

Alpha Dimitri LS Barbosa

#Chapter 61

Chapter 61

Chapter 61 Dimitri:

"You and Natalia seem to be getting along quite well." | said, raising an eyebrow at Aurora as the two of us walked through the Lord Alpha's garden.

Both he and elder Jordan were busy with whatever it was that they seemed to be annoyed with, and though | couldn't help but feel curious, | knew better than to show it.

"When you are in a room alone for nearly a month, and when a lover is in your mate's bed the month before, | do believe that having a friend can be beneficial, do you not agree?" She asked, and | took a deep breath. | had to admit, | didn't expect that to be her answer, and though | couldn't blame her for showing that she was clearly annoyed with something, | wasn't used to such behavior. She took a deep breath, noticing that | didn't respond before taking my hand in hers, taking me by surprise. "She is nice, at least to me. And it is nice to have a friend even if the two of us just met, but | know that even she might feel out of place in the situation that she is in."

"Why would she be feeling out of place when she was chosen by her mate?" | said, and she shook her head in response. | had to admit, | knew that it was true, and even Ivan admitted that she was having a bit of a hard time coping to how things are with us. The factor of shifting last month and her seeing it when she was here for less than a week at the time didn't help either. Thankfully, Ivan's wolf knew how to make his approach to his mate in a way that had her relaxing to some extent.

"Consider the factor of her being human being an effect, and though she didn't say a word about it, just so that you don't think that she complained, one can tell that she is doing her best to try and understand how things are working with us. Hell, even | find myself struggling to find a right way with you at times, | couldn't imagine how she might be feeling." | chuckled at Aurora's words, and she shook her head as a small smile played on her lips. The fact that | was softening toward her was something that | knew she saw and understood. The woman wasn't dumb, nor was she blind, but | no longer had a reason to resent her as much considering that Charlotte wasn't around, and the idea of her not being here was something that | didn't like. Aurora was my distraction to it, but | didn't know whether or not she understood that part.

"She would be getting used to it by time." | said, shrugging as | pulled my hand from hers. | crossed my arms over my chest, her touch becoming too intimate for me to accept, and the fact that this was an act between us, at least, us pretending to be lovers was, and | didn't want her to forget that. It was something that we had to have the Lord

Alpha and elders believe, but | didn't want her getting the wrong message about it either. "She comes from a very strong family, pure blood despite her being human, and no matter how she might not be used to the way that we were, she knows who she is and what she is capable of doing."

Aurora tensed, understanding the underline meaning of my words. And though | wasn't intentionally referring to her, | didn't like the fact that | was oblivious to where the woman came from. She didn't say a word though, | expected her to, but she nodded and took a deep breath just as the door of the house opened, revealing both Lord Alpha Sirius and Elder Jordan who walked out by one another's side as if nothing had been happening between them earlier. The smile that was on both their faces was alarming, especially since we didn't know and couldn't tell whether it was a real smile or the two of them were faking it.

"We apologize for keeping outside for such a long time." Lord Alpha Sirius was the first to speak when they reached us. Elder Jordan looked at the two of us before smiling when she saw Aurora's baby bump. The woman didn't even know how hard it was to maintain and ensure that we didn't lose our baby, but | was more than a little thankful for the fact that things were going well between the two of us that she was relaxed and was no longer at risk of losing the baby. At least, that was what the doctor was telling me after her weekly visits...

"Aurora, your stomach is already starting to show." She said. Aurora smiled and nodded before putting her hand on her stomach.

"It grows a little with every passing day. And considering that this is its size on the third month, | do believe that | am going to be the size of an elephant by the time | reach the ninth month." Aurora said, looking at me. "Thankfully, | have Alpha Dimitri to remind that | would still look beautiful even if | do gain that much weight."

Elder Jordan laughed, and | smiled, wrapping my arm around Aurora, watching as her eyes softened before she turned her attention to the elders. "How have you been, Elder Jordan? | trust that you have been well?"

"| have been well, child." She said, nodding at Natalia. "I see that you brought over a human?" "Beta Ivan's mate," | answered, and the woman nodded.

"A strong blood." She said, and | nodded. "Her father is a Pakhan?"

"Del Gardi," | said, shaking my head. "Capo dei Capi, a strong alley too."

"Are they aware of who we are?" She asked, and | nodded.

"She saw us shift, her father already knew of who | was long before we started working together. Our families go way back, and we have been allies for years before a small fallout that | fixed." | said, and she nodded in understanding.

"I am guessing that the mating would be bringing the families closer?" Lord Alpha Sirius asked, and I nodded.

"Marriage in the human culture, but yes, it would strengthen the bond as two families would unite. And considering that she is her father's only heir, it is best that she finds a strong husband to ensure their place in the family line." I said, and they both nodded as both Natalia and Ivan approached. "Natalia, Elder Jordan."

"A pleasure to meet you," Natalia said, extending her hand. The elder looked down at it for a second before extending hers to shake her hand.

"Strong posture, and you do not fear the fact that I am a wolf." She said, and Natalia smiled.

"You wouldn't know even if I did." She said, and the elder smiled. "Part of being who I am."

Elder Jordan nodded in satisfaction before turning her attention to Ivan.

"You made a good choice with her," she said, looking at Aurora for a second before turning her attention to my beta. Aurora's heart raced as she took the message that the elder gave her, and I couldn't help the frown that formed on my lips as I understood that she silently called weak in comparison. "She is a strong companion, it is good to have one that is like that, Beta Ivan."

"She chose me, that is one thing that I have to admit." He said, kissing her temple before turning to look at the elder. "And I know that I was more than a little lucky with her. That is something that I am more than a little thankful for."

"Well, very lucky indeed, beta..."

Chapter 62

Aurora:

I had to admit, I couldn't help the clench that I felt in my chest as I knew that Elder Jordan was referring to me as a weak Luna.

And while she was right, in a way, at least, I hated that I found myself comparing who I was, a bastard wolf, with a human.

I wrapped my arm around myself as I looked at one of the trees, admiring the breeze as it hit my face, and though in pain, I couldn't help the small smile that formed on my lips.

put my hand on my stomach, rubbing it gently before turning around just as | heard the Lord Alpha approach me. There was another story that | did not understand, and though | knew not to question him, | couldn't help but find myself being curious.

"| believe that Jordan's words hurt you more than you are willing to let out." He stated, and | looked down at my feet, avoiding his eyes. "You need not avoid my eyes, Aurora. | know that it hurts to think less of yourself when you are in tough situations."

"I am not thinking less of myself, nor am | the type to do so, Lord Alpha. | am just a little tired, | believe." | said, and he smiled, shaking his head at me. His eyes met mine as he took a step forward toward me, and | couldn't help but find myself gulping for a second before taking a deep breath to mask my expression.

"You are a strong woman, a woman that every man would want as a mate." He said, and | had to force myself to look away from him as | tried my best not to say 'every man except for the one that | am with. | knew that Dimitri would want nothing more than to get rid of me, the idea of the two of us sleeping together was not one that would be changing anything anyway. Had | not agreed to it, | knew that it wouldn't be happening after | have given birth, and | knew that it was only a matter of time before something happened that brought her back here. | just didn't know when it was to happen.

"Sometimes your words hit deeper than anyone else's would, Lord Alpha." | said, and he raised an eyebrow at me. | didn't know how to explain them, but it was true. His words were like daggers that hit my chest, and it wasn't because he was aiming to hurt me, it was the contrary actually. "But you needn't worry, | am fine and Elder Jordan's words toward Natalia, a friend of mine, did not hurt me."

"But you still chose to dismiss yourself. You grew uncomfortable, and your eyes avoided everyone's as you..."

"I am not to question what an elder says, Lord Alpha. And as | said, Natalia is my friend, and for her to be praised, | am more than thankful for that." | said, stopping him. He frowned in confusion, and | took a deep breath, knowing that | had crossed a small limit that | shouldn't have. To my surprise, the man simply nodded in response before nodding at the tree that | was standing in front of.

"You used to stand here a lot as a child. When your parents would come over and you would be playing in the garden, whenever we had lost you, | always knew that we would be finding you here. | am curious to know the reason behind that though." He asked, and | smiled, shaking my head. It was a faint memory of something that | saw as a child. A carving that | never did understand, but it always told me that it was of something strong. | walked toward it and the Lord Alpha followed close behind as | put my hand on the carving that was on the tree. It was in a higher spot, | had to admit that much, and was a lot older now, but it was still there.

"I found this carving of two wolves, one bigger than the other, and a pup playing in front of them. I often wondered what the story was behind it, and as a kid, I always imagined scenes between the pup and its parents. At the time, I didn't know that I was an orphan, but when I did find out, and when we came here for the first time, I saw myself in that pup." I said, and he frowned for a second before nodding as a small smile played on his lips. "I would speak to them, and I know that I might sound very odd, but at least I knew that nature was listening to me. I enjoyed that much when it happened."

"Why I came here today? I don't really know. I believe that sometimes, something that brings back memories of the past, memories that you loved, smiles, something like that was enough for me to hold onto at least." I said, and he nodded before I turned to face him. "And one day I do hope to meet the lovers that carved this into the tree. It would be good for them to know that their love survived, even if it is only on carving, it symbolized it, and it only means that it did."

"What if it didn't?" He asked, shaking his head in question. I shook my head, not wanting to believe that something that seemed so intimate didn't. "How can you be so sure that it did?"

"Love as pure as the one that I felt in the carving is one that would always survive. The little pup was the symbol of their love, and the carving was proof that it happened here. Maybe years before even you were in the house, but no snow, rain, fall, or summer air ruined it. And that can only mean that it survived." I said, smiling at the carving. "Whoever their child is, I do hope that he or she is happy. At least they would know that they weren't an act of embarrassment, a fling, or an arrangement. It was one of love."

"I take it by this that you are not happy with Dimitri?" He asked, and I took a deep breath before turning to face him, reminding myself of my limits in front of the Lord Alpha. He waited for my response, and I smiled.

"On the contrary," I said, looking back at Dimitri who was standing beside Ivan as he, Natalia, and the elder spoke. "He is giving me a peace of mind, and I think that it is something for me to be thankful for, do you not agree, Lord Alpha...?"

Chapter 63

Chapter 63 Dimitri:

I watched as Aurora walked back with the Lord Alpha, and though both seemed to be calm, I couldn't help but wonder why he approached her in the first place.

"Hey," Aurora said, and I nodded, wrapping an arm around her waist as I pulled her to me. She looked down at my hand for a second before smiling as she looked at the Lord Alpha. His eyes met mine, and he nodded.

“She is a woman to keep, and I do suggest that you keep that in mind even after the years that the two of you spend together.” He said, and I frowned in confusion. Aurora looked down at her feet, blushing, before he smiled at her. “It was a nice conversation that the two of us had, Aurora.”

“Thank you, Lord Alpha. At least now you know why I used to like spending time in front of the oak tree.” She said, and the Lord Alpha smiled and nodded. Elder Jordan looked at the two of them before shaking her head, and I watched as she turned to look at Ivan and Natalia.

“It was a pleasure meeting you, Natalia. And as always, it was nice seeing you and Alpha Dimitri, Aurora.” She said, looking at Aurora. She nodded in response, smiling at the elder before she and Natalia shared a glance. Mostly because even Natalia knew that she disrespected Aurora by putting Natalia first when Aurora was supposed to be higher in rank.

I looked at the women for a second and Aurora gave Natalia a quick nod, dismissing the topic before Natalia shook her head.

“The pleasure was mine, but I have to admit that it wouldn’t have been possible without our pack’s Luna. She was kind enough to allow me to come, and if anyone should be thanked for that, then it should be her.” Natalia said, looking at Aurora. Her eyes widened in surprise, and I winked at her, silently thanking the woman who smiled. Her heart raced, and Elder Jordan smiled and nodded.

“You are indeed right, it is Aurora, as your pack’s Luna, that should be thanked. My apologies for the misconception.” The elder said, taking a step back. Aurora didn’t say a word to respond, and it took me a second to try and contain my smile before I wrapped an arm around the woman, not wanting things to go worse than they seemed to be going. I knew that had it been up to Natalia, things were going to end up being worse than they were.

The Lord Alpha nodded at Natalia, smirking as she looked at Ivan. The man leaned in and kissed her, letting his lips linger against hers before Aurora was surprised when I kissed her temple, letting my lips linger there for a few seconds before I pulled away to look her in the eye. Her heart raced, and she shook her head in question. I smiled and nodded at her before turning my attention to the Lord Alpha.

“It was nice of you to have us over... “But you didn’t stay for dinner? He said, and I smiled.

“I think that Aurora should rest a bit. You know, she is still with child, and it has been a very long day on her. It would be best for her to get some rest after the long day walking.” I said, looking at Aurora. The Lord Alpha studied her expression for a second before he nodded, giving us permission to leave. Truth be told, I didn’t want things to grow more complicated than they already were, and I couldn’t help but find myself

fearing how Aurora would be feeling toward Natalia after the way Elder Jordan acted and treated her. | didn't defend her, and | wasn't dumb, | knew that it wasn't going to be something that she simply let go of.

At least, if she didn't voice it out, she was going to be acting upon it.

"We will be seeing you soon. | believe that you would need to rest as you are in your third month and you are not allowed to be exceeding certain activities, but | will be sure to pay you a visit. And please, neither one of you, hesitate if you need anything." He said, and we all nodded with a smile. He nodded, guiding us to the door before we headed toward our cars as our drivers, who were already called by Ivan, were waiting for us.

| got inside after Aurora, and | couldn't help but smile at the Lord Alpha who nodded in appreciation at me before closing the door. The driver started the car, and both Aurora and | were quiet until the gates opened and we were out of the Estate grounds.

"That went well," | said, looking at her. "Do you want to tell me what it is that you spoke to with the Lord Alpha!"

Aurora looked at me for a second, her heart racing as she clenched her fists over her lap. | frowned in confusion as her once calm expression, turned to one that was more than just a little angry. If anything, the woman not only seemed to be displeased, but it was clear to me that she was angry.

"No," She said. | shook my head in question, and she kept her eyes out the window for a second too long before looking at |. "No?" | asked, and she nodded.

"I am not going to tell you what it is that | spoke to the Lord Alpha." She said, and | took a deep breath, waiting for an explanation as | didn't want to do or say something that | knew would not only anger her, but also hurt her feelings. "You knew to stay quiet when the Elder disrespected my presence, and though Natalia stood up for me, | did hope that you would have at least showed some sort of affection."

"Why would I?" | asked, and she frowned in confusion. | shook my head, waiting for a response, but Aurora didn't say a word, clearly surprised by the way that | answered her. However, | knew how | was going to remind her of the limits that she was not only forgetting, but the limits that she thought that she could cross. "Don't think that because | am willing to touch you, that you mean anything to me, Aurora. Not today, not tomorrow, and not in a thousand years. You are nothing to me, and the faster that you get that through your head, the better you are going to be feeling about yourself, do you fucking understand me?"

Chapter 64

Aurora:

| had to admit, the anger that | felt at that very moment as we entered the Estate was not one that | imagined that | would feeling. It was far too painful, pitiful, and | couldn't help but find myself feeling small.

The Lord Alpha was kind enough to speak to me.

| wasn't dumb. | knew that he had other important things to tend to. But the Lord was kind enough to spare me a few minutes of his time, making sure that | came out with a smile.

"What is your problem, Aurora?" Dimitri asked, glaring at me.

His words still played in my ears, and | have been quiet since. But the dumb part was the fact that | couldn't even explain to him why | was as angry as I was

Mostly because | should have known better. A lot better than to fall for whatever he claimed was the reality of something that was never going to be true.

"Nothing." | said, refusing to give him the pride of seeing my pain in my eyes. It hurt to know that despite what | was doing, | was still failing at trying to at least get his attention as a wife or maiden. | didn't expect to be his mate, but | expected to be more than just a fuck toy for him to ease his tension with

"Nothing? And | am supposed to believe that lie now?" He asked, and | shook my head, knowing that he was not going to drop the subject. It pained me to admit that despite all the facts, all the messages, and everything that | knew would be my reality, |

failed to realize or understand that he wouldn't be looking at me the same way that | looked at him. The man hated me, it was

now clear to me.

"As long as you are aware that something is wrong, Alpha, then | believe that you would know the reason. However, considering that you asked, then there is no need for me to voice it out. Now, if you will please excuse me, | would like to go to my room and change. | am tired and it has been a very long day." | said, choosing to lie. | did appreciate Natalia more than anything in the world today. For once, since | got married or was chosen to be with the Alpha, ONE person stood up

for me.

The Lord Alpha was kind to me, but | knew that it was due to the peace that was created with the bond that we made. This was something that was traditional between wolves when wanting to connect realms or grounds. My mating with the Alpha was going to do so, but right now, | did wish that it never happened or that | did not know of him and the woman that | once considered friend. Maybe, just maybe, things would

have been different and | would have been respected, by both, a lot more than they do now,

They would be living in a fear of getting caught, and | was going to have an upper hand of respect despite being oblivious. "Aurora, | do not like to be spoken to..."

"You do not like anything, but your word in the car were enough for me to just back the fuck away from you. You want me as nothing but a fuck buddy, then fine, it is all you are going to get, AFTER | have given birth to the baby. Do you want to go and fuck around with other women, then go on the fuck ahead. | do not care..."

"What are you talking about?" He asked, frowning in confusion. The door opened, revealing both Natalia and Ivan who froze at our sight and | glared at the man.

"For once, just for fucking once, look at me with the kind eyes that your beta looks at his mate. Be the mate that a woman wants to see while carrying your damn child. By the way, | didn't want this child anymore than you didn't, but | feel my baby growing inside me, and | am not going to allow a person like yourself to make me lose the ONE thing that is giving me a reason to breathe." | said, glaring at the man. "Therefore, as long as you don't want me in your life as a mate, and as long as it is just S** in your eyes as | shouldn't be taking things into different accounts or think any more than they would be, then fine, just step the hell away from my life. The two of us are to proceed with whatever game..."

"You believed because | touched you a few times, that the two of us were going to be anything different?" He asked, stopping me. My heart dropped to my stomach as a tear fell from my left eye. The man studied my expression and | walked past him, avoiding looking at anyone as | knew that the beta and his mate heard this, as well as his maids who were now listening in from the kitchen.

"| was wrong with allowing you to touch me in the first place." | said, standing at the bottom of the stairs for a second. "I should have followed my gut and just run away. Maybe, just maybe, both you and that fucking excuse of a friend, if | can call her that, would have had your own peace away from me. | would have had my own peace."

The Alpha froze, listening to my words, clearly surprised by my reaction, but | couldn't find the right words to describe the pain that | was feeling.

"Anyhow, if anyone needs anything, you can feel free to wake me up." | said, looking at them over my shoulder. "I am going to rest after | have showered. | doubt that | would be missed anyway..."

Chapter 65

Chapter 65 Dimitri: You two seemed to have returned to point one." Ivan said, looking at Aurora who was quiet

It has been months since the encounter with the Lord Alpha and Elder Jordan, and since then, the woman was refusing to look at me let alone talk to me. And | had to admit, | couldn't help but find myself missing her presence in my room.

Her stomach had grown and | knew that it was only a matter of time before she gave birth, but now, her resentment was worse than it had ever been. If anything, it was a lot harder for me to actually cope and accept.

"She doesn't want to look at me, and at this point, | have given up on trying to make things better between us. You know how she tends to be at times and | have better things to tend to than her anger." | said, and my beta raised an amused eyebrow. But it was true, the annoyance that | felt at that was something that | couldn't describe, and the fact that she believed that would be chasing after her was something that | found amusing. "We are tending to our social duties and that is all th

tters. Plus, | think that it is you who should be concerned as your wedding is sooner than you may believe"

He chuckled and | shook my head. It was common for wolves to marry humans for their family's sake, and though | did expect Ivan to want to take such a step, | was happy that one of us got to make his own choice about the person wanted to be with. | knew that things would have been different had | accepted being with Charlotte in the first place, but | always had my own plans, and | knew my family's vows. Therefore, it was never an option for me to make a choice to begin with, but then again, | never did expect to fall for the woman when she first came here.

"You know that Natalia and | are more than ready for this, we are just waiting for her family's 'preparations to be done. Mostly, they are being chosen by them 100, and | know that even she is getting tired of everything that she is forced to be doing." He said, and | chuckled.

"But you know that it is the only way to ensure that she is part of the family, | mean, in her family's eyes. This way, we are going to be ensuring that they lay off her back on wanting her to give them information about the role of you and about how things are being done within our pack and home." | said, and he nodded. We both knew the risk of having a mate from the outside who was of the same strength that we had. And Natalia was not only the same rank when it came to us being mafia families, but she was a strong woman who was raised to rule and not to have a competitor as her father's heir. And thus something that was more or less dangerous.

"Don't worry, | am going to be sure that things don't get out of hand. But | do think that you and Aurora should find a way make things right. You know, the last thing that we would want is for her to do something foolish after she has given birth. and considering that she is going to be.."

"She knows better not to do so. | know that she would have done something when the Lord Alpha was with her, and if sh wanted to put us in a tough situation, then she was going to be able to since then. | doubt that she would be waiting for eight months before she made her move. Plus, even if she did, no one was going to be beleiving her by now, and if they do, her family would be dealing with her their way. And if | know one thing, it is that her mother was clearly not on her side on the mating night. Had she been, | doubt that Aurora would have been sent as my bride in the first place. And | think that the two of us know that Charlotte was literally living in the same house. Do you not think that her mother would have stepped madness or that she wouldn't have told her to stop this and just come home if they cared about her?" | asked, stating the facts that | had in hand.

Ivan kept his eyes on me, studying my expression for a second before he nodded in agreement. One thing that | knew sure, it was the fact that neither me or Aurora wanted to call off this marriage, and it was for both our benchi

For my side, it was going to make my family and pack stronger with the elders. And to her side, those that shu and pack would not be kicking her out as an outsider bastard. As my 'nate, anul a mate who was chosen to the elders, we would both be eligible to being heirs since it is the elders' choice, and that was something that Anos wat ging hetk losing.

"The two of us are going to keep tending to our public duties, and we both know schoir je noctor done star shu give a banh" I said, and Ivan raised an amused eyebrow. "The park needs heirs, and you know that even my family was young lowe because they had only ONE heir, and that wasn't something that the other wolves liked Im not going to be repeating the same mistake, and this way, even the elders would believe that the two of us are active

"For now, we just need to ensure that this child is born safely.

Chapter 66

Chapter 66 Aurora:

"What you are doing is not going to benefit you, Aurora. The man is only going to resent you and you are going to end up broken." Natalia said, looking at me. | shook my head at the woman and she raised an eyebrow at me. The fact that she believed that he ever gave a damn about me was all the more amusing to me, and the idea of him even thinking of accepting me was surreal to me.

"The man doesn't even want me, Natalia, you and | both know that very well. | doubt that he would be giving a damn about me resenting him when he has done nothing more than resent, push, and break me in ways that no man should do to his mate." | said, looking at the woman who took a deep breath. | knew that she technically had nothing to do with my anger right now, and | knew that I shouldn't be blaming her for

what I was feeling nor should I be taking my anger out on her, but what I didn't like was the fact that she was calling me wrong when I did my best to try and be with him. It was him who wanted nothing to do with me. His words and actions were enough proof of that.

Though I do understand your anger and can't blame you for it. You are going to end up hurting yourself more than you should over something that you are not going to change. Yes, I do understand that it is painful to know that the man that YOU are supposed to be with is resenting you, but have you stopped to consider why he would be doing?" She asked, shaking her head and I glared at her. She shook her head in question at me, clearly judging me with her eyes, and I looked down at my feet, avoiding her intense gaze as I knew that she wanted to try speaking sense to me.

"The baby is the one thing that is holding us together and you know that. Had it not been for the agreement and the fact that he is getting higher in ranks..."

"Do you really believe that he would care about you if he didn't want to be cause of the baby, Aurora?" She said, stopping me. Her eyes met mine and I frowned in confusion at her choice of words and she took a deep breath. "Men are harder to understand when it comes to being affectionate, especially powerful men like Dimitri, but what you are doing, you are going to end up losing yourself, your position, and the man long before you have even gotten him to look at you any differently."

"I do not need him to look at me any differently, and nor do I need his..."

"You are angry now, but imagine yourself being in this position when this child that you are carrying is an adult. I want you to

imagine the anger or hate that you are going to fill this baby's head as he or she grows, are you going to send the child as an enemy or would Dimitri do that to you?" She asked, stopping me. "I know what it is to have parents who not only resent each other, but hate one another to the point where they would rather see one another die than face the fact that they are the

parents of the same child, and believe me, it is not something that you want your baby to go through because it costs more lives than you are going to be able to afford."

I frowned in confusion at her words, watching as she took a step back, turning to leave before a cry of pain escaped my lips before I could stop it. The woman froze for a second and I frowned at the sight of water pouring down my legs, making my eyes widen in surprise when I saw that there was blood along with it.

Natalia, who noticing my silence, turned around to face me only for her eyes to widen as she rushed to my side. She wrapped her arm around my waist, holding me close to her before cursing under her breath.

“Natalia...”

“CALL THE PACK DOCTORS!” | heard her yelling, knowing that the maids would be outside waiting to enter the room when she left. Mariana, who was the first to enter the room, gasped at the sight before her eyes, and Natalia glared at her. “I said a word, and someone call the Alpha. The Luna has hit labor early,”

Mariana rushed out of the room, and Natalia guided me toward the bed as two other maids, all new and assigned by Dimitri after Charlotte left. It seemed to me that the one person that he did accept was Mariana, and it was only because | requested for her to stay. | wanted her to be the one to take care of my child along my side, and considering the fact that he knew that | was still the pack’s Luna, he chose to grant me that wish

“Ms. Natalia, she bleeding..”

“Not a single word,” | heard Natalia say, looking at the maid. The pain that | felt in my abdomen was not one that | expected, and it wasn’t until the bedroom door slammed open, revealing both the Alpha and his beta, both their eyes wide in surprise

at the sight, that a cry out of pain escaped my lips before | could stop it.

“What happened?” Dimitri asked Natalia. She shook her head and he nodded at her to step aside before he wrapped his arms around me, lifting me in his arms. “You’re bleeding.”

“She hit labor early, and for some reason, blood poured when her water broke.” Natalia said, looking at Dimitri and he shook his head as he laid me on bed. He looked down at me for a second before turning to look at the woman.

“And that means?” He asked, looking at the door as it opened. The pack doctor and nurses rushed to my side, and | couldn’t help the tears that fell from my eyes as the pain felt like it was tearing my insides apart.

“We have to pray that we don’t lose them during this process” She said, whispering to the Alpha. He tensed before he turned to face me, and | knew that it wasn’t something that | was meant to hear. “For what it is worth, | do think that you have to be by her side if she is going to be able to survive this, Dimitri.”

Chapter 67

Chapter 67 Dimitri: To say that Natalia’s words took me off guard would not be a lie

| wrapped my hand around her arm, pulling her to the door. Her eyes met mine, and | shook my head in question, refusing to believe that what she just told me was true.

“What do you mean that?”

“Aurora is losing blood, in labor, and | do not know the damage that has been caused to cause the bleeding in the first place. But neither one of us is stupid. She has not been okay throughout most of her pregnancy, and therefore, we are going to have to pray that we don’t end up losing her through this” Natalia said, and | looked inside the bedroom, looking at Aurora who was taking deep and slow breaths as sweat covered her b*dy.

The nurses were talking to her, and one of them stood by her side, wanting to hold her hand. However, for the first time since the two of us mated, | didn’t want to find myself without her. | couldn’t imagine the house without her presence no matter how faint it initially was.

| waked toward her, and nodding at the nurse, | watched as she stepped aside before | cupped Aurora’s cheeks, making her look at me. Her eyes met mine, and | could read both her fear and pain in them. | k*ssed her forehead, letting my l*ps linger there for a few moments before pulling away to look her in the eye.

“I am going to be right by your side, and you are going to be holding our baby in your arms, Aurora.” | said, and she looked at me with tears welling in her eyes. | wiped those that fell before taking her hand in mine and k*ssing her palm. “Our baby needs you and

you are going to have to do this for all three of us. | can’t raise the baby on my own, and the two of us know that very well, malyshka.”

She closed her eyes for a second before looking at Natalia, and it didn’t take me long to know and understand that she heard the whole conversation that went on between us. But that didn’t matter to me. All | cared about right now was the fact that she was to give birth to our baby safely. The two of them had to be safe out of this, and | didn’t want to think that we were going to be losing either one of them.

“Luna Aurora, you are ready for labor.” The pack doctor said, breaking our conversation. Our eyes met, and | hated the fact that | saw worry in them, the same worry that was in Natalia’s eyes, fearing that this would be backfiring badly. | turned my attention to Aurora for a second, and leaning in, | connected my l*ps with hers in a gentle k*ss that | never pictured that | would give her.

The pain that | caused her for months played in my head, and | couldn’t help but find myself feeling guilty because of it. Her anger, her agony, her tears, it was at this moment that | found myself regretting every moment of them.

The two of us pulled away to look one another in the eye, and | ran my finger through her hair for a second, wiping off the sweat from her forehead before turning to stand by her side as | took her hand. | squeezed it gently, assuring her that | was going to be by her side. And this time, it wasn’t because | had to be by her side. This time it was because | wanted to be.

"You can do this, malyshka. You just need to push, okay?" Aurora's screams filled the estate as she struggled to push the baby.

Her b*dy was already growing exhausted and though | did suggest that the doctor helped her with a surgery, both she and Natalia believed that it was going to be more harmful on the two of them.

The sight and scent of blood never worried me before, but now, | wanted to do anything to stop the bleeding. Her heart. raced, and she squeezed my hand as tears escaped her eyes with each scream that left her l*ps.

"| can't." She said, looking up at me. She shook her head, and | squeezed her hand gently. "You can do this, Aurora. You have been doing a good job so far, and | am not going to allow you to stop now." | said, shaking

my head at her. | had to admit, even | was tired after the long day, it's been nearly twelve hours, but | was refusing to leave her sight. Her heart raced, and she shook her head, clearly afraid.

"I am tired." She said, and | smiled. Her heartbeat filled my ears, and | took a deep breath, motioning for her to follow my lead as another contraction hit her. | squeezed her hand again, and k*ssed her forehead.

you To do

"You're almost done, Aurora. And everything would be better when our little one is born, but | am going to need this. You can't give in to your exhaustion right now," | said, keeping my eyes on hers. She nodded before taking a deep breath as another contraction hit her. She screamed, and squeezing my hand, she did her best to push harder than she has. The pack doctor nodded at me, and | massaged her shoulder, letting her know that | was by her side. She was going to need me a lot more right now, and | didn't intend on making her feel like | was going to leave her.

"Lama, one more big push, we can see the baby's head." The pack doctor said, and if Aurora had squeezed my hand before, then | was sure that she was crushing it now. But all that eased when a baby's cry filled the room, and the pack doctor smiled, raising the baby slowly. "Congratulations, a beautiful, healthy, baby girl was born."

| looked at Aurora, wanting to k*ss her forehead only to be surprised when | realized that her eyes were closed as her heartbeat slowed down.

"Aurora?" | called, frowning in confusion as | noticed that her hand, which was initially holding mine, was cold as she seemed to stop moving completely. "No..."

Natalia's eyes widened, and it wasn't until the pack doctor looked at me for a second before nodding at two of the nurses to get me out of the room that my heart dropped as I saw her pulling out the electro shots.

"What is going?"

"We are going to have to wait, Dimitri Natalia said, stopping me as she followed me out of the room. "Right now, all we can do for Aurora, is wait.."

Chapter 68

Chapter 68 Aurora: I woke up to the sound of beeping beside me.

The light was too bright for me to open my eyes, and I frowned, closing them before taking sight of Dimitri, who was sitting by my side, looking at me.

His eyes met mine, and I watched as he dimmed the light in the room before he put his finger under my chin. I closed my eyes, and he smiled at me. I looked at the man for a second, and he nodded in assurance at me.

my "The baby?" I asked, my eyes widening and he smiled, nodding at a crib that was beside me. "She is fine and healthy," he said, his eyes softening before he kissed my forehead

"She?" I asked, and he nodded.

-You gave the pack a beautiful, healthy little girl." He said, making my heart race. His eyes met mine and I couldn't help the smile that formed on my lips despite the fatigue that I felt. My stomach churned, and he looked at the crib before getting up and lifting the baby. He looked down at her, and I couldn't help the small smile that formed on my lips as he handed her to me. My eyes widened at her beauty, and I looked down at my little one who was asleep, wrapped up in a pink bundle

blanket.

She yawned, and I couldn't help the cry that escaped my lips at her beauty. And it was at that moment that I felt like my world was whole. My chest swelled, and I looked at Dimitri who looked at me, his smile bright as he watched me staring at our daughter.

I had to admit, I never did expect that I would be this happy to have my child in my arms, but fucking hell was I more than a little pleased at her sight. The feeling of having her was one that I never did expect, and the idea of holding her in my arms after so long and after everything that I went through was one that I wouldn't have imagined.

"What happened?" I asked, and he looked up at me for a second before looking down at our daughter. "I remember feeling pain, and I remember screaming, but then, it just went blank after I gave birth..."

"We nearly lost you, Aurora." He said, stopping me. I frowned in confusion at his choice of words, and he looked down at my lap. My heart raced, and he took a deep breath, not saying a word for a few seconds and he took a deep breath. "The pack doctor saved you the last minute, but you lost too much blood, and you almost your life."

"I heard you and Natalia talking before my labor. I know that it was the reason why you were scared and why you chose to stick by my side throughout the whole..."

"I didn't need to risk losing you, Aurora." He said, stopping me. "But I have to admit, I came to realize that when I saw you bleeding. I realized that I couldn't really picture my life without you in the house anymore. And as odd as it may sound, I know that I wouldn't be able to raise our little one without you being around. She needs you and I know that very well,

and"

"You initially wanted to give her to Charlotte." I said, stopping him. He took a deep breath and nodded, at least, neither denying it or acting as if I sinned for saying it. The man knew that I didn't want to hurt him, but the two of us had to discuss the facts that we both knew to be true..

"I know that this was not what you expected me to say right now, but the two of us have..."

"I can't blame you for your anger toward me, Aurora." He said, stopping me, My stomach churned, and I took a deep breath, and he ran his finger over my thigh. "But what I don't want you to forget, is the fact that I did not intend for things to reach the point that they did. Yes, I didn't want you in my life when we first met one another, and I won't lie to you about the fact that I wanted nothing more than to get rid of you, and you getting pregnant was not something that I liked. If anything. I dreaded and hated it more than anything in the world."

"Dimitri..." "I came to realize a little too late that I almost lost same thin

sorry for the pain that I have caused you, Aurora" He said, stopping me. I looked down at our daughts, and he ran his finger over her small ones. watching as she wrapped them around it. My heart swelled, and I couldn't help the small smile that formed on my lips as he

did so "You don't need to apologize for something that the new of us wouldn't have been able to change it we I

"I do, he said, stopping me. "Why do I need to do so? Hecmi I know that every girl deserved to live her peace and happiness in a relationship that she chose to be committed to know that you deserved to find the peace that you wanted; and rather than giving it to you, I broke something in you and I had no right to do so And while I understand that you might say that you accepted it, you didn't have to, not for me, and not for anyone, Aurora

"The two of us knew that we were in this as an arranged mating. Di And while it did hurt me that you had someone in your life, especially considering that I thought that she was my friend roaddn't blame you for not wanting to be with me if you wanted to be with another woman" I said, looking away from him. He put his finger under my chin, and I looked him in the eye before shaking my head. The thing was, I didn't want things to be the way that they were because of what happened. "I don't want to be with you, Dimitri. Entean, romantically, because you are trying to forget Charlotte"

"What?" He asked, and I took a deep breath.

Dr life I

it wi

"I don't want you to feel that you are forced because of what you save or maybe even how you felt at that moment." I said, and he chewed the inside of his mouth, shaking his head at me. "Please don't get me the wrong way, you have no idea how happy I am to hear the words coming from you. And you don't know how much it means to me that you might want to fix things or that you are unplying it. But I don't want you to do it while you feel forced because you feared me dying."

I "What if my fear was the reason behind me realizing that I didn't want to lose you?" He asked, and I smiled.

Then that would depend Were you afraid of not losing me because you didn't want to lose me, or was it because of the fact that you were worried about what the elders, and families would say concerning the family's position in strength?" I asked. and the man took a deep breath. Please think of the answer before giving it, because I know for fact that I meant nothing to you for nine months, and the three that we were engaged in, which means a year. I doubt that ONE situation made you change your mind for me, especially when it was going to set you free, meaning, giving you what you always wanted."

"Aurora" "Please, Alpha," I said, stopping him as I looked down at my lap. "Please do try to understand me.

He got up without giving me a chance to continue as he walked out of the room. My chest ached, and I looked down at my little one for a second before taking a deep

breath, "But | don't want you to pity me. | want you to WANT me because you want to be with me. But it seems that you wouldn't that right now, would you...?"

Chapter 69

Dimitri

| walked out of the room, taking a deep breath as | tried to stop my own anger from building.

Having seen the woman coming back from almost being dead, | couldn't find myself arguing with her right now.

"I can assume that it didn't go as you planned for it to." Ivan said, and | shook my head. | didn't expect things to be all pink when she woke up, but | had to admit, the last thing that | expected was her reaction.

"On the contrary," | said, and he raised an eyebrow. | smiled and nodded at Mariana to go inside the room, knowing that she would be the person in charge of taking care of our little one. | still didn't even know what we were going to name her, but | knew that | wanted it to be special. "I wouldn't have expected her to look at me any differently, but | am going to need to do a little more effort to manage winning her over this time."

"Winning her over?" Ivan asked, smirking at me. | knew that it was going to be the only way to make things right. | first had to make sure to win her over before | could take things any further, and considering the fact that | knew that | almost lost her, | didn't want my daughter to live through a moment where she didn't have her mother by her side. And | was going to be very honest with myself on this one, | couldn't help but find myself wondering how | was going to be able to manage leaving her with Charlotte if the two of us were to be together like | had initially planned.

"It is about time to accept her as a mate, and considering that we have removed all the obstacles from our way, | doubt that | have a reason not to get close to her. You know, | believe that the two of us can manage to find a way to make things work. All we have to do is just try," | said, and he shook his head at me. My heart ached, and | couldn't help but find myself wondering whether or not | was doing something that was correct. But | knew one thing, after what | saw, | didn't want to find myself going through that again. And it wasn't only the fear of the elders. | really didn't want to lose the woman.

"And what do you plan on doing, Alpha Dimitri?" Ivan asked, and | turned to find Natalia, who was just entering the corridor, walking toward us. Her eyes met mine and she shook her head in question before nodding at the door.

"She woke up, she is fine and is with the baby. | do suggest that you go and stay with her though. Mariana is inside with her, but | think that she could use someone as her

friend as well.” | said, and Natalia scoffed, shaking her head at me as she did. | raised an eyebrow before she put her hand on my shoulder, tapping it twice.

“I am merely coming to visit, but what she needs is YOU by her side. As far as | know, the two of us are friends, but it is you who is not only the father of the baby, but the man who is supposed to be considered her husband’ in your world of wolves.” She said, and | looked down at my feet for a second. The fact that the two of us were yet to actually be considered mates was something that only Ivan knew, and | didn’t even know how it was going to be between us now that the baby was born. “She is your mate, isn’t she?”

“She is,” | said, choosing not to bring the detail to her. | didn’t know whether or not Aurora would be telling her or anyone at that point, but | knew one thing, it was only going to be a matter of time before | have marked her as mine.

Natalia studied my expression for a second before nodding. And | watched as she turned to enter the room, leaving me in the hall with Ivan who shook his head at me. My chest ached, and | couldn’t help but find myself feeling like | was stuck between stone and a brick wall that | couldn’t get out of. My heart raced, and my chest felt far too tight for me to be able to breath properly but | knew one thing, | didn’t want things to get screwed up now.

-What

are you going to do?” Ivan asked, shaking his head at me. | looked at the room door for a second, recalling the helplessness that | felt as | looked at the same door, watching as the nurses and doctors entered and left the room before walking out an hour later to tell me that she was in a critical state due to the tough pregnancy that she had and labor,

Aurora didn’t even know how happy | was when they told me that she was going to be okay the next morning after she was monitored throughout the whole night, and up until she opened her eyes, | couldn’t find myself getting any shut ones myself, fearing that something might end up happening to her when | knew that her baby was going to need her.

Hell, | knew that even | was going to need her.

The load of work that she was doing around the house was one that | wasn’t going to deny, and | knew that she wasn’t going to understand it if | tried to verbally explain it to her right now. | had to prove it to her, and that was only going to happen

with situations that | was going to be sure that we live through.

“I am going to win her over. How? | don’t know, but it is going to be the only way to make things work...

Chapter 70

Chapter 70 Aurora: "How are you feeling?" Natalia asked, and I smiled, shaking my head at her.

I couldn't even describe how thankful I was for the fact that she not only stayed by my side throughout my labor, but was also more supportive than a sister would have been despite the tough situation that I was in.

"I am fine," I said, moving to the side for her to sit by my side. Mariana, who was standing in the room, walked to the kitchenette that was in the in-suite that I was in. I didn't even know that there was an in-suite like this one in this house. But the more I stayed here, the more I got to know about it. "But I have to thank you for what you did for me."

"I didn't do anything that you wouldn't have done had I been in the same situation. Plus, there is also the fact that you are this pack's Luna, and your little one is the pack's heir." She said, and I smiled, looking at my daughter. I didn't even know what we were going to name her yet, but I knew that it was something that the Alpha was to decide. The two of us have yet to discuss anything concerning the baby's name and considering the choice of us not talking to one another, and it coming from my side, I knew that I wasn't going to be able to complain even if I wanted to.

"I am still thankful for what you have done. I did not have my mother by my side, but neither you or the Alpha left my side, and am more than a little thankful for that." I said, and she nodded as a small smile formed on her lips.

"You know, he stayed by your side since the minute you were out of the room. He ensured that you stayed in a comfortable place and that you had nurses around the hour while he barely moved from your side to go to the bathroom, shower, and change. Otherwise, we didn't see the man moving from the chair in fear that you might wake up and not find him by your side. Natalia said, and I looked away from her for a second. "I know that you might be having a few..."

"Natalia, I really do not want to talk about it." I said, stopping her. Whether or not that was true, I knew that it wasn't going to change all the facts that I knew about the two of us. And that started with the fact that I knew that the Alpha would rather die than be by my side as my mate. "I know the reason why he did it, and..."

"Aurora, he was being genuinely concerned..." "He was by my side because he was afraid of me dying. He wouldn't have been able to explain..."

It was going to be very easy to explain that you passed away during giving birth to your child, Aurora." She said, stopping me. My chest ached, and she extended her hand to me, taking mine in hers. "It is very common for wolves to pass away during child birth when it is an Alpha's child, and you know that very well. You were carrying the Alpha's

baby when in reality, you are of a lower rank. Your b*dy wouldn't have taken it, and you would have passed away very easily and believe me, it was going to be an excuse that all your elders would have understood.”

“What | am trying to tell you is that the Alpha was genuinely concerned of you. He did not want to lose you, and believe me, if he did, we would have seen it in his eyes.” She said, making my chest burn. “He looked at your baby, lifted her in his arms, and held her to his chest as he promised that he would be bringing you back to her. He did not aim to lose you, and | doubt that

you should be thinking that he would want to think of not having you in your baby’s life or his.”

“Do you really expect me to believe that over the facts that | know?” | asked, shaking my head at the woman. “Do not get me wrong. Natalia, but you were chosen by Ivan. The two of you were fated and you could have either rejected one another or accepted. The two of you clicked, and you chose to be together. What about me? | am with a man who doesn’t want to look me in the eye with a gaze that..”

“His gaze toward you has changed and deep down, even you have seen it, Aurora.” She said, stopping me. “And while | do understand your point. The two of you were arranged, and believe me, | have seen more arranged marriages in my life than anyone would have around the block. | am the one person who chose to go against her family with bringing someone that | wanted to be with. Now, you can imagine how many men and women | have seen get into marriages that | don’t even want to think of how they are going.”

“So, yes, | do understand how hard it would be to cope with a person that you were suddenly forced to live with. And seeing the circumstance, and judging by what | heard, | am guessing that it wasn’t all honeymoon, stars, and sparks floating around. The two of you have struggled, but that doesn’t mean for a second that you can’t fix things.” She said, taking a deep breath as she got up from the edge of the bed. “Think of what | said, Aurora, and don’t lose something as special. You know,

sometimes that special thing might just end up getting you out of more darkness than you might have imagined.” “And what if it sinks me in deeper?” | asked, and she smiled. She looked at the door for a second, and | wrapped my around myself. yarm

Sometimes it is worth finding out,” she said, taking a step back before turning around to walk out. “Give it a chance. | am sure that it will be worth wonders...”