

# Alpha Dimitri LS Barbosa

## #Chapter 26 – Chapter 26

### Chapter 26

#### Chapter 26 Dimitri:

| looked at Aurora for a second before extending my hand to her cheek, gently touching the bruise that was forming on it. And I had to admit, | couldn't help but feel my blood boil at the fact that Charlotte not only dared disobey me, but she crossed a limit that she knew she shouldn't.

It was known and a rule among wolves to never harm the woman who was carrying the Alpha's heir or child. Had the baby been harmed, then thing would have taken a completely different path that she wouldn't. have been able to handle, and that was something that | didn't like. Aurora flinched, and | shook my head at her, showing her my displeasure. in the situation that she managed to put herself into. | knew that it was. beyond her control at this point, but | couldn't help but wonder why she didn't try to at least fend for herself, if not for her, then for her baby.

"I am going to apply an ointment on it. Then we are going to need the pack doctor to check on you and the child..."

"I am fine, Alpha Dimitri. Please allow me to go to my bedroom." She said, stopping me. Her eyes were fixed on her lap as tears brimmed them, and | sighed before putting a finger under her chin. The fear that | saw in her

eyes was not one that | liked, and the fact that she was going to be the one to raise my baby, | didn't want to know that my heir's mother was going to be as weak no matter what the circumstance that she had to go through.

"| called for you tonight, and | asked you to do something in specific. You chose this path, and you are going to be dealing with the consequences of it. As for the fact of you being 'fine', you clearly aren't, and you crying as much as you are will not do you any good." | said, looking at her. "And by you, | think that you understand that | am referring to the child."

"Why did you call for me when you knew that...?"

"| do not think that it is your place to be asking me any questions about. why | choose to do something or why | do not." | said, stopping her. "Now, sit and allow me to go and get the ointment to apply on your bruise. The last thing that we need is to have it darkening

for when the elders come, and being pregnant would make it harder for you to heal considering the fact that not only are you malfed, but you are also weak as an omega blood when it comes to the fact that you are carrying an

Alpha blood child.” “You claimed that you did not trust that the child was yours.” She said, looking down at her lap. “What changed now?”

“Nothing,” | said, my eyes hardening as | glared at her. “But if the baby is mine, then | would rather not be the reason why the child is harmed. If not, then the two of us know what is to happen, and | think that you are not foolish enough to play a game like this one against me.”

She didn’t respond, and | rolled my eyes as | walked to the bathroom to get the medication. | knew that she was going to need to eat and nourish. herself to be able to heal properly and | knew that her wolf was going to have to regain her strength.

| walked back toward her to find her taking a deep breath as she wiped. her tears. Her eyes were fixed on the balcony for a few seconds before she turned to find me in front of her. The two of us looked at one another before she looked down at her lap, avoiding my eyes, and | put my finger under her chin, raising it so that she would look at me. Her heart raced against her chest, and | could see her clenching and unclenching her fists as she tried calming herself down.

“This is going to help soothe the pain and would help with healing the bruise. But you are still going to need to eat something if your b\*dy is going to be able to fight to regain your power.” | said, and she nodded. | rubbed the ointment on her cheek, keeping my eyes on hers as | did. before closing the cap and walking to the bathroom to put the medicine away and wash my hands.

| had to admit, the last thing that | expected from Charlotte was for her to grow this aggressive, but | knew that she was going to have to deal with the consequence of what she did. If she believed that she could play around the way that she did, then she was very wrong in whatever she. had in her mind.

| walked back inside the room to find her standing in front of the window, looking up at the sky as she did. She didn’t turn to face me, but | could tell that she was looking at me through the reflection.

“Thank you, Alpha.” She said. “For standing up for me earlier. | know that you wouldn’t have had to, but you did, and that is something that | am more than a little thankful for.”

“You don’t need to thank me.” | said, looking her in the eye. “If | did something, then it was to protect my child,”

She looked down at her feet before turning to face me. Her eyes met mine for a second before she looked down at my chest as | put my finger under her chin to make her look at me.

“You running away when | clearly called for you is not something that | am going to forget. But for what happened to you tonight, | am going to allow it to slide. However, | trust me, if it does happen again, then | am going to be acting differently.” | said, keeping my eyes on hers and she took a deep breath, trying to look away from me as she did.

“Alpha...”

“You can go to your room, and | expect you to ask the maids for something warm to eat.” | said, stopping her. She took a deep breath before nodding as she took a step back. Her heart raced, and | watched as she walked out of the room before closing the door. | rolled my eyes as | looked out the window once again, listening to her steps as she entered her bedroom before closing the door.

I clenched and unclenched my fist and taking a step back, | turned to the door and walked out of the bedroom, knowing that delaying things is not going to mean that | am not going to solve them. Therefore, the faster | dealt with the issue, the better the outcome was going to be.

Charlotte, who was sitting in the living room, got up from the couch when she saw me walking down the stairs. Her eyes met mine for a second, and the low growl that echoed from my chest told her that she was going to be dealing with more than she could handle.

“Dimitri...” | grabbed her by her arm and pulled her toward my office. before pushing her inside and taking a step toward her. She took a step back, and | kept taking mine forward until | pinned her against the desk, glaring daggers at the woman as | did.

“You crossed a limit that you and | know that you shouldn’t have today,” | said, glaring at her and she gulped. “And now, the two of us are going to be discussing the proper punishment to it. And believe me, it is either you choose with me or | will be sure that it is NOT one that you are. going to end up liking...”

## Chapter 27

Aurora:

| looked up at the Alpha as he entered my bedroom. was

My eyes met his, and he nodded in approval, seeing as he got his way. The fact that | ate, or more specifically, forced myself to do so, was something that even I was surprised of. | didn’t expect to do so seeing as | was more annoyed than ever, and the

man knew that very well. Plus, there was the fact that he knew that | was upset with everything that was going on, | just couldn't help but find myself feeling completely lost.

"How's your cheek?" He asked, nodding at it. | looked down at my lap for a second, avoiding his eyes before nodding in thanks. | still had to appreciate that he was asking. | knew that he would have normally chosen to ignore it, especially since it was Charlotte who hurt me.

"I am fine, Dimitri. You don't have to worry about my cheek being injured." | said, choosing to lie about it. It hurt me a lot, and it wasn't only the physical pain that hurt. | was genuinely in pain with everything that | was currently going through, and | doubted that the man actually cared about it. "You can go back to your mate. As you can see, | have eaten and will be going to bed in a bit."

"You do realize that this is my house and that | can be wherever | want to be?" He said, looking me in the eye. The fact that he spoke to me the way that he did tore me apart. It was just a reminder to me that | was nothing but a concubine who was carrying his child. If it were up to him, | knew that he would have rather had her pregnant. It would have been a lot more convenient to him. "Did the doctor tell you anything about the baby?"

"She said that the child is fine. My b\*dy is strong and the baby would be growing as strong, but | am going to need to rest from all the stress that | have." | said, and he nodded. "Can | get some sleep, please? | am exhausted and the day has been long enough."

"No one is stopping you." He said, and | frowned. "Alpha, | doubt that the two of us are on the same page right now. But you do realize that..."

"I am aware that | am in the bedroom, Aurora." He said, stopping me. My heart raced, and he nodded at me to get up from the window-sill. It was the one place that | found myself being at rest. "But if | am here, it is for a

reason.

"And | want to know what it is." | said, and he chuckled as he took a step toward me. My heart raced, and he put his finger under my chin, raising my face for me to look at him, taking me off guard for the second time this evening. The fact that he was treating me the way that he was scared me, especially when | knew for fact that he would rather do anything but be around me right now.

"| think that you already do." He said, making my breath get caught in my throat. "Is the baby really mine, Aurora?"

| stayed quiet for a few seconds, debating on how to answer the man without being rude before nodding. "The baby is yours and will only ever be yours."

"How do I guarantee that?" He asked, shaking his head in question, and I gulped before looking away from him. I took a step back and handed him the report from the doctor that she gave me earlier. The Alpha read through and frowned in confusion.

"I was a virgin on our first night." I said, looking down at my feet as I avoided his eyes. He looked at the paper for a second too long, and I couldn't help but notice his fingers tightening around the paper. "The doctor said that it was normal for my hymen not to be ripped on the first night or any night after. It would be ripped if I choose to give birth naturally or she could do it for me, it takes a few minutes, but I chose against it."

"And you didn't say anything to respond to any of my harsh words? Or my aggressiveness that night?" He asked, and I looked away from him.

"I was there to pleasure your bed for you to mark me." I said, ignoring the pain that I felt in my chest. It was a pain that I wasn't going to forget and his harsh words were ones that pained me more than anything but I knew to stay quiet about it. "At least you know that the baby is yours and that these doctor documents confirm it. I am four weeks in, going to the fifth, counting the days, it would be our mating night exactly."

"Why did you choose to stay quiet about all of this?" He asked, taking me off guard at the fact that he was insisting. "If you would have told me..." "It wouldn't have changed a thing." I said, looking down at my feet. "I knew that it wouldn't have, and that is why I chose to stay quiet. I was afraid that you would hurt me if I answered back, and I knew that I wasn't allowed to speak to you either. You still are an Alpha and I am nothing but an omega. That is one limit that I know not to cross."

The Alpha's eyes dropped to the paper that he had in his hand for a second before looking up at me. His eyes met mine for a moment, but it wasn't until he put the paper down on the table that was beside him that I was taken off guard as he took a step toward me. I went to take a step back only to be surprised when he cupped my cheeks and connected his lips with mine.

I kissed him back almost instantly, but the two of us were quick to pull away as he rested his forehead against mine, breathing in deeply as he kept his eyes on my own. My hands shook and I was forced to clench my fists as I tried to control how fast I was shaking, not wanting him to catch sight of it before he took a step back.

"Get some rest, Aurora. You are going to need it to recover." He said, taking me off guard. However, it was his next sentence that took me by surprise as it was the last thing that I would have ever expected him to say to me. "I will be seeing you in the morning..."

## Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Dimitri: Charlotte's eyes met mine as I walked down the stairs the next morning.

The pain that | felt as my eyes met hers without me approaching her was one that | wouldn't have liked to think of, but | knew that it was one that only meant that things were going to be falling into place within this pack. At least, the bullshit that we have been dealing with was not going to be one that we would be fussed about now.

Her heart raced against her chest and she knew that not only was she not even allowed to speak to me, but that her being here was only because | wanted her to be punished the way that | saw fit for what she did.

Flashback: "Dimitri, | was not going to let you be with her while | just stood and watched..."

"My name is ALPHA Dimitri," | said, stopping her. She gulped and shook her head at me as tears fell from her eyes. The last time that she called me Alpha was when she was nothing but a consort for my pleasure, and even then, | would mostly allow her to call me by my name. But now, considering that she chose to not only betray the trust that | gave her but to betray me by doing what | specifically told her not to do, then she was going to be paying greatly for it.

"Please don't do this, Dimitri. The two of us have been together for years and you knew that | not once betrayed you. You know that | did everything..."

"How would | be able to trust that? Huh? Your father has been swarming around you and the pack for months now, and considering that you accepted taking to him, it only means that it has happened before.. Therefore, what is my guarantee that you did not betray me? How would | fucking know that you would not be doing it again and again?" | asked, stopping her. "For someone who looked me in the eye and lied to me, for a woman whose eyes met mine as she did it..."

"Dimitri, please." She said, shaking her head at me. "Please don't do this tome."

"You are going to be serving in this house with the maids just like the consort that you came to be. You came to work here for my pleasure, but that would be an advantage for you. Therefore, you are going to be

serving in the kitchen, and not a word will come out of you. Be it cleaning, cooking, or even washing the dishes, | do not give a fucking damn. And if my eyes meet yours, | give you my fucking word that not only would you be a rogue, but | will be sure that you regret it." | said, glaring daggers at her. She opened her mouth to say a word, but | raised my hand, stopping her before taking a step back as | turned to my desk. The last thing that | wanted was to look at her right now.

"Dismiss yourself."

"Dimitri, just hear me out..."

“Now, Charlotte. Unless you want to find yourself in deeper shit than you can handle.”  
End of Flashback.

My chest ached for her for a second but my eyes were as hard as stone. Before I turned to the stairs where I saw the headmistress and the maids that were assigned to tend to Aurora walking up to her floor. I knew that it was for them to help her get ready for the day, and though she normally stayed in the room, today I was going to be sure that Charlotte saw us together. It was going to be a reminder to her of who was standing in front of her.

“Call Aurora to come down to the dining room.” I said, not bothering to look at Charlotte. Her breath got caught in her throat and I knew that it was because this was the last thing that she would have expected me to do. I had to admit, even I didn’t want to see the woman, but I knew that I had to be sure that Charlotte was educated in a way that would teach her the limits that she seemed to not only neglect and forget, but the limits that she has crossed a long time ago.

“Yes, Alpha.” The headmistress said, and I nodded before turning to find Charlotte still looking at me. She took a deep breath and took a step toward me, making sure to look down at my chest as she did. Her heart raced and she extended her hand toward mine before getting down on her knees in front of me.

“I would rather that I die instead of not being by your side, Alpha.” She said, taking a deep breath as she waited for what I was going to say. I looked down at her for a minute before taking a step back, leaving her to get lost in whatever it was that she was thinking. Her heart raced, and she shook her head at me before her sniff caught me off guard.

“You know, I do suggest that you stop making a fool of yourself.” I said, looking at her over my shoulder. “Go and tend to the kitchen, and if

anything happens to either her or the child, I will be holding you accountable. I want you to keep that in mind when you are assisting in there.”

The main reason why I was doing this was because I knew that she could easily use the kitchen as a way to either poison Aurora or make sure that she causes a miscarriage, and that was something that was going to reeducate her into knowing her limits. She would know that not only was she going to be held accountable for what she did, but that I did not want her to do this, and IF she did, then she was going to be defying me personally, and I knew that she wasn’t dumb enough to do that. “You know that being who she is, she won’t be benefitting you in anything.” Charlotte said, avoiding my eyes. “But I am going to keep counting the days till you have looked at me, and I will be sure to be patient until you have. Until then, I will leave you to enjoy your evenings with your new Luna.”



“Get out of my sight.” | said, and she sniffed before | heard her taking a step back as she walked toward the kitchen. My chest burned, but I looked up to find Aurora walking down the stairs wearing a knee long sundress and flats. She looked at me for a second before looking down at her feet, avoiding my eyes.

Her hair was left in its normal curls, and she had a light shade of makeup that brought up her features, sharpening them a bit. Her breath got caught up in her throat, and | couldn't help but notice that she released a breath, meaning that she was initially holding it.

“You called for me, Alpha?” She asked, her voice low as she asked. She wrapped her right arm around herself as if fearing my reaction, and | stayed quiet for a second, my eyes harder than they ever were, knowing that | was going to be sitting with an omega on the same table was not something that | found myself fond with doing. But | knew that | was going to have to do this right now. It wasn't something that | had to be debating on.

“Yes,” | said, and she looked up at me before | nodded at the dining room. “You are going to be joining me for breakfast. Now, come on, the dining room is set and ready before | head to the office...”

## Chapter 29

### Chapter 29 Aurora:

| had to admit that | couldn't help but find myself freezing at the fact that not only did the Alpha come to my bedroom last night, but he was now asking me to join him for breakfast.

His eyes didn't meet mine and | could tell by his gaze that he was not happy. However, | couldn't find myself understanding the reason behind- him calling me when he clearly did not want me being around him. | mean, surely he could have had someone else on the table with him, why me?

Ivan entered the dining room only to frown when he saw me. | looked down at my plate, avoiding the man's eyes before Dimitri got up without bothering to eat or say a word.

“We have work to do, | am going to be waiting for you in the office.” The Alpha said, taking both Ivan and | off guard. The man didn't even eat, and yet, he was quick to get up. | looked down at my feet, avoiding his beta's eyes and he sighed before taking a step back as the Alpha walked out of the room. My heart ached and | put my hand on my stomach for a second before Ivan shook his head in question.

“He called me over to have breakfast with him. | do not know the reason, but he has been acting odd since yesterday and has even called me to his bedroom.” | said, and he nodded in understanding. My heart raced and | watched as the beta took a step back



without saying a word, leaving me alone with the number of thoughts that played in my head.

The fact that I didn't even understand what was going on was not one that I was going to deny. I was more than a little frightened because of it, and the fact that Charlotte slapped me last night didn't slip my mind as I looked down at my untouched food.

"Be careful with everything that you are going to be eating from now on." Her voice broke through my train of thoughts, taking me off guard. I got up from my chair and went to take a step back and she laughed. "You know, it is amusing to see you in such a state. Despite being beside your chosen mate, you still are frightened just like the dog that you are."

am not the one approaching him. It is him who is calling me." I said, and she smiled. Her smile was menacingly cold, making my chest burn with both fear and pain. My heart raced, and I couldn't help but find

myself shaking my head as she took a step toward me. She grabbed me by my chin, forcing me to look her in the eye.

"He is doing this to make me jealous, but you know, I am going to use that to my advantage." She said, making my chest throb before she removed her hand. She lowered it to my stomach and I took a step back, making her laugh. "You best be concerned about this baby that you are carrying now, more than ever. For you know, I my not be able to hurt. you as Dimitri would be punishing me for your sake, little omega, but I can be sure that he does not even suspect that it is me. And that is something that you won't be able to prove against me."

"You are sick..."

"You started this war when you entered my love's bed." She said, and I shook my head at her. How did I ever call this woman my best friend before? How was it possible for me not to see this side of her before? Was I really that blind to ignore and dismiss everything that I was seeing right now? "But I am going to be the one to end it, and believe me, I am not going to come out of it as a loser."

"I did not do this because I wanted to, Charlotte. You never even voiced out that you were with him." I said, putting a hand on my chest. "I was chose for him by the elders, and with no reason to say no, why would I have done so? When I didn't know of the two of you until our mating night, how would I have told them that I did not want to do this?" "You always saw yourself as better than I was." She said, shaking her head. at me. "Little did I know was that you were always lying to me. You lied about who you were and hid the truth. You always made me feel like I was less, and yet, you always played the game of victim whenever you were cornered."

“Charlotte, what does that have to do with Dimitri? For crying out loud, focus on what I am saying. IF I would have known...”

“It has everything to do with Dimitri.” She said, taking me off guard. Her eyes were fixed on mine and her chest rose and fell with each breath that she took. “Because by order and law, it was not you who was supposed to marry him. But the elders let go of that fact because of your parents agreements. However, had they followed the rules that our people know and that our elders have been following for centuries before them, then you, as a bastard, are not supposed to be the mate of an Alpha. And as the next in position and age, it should have been ME.”

I stayed quiet for a second as tears fell from my eyes. “But considering

the fact that YOU lied, I am the one paying the price of it. And I will be sure to make you not only pay for and regret it, but I will be sure that you will NEVER be able to forget the consequences of the lies that you made on all of us. I promise you, you are going to regret it...”

She spat on my face, and looked away from her before taking a deep breath as my chest burned as I put my hand on my stomach, fearing for my baby. My hands shook and I shook my head as I tried hiding my fear as one small thought played in my head. It was what Mariana told me, and if it were true, it only meant that Charlotte was lying.

“But I thought that you were stripped off all titles when you became consort.” I said, whispering my thoughts to myself. “And considering that you never had a child, doesn’t that make you nothing more than a pleasure maiden?”

I ran my hand over my stomach for a second before taking a deep breath.

“Mama is going to protect you from those who intend to harm you, my little one. I give you my word. I am not going to allow anyone to hurt you.” I whispered to my child. “I just need to find my own right away around this Estate. But I promise you that I won’t let you go and that I won’t allow you to live through what I did. I give you my word, baby...”

## Chapter 30

### Chapter 30 Dimitri:

“If you are as annoyed being by her side, I don’t understand why you’re forcing yourself to be,” Ivan stated, raising an eyebrow at me. “You know, I think that there are other ways that you can punish Charlotte, and this doesn’t have to be one of them.”

“As if you do not know Charlotte and you do not know that she barely understands a message when it is given to her.” I said, shaking my head at my beta. “The woman had her father in the pack and tried hiding it from me. I don’t know what more she can do,

and if she did this once, she might have done it before. We were just lucky to catch her this time.”

“You now that Charlotte loves you too much to cheat on you like that, Dimitri. Yes, she can have her mistakes but you know that she doesn’t aim to betray you in ways that would have you questioning her loyalty. If her father doesn’t seem to understand that, then | think that it is him that we need to deal with and not her.” He said, and | shook my head. The fact that he was defending her was something that | expected. | knew that he often did that to ensure that the two of us didn’t end up losing one another, and | knew that had it not been for him, Charlotte and | might have not been together in the first place.

“You know, sometimes | wonder when you would be claiming your mate. when you seem to be too fond of taking care of my relationships and how | deal with them.” | said, and he chuckled.

“You know that Annalise and | are going to need a lot more than just a little time before | was able to claim her. The woman is human and is already afraid of who | am, marking her as mine would need to come smoothly. Otherwise, | would honestly rather reject her than deal with all the bullshit that would come with being with one of her kind.” He said, and | chuckled. | knew that human were often considered as less than omegas in rank, and though | knew that the woman was from a partner mafia family, | knew that Ivan despised her being human. “I swear, | am wondering what | did to deserve being with a human like herself, but then again, | often wonder what we did to end up dealing with most of what we tend to deal with.”

“Well, can we consider the fact that we ended up making the worst of choices? Because it is the one explanation that | can find to give.” | said, and he chuckled. In my personal point of view, he was lucky with

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Annalise. At least, she was a woman of nobility in blood and in who she was. | was the one dealing with a bastard, and no matter what he was going to tell me, in my eyes, Aurora was going to be that bastard that was adopted by an Alpha and Luna who technically couldn't have their own children.

“| doubt that it was our choice to be mated with those that we are with,” he said, and | chuckled before my office door was knocked. | frowned when | caught Charlotte’s scent outside, and shaking my head, | knew that | was going to have to deal with the bullshit that came with whatever fuss she was going to give, and that wasn’t something that | wanted right now. If anything, | wanted to have ONE peaceful day, but knowing my woman, | knew that she wouldn’t be able to give it unless she got her way, and though | understood her, to some extent, | didn’t like it that she found it in her to keep defying me this way.

Ivan got up from his chair, knowing that it was his cue to leave, and | looked at the door for a second as he walked out before she walked inside. Her eyes were fixed on the ground, avoiding mine, and | shook my head in question before getting up from my chair. Her heart raced, and | could tell that she was more than a little frightened right now. Her b\*dy language gave her out, and that was something that she knew well. She knew that | could read her like an open book, and right now, that didn't come in her advantage.

"| told you to not approach me and not let my eyes see you." | said, standing in front of her. My b\*dy towered over hers, and she closed her eyes as she took deep and she gulped before opening her eyes as | put my finger under her chin.

Her hands shook and | could hear her heavy breathing as she fought to find the right words to put in.

One thing about Charlotte was that she was rarely ever punished, but she knew how hard I was when it came to punishments and that was something that no wolf, no matter who they were, ever wanted to find. themselves dealing with.

"What do you want me to do to you? You know, you chose to defy me more times in a week than any other wolf would do in a year's time." She gulped, knowing that | wasn't having plans to be gentle. And though, | had to admit, her coming told me how much | meant to her. It told me that she found it as difficult being without me, | couldn't help but find myself being annoyed by the fact that it didn't matter to her to think to listen to my order as | gave it to her.

"I came to apologize for upsetting you, my Alpha." She said, looking me in the eye. "But | found it hard to see you with another woman. My apologies, | know that | am crossing your right now, but this punishment is harder on me than anything that you could have done to me. And yes, | do understand that me lying to you could have had the same effect if not worse, but | told you before, and | will tell you again, my love, | cannot have myself sitting back as | look at you with another woman. It burns me inside in ways that | cannot handle, and that burning sensation is one that | cannot get over no matter how hard | try."

I stayed quiet for a few seconds before she took my hand in hers. She put it on top of her chest as she kept her eyes on mine, allowing me to listen to her heartbeat.

"It beats for you and only you, but when it sees or feels you drifting off, then a different feeling and sensation kills it. It is what is happening to me, Dimitri. And | know that it is not my place to tell you what to do, and | know not to cross my limits, but my one request to you is to look at me as the lover that burns inside for her love for you." She said, looking down at my chest for a second. "Allow me to settle in your heart like | always was, and do not have another parasite come between us. It is all she is doing, my love."

| stayed quiet for a few seconds as she ran her finger over my hand and | kept my eyes on her before removing my hand and taking a step back, turning to my desk.

“If you are done, take the trash out and get out of my office.” | said, and she froze, not saying a word as | looked at her over my shoulder. “And consider my warning this time. The next time you defy my order, your place will be outside the Estate grounds, and | think that you know what that means. Therefore, for your safety, | do suggest that | not see you in front of me unless or until you are called and addressed. Am | making myself clear?”

“Alpha...”

“Get out, Charlotte.” | said, stopping her. “You have two minutes...”