then. We leave early."

Leaning forward, I let my body curl up next to Talon's and gently laid a kiss on the side of his face. If we were all staying here, that was fine, but I wasn't going to leave Talon's side again. He needed me.

## Chapter 70: Loving Talon

Three days. It's been three days since we arrived back at the pack and Talon was still out of it. Damian had the pack doctor long ago pull Talon from sedation, but with the effects of the poisoning, it was hard to bring him back.

Or at least that is what they kept telling me.

Standing beneath the hot cascading water of my shower, I tried to wash away all of my misery. My heart was shattered upon hearing that we may have been too late to save him. His mind was so far gone that the doctors didn't know if forcing a fix would be good.

I knew what they were telling me was true, but at the same time, I didn't want to hear it. I didn't want to hear them tell me that someone I cared about might never come back to me.

"Ivy?" Damians' voice called softly while knocking on the bathroom door. "Are you okay?"

Laughter escaped me in a maniacal way, "are you seriously asking me that?" Reaching up, I twisted the shower knobs, turned off the water, and slowly opened the glass shower door. "I'm broken, Damian."

He stared at me with a blank expression, as if he had never had someone explain to him that they were hurt. Damian was a different kind of man, and every day I spent with him, I was reminded that things between him and I were far from normal.

He could be sweet and gentle. There were also moments when he made my heart flutter, and he excited me. But most of the time, he was cold and indifferent.

I didn't understand what was going through his mind, but I was sure that one day I would understand. There was just too much to figure out and only time would be able to tell me everything. Time right now I didn't have to give to him.

"I'm sorry about Talon," Damian finally said as I pushed past him into my room to get dressed. A hollow pit formed in my chest hearing Talon's name, and once again tears began to form.

"Did they say what poison it was yet?" I asked, trying to maintain my composure.

"The results of the test should be available today. Hale is there with him now, and James is looking into leads that will tell us who is behind it."

It was comforting to know that everyone was doing something to figure out what happened, but at the same time I already had a feeling I knew who it was.

"I think it was Allison," I said with a heavy breath. "I think she did this, Damian."

Pulling my shirt over my head, I turned to face him now in a t-shirt and shorts. His eyes lingered over me for a moment, and as much as I would have loved to have him ravish me right now, I couldn't even come to think of doing things like that.

"Kate told me that was your thoughts. However, we can't just go accusing her until we have information to peg her with it."

Like that was going to happen. If Allison did have something to do with it she wouldn't leave a trace behind to track that it was her. It was frustrating, but I had to have faith something would bring light to the truth.

"Okay." The soft reply that escaped my lips seemed to surprise him. His brow raised slightly as he stared at me, and quickly! broke the gaze we held.

"Okay?" He asked with curiosity. "You're not going to fight me on this?"

Shaking my head, I chuckled, "no Damian. You're right we can't just go around accusing people. We need to make sure that we have solid information against her or whoever did it. I don't want to give them a reason to get away with it."

Voices outside my bedroom door caused Damian and I to halt our conversation before James and Kate entered the room. "James..."

"Oh, sorry, did we interrupt something?" Kate asked, looking between Damian and I with an apologetic glance.

"No, no. He was just filling me in on Talon."

Chapter 70: Loving Talon

"Oh, good," James smiled, clasping his hands together, that's why we're here."

Damian gave him a look of question, and James didn't miss a beat when it came to elaborating, "Talon's results are in... and he is awake.

A gasp of relief followed with tears burst from me as I pushed past them all and took off running down the stairs from the pack house. The clinic was only down the hill and I didn't hesitate to run there as fast as my legs could take me.

This is what I had been waiting for, for days. Talon was awake, and I had to be there.

Pushing through the clinic doors, I ran down the hallways towards his room. Nurses stepped to the side with a gasp as I flew past them and turned the corner, watching as a doctor stepped from his room and his gaze connected with mine.

"Luna..." he said addressing me by a title I hadn't been called by anyone before. "I was just going to get a few things before you got here."

"He's awake? Did you find out what is hurting him.-. is it the Bella Donna?"

My words flew from my mouth as I rambled on. My hands trembling, and my heart was racing, wanting to know if we were able to

save him. If we got to him, in time before, there was any permanent damage.

Nodding, the doctor's eyes softened a little, "yes you were right, Luna. It was Bella Donna. However, with the amount in his system and some of the damage we could already tell had been there... someone has been poisoning him long before the bond broke."

My heart shattered into a million pieces as I fought back the tears that threatened to fall.

"Do we know how long?"

The sounds of echoing footsteps approaching me caught my attention, and without looking, I already knew who it was. James, Hale, and Damian stood at my side, waiting for the same response I was.

\*Answer her," Damian said through tight lips as I waited patiently. "How long?"

"Three to four months at least. I honestly don't know how he has been able to fight it this long. It's a miracle, honestly."

Standing dazed, I processed the information, "so around the time I got here it started."

"If that fits the timeline Luna then yes, but honestly, I think it started before that," he replied with a frown. "I'm going to get his next injection. If you would like to go in, then please feel free however do remember he is still restrained."

My eyes shot up, and I quickly turned to look at the guys with shock. "Restrained? Why is Talon restrained?"

"Ivy-" James said with a sad glance that drove anger through me.

"It's for everyone's protection." Damian quickly interjected. "I need to make sure that our people are not hurt if he has another episode."

"Episode? What are you talking about? This is Talon. Your brother and my mate. This isn't right." As much as they may have wanted me to understand, there was no way that I could. Talon the man I knew would never purposely hurt anyone.

He was laying there sick, and they had him tied up like a criminal seeking blood.

Turning from them, I stormed into Talon's room and shut the door behind me. I didn't want them present right now, because my focus couldn't be on anger.

My focus was on Talon and seeing him after so much time away.

Stepping into the dim lighting of the room, my eyes laid upon his still form covered in white sheets. His wrists and ankles were tied down by thick Velcro straps that didn't seem to have any slack. It was a heart-wrenching sight to behold, and as I stepped closer, his head moved and his eyes connected with mine.

For a moment, his brows furrowed, and as I came closer into the light, they widened in shock. He struggled against his restraints as if scared of me, and I couldn't understand why. "Get out," he snapped, "you're not supposed to be here.."

"Talon..." | gasped, trying to hold myself together, "it's me. It's Ivy."

Slowly, the ties around my heart tightened, watching him refuse to even look at me. The rejection broke me further as I moved closer to him.

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Chapter 70: Loving Talon

"I said get out!" He yelled at me, his fangs elongating, and his eyes swirling black. "You're not real! You're dead! I'm not playing this game."

Dead.. he thinks I'm dead?

"Talon, please." I whispered as the tears fell, "I'm not dead... I'm real."

I wasn't sure what had happened to him while he was out there or why someone would want to hurt him like they did. None of it made sense, and I wanted more than anything to show him that I was right here.

That I was standing before him, and I wasn't going anywhere.

Reaching out, I slowly went to touch him, but the restraint snapped and a roar echoed from his throat just as Damian and James grabbed me, pulling me away.

"No! Stop!" I shouted at them, "let me go! He doesn't understand!"

Struggling against them was no use. Damian's arms around my waist were like a vise I couldn't shake. All I could do was watch as Hale stepped towards his brother and slowly tried to calm him.

There was an undeniable bond between them, and as I watched Talon, calm tears streamed down his cheeks. "She's dead. it's my fault."

Hales's eyes met mine with the same confusion I had, what do you mean?"

Shaking his head, Talon refused to speak. Instead, he held his head in his hand and cried. The emotions from him coursing through me in a ghost-like way built a fire of anger in my soul. I had to be there. I had to comfort him.

"Talon, please look at me," I begged him, still fighting against Damian. "Fucking let me go, Damian!"

"No, it's too much, and he isn't ready. You need to go before you get hurt." He snapped as he hauled me out of the room. "You're not doing him any good."

Placed on my feet with Damian blocking the door, I stared at him with anger. I was done with him telling me what I was and wasn't doing. Perhaps, he was right, but Talon is confused and needs to see the truth.

"You have no idea what you're talking about." I snapped back at him, clenching my fists at my side. "Move now."

Laughter escaped him, "you're really becoming the fiercest Luna I have ever met Ivy."

The comment would have usually melted my heart, but right now it did nothing but anger me more. The fire slowly grew bright as I narrowed my eyes.

"I will not ask you again, wolf. Get the fuck out of my way."



There have been many times where my words and actions lately seemed to affect the people around me, but with Damian, it was different. It was as if the beast inside him recognized the way I acted, and it reacted.

“Watch who you speak to like that.” He all but growled, stepping towards me. “Mate or not, I will not be disrespected by anyone. I’m trying to protect you.”

Movement behind Damian caught my eye, and I watched as Hale peered over Damian’s shoulder, looking slightly frantic before whispering something in Damian’s ear that seemed to catch his attention before he gazed back at me.

“That’s not possible.” He muttered, crossing his arms over his chest.

“What isn’t possible?”

Another growl echoed from the room as I heard Talon refusing whatever was going on. His pain and his anguish tore at every last thread I had holding me together.

Hale looked at me again with regret in his eyes as he took in the situation. “I agree with Damian Ivy.. you need to go rest.”

Hale’s words caused disbelief to flood me.

He had been my main supporter when it came to Talon, and now he was siding with his brothers. Choking back my pain, I felt it build-it built until it exploded.

Screaming in fury, I grabbed Damian and, with a strength I didn’t know I had and shoved him to the side as I rushed forward into

Chapter 70: Loving Talon

Lv.1

the room. Hale’s arms swinging out to catch me, but without a second thought, I ducked past him and right past James, who looked on in confusion.

I had one target in mind, and that was a man staring at me with pitch-black eyes and growing fury I had never seen before.

Leaping onto the bed, he roared in anger. His right hand now free gripped my throat, his claws digging into my skin as I touched him. There was no going back for me.

Talon was the reason I was doing this. it wasn’t my own selfish desires.

It was always him.

"I'm here," I whispered as I straddled his lap with tears flooding down my cheeks. I felt the sparks of our bond against my skin and the confusion of his internal battle within his eyes.

Forcing myself forward with his death grip on my throat, I tried to ignore the pain, letting my lips brush against his until he finally gave in and claimed them with a desire I never had felt from any of them.

Talon was just as broken as I was, but at the end of the day, our individual sorrows helped us to mend our broken hearts.

"Ivy—" he stuttered as tears flooded his face.

Pulling back, his eyes fluttered back and forth, staring at me as if I was just an illusion.

"Your-your not..."

Laughing with tear-filled eyes, I smiled, "no... I'm not dead... I'm right here. I'm right here."

I didn't waste another moment as I kissed him again, and felt the grip he had on me tighten. No matter the confusion, poison, and hurt he had been through, me being here right now was the only cure he needed.

During our lowest points in life, our minds are our greatest enemies, betraying us to believe that the possible is impossible.

Yet, I couldn't accept that. I couldn't accept losing him or any of them.

I broke them when I came here, and it was my job to fix this.

"I don't understand.." He whispered, resting his head against mine.

"Neither do we.." Damian said, pulling us away from the vast amount of bodies within the room. Doctors, nurses, and the guys all sat around wide-eyed, staring at the scene in front of them. "Care to explain why you would act so stupid, Ivy?"

The only thing I could do though was smile, "love Damian... The love I have for the four of you will never let me give up. I will love you all until my last breath and even past then."