

## Chapter 68

Erin's panic intensifies as the realization sinks in that her daughter, Ana, is missing. The room spins around her, and her heart races in her chest. She feels a surge of fear and helplessness, engulfs her completely. She clings tightly to Derrick's hand, eyes blurring, her throat constricting with air.

"No, no, no, not my daughter. Not Ana." She cries out.

"Ana has to be around here somewhere. She's a fucking pup. She couldn't have wandered far. I want everyone searching for her. I need everyone's hands on deck." Derrick's voice resonated with authority, his own wolf almost going crazy at the mere thought of something happening to Ana.

"We need to find Ana immediately, spread out and search every corner of the pack. Ana has to be somewhere close by." He declares, voice filled with determination.

Erin trembled helplessly, everything in her crumbling with every second that passed. She should've been there. She should've had her eye on her baby and now. Who knows where Ana is? What she's doing? She has tried to connect to the pup severally all to no avail. She's out of reach. That has never happened with her.

The room erupts into action, people scrambling about to search for Ana. Erin hadn't realized when everyone had gathered there, she could only shake uncontrollably. Their once joyous and excited occasion now tainted. She has to find Ana by all means.

Derrick bends down to her level, his thumb wiping a stray tear off her cheek. He holds her face "I'll find Ana. Trust me, I will. She's not far from here. I will find her." He says determinedly.

"I'll go with you. I can find her. I need to find her." She says, hurriedly wiping her tears.

"Please don't. You can wait here in case she comes back." He tells her, they both hoped she would but knew there's a greater chance she might not. If she's truly out of the pack, it will not be easy.

Erin watches as he leaves with the others, all going to search for Ana. How is it possible everything has gone so sour and now? Her baby? Her pup? Ana has been in this pack for the past three years and has never wandered out so why would she now?

Erin breaks down in tears, her chest hurting badly. As Erin's sobs echo through the room, Amelia approaches her, her own eyes brimming with tears. She wraps her arms around Erin, offering a shaky but comforting embrace. "I'm so sorry, Erin. I should have been more careful. It's all my fault," she whispers, voice shaky.

"I should've been more careful. I shouldn't have allowed her out of my sight. It's all my fault you're suffering the way you are right now. Please forgive me." Amelia cries out, sobbing loudly. Erin clings to Amelia's arm, "No, it's not your fault. It's not your fault. You did your best. We will find her. We have to find her." Erin manages to say between her sobs.

"Yes, exactly what you've said. Ana is a brave girl, she will come back home. She'll be back soon." Vanessa says, attempting to calm Erin but it only causes even more tears. Erin's mind races with a whirlwind of fear, different the thoughts passing through her head. She closes her eyes, praying to the moon goddess.



The minutes crawl by, intensifying Erin's grief. She's not heard from anyone yet. The ache in her heart was overwhelming. Erin paced around the living room, eyes stuck on the wall clock. It's been an hour. A whole hour and yet no news about Ana. She's consumed with worry.

"Erin, you'll worry yourself to death at this rate." Vanessa's voice jolts her out of her thoughts. She looks at the woman standing beside her.

"Ana will be back with Derrick. Please stop worrying so much else you will fall sick."

"Ana is my pup, Vanessa. She's the only child that I have and she's missing. You want me to be calm? You want me not to worry?" She swallows hard, eyes blurring with tears again.

"Today was supposed to be one of the happiest days of my life but this.. this happened. Ana has been in this pack for three years, Vanessa. She's been staying here and we haven't had an issue like this before but now. She's suddenly disappeared that too, right under my nose. Oh my goodness. What kind of mother am I?" She cries out, almost tearing herself apart at the anguish.

"Erin.." Vanessa trails off pathetically, seeing the other teetering on the brink of insanity.

"She's not in the pack, Vanessa. She's out of the pack. I have no idea where Ana is. How could she go all out by herself? No one saw her?" She rushes out, tears streaming down her face freely.

"Erin, you have to calm down. Ana will be found." Vanessa says with determination in her voice. It does nothing to help Erin though.

She can feel it, deep inside her she can feel it. Her daughter isn't in the dark moon pack anymore.

Liam runs his hand through his hair, gulping down another glass of alcohol. He feels useless, his mate is now mated to Derrick and here he is, unable to do a thing to stop it. He should've dragged her out of there when he had the chance. He should've done something but he didn't. He didn't and now.. she's mated to Derrick. His alpha has refused to speak to him for the past few days now. He's literally living like a fucking dead.

He pours himself another drink, groaning when he hears the knock on his door. He furrows his eyebrows.

"Leave me alone! Didn't you hear me say I want to be left alone?" He growls weakly, the alcohol making him slightly tipsy. Liam grunts, gulping the rest of the drink, he stands up, staggering forward just a bit. An alpha shouldn't be this drunk but he's allowed to. Especially today of all days.

He walks to the door and pulls it open, "WHAT?" He yells just as Peter's steps forward, a sly grin tugging on his lips.

"Uncle? What are you doing here?" Liam asks, confused.

Peter smirks, stepping into the office and shuts the door behind him.

"You won't believe what I just heard."