Alpha Killian's Cursed Mate / Talia's Anger part two

3. In One Year 2

and missed me.

was happening tomorrow.

love-stricken teenager.

><

could still make out some of her facial features. She still looked the same as I

In One Year peart two

A year had passed, and somehow Laura was now talking to me. Though it was nighttime, I

remembered: big eyes, a button nose, and full lips. The only difference was that she had dyed her hair red. She had always been a brunette, and dyeing our hair was something we had planned on doing together. It was like a funny game, planned after I would have mated with Paul. We would dye our hair and go to a werewolf club looking completely different, having crazy fun. But we never got to do that. With all the deaths trailing me like a shadow,

my life had become frozen while theirs continued on, untouched by misery. "You should join us," she offered. I gawked at her in confusion. "Just a few of my friends. We're just hanging out."

"I...I don't think I should," I stuttered, my brain still struggling to process everything. I should be angry at her. I should be yelling at her for abandoning me when I needed her the most. But I couldn't. My anger and my words somehow got stuck on my tongue. "Come on, Sahel. It's been a while," she insisted. I narrowed my eyes at her. Why was she

acting as if we hadn't stayed away from each other for a year? Why was she speaking to me like I was still her best friend, just avoiding a social gathering? "It's been over a year, Sahel. I'm sorry. I missed you," she added. I denitely did not deserve this kind of apology. I had done nothing wrong, yet she treated me like a disease and expected everything to just go away because she said she was sorry

I should have slapped her across the face, or I should have turned my back on her and walked away. But I didn't. I was a coward, a pushover, nothing. So I let her pull me towards the bonre. *****

Complete and total silence. That's what happened the moment I arrived at the bonre.

Everyone had their eyes on me, and deep inside my bones, I knew I had made a mistake. I should not have agreed to Laura's offer. I had been foolish because somehow, I still had a soft spot for her.

I was the odd one out here, even though I had grown up with most of the people present. I had even gone to the same school as them and attended parties with them. But everything was different now. Even the air around us somehow felt and smelled different. "Hey, Laura! Are you excited for tomorrow?" It was the girl I remembered as Leila who

asked her. They were sitting next to each other on Laura's left, while a young, attractive man whom I didn't recognize sat on her right. It was even strange to see Laura here. There was a time when Laura complained about not liking Leila, something about her being fake

and lying about being a natural blonde when she was, in fact, dark-haired. But I guess things had changed. They looked like the best of friends now. Who was the fake one now? For a minute there, I thought I was a coward for accepting to join the bonre because Laura begged me, but Laura was the bigger coward. It didn't take long for her to nd my replacement, a former supposed nemesis.

Laura beamed at her, acting shy like a love-stricken teenager. I was curious about what

"Of course!" Laura exclaimed as giggles erupted from her mouth. She really looked like a

"Look at you blushing like a virgin bride. We all know that you're not a virgin, but you are indeed a bride. By this time tomorrow, you and Floyd would be... well, you know, f*****g" Leila blurted out as if it was the most normal thing to say. I choked on air but forced myself not to cough. That caused me a lot of distress, but it wasn't as bad as hearing those crude words come out of Leila's mouth. I wasn't a saint myself, nor was I a virgin. I had given my virginity to Tyler, but I believed those were intimate moments that needed to stay intimate.

"Language, Missy!" Laura playfully smacked Leila on the arm before erupting into a t of laughter, and the others joined her, except me. I was surprised by the events playing before my eyes. The guy seated on her right placed a huge kiss on her lips, and I gured that would be the Floyd in question. Laura was getting mated tomorrow. A lot had been happening while I drowned myself in sorrows, while I was trapped by the hatred of my pack members. Laura was no longer a virgin. She was the same person who claimed that even her chosen mate would not touch her until all the mating rites had been performed.

Laura was casually hanging out with up to ten people, when she was once a person who hated crowds. Laura was allowing people to speak such crude words about her having s*x with her mate in public. She was the same girl who once claimed that she hated such things and even PDA. But here she was, allowing her chosen mate to devour her lips in front of over ten people. All of this happened in just one year. I stared at Laura. She was denitely not the same Laura who was my best friend. This Laura was different.

"Leila, did you invite Sahel to the ceremony?" Leila asked. The bonre provided enough light to reveal the malice in her eyes. "Yeah, I did," Laura responded casually. "Do you want to be happy?" Leila asked Laura, and I knew where she was heading with her

words. I should have gotten up and left at that point, but I stupidly didn't.

potentially curse your union by inviting her," she boldly pointed at me.

All the air in my lungs was sucked out, but I still didn't get up.

but I didn't stop. I kept marching on, crying my heart out.

I walked away.

sure she didn't mean it."

are too hard to x.

><

causing more harm.

me? I couldn't.

"Yeah. Good night, Mom!"

"Good night, dear."

I exhaled deeply.

in sweat, gasping for air.

bra and panties and stepping into the shower.

them

kitchen stools.

night?" I asked, curious.

at school because of me?

She didn't respond.

awakened by the noise.

spoke out, and my mother gasped.

"I'm sorry," I choked on my tears.

voice piercing through the room.

spoke up, regaining his composure.

My mother was already in tears by this point.

because she's your sister," she said.

suffering because of me.

behind.

5. Talia's Anger 2.

><

myself to sleep

life felt pitiful.

else. I was stuck here.

She was just hurting."

not, it was still because of me.

worry about me every single moment.

hold back the waterfall from my eyes.

simple dress, and her hair was in a bun.

is usually invited for these events."

away from everyone.

and I owe her nothing as well."

came running to me in tears.

Flashback.

she had cried her eyes out the day before.

I laughed. "I will denitely hold you accountable for that, Laura."

rough hair and my face, and then I left the house.

at her. She looked completely happy.

was a beautiful thing to witness.

behind her.

this," he warned in his authoritative voice.

me, so last night didn't just happen out of the blue.

bed, placed a kiss on my temple, and left my room.

you and be by your side."

her. But she took a few steps back, creating distance between us.

voice. Our mother was already hugging Leah by her side.

with me!"

the above.

ranted.

"Leah, please tell me," I pleaded.

"Okay, that is good, honey," she yelled back.

aggressively with my palms.

looked like she meant every word.

away without sparing her a single glance.

"Denitely, Leila. Where are you going with this?" Laura narrowed her eyes at her.

"Nowhere, actually. I was just wondering why you would invite someone negative and

Leila's eyes caught mine, and a smirk formed on her face. I didn't have to be a seer to know that she didn't like me one bit, and she was denitely out to get me, even though I had done nothing to harm her, just like I had done nothing to the pack that now despised

"Leila, don't," Laura warned. "Oh, come on. We all know what she is. How is it normal to lose three mates? What did they even see in her in the rst place? She's not even pretty," she smacked her lips. Everyone fell into silence.

"I told Justin not to get involved with her, but he didn't listen. I would have been a better choice. He would still be alive, and this slut wouldn't have killed him!" she almost yelled.

I immediately got up. I had no idea that Justin was that close to Leila. I clenched my sts tightly, angry but knowing I couldn't do anything. I could maybe throw a punch, but the rest of the people here would support her. I gritted my teeth before doing the only thing I could

Tears fell freely as I strode down the training grounds. I could hear Laura calling my name,

Laura caught up to me and held my hand. "Sahel, wait! I'm sorry for what Leila said. I'm

I forcefully released myself from her grasp. "I'm sure she meant every word she said. What

the hell do you think you're doing, Laura? It's been a year, a whole freaking year since we last spoke, and now you're acting like nothing happened," I lashed out, tears still owing. "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, Sahel," she pleaded in distress. If she had said that to me a year ago when I had tried to reach her for two weeks, I would have accepted. But now it was pointless. Laura and I had been best friends for as long as I could remember, and I had

always imagined that we would be friends forever. But I was wrong. Some relationships

"It doesn't matter anymore. I've moved on with my life, and you can move on with yours. Have your mating ceremony and live happily ever after," I stated before wiping my face

"I really want you to come, Sahel. We always planned it that way," she said sadly, and she

I chuckled. This had to be a sick joke. "Things are different now," and with that, I walked

Talia's Anger Part One

4. Talia's Anger part One

I had to wait near my house for a while to calm myself down before I could think of going in. I knew I would look horrible in the state I was in, and I already felt horrible on the inside. It didn't help that I was also an ugly crier. I didn't think I would be able to face my family in this state. They had already been through a lot because of me, and I had no intention of

I don't know how many minutes had gone by, but when I felt a bit better, I nally walked into the house. My father was in the living room, uncomfortably lying on one of the couches, fast asleep with a beer bottle by his side. The TV was also turned on, and a soccer match was going on. I was quite surprised he was asleep in the rst place since my father had always been a huge football fan. I wanted to wake him up, but I didn't want him to notice that something was wrong with me. He had always been a good observer.

As I was about to make my way up the stairs, I heard my mother call my name from the kitchen. I froze immediately. "Sahel, is that you? What took you so long? Did you run into some trouble?" she yelled from across the kitchen. I was thankful that she didn't make any move to see me physically. I just needed to make it to my room, wash my face, and go to bed. Maybe cry some more before I go to bed, but I knew that no one would nd out.

"Yes, it's me, Mom! There were more customers at the store. Everything went ne," I lied effortlessly. She didn't need to know what had happened. It would devastate her. She already felt bad that she couldn't help me get my life back. How could I possibly tell her that I was banned from the last store that had been graciously accommodating me for months, and my former best friend talked to me after a year and somehow embarrassed

I nally made my way to my bedroom and plopped down on my bed. Tonight was

unexpected, tragic but still unexpected. I never imagined Laura talking to me again. I heard on to hope after a month passed and we had not spoken, then two months, and by the third month, I had already given up. Laura was different now, happy. A part of me had wondered how we lived in the same pack, yet she managed to avoid me effortlessly and live her own life. While I had been barely existing, she had been living her best life.

I expected the mating ceremony. Surely, one day she was bound to get mated. But what I had not expected was Leila. Justin never told me he was involved with her, but Leila's claims pointed to the fact that they had been close and maybe romantically involved. If he liked her, why did he choose me? He could have gone for her and not killed himself. Leila surely had a distasteful character, but she was pretty, and a lot of people seemed to tolerate and like her, even Laura. They... they might have been good together.

Justin haunted my sleep in the form of nightmares. I kept seeing him at his desk in his bedroom, writing his suicide note and shooting himself repeatedly. I desperately tried to stop him, but I couldn't. I tried to wake up, but I couldn't. The cycle continued, and it felt like I was losing my mind. Eventually, my brain forced me awake, and I found myself drenched

It felt so real—I could feel him, but he couldn't see or hear me. This was the rst time something like this had happened, and I knew it was triggered by the events of last night. I used to dream about Justin, Tyler, and Paul, but those dreams were usually peaceful, lled with memories of the moments we shared. I would wake up with tears in my eyes, missing

I got out of bed and peeled off the hoodie and sweatpants I had worn last night. It was around six in the morning, the break of dawn, and the sun had not yet risen. I made my way to the bathroom and washed my face, seeking some comfort, before taking off my

I continued to stare at my ceiling, and I didn't realize the time until my eyes became heavy, and sleep enveloped me.

couldn't go back to sleep, I might as well start breakfast. I had nished preparing the eggs and toast when my youngest sister, Leah, entered the kitchen. She still seemed half-asleep. "Hey Leah!" I greeted her with a simple smile. "Hey Sahel, good morning," she replied, waving back before taking a seat on one of the

I prepared a plate for her and handed it over. She mouthed a thank you. "How was your

She sighed heavily. "I had to work late on a school project. It wasn't easy at all. And things

"What do you mean school is rough?" I asked, my fear growing. Was Leah facing problems

are already rough at school," she said, speaking the last sentence quietly. I froze.

"It's nothing, Sahel. I can handle it," she shrugged, munching on her fried eggs.

She opened her mouth to speak but got cut off when we heard a loud slam of the front

Talia was pacing around the living room, fuming. She was still wearing the same clothes as yesterday when she stormed out of the house. Our parents had also come downstairs,

I narrowed my eyes. "Are people bothering you because of me?"

door. We immediately rushed to see what was happening.

After showering and brushing my teeth, I threw on the rst pair of shorts and top I found in my wardrobe. I put my black, frizzy hair up in a high bun and headed to the kitchen. Since I

"Talia, hey! What's going on? Did you just come in? Did you sleep out last night?" I asked, questioning her. Talia stopped and glared at me intensely. I had never seen her look at me like that before. "Talia, honey, is everything alright?" our mother asked, concerned. "How can everything be alright? Sahel has practically ruined all our lives!" she exclaimed in frustration. "Talia!" our father warned. "What is it, Dad? You all act like Sahel's curse hasn't affected us. It has and it still is !" Talia

A single tear slipped from my eyes. I knew my situation was affecting them all, but hearing

She stared at me. "What are you really sorry for, Sahel? It would have been better if you hadn't killed those men who tried to mate with you. Then Haden wouldn't have broken up

"You and Haden broke up?" I muttered. Haden was Talia's boyfriend, and they had been

"Are you deaf, Sahel? He broke up with me. We were intimate all night, and then he decided to end things because he thinks I'll kill him, just like you killed those men!" she shouted, her

My parents' eyes widened. I couldn't tell which part surprised them the most—the fact that Talia was sexually active, the offensive language she used, her blame on me, or the revelation that Talia and Haden were no longer in a relationship. I suspected it was all of

"Your sister has nothing to do with those deaths. She's been unfairly accused," my father

"Really, Dad? Really? Whether she killed them with her own hands or not, she's somehow involved. Three men died, and they were all connected to her. She's the problem!" Talia

"I'm so sorry, Talia. I can talk to Haden. We can try to x this mess," I pleaded, walking up to

"Stop saying that, Sahel. You can't x this unless you can bring those men back to life. Maybe then Haden will take me back, or Leah will stop getting bullied at school just

My head snapped in Leah's direction. Her eyes twinkled with sadness. That's what Talia's statement meant—Leah was being bullied because of me, and I had no idea. She was

"Leah, you're getting bullied? When did this start?" our dad asked, concern evident in his

Talia glared at me one last time before making her way up the stairs, leaving the rest of us

those words from Talia broke my heart. It was the bitter truth.

together for three years. It had all ended because of me.

I felt suffocated. The room suddenly felt small, and I quickly rushed to my room, collapsing onto my bed as tears streamed down my face. Talia's Anger part two

I heard a subtle knock on my bedroom door, enough to jolt me out of my sleep. I had cried

My mother walked in while I was sitting up on my bed. "How are you doing, honey?" she cooed with a sad expression on her face. It was understandable; I looked pitiful, and my

"I have no idea," I truthfully confessed. My emotions were all over the place. I didn't know what to feel or how to feel. I needed to run or do something to escape, but I had nowhere to go, and I didn't have enough money to even think about starting a new life somewhere

"Sahel, honey, I spoke with Leah. She will be ne. She doesn't blame you for anything," she stated, trying to reassure me. But that didn't change the fact that it had happened. Leah had been enduring a horrible life at school all because of me. Whether she blamed me or

"Talia thinks otherwise," I shrugged, trying not to look her in the face. It broke me to see her

She sighed before forming a sad smile. "I'm sure Talia didn't mean those words she said.

"Because of me," I painfully pointed out. It was the truth. Haden most likely wouldn't have broken up with my sister if it weren't for my situation. They had been together for three years, and people in the pack expected them to be mated soon in the future. But now, it

"Oh, honey!" She rubbed my hands, trying to comfort me. It was soothing, but sadly, it wouldn't x anything. "Things will not always be like this. It will get better," she added.

"Why me?" I choked as I struggled to hold back my tears. "Why did it have to be me who has to go through this? They were all good guys. I didn't kill them, I really didn't." I couldn't

She pulled me into her body as I whimpered in pain. She rubbed soothing circles against my back. "I know you didn't kill them, Sahel. No matter what, my baby, I will always love

wasn't going to happen all because I managed to bring my bad luck upon her.

"Thank you, Mama," I cried. There was a second knock on my door that same day. After my mother had comforted me, I had locked myself in my room, sitting on my bed, gazing out of the window as time passed. It was now around 4 p.m.

"You can come in," I said, and the door opened, revealing my mother. She was dressed in a

She walked up to me. "Sahel, we will be attending Laura's mating ceremony. I was hoping you could come. She told me she would personally invite you, though everyone in the pack

"I am not going," I swiftly responded. Laura had spoken to my mother before speaking to

It didn't matter. I couldn't go. My presence there would surely ruin everyone's mood, and I would be humiliated again. If I could not change my situation, I could avoid putting myself through the pain of embarrassment and suffering. And the way to do that was by staying

"Once, Mom. Once. She was my friend in the past, and she chose to abandon me. It makes no sense that she would want to x our broken relationship now. She owes me nothing,

She stared at me for a while, then exhaled deeply. "It's ne, Sahel. Do whatever makes you happy. I won't force you. We're leaving now, and we'll be back soon." She got up from the

I lay back down on my bed, staring at the ceiling. My mind went back to the time when Laura broke up with her rst boyfriend. He had cheated on her with her cousin, and she

She slept over at my place that day after spending the entire day crying. But Laura was always good at recovering quickly. She had always been a strong-minded person. The next day, before I woke up, she was already xing breakfast for my family. I was surprised to nd her whisking eggs, with a bright smile on her face that would not have indicated that

"Riley was denitely not my chosen mate. Look at me, Sahel. I am good-looking, even sexy at times. I am completely perfect. Riley is the fool," she said with a bright smile. "Sahel, never let an asshole treat you like trash. And even if I become an asshole, kick my ass."

I got up from my bed and walked over to the bathroom. I washed my face and stared at my reection in the mirror. I wished things could go back to the way they were, but they can't.

"Laura was once your friend. She really wants you to come," she pleaded softly.

Laura must look beautiful right now. She always claimed that she would wear the whitest of white and a green garland on her head. She would look like a forest princess. I smiled. Maybe I would go. I would just stay far away from everyone.

After refreshing myself, I dressed in a black sweatshirt and pants. I used a cap to cover my

Laura looked absolutely beautiful, wearing the green garland she had always dreamed of. Her dress was the whitest of white, and as she walked toward her mate, he smiled brightly

I watched them perform the mating ritual from behind a tree, keeping my distance from

When the rituals were complete and her mate placed a kiss on her lips, everyone erupted

I had seen enough. Although Laura would never know I was there, I was glad I had come. It

As I was about to leave, my eyes met Janet's. She wore a scowl on her face. I should have run away, but somehow I stayed frozen in place, watching as Janet angrily walked up to

"You came to ruin this ceremony with your lth!" she spat loudly. If the slap hadn't gotten

me and landed a slap on my face, causing me to almost trip to the ground.

the beautifully decorated ceremony held in the training grounds.

into cheers. They would have done the same for me if only...

anyone's attention, her raging voice certainly did.

The entire pack's attention fell upon me. My eyes met Laura's, and I sadly smiled at her. "Why are you here?" Janet aggressively demanded, pulling my attention back to her. "I will be leaving now. I am sorry for bothering you," I apologized and turned to leave. But she held me back, her strength surprising for her age. "I don't need your apology. You should apologize to my son instead. Paul didn't deserve to die, but you killed him," she spat. "She's right. Justin didn't deserve to die either. My son didn't deserve to die. I should have

watched him get mated, just like Laura and Floyd today!" Faith chimed in. The death of their sons had made them best friends, always united in making my life miserable.

"She did not kill your son. There is no proof of that," my mother red back, pulling me

"Enough!" Alpha Eric boomed. "This is a beautiful ceremony, and you will not ruin it with

"She's the one ruining it with her presence. She should be kicked out of this pack or, better still, killed, just like she killed our children," Janet spat with bitterness. My heart broke, and a part of me agreed with them. Maybe I should be killed. Perhaps then they would nd the peace they sought. My presence was a painful reminder of their loss. "I agree with Janet. Sahel deserves to die," Leila spoke up with a smirk. "You have no right to speak, Leila. Leave!" Alpha Eric commanded. Leila frowned but quickly scurried away. No one could resist an Alpha's command unless they were another Alpha.

"Maybe they're right. Maybe I should be killed. I am evil," I found myself saying.

to. Today was meant to be her special day, and I had ruined it by showing up.

the ground and let my sorrow consume me as I hugged my body, whimpering.

My mother gasped, and Leah, Talia, and my father stared at me with wide eyes. The pack members were stunned as well. Laura looked as if she wanted to cry, but I didn't want her

"Sahel, leave!" Alpha Eric commanded with his Alpha authority. I ran away, but I didn't go home. Instead, I ran into the forest, and I kept running until my legs gave out. I stumbled to