

Alpha Dimitri LS Barbosa

#Chapter 71 -

Chapter 71

Chapter 71 Dimitri:

| knocked on the door twice before entering the room, knowing that Aurora had two nurses inside and was most likely decent. Plus, | doubted that she would have answered me anyway.

She looked up at me and raised an eyebrow before shaking her head in question and | smiled in response, nodding at the nurses to leave before walking toward her.

“Please do not tell me that you came here to talk about our topic from earlier.” She said, and | shook my head, pulling out a black box. She frowned in confusion and | handed it to her, watching as she opened it to reveal a crystal necklace.

“| do not intend to cause you more trouble or problems that would upset you, Aurora.” | said, and she looked down at her lap for a second. “But | did come to give you this as a small present.”

were fixed were on it for

She frowned in confusion and | walked toward her, removing the necklace from inside the box. Her eyes a few seconds, clearly avoiding mine, and | took a deep breath before sitting on the edge of the bed beside her as | opened the latches.

“It is customary

in our pack and family to give the pack’s Luna a present when she gives us an heir, and though it is mostly done in front of the other pack members during the small party that would be preformed to introduce her, | wanted to give you something special before then | said, watching as she turned around to give me her back, knowing that | wanted to put it around her neck. | kept my eyes on her shoulder for a second, noticing how she didn’t react, before taking a deep breath and k*ssing her shoulder. “I know that you are still salty about everything that | have done and you are not to be blamed for it. If anything, you are to be respected for at least being honest with what you are feeling. But what | do not want is for you to think that | am lying or playing you.”

“How can | not think that?” She asked, voicing out her confusion. The fact that she chose to talk was good enough or me, and the idea of us making small progress was one that | wanted to hold onto right now. “After everything that the two of us have been

through, how can not believe or doubt that you would be playing me as you have before? | do not intend to be rude, but | do hope that you would understand me, Dimitri.”

“| do, and | do not blame you for your anger.” | said, and she froze. | knew that it wasn’t the response that she expected, and | knew that she would have rather heard that | wanted her to doubt me, and | wouldn’t blame her for it. But | wanted her to know and believe that | wanted to start something different between us. One way or the other, | wanted things to work out, “But what | do want you to know is that | am not playing you in any possible way. If anything. | want to be with you, Aurora, and it is not because | do not have Charlotte in my life.”

She froze, taking a deep and sharp breath before | turned her around to face me. Her eyes met mine and | took her hand in mine. “I did not fear losing you because | didn’t want to explain it to the elders, nor did | fear raising my daughter without you. What | did fear was my daughter not knowing her mother and me not having you around.”

“What?” She asked, and | smiled running my finger over her hand gently.

“| know that | do not make any sense right now, but you bleeding that night and me finding out the danger of it from Natalia made me realize that | no longer saw myself living a life without you in it. While | understand that you might think that | am crazy, but it is the reality of things. | look at you as a person that | want to spend my life with, and lately, the closer | get to you and the more | get to know you, the more attached to you | become. It is not something that | want to deny nor is it

you in it, something that | want to play you on.” | said, and she took a deep breath. “I do not want to live a day without Aurora, and as hard as it may be for you to understand, | want you to know that I do not intend to lose your presence in my

life.

“And | will fight you for it, and | be sure that | fight everyone who says otherwise. And while | know that | might not deserve your forgiveness just yet, | will be sure that | do eventually,” | said, and she blushed, looking down at her lap. “The necklace is a first present from me to you. A thank you for giving birth to our little angel and a thank you for despite the pain that | put you through, you standing strong enough to ensure not losing her. | know that it wouldn’t have been possible if you had given up and weakened to everything that you went through, and for that, | am thankful for you.”

| got up from the edge of the bed, and put my hands either side of her b*dy, k*ssing her forehead momentarily before pulling away to look down at her. Her heart raced and she took a deep and slow breath as she looked me in the eye, and |

couldn’t help the smile that formed on my l*ps when | saw her blushing at the small contact.

"I will leave you to rest tonight. The pack doctor said that you would be able to leave this room in the morning, and I think that it would be time for you to see the new nursery. I had the maids fix it while you were asleep here, and we can change whatever you don't like when you leave." I said, turning to the door only to be surprised by her hesitant tone as she called.

"Dimitri..." she said, and I looked at her over my shoulder, smiling at her. I didn't even need to look at her to know that her cheeks were crimson and that she was holding the blanket that was on her lap as if it were to save her from speaking to me right now.

"Yes, Aurora?" I asked, and she gulped. Her nervousness was one that I read clearly, but I was sure not to show it to her in fear that she would end up resenting me or going back a few steps behind in fear that I might shut her off. And though I wasn't going to do so anymore, I couldn't blame her for the way that she was thinking.

"We never did decide on what we are going to name her." She said, catching me off guard. "I think that as Alpha and as the parent who took care of her on her first days in this world, you should do that, do you not agree?"

Chapter 72

Chapter 72 Aurora:

"Angelina," Dimitri said, and I shook my head in question at the choice of name. The name was a surprise to me, especially when I didn't expect him to be caring about me in this situation. "It means angel, and I think that our little heir would be having her mother's angelic side. I believe that giving her the name would only enhance the feature. As you may know, it is often said that we get a lot from our names."

"You do know that you don't have to pretend that..?"

"I am not pretending. Aurora." He said, stopping me. He got up from the edge of the bed where he was sitting, and walking to her crib, I watched as he carried her in his arms. He slowly brought her to me and my stomach churned when I saw him extending her to me, wanting me to hold her. It reminded me of the first time I held her when I woke up.

I looked at her as she opened her eyes to look at her father and I couldn't help but find myself smiling at her angelic expression. "You know, when I woke up, I was scared that I had lost her. I didn't even remember what happened, but when I looked around me and when I remembered that I was giving birth."

"Everyone was afraid of losing you that night" He said, stopping me. "You wouldn't believe it if I described how much we were scared of it. But even the pack doctors found and saw it as a miracle that you survived. You lost a lot of blood, and that is something that pained me more than anything."

| put my hand on my stomach for a second before looking up at the man, my eyes meeting his for a second and he smiled. "I realized that night that you meant more to me than | already knew or realized. And though, | have to admit, | was somewhat ashamed of myself that it took such an occasion to realize it."

"I am going to be very honest with you, Dimitri; | never expect you to look at me any differently. With the way that we started, and with the fact that you had Charlotte when the two of us were supposed to be mates. The way that you refused me, and the fact that | knew that you wanted nothing to do with me in the first place, | couldn't help but find myself doubting that we would ever be a couple in the first place." | said, choosing to be honest.

| knew that this was a bold move from my side, and | knew for fact that the man could have shut me off; but | wanted him to know what | felt toward him, and | wanted him to know that | was happy with what we were now.

"I still don't know what to think of this, but | am going to stay thankful for it as not to lose it. | don't know what | would be doing if it turned out to be a lie, but | am hoping that it is not a moment of excitement alone." | said, keeping my eyes on his. | had to admit, it being a moment of excitement was something that scared the life out of me.

| knew that he could just be happy for the fact that he now had an heir. It was something that ensured his strength between the packs. And considering the fact that all the elders were going to be witnessing it, | knew for fact that it was something that every other Alpha would want to take his place for. The man's position as Alpha was to grow stronger now that he did his "duty, and that was something that we both knew very well.

"Had it been a moment of excitement, neither you or Natalin would have seen me in this room for more than a minute after you

woke up" Dimitri said, looking me in the eye. "I am not the type to stay in a woman's room and when rejected. | know to back

away. and I think that you of all people should know my resentment and when it happens."

"And that is why | am worried that it might happen again. Don't get me wrong, but | have all the reasons to be both worried and scared, especially after everything that the two of us dealt with, Alpha." | said, and he smiled. | looked down at my daughter for a second, smiling softly when | saw her beautiful blue eyes staring up at me.

"We can always take things slow, | doubt that we have anything that would stop us from doing so if we want to. All we have to do is

give a right response to what we believe is right or wrong." He said, and | smiled. "We can see how it goes and how we can build our relationship from there."

“What if it backfires I understand that both options are there and we can’t really predict, but I hope that you would understand my point as well.” I said, and he nodded, smiling at me.

“We are going to handle this relationship, or mating if I am to be exact with my choice of words, the way that we should have in the first place. I know that we didn’t start in the smoothest of ways, and I hate to say that I did not want to find

myself dealing with such a situation.” He said, looking away from me. “And having our pasts, well, mine to be exact. I hate to admit that yours is far cleaner than will ever...”

“That is the benefit of being a man.” I said, stopping him. “Had I been born a man, I would have been able to bed whoever I wanted, and no one would have cared. They would have claimed that I was feeding off my hunger until I either found a mate or had one chosen for me. In my case, that is different, especially as a woman who despite being a bastard had more responsibilities to take care of for the family that took me in with no doubt or hesitation.”

He stayed quite for a few seconds, and I raised an eyebrow, knowing that he had something that he wanted to tell me. He opened his mouth for a second before closing it again, and I nodded, silently asking him to voice out whatever it was that he had in mind.

“Did it ever occur to you to search of where you came from?” He asked, and I smiled, looking down at my daughter. It pained to know that I was never going to be able to explain to her why I was who I was, and why I didn’t know where I came from.

“I did, but somethings are often best left unsolved, I guess. My parents often tried keeping me busy from that search, and I, being the good girl, often knew not to ask them. Otherwise, I was going to end up going through more hell than I could handle, and believe me, only a fool would go against people like my parents.” I said, remembering the time that I had asked about who I was. I was tired of the pack members calling me or looking at me as a bastard. And when my father found out, he not only killed and punished those who took part in humiliating me, but he and mother made sure that I never dared open the topic again. I knew not to ask anymore, and they got their peace of mind of my random searches whenever I got annoyed as a teenager.

“But aren’t you the least bit curious?” He asked, and I scoffed, shaking my head. The fact that he was asking told that this was more than just ME.

“Are you?” I asked, shaking my head and he looked down at his lap for a second, avoiding my eyes. “I used to be, but I was quick to learn not to be.”

The man studied my expression for a second, and I could tell that he had more questions to ask, but this was not a topic that I wanted to address anymore. “Now, can we please close the topic? It is getting on my nerves, and I really do not want to keep

talking about a past that | know that | would never be able to change. Not that | want to anyway.”

Chapter 73

Chapter 73 Dimitri

| smiled, knowing that Aurora was at least giving me a chance. It was something that | never thought that | would be able to live through with her. But I knew for fact that it was just going to be the start of what the two of us were going to live through.

| ran my finger over my daughter’s cheek as she laid on her mother’s chest, and Aurora smiled at the sight. She didn’t say a word for a few seconds, but when our eyes met, they said a lot more than our l*ps would.

“You know, we are going to have to tell our parents that you gave birth eventually.” | said, reminding her of the responsibilities that we still had. Being an Alpha, | knew that there came a lot with me having my heir. And whether or not the elders were included, we had to deal with more than normal wolves would. Therefore, | knew that now was going to be a lot harder. “And you know that we are going to be having more celebrations than we would want to be dealing with.”

widened when | heard Aurora purring in contentment. | knew that it was her wolf, but seeing her in this much peace was surprising to me, and | had to admit, | couldn’t help but find myself admiring it.

| watched as she kept her eyes on our daughter as | spoke, and running her finger over her stomach, my eyes

“| know, but | am taking in every moment that the we can spend together without the number of people who would be coming later. Plus, it is not only that celebration, nor our parents that we have to worry about, Dimitri. We are going to have to invite the elders and other packs, and you know that with them seeing us with our first born, and your heir, we are going eye. She to have to ensure that we make them believe that we are now stronger as a couple.” Aurora said, looking me in the looked down at our child before looking up at me. “Our daughter is to unite more than just one pack. While she is to be an Alpha in more than one, both allies of both packs are to be kneeling in front of her. And the two of us are going to have to be prepared for it first before we even prepare her.”

And though | knew that this was something that she dreaded. Our responsibility toward the pack was something that threw our daughter in something that even | didn’t want her dealing with. And as much as it pained me, | knew for fact that it was something that we were not going to be ignoring. For now, all we had to do was build the path for her.

"But for that to happen, you know that we are going to have to make sure that things did not end up backfiring on us in a way that we are not going to be able to handle." She said, looking at me. "And I doubt that I am going to have to mention a certain woman who can...!"

"I am going to handle her. Don't worry, but what I need from you is to ensure that you do not exhaust yourself too much." I said, stopping her. The fact that I didn't even know where Charlotte was, wasn't something that I found as easy. If anything, it was something that I dreaded and I knew for fact that she wasn't going to let things go easily. The woman had to be stopped somehow, but for that to happen, with her being with her father, I knew that I had to step in otherwise, we were going to be thrown in more hell than we could handle. "The doctors told you not to exhaust yourself too much, and I don't want you thinking of Charlotte much, do you understand me? All I want from you is to regain your strength, can you do that, Aurora?"

"Don't worry, Dimitri. The pack doctors, nurses, and maids have been making sure that I got as much as rest as possible. But you do realize that we are going to have to get everything ready before Ivan and Natalia's wedding. We don't want to steal their light, and considering that the wedding is soon, we are going to need to keep in mind that we have to get things done before that." She said, looking me in the eye/I smiled and nodded, knowing that we were going to have more than one event to deal with. But this was going to be one of our highlights. And I knew for fact that we shouldn't be taking their attention. The number of families that were going to be attending the wedding were ones that we were going to be allies with. And the more alliances we had, the stronger we were going to be.

reason

"While I understand your behind not wanting to have them being too close to one another. I want you to keep in mind that you are going to be stealing everyone's light either way." I said, making Aurora's eyes widen. Her heart raced and her cheeks reddened, making me chuckle. She looked away from me as she tried to cover the smile that formed on her lips, and I winked at her.

"I have to admit, I wasn't expecting such a compliment from you, and now I am left completely speechless." She said. making me chuckle at her honesty. I wrapped my arm around her shoulder, pulling her to me before kissing her forehead Her eyes met mine as I pulled away and I couldn't help but smile when I saw a certain innocence in her eyes. It was one that I didn't see in others for a very long time.

Chapter 74

Being who I was, I knew that I was forced to deal with more hell than others should have dealt with in my age. And to see a little innocence in my life was something that I was thankful for. The one thing that I didn't realize was that the innocence that I had was standing right in front of me. She was the woman that was chosen for me to marry, and

| knew for fact that | wouldn't have expected it if they paid me. Had it been up to me, | knew for fact that | wouldn't have chosen her to be in my life, but now that she was, | was more than a little thankful that she was.

"Thank you for this, Dimitri." She said, running her finger over our daughter's hand for a second. | looked down at our sleeping little angel, and | knew that it was only a matter of time before she was going to need to be fed.

"Well, it wasn't a compliment." | said, winking at her before getting up from the edge of the bed. And resting my hands

either side of her b*dy. | leaned in and k*ssed her forehead before taking my little daughter's hand and k'ssing it gently. "I will leave you to rest while | go and tend to things in the pack. But I'll be back by tonight, yeah...?"

0 Chapter 74 Aurora:

| couldn't help the smile that formed on my l*ps as | looked at Dimitri holding our daughter. He rocked her gently, keeping his eyes on her as she fell asleep. And | couldn't help but find myself admiring him for what he was doing. It was something that | found myself growing used to over the past month and a half.

The idea of the two of us being close to one another or having anything close to a relationship was something that | would have never imagined. And considering the fact that | knew how we started, | knew better than to expect much; therefore, for me to be living this, to be seeing this soft side of him, | was more than a little happy.

He rocked her gently as she dozed off, and | had to admit, | couldn't help but find myself wondering how things would have been if we started out as mates or lovers. | couldn't deny the fact that | found myself somewhat jealous and salty of the woman who had not only all his attention, but had also deprived me of moments that should have been the most beautiful throughout the pregnancy. | often saw how pack members acted around their mates when they found out about them being pregnant, and a first child was always the most special.

"You are staring." He stated, his back to me as he spoke before he turned around to face me. My cheeks reddened at the fact of being caught, and | couldn't help but bite my bottom l*p as a small smile played on my l*ps. It was one that | couldn't control, and | knew that Dimitri was well aware of that.

"I am merely watching my husband hold my daughter. You can't blame me for admiring such a beautiful sight when | know that these are moments that would never be replaced or repeated, can you?"

After giving birth, the room that he had me staying in initially was redesigned into a nursery, and to my surprise, the Alpha has requested that | stayed in his room instead

of alone. | had to admit, | still find myself wondering whether or not | was dreaming of this on a daily basis.

“You have every right to admire, neonata. | never did expect myself to like being with a child, and yet, here | was, holding my girl in my arms.” He said, and | laughed, nodding in agreement..

This was something that | wouldn’t have dreamed of, hell, | wouldn’t have been able to imagine a proper conversation without fearing a backlash that | wouldn’t be able to handle. And | knew that it was a mutual feeling.

Charlotte, the woman who was the main reason behind our conflict, and the woman that has deemed me an enemy even before | understood why, was now no longer in our lives. Though where she had disappeared to was one answer that | didn’t have. But | knew better than to bring her name to the Alpha.

“The two of us are expecting the Lord Alpha and the Elders today. You do know that, right?” | asked, choosing to change the subject. | had to admit, | didn’t want him to end up thinking any less of me, and the last thing that | wanted was to talk about a topic too much for him to end up resenting me.

“| know, we just need to get Angelina ready. You know, they are going to be judging everything that we do, and the last thing that we need is for anyone to think that we are neglecting our daughter or that we are not taking good care of the two pack’s future heir. Dimitri said, looking me in the eye and | nodded, knowing that he was right. | knew that we were going to have all eyes on us, and the last thing that we were going to need was to look bad in front of anyone, especially not when we needed to show ourselves, our heir, and our relationship being in its best state

“You know that getting Angelina ready is the easiest part, Dimitri. At this point, | don’t even know what Elder Jordan would do when she sees me. You know what happened the last time and | don’t know how we are going to handle another one of her rants if they happen.” | said, and Dimitri smiled, shaking his head at me.

“Don’t worry about Elder Jordan. She is going to end up understanding that the two of us are together. Our heir proves it, and you know for fact that when she sees us, she would understand how close we have gotten. We just need to ensure that things don’t end up backfiring in a way that we won’t be able to handle, and | am not referring to only Jordan.” He said, reminding me of the fact that he knew that | wouldn’t be able to show them that | was sick. It was something that we were hiding, and | knew very well to keep it quiet as not to worry my parents. “I just need you to focus on the concierges and | will focus on the rest, okay?”

“Don’t worry about the preparations tonight. You just tend to what you have to deal with and | am going to deal with the

things that | need to do, | am sure that we are going to be okay with everything afterward. Plus, | got enough rest to be able to stand, and you wouldn't need to worry about the family finding out about anything." | said, and he smiled. The way he looked at me was one way that gave me somewhat, a little more comfort, and | couldn't help but find myself releasing a breath that | didn't know that | was holding.

He looked at our little one for a second before walking to her bassinet and laying her inside it. | knew to take her to the crib in a bit and though | knew that | would need to get her ready, | knew that the more rest she got, the better the outcome was going to be. Plus, there was the fact that | knew that she would be the center of attention and | didn't want her to be tired when it happened. At least an hour with her being awake as my parents probably carried her and Dimitris, then | would be taking her back up to the bedroom to stay away from the spotlight. In my opinion, the less noise for her, the better it was going to be.

"Let's just hope that tonight goes well and has no accidents." | said, and he smiled in assurance. He took both my hands in his, and | couldn't help but blush when he k*ssed my knuckles gently. His eyes were fixed on mine for a few seconds, and | couldn't help but feel like my stomach churn.

My heart skipped a beat and he pulled away, keeping his eyes on mine. | turned to look at the mirror, knowing that | wouldn't be able to look the man in the eye without blushing, and taking the message, Dimitri smirked before he walked toward me. He wrapped his arms around my waist, taking me by surprise as he pulled me to his chest, and | couldn't help but find myself sucking a sharp breath for a moment before he k*ssed my cheek from the back.

.The fact that the two of us have yet to be intimate was one that didn't sl*p my mind, but it was small moments like this one that gave me hope that we might one day be able to. | mean, like we used to, only this time, it wouldn't even be on odd days, it would just be the two of us being together.

"| will go and take care of things from my side and will leave you to do your part." He whispered, resting his chin on my shoulder. "Don't exhaust yourself too much and if you need anything, just give me a call, okay, malyshka?"

Chapter 75

Chapter 75 Dimitri:

"You and Aurora seem to be getting along well enough lately," Ivan stated, raising an amused eyebrow at me as the two of us entered the office. "And | have to admit, had anyone told me that you would be getting along this way, | would have told them that they have lost their minds."

| chuckled and nodded, knowing that he was right. Even | didn't expect that the two of us were going to be getting well. The idea of us saying a proper word without arguing was something that | didn't expect before Angelina was born, and yet, here we were. The two of us have been sleeping in one room since she left the infirmary and that was something that | was extremely grateful for.

"How are things going on with the wedding preparations? | know that Natalia has been going with her family to get things ready a lot more often lately." | said, changing the subject, | knew that this was something that was somewhat hard on him. With being who she was, | knew that her family's expectations were high, but what | also knew that | wasn't going to leave him alone to do this. As his Alpha, he knew that | was going to give him everything that he was ever going to need

"They're going well, almost done with most of them too. Natalia seems to be happy with them. W

are just waiting for tonight to be over before we start on the final preparations when it comes to the ceremony and the food testing. It is something that she is insisting that we do." He said, and | chuckled, knowing that it was something that mom had me doing with Aurora when the two of us were preparing for the wedding ceremony. It was how we chose the food that we wanted, and | knew that Aurora often had the concierges coming with samples to also check and choose what she wanted for our guests on a normal basis.

"Let these elders leave today and we are going to be focusing more on the wedding. We have to make a good impression on them, and | know for fact that they are going to have Aurora under more supervision than she has ever been. And you know, with Elder Jordan being salty against her, | doubt that she is going to allow the night to pass without making sure that everyone in the room knew that she didn't like her." Ivan said, reminding me of the first time Elder Jordan met Natalia in the lord Alpha's house. And though both Natalia and Aurora knew not to hold things against one another. Plus, there was the fact that Natalia knew how to withhold the situation without making it harder for the two of them, | knew that the elder was not going to let the night pass as smoothly if she could.

"| know, but | still have to apologize to you for how things are going. You should be focusing on the wedding and your mate. And yet, here you are, doing this with us, and though | know that you are going to tell me that it is because you're best friend and beta, | know that this is something that you also fought for." | said, and he smiled. | wasn't dumb, | knew how much he fought to get Natalia's attention first. The fact that she played him was a completely different thing as she tried finding out

type of men that he was. the

Therefore, I knew very well that he wanted nothing more than to be with her. If he was patient through all that and if he managed to stand in front of her father for her, I knew that he didn't want to lose her.

"As you said, Dimitri; you don't need to thank me for this. I know that you have done the same and more. Plus, both Natalia and Aurora discussed the dates together. It wasn't like it was something that we would have had a chance to interfere in. You know for fact that we are not the types to get involved in such things, and if the night is for anyone to shine, it is Natalia." He said, smiling at the thought of her. "I am to claim her as my own, but I know that even that can wait until she is ready, and I don't mean ready to be my wife; I mean ready to be bound to me as a mate.

"You know for fact that she wants nothing more than for you to claim her as your own. It is the main reason why the two of you are also getting married. The marriage would be bringing the families closer, and would make the two of you closer than you could ever be. I doubt that you would be hesitating now." I said, teasing my beta. He chuckled and shook his head at me before getting up from the desk to pour the two of us a drink.

"How about we get things done before the elders arrive? If we are to proceed this way, nothing would be done and we are going to be more behind on schedule. And you know for fact that right now, we really can't afford that." He said, and I nodded. "Plus, we are still going to have to ensure security around the pack. You know, the last thing that we will need is for trouble to arise

when we have the elders over.

"And by trouble, I do believe that you are referring to your ex?" He asked, and I looked away from him for a second. I knew that he felt more than a little guilty toward Aurora and his friendship, well, what was rising of it, when it came to Charlotte's situation.

She knew that he wanted her to be the patient wife that didn't say or do anything. He knew that he also didn't want her to get in trouble with me for the sake of things staying in order despite me having an affair with another woman. And though that ended, too, he knew that he also defended Charlotte when she left. Him bringing her back to the pack when her father took her back in was something that didn't slip his mind.

"I don't want Charlotte to cause a problem within the pack and the last thing that we are going to need is for her to be around the pack's grounds when the elders are here. So, yes, I don't want her around at all costs. And I don't care what it is going to take." I said, and he looked down at the drink that was in his hand before putting the bottle down on the bar table.

"You do realize that her father is an ally, Dimitri. And if he is not around, it is going to stir questions." He said, making my chest burn. And though I knew that it was true judging by our past.

Considering that his daughter was with me, the man would attend every single event that | held, none missed and no excuses were ever given. Hell, the man even came to one of our business events, and it wasn't even an important one, while injured; therefore, when it came to this one, | knew that we wouldn't know how to explain it.

But the one thing that | had in mind was that before, he was doing this because of his daughter being my mate, well, in theory, she was my consort. In his mind, she was my woman, and though that was a fact that was kept from the public's eye, especially after | stripped her off her titles and rights if she were to be my woman, | knew that it was something that no one outside our pack members knew. Hell, even Aurora, who was supposedly Charlotte's friend, didn't know of that

"Her father broke more of our alliances when he chose to turn against me. You know for fact that he has done more damage to us even before Aurora and | were married when rumors spread about me being with her. And though he got an explanation from both Charlotte and I, it didn't stop him from the things that he has done to try and ruin our pack's peace." | said, reminding my beta of the clubs that he not only ambushed, but also sabotaged. The fact that he snuck inside the pack and had Charlotte hiding and lying to me about it played in my head, and | couldn't help but find myself wondering if that had happened before.

And though | wouldn't have minded her seeing him in public and in public events. Them talking in private after the man called me an enemy as | had a mate chosen for me was not something that | accepted. And it was Charlotte who chose to want to stay with me at the time. | never forced her to do so, and he knew that very well.

"| don't intend to defend any of them, but you know for fact that he wouldn't have done so if.."

"| didn't choose to be with Aurora. And both Charlotte and | had our agreements to this. We let her father in and he chose his own side." | said, stopping Ivan. His eyes met mine for a second and | knew that he was well aware to close the subject as not to cross a limit that he wasn't going to be able to get back from. This was a topic that | didn't want to talk about anyway, and | believed that he understood that very well.

"Anyhow," | said, choosing to change the topic. "I don't want her or her father near the pack at all costs tonight. | don't care what

you have to do or who you have to put around the pack to ensure that. But make sure that no one catches their scents. around; otherwise, the two of us know that the trouble that would be coming from this would reek more than a dead b*dy that has been abandoned for over a week, am | making myself clear!"

Chapter 76

Chapter 76 Aurora:

| stood in the living room, watching as the maids and concierges prepared the delights that | asked them to set on the tray for our guests this evening. Considering the fact that our gathering was going to be here and outside, | knew to prepare things accordingly. Plus, | didn't know where most of the guests would prefer to stay; therefore, | knew to be prepared for both situations.

Natalia entered the living room, noticing the calm aroma in the house. And though | had to admit, | was somewhat nervous about how the night was going to go, and | was somewhat worried that things might backfire, | knew to be optimistic.

"Someone is in a good mood." Natalia stated, making me laugh. She stood by my side, watching as the maids worked and watching as | arranged a few samples for the maids to use as references to what | wanted the dishes to look like.

"You are right, but the last thing that | would want to do is jinx it. And therefore, | am going to seal my l*ps. Plus, | doubt that the two of us should be talking about my good mood when | have a bride to be standing by my side." | said, nudging her with my shoulder. Her eyes brightened, and | knew that she was more than happy to be called the name.

Having told me the other night that she couldn't believe that she was going to be Ivan's wife, | knew to be happy for her about it. The woman had gone through a hard time with her father, and | knew, somehow, that had it not been for Dimitri being an ally, both a strong and close one to her father; the man wouldn't have allowed them to be eloping if it cost his life.

Thankfully, both men were lucky to know how to negotiate with the man, and wanting his daughter's happiness, regardless of how much he might have had a small side of him being against it; he chose to accept the marriage. But that didn't mean that he didn't sometimes give the two of them a hard time, and that was something that happened here as well, unfortunately, it even happened in front of

1.US.

"You know that | am never going to be tired of hearing of both your and your husband's conflicts. And considering the fact that | am drama free, | am living my life through you." She teased, making me laugh. My cheeks reddened, and she winked at me, silently letting me know that she was teasing me.

It was true though, Dimitri and | had to be the couple that fought most in this world. | doubted that this was how arranged marriages normally worked, but the fights that we had were endless. Hell, it took us almost nine months of marriage to be able to sit in one room without wanting to rip one another's heads off. But then again, judging by the circumstances that we were in, | was actually thankful that we didn't do that.

“Ha, ha, very funny.” | said, shaking my head at the woman. | didn’t mind the maids listening to such conversations. It was a known fact that Dimitri and | had our conflicts, like every other husband and wife would. What | didn’t want them to know was the fact that the two of us despised one another. And though | knew that Dimitri disrespected me in front of them a few times, especially more than ever when Charlotte was around, | knew that it was something that was eventually solved as things grew better between the two of us.

“What are you preparing right now?” She asked, changing the subject, knowing not to press on a same topic. Being this one, she still knew that it was a sensitive one to me no matter how much | didn’t speak of it. And though we did joke about it to lighten the mood, she often knew to change the topic quickly when it came around. Plus, | didn’t prefer to live in the past when it came to this as well, and that had its own beneficial reason for me.

“For now, the cold dishes are mostly done, | am going to start the juices soon enough before we turn to the dessert. You know, we still have a few of them, and | want to decide what to keep inside and what to choose for the tables that are outside without neglecting one side. And considering the fact that it is winter, | don’t have to worry about any of the cold dishes warming up.” | said, and she nodded. It was a week into the new year, and with everything that we have been going through, | didn’t have enough time to prepare for it. But then again, with a wedding coming up in two weeks, | doubted that we would have time for that

anyway.

Plus, there was also the fact that | knew that the maids have been working day and night between preparations for this gathering and for the wedding. And though we have been paying them extra for their hours, | knew not to exhaust them more than we already were. It was going to be inhuman, and the last thing that | wanted was for them to grow too tired in the end.

“Alright, how about | help out? You know an extra pair of hands is always going to make the job a lot faster. And considering the fact that even you need to go and get ready, | do believe that me helping would come as beneficial to you,” she said, her voice softening. | didn’t even know how | was going to thank the woman for everything that she was doing for me.

She was the sister that my mother didn’t give birth to, and | knew that she saw me that way as well. At least, it was what she told me. | didn’t know whether or not she would end up being another person who hated me like Charlotte. But | saw more love in her eyes and | saw more respect that | would have seen in anyone’s in my life. And the feeling was also mutual. | treated her with the same respect, and | learned a lot more from her than | could even mention.

"The more the better. And I am sure that with your help, we are going to have the best pastries that anyone has ever tasted." I said, and she smiled. It was true. Anyone who tasted her pastries often asked where we got them from, and even when she wasn't the one who initially baked them, her designs and additions. often made a big impression. And I had to admit, I did wish that she would try

making her own business out of it.

Natalia wrapped her arm around my shoulder, pulling me closer to her, and I couldn't help but smile at her. The woman knew that I believed that I owed her a lot. Had it been only me, I knew that I wouldn't have been able to answer the elder that night. And though it has been a while since I have seen any of them, I knew that she was slowly helping me break free of a trauma that I went through with a person that I believed to be my friend. I knew that I might not have been able to do so had it not been for her patience with me as a person.

"Alright, ladies, it is time to get things ready. Most of the cold dishes and desserts. have been prepared. And I want them all placed as instructed. Juices and wine are to be passed around the tables at all hours. And if anyone doesn't want any of them, make sure that each table had a clean glass for water. Most tend to get tipsy and might not want that in a child heir's introduction." I said, and the maids. nodded. "Mariana, you show the girls where to put the food outside, I will be out once these pastries are done to check on them. Rose, you are to take care of things in here. I want the dim lights to be ready and checked for them to light up the second the sun sets. Heaters are to be turned on if needed as we might have human guests as mates of other wolves too.

I looked at Natalia who smiled as I noted the last part out. But it was true, considering all the factors, I knew that there could be humans amongst the guests. and the last thing that I wanted to do was freeze them in December's cold weather.

"And what do you need from me?" Natalie asked.

"I doubt that I am going to tell the queen of pastries that I want her to help me out with them," I teased, and she laughed and nodded. I knew to be happy about. how things were going so far. To say the least, almost everything was done and was going according to plans. We mostly needed to get ready, and then having our guests over should be the easier part, hopefully, if things were to go well.

"Alright, I will tend to them." She said, as she tied her hair. The two of us washed our hands before wiping them with napkins. And I watched as she turned to the counter of pastries while I turned to the shrimp bowls to fill with sauce. "Who is going to help you with Angelina? You know, she is going to be the center of attention, and we are going to have to make sure that she looks as cute as a little button. Well, she is already, but we want her to look cuter."

| had to admit, | couldn't help but laugh at her statement, and | couldn't help but find myself wondering what she would be doing when she had her first child. The woman was amazingly sweet and she spoiled my little one even more than | did. Hell, | didn't even have to worry when | was buying things for the even today. Natalia genuinely offered to take care of Angelina, and | knew that | would be doing the same, if not more, when she had her first little one.

"Let us get things ready here, and we can go and get her ready." | said, making sure to use the word WE as | knew that she would want to come with me. "You know, that is, of course, if you want to help me with getting her ready."

Natalia's eyes brightened and she smiled before nodding.

"Of course, | do. Just because you gave birth to her doesn't mean that she is your child alone. She is our little one, and | am going to forever help you with her." She said, making my heart well. "And | know for fact that you are going to be doing the same when | give birth. To say the least, having one person as a family. member is always good when it comes to the situation that the two of us are in."

| knew that she meant the fact that we were often alone here and | couldn't help but smile as my eyes softened, understanding her underline meaning. Just like me, she wasn't going to have her family members by her side in situations like this, and having someone in the house being your family did indeed make things a lot easier.

"Always and forever," | said, smiling at her. "Now, let us finish up here then we can go and get our little angel ready. You know, we still need to get ready too..."

Chapter 77

Chapter 77 Dimitri:

"Welcome over," | smiled, greeting my mother as she entered the house. Her and dad both entered the house, and though | knew that | was supposed to be greeting my father first as he was the Alpha, | also knew that she was not the type to follow. such rules. It was against her to do so anyway, and | often believed that it was the reason why my father initially fell for her. The fire in her eyes was one that | knew attracted him more than anything.

Mom smiled, hugging me tightly, and | couldn't help but find myself but smile as | knew that she was going to be happy to see her grandchild. It was something that | knew she was excited about. And | couldn't help but find myself growing curious about how she would be reacting when she saw Angelina.

It was only a matter of time before our other guests arrived too, and | knew that the faster they met her, the better the outcome was going to be. At least, she was going to be able to have a little time to see and hold her if she wanted to.

Aurora, who stood beside me, didn't say a word as she looked at me for a second. I knew that mom and dad would be more than a little proud of her. At least they knew that the family heir was going to be coming from our bloodline and that their bloodline was not going to go extinct like other families did. And though I knew that even I didn't expect things to happen this way, I was glad that they did.

"You know, Dimitri, the last thing that I expected was to find myself treated as a guest in my own son's home." She said, looking at Aurora. It was something that I knew she hated. Her leaving the house when I had the elders' arrangement was something that she didn't like. In her mind, she would have wanted to be within the pack's grounds, but I knew that it wasn't going to be ending well if that happened. And the last thing that I needed was for anyone to see me with Charlotte, even if they knew of it and were to stay quiet about it.

I cupped my mom's cheeks and kissed her forehead, letting my lips linger there for a few seconds. It was true, I didn't like the idea of her living in the pack as I knew that it would have come with consequences, but that didn't mean that I wanted her to act like a stranger.

"You know that this is going to be your home, forever and always, mama." I said, my voice softening. She smiled and wrapped her arms around me, hugging me tightly before I pulled away to look at my father. He stood two steps back, looking at both mom and I, and Aurora smiled when mom approached. Normally, I knew that it was dad who was supposed to be greeted first, but mom was not going to change her ways now.

He smiled, extending his hand to me, and shaking his hand, he pulled me in for a hug. I knew that he was more than happy being a grandfather. It was every Alpha's pride and glory to know that he was to have his offspring having his own. And I knew that if we were ever to have a boy to carry our last name; my father

was going to be flying of happiness.

Our daughter was to be his spoiled princess, but in every family, and especially in packs like ours, and being a Capo; I knew what it was to have a son by my side. And it wasn't only for now. This was going to be something that was going to be lasting for years to come.

You two

have made us proud." Dad said, looking at Aurora who mom smiled at. She had her hand on Aurora's arm as she looked at her as if she was the one person that she could ever see. Aurora's cheeks reddened, and knowing her, I knew that this was not something that she expected from my family.

If anything, I knew that she expected resentment, and I couldn't blame her. She didn't know how they were, but what she saw of me was not all pleasant.

"I have to admit, I have not been this happy since Dimitri came into this world. They always did say that the one thing more valuable than one's son, is their own grandchild. And though I am yet to meet her, I am more than happy to know that she is born, and I know that I am going to be able to trust that both you and Dimitri are going to be the parents that she deserves, if not even more." Mom said, and Aurora smiled.

Mom hugged my woman tightly, and I couldn't help but find myself regretting how I treated her until now. It was times like this, especially when I saw her growing heavier, when I saw her being tired and yet, not complaining, and when she woke up that night, that I couldn't help but regret every moment that I was harsh on her. She was an angel sent to me, and yet, I was more than a little determined to break her heart. And that was something that I didn't like about myself.

The doorbell rang, and both Aurora and I looked at the door, knowing that it was her parents. The fact that they didn't bother coming to see Aurora earlier did not slip my mind. I knew that we had told them earlier than others. Mom and dad were the second people to know, but I wanted Aurora to inform her parents in case they wanted to come. To my surprise, her mother requested that her knowing did not spread around as she wasn't around to come by and help. "Mom, dad, welcome over." Aurora said, smiling at them. She looked her mother in the eye, and the silent message that the woman sent told me that she was. warning her daughter not to voice out anything that happened. She wouldn't want her figure to be scratched, it was something that I understood, but it hurt me. more to know that Aurora couldn't do anything about it.

"Why didn't you call us earlier, little one?" She asked, looking at her daughter. I had to admit, I tensed at the woman's question, knowing that she was only asking because she was in front of my parents. I didn't know how things were between Aurora and her mother before, but if this was how she was being treated now, then I didn't understand how I didn't see her weakness before. "You had your first baby, you must have needed someone to help you. You know, at least teach you how to handle things."

"You know that I have handled the pack's children before, mom." Aurora said, looking at her mom, watching as her face dropped before she looked at me. "Plus, I had Dimitri by my side. Neither he nor Natalia left me for a second. Dimitri even chose to ignore the rules and was by my side throughout my labor, and I know that it is something that this all the more special."

The woman looked at me for a second, studying my expression, and I wrapped my arm around my mate, pulling her to my chest as she looked at her mother. Both their eyes were fixed on one another for a second, and I couldn't help but find myself feel the tension that rose in the air around us.

"You know that my daughter didn't want to concern us, but you could have called us, Alpha Dimitri. We would have helped her out, and you know, with everything that you have to deal with, being busy with my daughter must have taken a huge tow out of your

time. | have to apologize for that.” Her mother said, taking the two of us off guard. Aurora tensed, and | tightened my arm

around my woman, not wanting her to say something that will backfire on her.

The woman's eyes studied her daughter's expression, clearly challenging her to say something different. But | knew not to let her do so. It was something that was going to get her in trouble, more trouble than she could afford. And | didn't want her to undergo something like that. Plus, there was also the fact that we had our guests coming over soon, and the last thing that we needed was for drama to be occurring tonight.

“You needn't worry, our little one is safe and healthy. Aurora has the experience. that she needed, and believe it or not, regardless of the number of maids and doctors that she had; she was the one taking care of everything for our child.” | said, and Aurora's eyes widened before she smiled. | leaned in and k*ssed her forehead, knowing that she needed some kind of assurance that she wasn't going to be alone in this.

To say the least, | could tell by her parents' expression that this was the last thing that they would have expected me to say. And | knew why.

Aurora's mother knew of what happened on the night that | was with Charlotte. She knew very well that Aurora saw us, but she didn't care. She didn't try to stop anything, and she didn't even bother approaching me to warn me against this.

She left her daughter to deal with everything on her own. And | didn't know whether or not her father knew of this, but if he did; then they just proved to me that these people never, not for a second, dared care about Aurora. For whatever benefit they got, they were only making use of it. And that was something that | saw as cruel, even for people like them.

“How about we go and see Angelina? You know, since you are the first to arrive, | am guessing that it would be more peaceful for you to meet your granddaughter.” Aurora suggested, wanting to change the topic, sensing the shift of energy in the room. | looked at her for a second, and she shook her head at me, silently asking me not to dwell on the topic. It was one that she didn't want me to talk about much, and | understood why; we wanted to pass the night with no problems.

| wasn't going to stop Charlotte from coming only to start a problem with my mate's parents, it was going to be wrong.

“Yes, what do you think?” | asked, supporting Aurora's idea. “How about we go and meet our little angel before we come back down as the guests arrive? Yeah?”

Chapter 78

Chapter 78 Aurora:

"You and Dimitri seem to be getting along quite well." Mom said, seeming more or less annoyed as she stated it. I knew that she didn't want me being affectionately attached to the Alpha. In her mind, our mating was a mere agreement that she didn't want us to get out of. She believed that if we became intimate and if feelings started getting involved, then we were going to end up ruining things. But that was not the case, in my opinion at least.

The two of us were the last to leave the nursery, and entering the dressing room for mom to check her appearance in the mirror. And being my 'mother', she claimed that wanted to give me advices that would 'help' me in this stage. I wasn't dumb, I knew from the second that she called me that she was going to say or do something that was going to either break or ruin the night.

"Thankfully, yes." I said, choosing to be blunt with my response. There was not point in me acting as if I was very much happy with her being around. I couldn't help but find myself recalling how she had treated me on the 'wedding' night, and the fact that we called her to come when I gave birth, at least, two weeks after it. I needed to make sure that I was okay enough to be able to stand. I didn't want to scar her when she came, but I knew not to be surprised when I was shut off by her.

She looked at me, studying my expression for a second before raising an amused eyebrow. I knew that mom often came up with something that would ruin my nights when they were the most important to ME. She saw that I was happy with Dimitri, and that was the reason why she was going to be sure to ruin it. Had it been the other way around and had I been upset that I was going to be with him, I knew that she was going to be the happiest mother who was going to give me advices of how to 'fix' things between us.

"You always were blunt in your responses when you were angry." She said, pretending to know anything about me. "But you are forgetting that the person who stands in front of you is your mother. And no matter what I am going to tell you, you are going to at least owe it to me to respect the years that I took you in when you had no one."

To say that I was surprised with what she just said was not going to be a lie. This being the last thing that I expected her to rub in my face tonight, I stood, baffled for a second, trying to find the right words to say as to respond to what she just told me. Mom, however, simply smiled, waiting for my response as her cold eyes met mine. And though I knew very well to stay quiet about the topic, the pain that I felt was one that I couldn't help but hold my breath because of.

"I am not being blunt with my responses, mother. You stated something that you saw, and I merely responded to it. You don't need to worry about me, nor do you need to make a big deal about something that does not exist." I said, taking a deep

breath as I tried to contain myself. I clenched my fist once, a bad habit that I had whenever I wanted to clear my mind. Mom looked down at my hand, knowing that she

managed to get on my nerves. Tonight was going to be about my daughter, and I knew that she wanted to ruin it for me. But the last thing that | wanted or needed was to allow that. No matter how much she wanted to break that in me, | knew not to allow it.

“You speak as if | do not know my own daughter. Anyhow, | am not to dwell the topic as | initially wanted to speak to you about something. | believe that it is long past the time for it, but | had promised your father that | will only speak to you about it when you have given birth to your first child. And now that you have, | think that you should know. Mind you, | believe that you should have known a long time ago, but | made a promise, and now is the time for you to know.” | frowned in confusion at the fact that she was deciding to open an ‘important’ topic right now. It was a rule that she had during public events, ALL topics that were important were to be spoken of when the event was over. She didn’t like it when she was tensed up, as in her mind, she was not the type to know how to control her anger if that were to occur. But when it was me, like now, | knew that putting a challenge like this was in order for her to be satisfied.

“| think that it is time that you know who you are and where you came from.” She said, and | frowned. It was a taboo topic for me to talk about as | grew up;

therefore, to see her opening it right now, | knew that this was something that she knew would break me.

“Do you really believe that tonight of all nights, the night that should be about my daughter, and the night that the elders and my guests were arriving in a bit, is the right time to talk about a topic like this one?” | asked, shaking my head at her. “Are me? Or is it a vocation to make my life hell whenever you saw my smile? And believe me, it is something that | grew used to, but this is a subject that you taught me to ignore. Why now?”

you determined to ruin everything that | see as important Dead at her.

She looked at me as if | had grown a second head. But | was damn tired of being treated the way that | was by her. | was tired of her looking at me as if | was the lesser person, and not only that, but the person that she could take advantage of simply because she wanted to. And | could tell that she knew that.

“I am to tell you who you are, and you are being angry about it?” She asked, shaking her head at me.

“Are you not the one who always said to treat all problems after such events? Are you not the one who forbade me from even bringing up the topic as it was one. that broke your heart whenever you thought about it? f**ks sake, you once locked me up for a week for begging you to allow me at least search alone if you would not want to help me. Why are you choosing to tell me now?” | asked, shaking my head at my mother.

"Your father and I always agreed to tell you when you had your home and when you had your first child that we were going to tell you. You would have settled in

your place and you would know that you are no less than those that you live with, if anything..."

"You just want to ruin my night." I said, stopping her. She smiled, her smile cold and menacing, one that I knew all too well. "Who is it? Let me know and get all this bullshit over with, not that it would be making a difference to me as I will not go and look for him."

"You are not going to need to look for him. The man has been right in front of you all along." She said, making me frown in confusion. "You just never connected the dots to know that he was not giving you this much attention out of nothing." "What are you talking about?" I asked, voicing out my confusion.

"Have you not noticed that one person in particular gave you more attention than he gave others?" She asked, raising an eyebrow at me. "Did you not see the way that he looked at you?"

"Mother, who is the man? Enough with your riddles, I have guests to take care of and elders that are arriving." I said, glaring at her. She scoffed and shook her head

at me.

"You have always been naive, it is one of the reasons why we never confronted you about it." She said, looking me dead in the eye. "It was one of the reasons why we always chose to keep his identity a secret from you. You would have been impulsive enough to act on emotions. And I doubt that it would have gone well for any of us. And as you may know, we have kept good relations with him, the last thing that we needed was for you to ruin them out of your anger." "What are you talking about, mother?" I asked, shaking my head. Disgust filled my tone at her behavior, and I could tell that she saw it in my eyes and read it in my tone. "What would I have ruined for you with a man who threw me as if I were some kind of pest that he wanted to get rid of?"

"You were a mistake to him, and hence you were hidden and thrown out." She said, and I shook my head, looking away from her. "They would have killed you. and he would have lost his position as elder. Hence why the mistake had to go."

"What?" I asked, frowning in confusion. "Elders did not have children, what are you talking about?"

"I think that you know very well which elder I am referring to." She said, her eyes meeting mine. "The Lord Alpha has always looked differently at you to the point. where I think that even your mate was surprised. You were just far too foolish..."

“Elders know their rules, | doubt that a Lord would breaking them.” | said, looking at my mother and she laughed. | knew that she was mocking me, and my heart dropped to my stomach as so many flashbacks played in my head. How he spoke to me, elder Jordan and her distaste toward me, the elders who gave me a choice rather than forced me into something that would have embarrassed me.

Mom went to open her mouth before the door was knocked, taking us off guard as | looked at it, knowing that it was Dimitri. The two of us were inside the

dressings room, and | forced myself to put on the best smile that | could muster as | opened the door for him. If he came up, then I knew that we have stayed for a long while.

“Is everything alright, malyshka? Our guests are arriving and you've been here for a long while?” He asked, and | nodded, smiling at him. My chest burned, but | knew not to show him anything. Not yet anyway, | didn't even know how | was going to be dealing with this in the first place.

“Yes, | just wanted to show mom the dressing room. You know, this is the first she's been here, and she was curious about my dresses,” | said, lying to him. Dimitri studied my expression and | shook my head, silently begging him not to ask, and he nodded as he looked at mother.

“Well, if you are done, how about we go down?” He asked, looking at mom, clearly understanding that something happened. “You know, our guests are waiting to see my Luna...?”

Chapter 79

Chapter 79 Dimitri | frowned when | saw Aurora's face void of emotions as her earlier excitement seemed to completely fade away.

She wouldn't even look at me as the two of us walked down the stairs, and | could tell that whatever happened, it happened with her mother; however, no matter how many times | tried asking, she wouldn't answer. My mate just decided to enter a dark hole of thoughts, and the thing was, | didn't even know what was bothering her.

“Aurora, | know that | have been asking for a while, but come on, | know you. enough to know that something is bothering you.” | said, looking at her. She looked at me for a second, and she shook her head at me as she gave me a fake smile. “Did she say something that bothered you?”

She looked at her mother for a second, and | could swear that she wanted to answer before she looked at the door as the elders' scent hit our nostrils. They were the last guests to arrive for the night, and | knew that it was something in their 'traditions' and ways.

They would be the last to arrive as to be shown the respect that they 'wanted' to have by the guests. Most would bow, and others would show their submission to them, and that was something that they both liked and wanted. It showed off their power over others and other wolves were reminded of their rank in comparison to the elders.

| smiled and opened the door for them, fighting back a frown when | noticed that Aurora didn't take a step forward to approach them for a few seconds, clearly hesitating as if something was bothering her. She looked at me, and | was forced. to look away from her as the Lord Alpha entered. He was the first to always walk inside a place anyway, and that was something that proved his dominance against even the other elders.

Elder Jordan followed close behind before the others walked inside.

I shook the Lord Alpha's hand, and | couldn't help but frown when | noticed that my mate wasn't by my side. Normally, especially with the way that he treated her, she would be more than happy to see him.

| looked at her and shook my head in question as the Lord Alpha studied her expression. She smiled and took a step forward, extending her hand to the elders to shake theirs after | did. And though | was quiet, | couldn't help but notice how even elder Jordan that noticed something was wrong.

"Lord Alpha, elders, thank you for coming." | said, choosing to dismiss her attitude. | wasn't going to ask her about what happened in front of the elders. To say the least, | didn't want them thinking that something was going on, but | knew very well that something was more than just a little wrong with my mate right

now.

Her mother looked at her from a distance, and | raised an eyebrow as | noticed. the same expression that she had tonight was the expression that she had on our mating night. It was not something that | liked, and considering the fact that Aurora wouldn't even look at the woman, | knew that something bad happened between the two of them. Whatever it was, | knew that she wasn't going to be willing to talk about it right now.

"Congratulations on your child, and we do apologize for not coming earlier." The Lord Alpha said, distracting me momentarily. Aurora looked at him, her eyes studying his expression for a second as she listened to his words. "You know how our customs are, and we rarely do come unless invited to an official gathering."

"| do hope that she was not hard labor on you." He asked, smiling at Aurora who didn't answer for a second too long. The fact that she was more than a little distracted bothered me, and the Lord Alpha frowned in confusion before she nodded and smiled. | had to admit, | couldn't help but find myself wanting to go to her mother to question what happened between the two of them. Because | knew for fact that whatever it was, it happened between them in the dressing room after they left the nursery.

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“Do not need to worry, Lord Alpha. Dimitri was by my side through it all, and had it not been for Natalia, | don’t know what | would have done. But | know for fact that | was more than a little lucky to have the two of them by my side.” She looked at elder Jordan as she said her words, and though | knew that she was lying about it being easy on her. The two of us still agreed that we didn’t want anyone. to know that she suffered through it. Mostly because we didn’t want trouble rising between the elders, and | knew that if Charlotte heard of it, she was going to do what she possibly could to try and press on the topic.

Elder Jordan studied my mate’s expression, and though | normally wouldn’t have liked challenging elders, | knew the reason why Aurora was doing that right now. She was proving a point, and | could tell that the elder saw that.

“| take it that you and your beta’s mate have grown closer over the months.” She said, raising an eyebrow at Aurora who smiled. She looked at Natalia, giving her a quick wink to come before turning to the elder as she nodded.

“She has become the sister that | never had. Thankfully enough for that, | am more than happy with her being around.” Aurora said, looking at the elder whose eyes hardened. | knew that this wasn’t the response that she expected, but | also knew that both Natalia and Aurora wanted nothing more than to teach the woman a lesson after the way she treated my mate the last time they met.

“Hi, thank you all for coming. | do trust that you have been well.” Natalia said, choosing to play the role of the friendly human who wasn’t harmful. If only they knew how strong the woman was, | knew that even Elder Jordan wouldn’t be accepting her among wolves as much.

“You’ve been standing here for a while now, and | figured that | could call you in

for a drink. You know, Luna Aurora specifically chose all of them herself.” Natalia raised an eyebrow at the elders who looked at her as if she grew a second head. | knew that Ivan was mentally slapping himself at the way that his mate was acting, and though the elders normally didn’t like to be treated with the sarcasm that Natalia gave out; | knew that her being human was something that had them. letting it slide. They still knew who her father was no matter the fact of them not knowing how strong she was, and that had its own benefit to her.

“Yes, a drink would be refreshing, do you not agree?” Elder Jordan said, looking at Lord Alpha Sirius. He nodded, and | smiled, watching as Aurora looped her arm with Natalia’s. | knew that my beta’s woman could tell that something was wrong with my wife. She knew her well enough to understand her expressions, and | knew that if she saw it, then | was right with my suspicion.

"I take it that she has been worn out with the child? You know, being a first time. mother and everything might be a little difficult as she might fear doing something wrong or dealing with something in a wrong way." The Lord Alpha stated, looking at Aurora as she walked with Natalia. Both women spoke, but the music dulled down whatever it was they were saying, and that was something that I was thankful for.

The last thing that I needed was trouble if she chose to say something that was going to be more or less offensive toward the elders right now.

"There was a light in her eyes that seems to be gone. And though it wasn't as bright before, but now it seems to have completely faded now." He said, and I had to admit, I couldn't help but find myself frowning in confusion at his concern. Normally, elders would only care, especially in situations where relationships were arranged, about how things were going to ensure the alliances didn't break; therefore, for him to be concerned about her right now was not something that I understood. However, I had to admit, even Aurora's gaze on him told me that something was going on, toward him, that she didn't like. And whatever it was, I was determined to find out. But first, I was going to have to deal with the bullshit that her mother did.

"She is just a little tired. We did try to ensure that she is relaxed as much as she could, by we, I mean me, the maids, and nurses that are around the pack for the baby's sake and hers. But she insists on being the one to tend to our baby." I said, choosing to be vague with my response.

While it was true, I knew that Aurora wasn't being exhausted, at least, she didn't show that she was. The two of us were tending to our baby together and that was something that only brought us closer. But I want going to refer to that right now,

the least, I would rather that he believes that she is tired until I found out what was wrong.

to say

"I see," he said, looking me in the eye. "And your relationship is going well?" His question took me off guard and I shook my head in question, waiting for an explanation to what he was asking. "You know, it was us who chose to wed the two

of you; therefore, if there is something going on, we can always interfere to fix it before things get out of control."

"As you may know, you still have your duties toward the packs," he said, and my eyes hardened as I felt my breath get caught in my throat.

"Our relationship has been well, Lord Alpha," I said, keeping my eyes on his. "You needn't worry about it."

"It was a mere question to help out if needed. Considering the arrangement came from us, we didn't want you to feel forced into something that you could not handle." He said, and I took a deep breath before nodding.

"How about we go inside?" I asked, choosing to change the subject as it got on my nerve. The idea of him asking such a question when we were here to show off our daughter was absurd to me, and though I knew that Aurora and I didn't initially start out as lovers. The last thing that I wanted was for anyone to be interfering with how our relationship went. And that was something that I knew the elders understood right now. "You know, the girls would be waiting for us with the drinks, and I think that we have kept them waiting for a while now, do you not agree?"

Chapter 80

Chapter 80 Aurora:

"Something is bothering you." Natalia stated, looking me in the eye. I took a deep breath and looked down at the drinks that were supposed to serve to the elders, and the fact that I was going to have to be serving the Lord Alpha too wasn't something that slipped my mind either.

"I am fine." I said choosing to keep things to myself for now. The fact that I didn't even know how I was going to be speaking to my mate about this bothered me. And it didn't take a genius to know that this was why mom told me about this right now.

She knew very well what she was doing, and that alone made the whole situation a lot worse for me. To say the least, I would have hoped, just for a minute, that she wouldn't ruin such a night for me, but here I was, wrong again with what I believed.

"You can lie to me all you want, but you know for fact that I am not going to fall for it. And if I am letting it slide, it is because we have a lot to deal with right now, and I know that you are already under the pressure of the elders being here. However, I do believe that Dimitri would want an explanation as to why you look like you just saw a ghost." She said, putting on the best smile that she could muster as she looked at the elders walking inside with Dimitri. His eyes met mine and I could see their questioning in them before he turned to look at the elders. "You need to smile, Aurora. You are going to attract more attention, negative attention, to yourself if you don't."

The Lord Alpha kept his eyes on me, studying my expression, or at least, trying to read it. But I looked away from him as I turned to Natalia, pretending to be busy with a conversation that I was having with her. Thankfully, she played along the same game as Dimitri approached us.

Dimitri's eyes met mine and he shook his head at me, watching as I served the elders their drinks alongside Natalia. One maid approached us, and I smiled, handing her the

tray before my mate wrapped his arm around my waist, pulling me away from the crowd as everyone busied themselves.

Natalia walked toward Ivan, and | couldn't help but smile when I saw her pecking his l*ps. At least it was a distraction from everything that | was thinking.

"Aurora, what is going on, malyshka? And don't tell me nothing, | know for fact that something happened between you and your mom. You wouldn't be in this. state if nothing did." He said, his voice softening as he spoke. | knew that the music masked our voices, but | also didn't know how | was going to tell him that the bastard 'Omega' who was in front of him was an elder's daughter. At this point, | didn't even know whether or not the Lord Alpha actually knew who | was, and if he did, would he be accepting me? Would he look at me any differently? Or would he kill me the second he realizes that | was the mistake that they threw out?

And if he knew who | was, why would he throw me out the way that he did?

The number of questions that played in my head were countless, but | couldn't even voice out one of them. And that fact was all the more painful to me as | knew that | could possibly never get an answer to any of them.

He looked at mom for a second, clearly noticing her eyes on us, and | couldn't help but find myself feeling small because of it. "Did she tell you anything that hurt or broke you, malyshka? Please tell me for me to be able to help you with it."

"Dimitri... well hiding it is not going to help

"Aurora, whatever it is, just talk to me about it. us with solving it, and you know that very well." He said, stopping me. My chest. burned, and | didn't even know how | was going to tell him about it. The idea of everything being as messed up was one that | couldn't handle dealing with, | didn't even know how he was going to react as my mate. The man barely accepted me, the idea of him rejecting me again, resenting my presence or looking at me differently wasn't something that | wanted to deal with.

"What if it is too much to handle? What if knowing or hearing of this is going to change a lot, between us, in our lives, and those that surround us?" | asked, shaking my head. Dimitri studied my expression for a second before he took my hands in his, bringing them to his l*ps as he k*ssed my knuckles. My chest burned, and he kept his eyes on mine for a second before pulling me to his chest as he pulled me in for a hug.

"Whatever it is, Aurora, you can trust that | am going to be there by your side. We will be solving it together, | just need us to pass the night safely and with no trouble; then the two of us can deal with everything together. And whatever it is that your mom told you, and | know that she is the one who did, we will know how to handle it together. | just need you to trust me, okay?" He asked, looking me in the eye. My eyes caught sight of the elders as they approached us, and Dimitri cupped my cheeks, making me hold eye

contact before he k*ssed my forehead. "And if you are afraid that | am going to be leaving you, then trust me, with my life, | swear to you that | won't. And it is has nothing to do with the mating or promise, but | came to learn that finding a pure hearted person in my life was something that | never had."

"And that is not something that | want to lose." He whispered, and | blushed before k*ssing his cheek. | rarely ever had the courage to lean in and k*ss him, and him freezing told me that he was surprised that | did it. Even | was, but | knew that it happened spontaneously

"How was | this blessed to find a man like you in my life?" | asked, and he smiled. My heart skipped a beat when he ran his finger over my hand, and | couldn't help the blush that formed on my cheeks as he did. But | had to admit, after everything that we've been through, the last thing that | would have ever expected was for me to find peace in the arms of the one man that | thought would never accept me.

"Believe it or not, malyshka, it is me who was blessed with an angel like you." He said, and | smiled, biting my bottom l*p as | tried to stop my smile from growing more than it already was. The man didn't know what effect he was having on me right now, but | doubt that he would care anyway. | believed that he enjoyed it. "I know for fact that | don't deserve it, nor do | deserve the kindness that you've shown me. But | know for fact that | am going to be making up for everything that you've lived through with

me.

| stayed quiet, studying the man's expression as | tried understanding whether or not he was being serious right now. And though | shouldn't have been as paranoid, | should have accepted things and how we have become; | knew that | couldn't easily just do that with the way that the two of us started. | mean, the man wouldn't even look at me a month ago and now he was calling me an angel, and | couldn't help but find myself wondering whether or not he was being honest or if he was just getting a moment's excitement until he was bored.

"Now, how about we go and tend to our guests? | am sure that most of them would be wondering where my beautiful Luna was, and judging by the elders who were looking our way, | know that even they are curious. Plus, we still have to bring in our little angel," he said, and | smiled and nodded. The man had his way with words, and | knew that he was doing it to ensure that he boosted me up. when he saw me weakening a bit. And | was more than thankful for it. At least, the man made me feel like | wasn't alone. He made me feel like he was by my side. through it all.

"How is it possible that you managed to swoon me over with words?" | asked, and he chuckled before wrapping his arm around my waist. The two of us turned around to face our guests, and he k*ssed my temple, making my cheeks redden. "Baby girl, | am yet to even show you off to those who will dare to look." He said, and | laughed as he guided me toward his allies. The two of us walked around for a bit, mingling with some, talking

to others, and it wasn't until Natalia looked at me, letting me know that it was time, that I nodded. It was time for us to bring in Angelina, based on what we decided. The elders looked at us, and I knew that it was getting late anyway, most of the guests would be heading off after dinner, which would be a few minutes after the celebration of my daughter.

I looked at Dimitri, who nodded, allowing me to go and bring her. Her basinet was already set and prepared, but I didn't want her to be frightened when she entered a place where she didn't recognize most of those who were around her. Being a baby, she barely recognized us by our scents and sight, those that she didn't know made her cry if we were not by her side, and that is something that I didn't want. It would cause more of a fuss, and that wasn't something that we needed right now. We wanted the night to keep going as smooth as it was, and though my mother looked at me, clearly surprised that things were not backfiring, I was sure to put on a smile on my face, not wanting her to see my anger. It pained to admit, but I knew that this was a final strand for me. Whatever was going to happen from here, I wasn't going to be surprised.

I laid my little angel in the basinet, and everyone looked at her, muttering and murmuring amongst themselves. The Lord Alpha kept his eyes on her, inhaling her scent as if memorizing it, and I couldn't help but find myself growing curious. about what was on his mind right now as he saw her.

But I knew better not to ask right now. Whatever it was, I knew that it was going to show eventually. However, I also knew that if he chose to hide things, then a reason must have been there, whatever it was, I knew that it was going to rot out

soon.

"What did you name her?" The Lord Alpha asked, speaking for the first time since we brought her over. His voice seemed to be caught up in his throat, and I looked at my mate, nodding at him to answer. It was his place to do so anyway, and I knew that regardless of everything, that I was to respect his position as my Alpha.

"Her name is Angelina. My heir and beautiful daughter, Angelina."