ALPHA'S REGRET: HIDING MY EX-HUSBAND'S TWINS **HIDING 61**

Xavier's Vow

ISABELLA'S POV

I stood frozen in my spot, my breath catching in my throat as Xavier made his sudden arrival. Before I knew it, he and Raymond were already standing face-to-face. They didn't differ much in height or build, but Xavier emanated an undeniable sense of authority, the kind only an Alpha could command.

Raymond, however, didn't flinch. He wasn't easily intimidated, least of all by someone who wasn't his Alpha. Yet, there was a tension between them, thick and palpable, as if a single wrong move would set them off. Both men looked like they were on the verge of a fight.

Raymond's eyes narrowed as he scrutinized Xavier, while Xavier met his gaze with a cold, unyielding firmness.

My heart hammered in my chest, the tension twisting my stomach into knots. I shot up my seat, fear gnawing at me as I imagined them lunging at each other.

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"You failed to protect her once before," Raymond accused, his voice sharp and cold. "What makes you think you can protect her and the kids now?"

"Ray," I called out in a low, warning tone. The last thing I wanted was for them to lunge at each other and fight, especially with the way Raymond's eyes now blazed with challenge.

He didn't respond to me. He didn't even look back. His full attention remained on Xavier, a

displeased scowl forming on his face.

"I made mistakes. I won't deny that." Xavier finally spoke, his voice low but resolute. "But I'll

never repeat them again."

My hands trembled as I watched from the side, not knowing what to do or how to react as Xavier continued speaking while his gaze remained steady and unwavering.

"I swear by my position as Alpha of the Lunar Crescent Pack, and as Isabella's mate-that I will do everything in my power to protect her and our children."

His sudden words sent a shockwave through me. My heart pounded, this time, not from the nervousness, but from something else entirely. Xavier's voice was firm, and I could clearly feel the sincerity and firmness behind his promise. I wasn't expecting him to say this all in front of

my very own brother.

"I respect your concern for her because you're her brother," Xavier said, his tone measured." But you can be rest assured. This is my vow, and if I can't uphold it, I'm willing to lose my

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Xavier's Vow

position as Alpha."

"But that won't ever happen. I will protect her and our children with all the best I can."

My breath caught in my throat as his final words sank in. I didn't see this coming. A wave of complicated emotions started swirling within me-a sense of shock and a faint warmth I couldn't shake. But as much as I was deeply affected, I forced myself to act normal at the

surface.

Raymond's jaw remained tense, but this time, he finally glanced at me. Then, after a moment, his hard expression softened slightly before he returned his gaze to Xavier.

"I hope you'll keep your words." Raymond said, his voice still sharp and serious.

"I will." Xavier responded firmly.

I tried to ignore the loud pounding of my heart as I finally stepped forward, taking Raymond's arm and gently pulling him aside. The atmosphere between the two men was still charged, but for now, the tension between them has eased.

Xavier's eyes lingered on me, and despite the storm of emotions I felt inside, I managed to meet his gaze. I offered him a small nodgratitude for his words, though I wasn't entirely sure what to make of them just yet.

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"Are you still mad?" I asked Raymond as we drove back to the Bluemoon Pack. He was driving, and I could feel the tension in the air between us, even if he wasn't saying much.

"I'm not mad," Raymond replied, though his voice was clipped and strained.

I sighed, turning to look out the window. I knew my decision didn't sit well with him, but he had

ultimately accepted it-especially after hearing Xavier's vow.

I leaned back on the seat, glancing at the side mirror of the car to see the other car following

us from behind.

It was Xavier's car.

He had insisted on coming with us, and Liam and Lily were in the car with him. The twins had been eager to ride with their father, and I didn't object because I also wanted the chance to talk privately with Raymond.

"I'm sorry if this was all of a sudden." I said after a moment, watching the road stretch out ahead of us.

Raymond's grip on the steering wheel relaxed, and his voice softened.

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+50 Points

Xavier's Vow

"You don't have to apologize, Bella." He glanced at me briefly before turning back to the road.

I just want you and the kids to be safe and happy."

I forced a smile, but it didn't reach my eyes. I wasn't sure how to respond. The only thing I

could feel was the knot in my chest tightening even more as we approached the Bluemoon

Pack terriroty.

"Promise me you'll visit," Hailey whispered, her arms wrapping around me tightly.

We had returned to the Bluemoon Pack, and I had just told her of my decision. Her voice

trembled, and I could feel her sadness in every word.

"Of course, we will," I assured her, smiling even though my heart ached.

She hugged me even tighter. "I'm going to miss you and the kids so much."

I chuckled softly, though I felt tears stinging the corners of my eyes as I hugged her back. "I

said we'll visit from time to time."

Hailey pulled back from our hug, her eyes misty as she looked at me. "But still, you're not staying. It's going to be different." I squeezed her hands tightly, feeling the weight of her words.

"Don't worry. I'll keep in touch." I promised.

"You better," she said with a shaky laugh, her attempt at humor doing little to mask her

sadness.

A few moments later, I finally saw Alexander step into the room. He had been in a meeting when we arrived, so this was the first chance I had to speak with him after arriving here.

Hailey gave him a quick glance before looking back at me. "I'll leave you two to talk."

I nodded and watched as she left, feeling the air between Alexander and me growing heavy. He stopped a few feet from me, his expression calm, though there was an intensity in his eyes

that made my stomach twist.

"Have you really made up your mind?" he asked, his voice steady but serious. At that moment, I knew he was already aware of the purpose of this conversation.

I met his gaze, nodding. "Yes. It's what's best for the kids."

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Alexander was silent for a moment, his expression unreadable before he spoke once more. Do you think he can really keep you and the kids safe? Are you sure he won't hurt you again?"

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Xavier's Vow

It was almost the same question Raymond had asked and I knew it was out of concern.

"I don't think he will," I said quietly, but there was a firmness in my tone.

Alexander studied me, and the weight of his gaze made my heart ache with guilt. He had done so much for me, for the twins, and I was utterly grateful for that.

"I want to thank you," I began, my voice low but sincere. "For everything you've done for us. Especially towards the kids."

A small, forced smile tugged at the corner of his lips as he faced me. "So, this is goodbye,

then?"