

Alpha's Rejected Mate Returns as Queen

Chapter 11 Going For A Walk

Selma Payne's POV:

Two weeks had passed, and I'd completely recovered.

This was all thanks to my physique. I would have already chosen a grave for myself if I were still a human.

However, my body was undergoing drastic changes because I was already eighteen years old, and my wolf was gradually waking up. That was why I was only seriously injured when I jumped off the cliff, and it only took me two weeks to recover.

This was also proof that I was not an ordinary human. I'd been an ordinary human for eighteen years, suddenly discovering I was a werewolf. I didn't know how to face all of this, but no matter what, I had to continue living. I rarely think about Benson's rejection that night because the year of turning eighteen was of great importance to me. I had to make many preparations for the transformation to become a werewolf.

Fortunately, my parents were always with me, especially my mother. She treated me like a baby and gave me all kinds of knowledge. In fact, I was a grown-up and had already obtained this knowledge, but I didn't say anything. I enjoyed the days with my parents, and we both wanted to do our best to make up for the lack of time.

They took out a lot of free time daily, and even my maidservants were busier than them. Moreover, they were always smiling and didn't have any self-consciousness at all. I hoped to see how my father was in front of others.

Fortunately, I had finished my high school curriculum long ago and didn't fall behind on too much knowledge that needed to be supplemented. So the most that my mother and I did every day was to sit together and read books and listen to some stories of the past.

I completed all of the long lectures on royal etiquette with great progress. My mother kept praising me for being a Lycan and that I learned everything much faster than the others.

Although the credibility of this compliment was questionable, I was still very happy to receive my mother's encouragement.

I could only remember cheering loudly when I was finally allowed to go for a walk or something. Staying in a small room for a few weeks was the most boring thing in the world. It was as dull as reciting the long and stinky royal code.

After I left, my mother accompanied me on an adventure in the huge palace. This palace was not much different from what I had imagined. The huge curved roof was decorated with golden lines, and the huge windows were covered with dark red curtains. The furniture was also very exquisite, and there were many beautiful decorations. For example, there were colorful vases with flowers of various colors. Many people came and went, and when they saw my mother and me, they stopped to bow respectfully.

I held back my exclamation. As a princess, I couldn't just shout and wrangle. That would be too foolish. I wouldn't allow myself to do such a thing.

After familiarizing myself with the palace, we changed the place we strolled to the streets of the 'pack'. When people saw my parents, they would always bow to us enthusiastically. From this, I could see my parents' contributions to this country and the respect the people had for them.

However, my identity hadn't been disclosed to the public for the time being. Except for a few people in the palace, no one else knew anything about my identity. They did this because they had many considerations. I was still too weak and couldn't protect myself at all. Many years ago, some people wanted to snatch my father's throne, and many years later, there would still be people who wanted to use the same method to kidnap me.

"Your training class will start as soon as possible. I've already found a teacher for you." My mother said gently, "It's not that easy to become an heir to the throne."

"Yes, especially when you're a girl." My father rubbed my head.

"Why? Girls can be outstanding too!"

"But there will always be people who don't think so. That's why you need to prove it to them. Give those who look down on you a hard punch."

My father's words filled me with determination. I clenched my fist and swore I would never let anyone look down on me. I had enough of the feeling of being inferior to others! I had to be stronger than everyone else and be more qualified to be the Queen Regent.

My father and mother did not know about the fighting spirit that had been ignited in my heart. My mother only sighed in relief. "It's been a long time since I've felt so relaxed and happy,"

"That's all thanks to our treasure." My father held my hand as if he was holding a treasure. "She will become the greatest rulers in history, the kind who is greater than me."

The mother glanced at us reproachfully. "Don't drag our daughter down with you. She's not as shameless as you, giving yourself such a title."

My father grinned, put his arm around my mother's waist, and kissed her hard on the lips. "Don't you like me like this?"

Being the third wheel didn't feel good. I slowed my steps, but my father and mother didn't mind. They sat down on the bench. My father even waved at me like he was chasing a dog away, telling me not to go over to them.

12 Sir Aldrich

Selma Payne's POV:

I found a grass patch not far from them and laid down. The people around me were talking and laughing, and many of my peers were telling meaningless jokes. It was a very ordinary scene, but I felt I was about to cry.

I was so happy. I didn't have to be repeatedly tortured by my inner pain. I won't drag anyone down. I was even lying not far from the palace now. If only my parents and Rhode knew about this. I wondered if they would be sad when they found out I was missing. I was too impulsive. At least I should have left some messages for them to be at ease.

"I want to finish training as soon as possible and go back to see them with a new attitude, as well as everyone in the pack and Benson. I did it on impulse, but it was not because of his rejection. On the contrary, the thinking I'd done during this time made me completely clear that my impulsive action was primarily because of his provocation. It made my fragile mind waver, and in the end, I did something that everyone would regret.

This time, I must become stronger before I go back. I must be a hundred times stronger than him. I wanted to see how he would treat me then. How would he dare to judge my value based on my background? During this time in the pack, I learned that all species were equal. If anyone were to hurt someone intentionally, they would be punished.

I looked at the bench my parents were sitting on. They were still shamelessly whispering sweet nothings to each other, completely forgetting about their precious child. Sigh, this must be the world of adults.

A man suddenly appeared in my field of vision. He had a great figure, and every muscle on his body seemed perfectly arranged. His silver-gray eyes and hair glowed under the sun, and he had a perfect smile. He walked straight toward me.

Perhaps I was overthinking, but I kept feeling that he was looking at me, making me uncomfortable. Finally, I sat up, and he stopped in front of me.

“Beautiful lady, I wonder if you’d do me the honor of going on a date with me?”

I couldn’t help but cover my mouth and snicker. I thought he was one of those playboys who would play around. I didn’t expect him to be a rash and straightforward person. Who would directly ask a lady they’d just met to go out on a date?

“You’re good at joking, sir. ”

He looked at me with a sly smile that I couldn’t understand. Then, he suddenly took out a bright red rose from nowhere, but it looked even more ridiculous. It was a good conversation starter, but he acted like a third-rate magician, clumsily winning the audience’s favor and cheers.

“Sir, if you want to invite someone, one flower is not enough.” I graciously accepted the flower, even looking forward to what his next move would be.

A mysterious smile played at the corner of his mouth. “Of course, it’s far more than that. However, some little tricks must be used to add slowly to a surprise, right, beautiful lady? ”

I looked at him. My eyes widened in surprise. My impression of him had suddenly changed from a rash playboy to a mysterious one.

“Who are you?” I asked. He seemed to have an extraordinary identity.

He mysteriously smiled at me but didn’t reply. On the other hand, my father and mother, still acting sweet just a moment ago, walked over one after another. Their expressions had completely changed. They looked dignified and solemn, causing me to quiet down and listen to their arrangements involuntarily.

“Welcome, Sir Aldrich.” My father’s mouth drooped, his eyebrows raised, and his face tensed up as he shook hands with Sir Aldrich.

I didn’t understand why Sir Aldrich was toying with me like this before meeting my parents. Did he want to enjoy my surprised expression? I tried to keep a straight face, so I wouldn’t look out of place.

“Thank you for your invitation.” Sir Aldrich did not have the lively expression he had when speaking to me. Instead, he saluted my parents with a serious expression.

“It looks like you’ve already spoken. This is Miss Selma,” my mother introduced me.

Knowing me as Selma in public was a consensus we reached together. It was good to be cautious and hide my identity to avoid some tragedies that might happen because I was not strong enough. It is never bad to be too careful.

“Of course, madam.” A very unruly young man. Now he was bowing, looking very elegant. Unfortunately, when I thought of his performance earlier, I felt it was funny.

My father turned to look at me. But, as there were outsiders, he did not seem as gentle as usual. “Lady Selma, this is Sir Aldrich, the most talented general I’ve ever met.”

My father seemed to be trying to make him look tall and mighty, but his identity surprised me.

“In the following time, you will learn from him. He will be responsible for your training and assessment. You can also learn many things from him that are not available in books.”

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It sounded like a very powerful identity, but I was not surprised at all. On the contrary, it made me a little worried about my future. Would learning from him be effective?

13 Watch And Learn

Selma Payne’s POV:

He didn’t immediately answer, nor did he refuse.

My father didn’t speak and just stared at him. I didn’t know what was going on, so my eyes moved between the two of them.

Sir Aldrich was like a completely different person. He was a lively, lovely big boy who tried to flirt with me. Now his lips were tightly pursed, and he looked at my father without fear. He finally made me feel that he was a brave warrior.

My father was also very scary now. His eyes are full of nobility, seriousness, and many other things I couldn’t describe. Although he was usually very kind and liked to joke with me, I couldn’t look him in the eye at the moment. I didn’t have the courage.

Just as I thought the atmosphere had reached a stalemate, Aldrich took a step back.

“This is my honor, Your Majesty.”

He had a beautiful but hollow smile that didn’t quite reach his eyes. I didn’t know what made him change so much, but it made him a completely different person. I started to wonder which one was the real him.

Although I was about to become his student, he didn’t turn his head to look at me. He didn’t even spend the slightest bit of attention on me. This was very frustrating, especially when that person was trying to invite me on a date just a second ago.

He bowed to my father elegantly and said, "Please allow me to take my leave."

My father nodded silently and allowed him to leave. The atmosphere was finally less depressing.

Before he left, he finally looked up at me. There was a judgmental look in his eyes as he carefully observed me.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Sir." I controlled the expression on my face so it wouldn't be too ugly. Perhaps my father and Aldrich weren't the only ones who could pretend to be serious. Ha, this might be the first step to becoming the heir to the throne.

He didn't expect me to suddenly speak and replied with a straight face, "I'm also very happy to meet you. I look forward to having a good time learning with you tomorrow."

I didn't know why, but every serious word he said with a cold face made me want to roll my eyes. This feeling reached its peak when he winked at me playfully before leaving.

"Father, do you think I can change my teacher?"

My father didn't react immediately but eventually turned to look at me.

"Why, darling?" My mother asked me gently, which made me feel a little better. Maybe I still have a chance not to learn from this playboy.

"He's not too ..."

"You think he's too frivolous?" Then, with a faint smile, my mother said, "My dear, you must see the essence of things. He is the best warrior here. When you start learning, the height of your starting point is very important. So I hope you can accept the guidance from the best people."

The essence of the matter? In essence, he was a pervert ready to flirt with others at any time.

"I'm serious! Aren't you afraid he'll want to take me out on dates daily?"

My father finally understood what I was worried about. He looked up and laughed as if he had heard a funny joke.

"Baby, you're all grown up now. You can go out and date him anytime. You're as beautiful as your mother, so be more confident in yourself."

That was enough! I couldn't help but want to facepalm. All the men in the world were this annoying, be my father or not.

“Oh, Victor, you’re still as sweet as before.” My mother snuggled up in my father’s arms.

Seeing that they were about to kiss each other in front of me, I covered my face and ran away.

They were too unreserved! Please, I was still there! What if it traumatized me? Why were people nowadays so shameless?

My father and mother laughed behind me as if I was still a three or four-year-old child.

I ran back to my room. My parents were holding hands behind me. They were so clingy.

“Hey, baby, are you ready for class?” My mother pushed the door open, and I was sitting on the bed in a daze.

“Maybe ...” I pouted.

“Good girl. Promise me you’ll give him a chance. He’s an excellent warrior, better than anyone you’ve seen before. You’ll grow very quickly.”

“Alright, but can I change him to someone else if I’m not satisfied?” I was unwilling to negotiate with my mother.

“If you think that you two are not suitable ...” My mother patted my head. “But you have to be sure you are not facing him with prejudice.”

“But he’s detestable. He was so glib with his words. I somehow feel he has bad intentions toward me.”

My mother smiled, and there were fine wrinkles at the corners of her eyes. “You’re a beautiful and outstanding lady. Anyone would be interested in you. He might ask you who you are and tell him we’re relatives. This way, there’ll be an explanation for the similarities in our looks. Sorry, honey. I’ve been hiding you. ”

I hugged my mother and said softly, “It’s okay. I know that you all love me very much. It’s just that I’m still too weak to protect myself.”

14 The Start Of Training

Selma Payne’s POV:

I looked at my mother’s face. We were really similar, and I couldn’t help but sigh at the importance of blood relations. I would look like my mother when I was old, but unfortunately, I probably wouldn’t be as gentle and elegant as my mother.

My mother sat in the room and chatted with me for a while. This was what she always did after I was found. I knew she was always trying to make up for our lost time. I was very touched and enjoyed the feeling of being valued.

“Alright, you should go to sleep. You need to rest well and face tomorrow with plenty of energy.” My mother finally told me to rest when I yawned for the twelfth time.

I needed to sleep to force myself to forget what I was going to face tomorrow temporarily.

Perhaps it was the effect of the medicine, but I slept deeply and got up early the next day.

I washed up, tied my hair up high, changed into sports underwear and loose sports pants, and finally put on a black coat. If the person I had to face wasn't Aldrich, I could have been happy all day.

My mother had been waiting at the table for a long time. We had breakfast together. Today's breakfast was particularly sumptuous and delicious. It was a pity that my father had something to deal with and couldn't have breakfast with us. My class was in two hours, so I wasn't in a hurry at all. I followed my mother for a walk in the garden.

She and I sat on a long bench where we could bask in the sun. “You have unknowingly become a big girl. It's time for class to start.”

“Mom ...” I held her hand. I could understand her discomfort. Before I recovered, I was with my mother almost every day. Now that I have to go to class, she must miss me very much.

“It's okay, honey. You'll grow up eventually. Are you ready to go to class?”

Aldrich's face appeared in my mind, and my face turned cold. I snorted. “I probably won't be ready for his class in this life.”

“Haha, don't be so resistant to him. He is our bravest warrior. I think it's not wrong to praise him no matter what. He is such an outstanding person.”

The more my mother praised him, the more I couldn't help but want to ridicule him. But, whatever it was, I just couldn't stand seeing his face.

“You've forgotten about what he did yesterday!” I couldn't help but refute it.

My mother looked at me indulgently, as if I was just an unreasonable little brat. “Sweetheart, you're so beautiful. Of course, someone would want to go on a date with you. At least he has good taste.”

I didn't expect my mother to say that. I couldn't help but widen my eyes. "Mother!"

"Hahaha! Alright, alright! It's all my fault. He's just a glib-tongued person. Do you think he's handsome?" she asked me in a low voice.

"Mother!" I turned my head gloomily.

"Don't be so resistant. You've grown up and have to find a mate you like." My mother winked at me cheekily, took my hand, and sent me to the training ground.

My father had just arrived at the training ground, and many people were around him. He frowned as he spoke to Sir Aldrich. Both of them were very serious. Who would have thought that they had extremely different faces in private?

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After they finished the discussion, my father left them where they were and walked toward us. He gave me a big hug.

"I'm so proud of you, sweetheart. I've already told him this is your first time in class. "

His mother sighed as well. "I didn't know I would be so heavy-hearted. Of course, I could visit her at any time, but I would always feel like something is missing."

My father held my mother's hand. Then, seeing they were about to start whispering sweet nothings to each other again, I left their side and went to find that damned Sir Aldrich not to hurt my fragile heart.

"Miss Selma, you look very energetic today." Aldrich stood next to the huge and magnificent training ground and greeted me with a serious face. Why was he pretending to be serious? I could see the smile in his eyes.

"If you weren't putting on an act, I would have been more energetic."

He couldn't help but laugh out loud. "You're so cute. My invitation from yesterday is still valid."

I really couldn't stand him. I turned my head to look for my parents, only to see their backs as they left in an embrace.

Aldrich seemed to know what I wanted to do. "The Lycan King and Her Majesty the Queen have important things to deal with. So they won't be here all the time."

"I was not looking for them!" I retorted.

“Okay, okay, strong and independent young lady. Since I’ve agreed to your father’s suggestions, I won’t go easy on you just because of your beauty. Let’s start training, starting with your physical training.”

I followed him to the training ground. When I walked into it, I realized that the training ground was much bigger than I had imagined. All kinds of equipment were neatly arranged, and there was a beautiful running track.

“Alright, miss. Let’s start with the simplest running.” Then, he paused and teased, “Do you need me to start teaching you how to run?”

I rolled my eyes and started running after him.

15 The End Of Training

Selma Payne’s POV:

I panted heavily and held my knees. I felt like I was going to die here.

Although I didn’t want to admit it, Aldrich was a good trainer. He knew where my limits were, and his heart of stone pushed me to the limit without caring about my life or death. During this training period, I felt like I would die every minute, but my exhausted body still forced me to stand.

“You’re too weak.” He crossed his arms and looked at me. I didn’t deny his evaluation.

Yes, I was physically unfit. When I trained with my companions in the past, they would carefully reduce my training volume. As long as there was a problem, they would make me watch on the sidelines and not participate in their cruel and exciting training. My body had been raised in such a pampered environment for too long. My muscles and bones were rusty, and my willpower was also eroded.

“I’m fine. Let’s continue.” I picked up the dumbbells, and he did the same, but it didn’t look as strenuous to him. He looked much more relaxed.

Although this man usually looked unreliable, he was very good at training. Most importantly, he would never stop the training because of my whining. I felt that my physical endurance had improved greatly during this short training period. I could easily do many things that I couldn’t do in the past today. Perhaps part of it was due to my gradually awakening werewolf physique.

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“You can rest now, beautiful lady.” Here it came again. Every time I thought he was not bad, he always had a way of making me want to complain.

I rolled my eyes and walked away. I took the water bottle and sat on the steps next to me. I was so tired that I couldn't drag my body back to the palace. I needed to sit for a while. After Aldrich finished my training, he was still training. His strength made me change my opinion of his frivolous behavior.

I didn't expect him to be unexpectedly serious and responsible under his frivolous appearance. Instead, he made a very detailed plan for me and taught me to feel my body and every reaction from it during my training. This allowed me to improve very quickly. In the past, when I faced difficulties, I always told myself that it was okay to give up, but now I could feel it in my body that I could do it.

The feeling of being able to do something calmly was really great. It made me prouder than anything else.

He stopped in front of me. I could tell he was trying to show off his charm to me, but I could only silently slap myself in the face for thinking he wasn't bad. I overthought. He was just a muscular playboy.

"You did a good job today."

He seemed to hold magic that made everything seem annoying. Even the praises from his mouth did not sound good.

"Thank you for your guidance today." I needed to constantly remind myself to be a person with a conscience to express my gratitude properly.

"When did you return, Miss Selma?" His gray eyes were filled with curiosity. I could understand. Everyone was curious.

"I just came back a few days ago. I'm eighteen years old. You know that."

He nodded excitedly. "Your werewolf is about to wake up? That's great! My werewolf only awakened four years ago, and it felt amazing! Congratulations, Miss Selma."

Aldrich spoke with an excited smile. He was still handsome when he did not deliberately try to show off his handsomeness, but he was too good at breaking a conversation.

I took a deep breath and suggested, "You can call me Selma. I'll also call you Aldrich. Is that okay?"

The smile on his face disappeared again. He stared at me for a moment and asked, "May I?"

"Of course, you don't have to be so formal. You don't have to keep staring at me like that."

I would like to take back what I said about him being cute. He only looked silly now, not cute.

“If you didn’t keep staring at me, you wouldn’t have noticed that I was staring at you.” He smiled proudly. “Just admit it. You think I’m attractive.”

I could feel my head hurting. I patted him on the back. “I think whoever is charming will never find you charming!”

His smile disappeared, and he blinked at me. He looked a little pitiful but also a little cute.

I turned around and walked away. I could not help but mentally slap myself. ‘Wake up, Selma. Don’t be deceived by his appearance!’

Before I could walk away, he caught up to me and drawled, “Oh, my dear Selma. Are you leaving without waiting for me? You really make me sad. ”

I suddenly stopped and raised my hand in an attempt to hit him, but the approaching figures of my father and mother made me stop. Aldrich’s expression also became serious and cold. We stood straight, pretending nothing had happened, like an army waiting for my parents to inspect.

It felt ridiculous.

16 Deciding To Go To School

Selma Payne’s POV:

“How do you feel?” my father asked unemotionally.

I tried my best not to act coquettishly with them and replied professionally, “Not bad.”

“Your Majesty, her performance was excellent. She will become a mighty warrior in the future,” Aldrich praised me with a straight face.

It felt even weirder, but fortunately, they didn’t mind.

“That’s great! We’ll continue tomorrow. Thank you for your hard work,” my mother said to him gently.

“It’s my honor. ”

We turned around and left. I couldn’t help but turn back to look at him, and he made a face at me.

I knew it! He couldn't hide his true nature for long!

"Selma, what are you doing?" my mother asked suddenly. As my mother asked me, Aldrich's expression returned to ice-cold and serious.

"Nothing. I'm coming." I jogged to catch up. I was like a child who needed to be picked up by my parents. But, no. In my previous pack, children didn't need their parents to pick them up.

We chatted all the way home. Although my parents ignored me and kept saying embarrassing things, I liked this.

After we returned to the palace, we had a meal, and when we were taking a walk together, my mother suddenly mentioned school.

"Selma, I think you should go to school too."

"Me?" I scratched my head. "I'm in class with Sir Aldrich, right?"

"Not this kind of class, honey. You need some friends and not be locked up in the palace. You need to have your life." My mother's words were still so gentle and touching.

I couldn't believe my ears. This morning, my mother, who was still depressed that she couldn't stay with me for a long time, took the initiative to get me to school and train on the training ground. At least she could come and see me if she wanted to. Going to school was different.

"I ..."

My father nodded in agreement. "Yes, Selma. You do need to go to school and make friends with more people. When you become the Queen Regent in the future, you'll need your friends' help.

"And you don't have to worry about being unable to keep up with the classes. The curriculum of this school is relatively simple. Your classmates are all your age. But the training is unlike Aldrich's. This is especially for civilians to participate."

I enjoyed the time with my friends and wanted to see what it was like in different places.

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"But don't I still have to attend Aldrich's class?"

My father laughed. "Honey, it's okay. The training in school and on the training ground is completely different. You can ask Sir Aldrich to teach you some moves. You're the

future Queen Regent of the Lycans. Show them what you're capable of and find yourself a future partner and mate."

It sounded good, and going to school meant I would have less time with Aldrich, and I could make new friends. What could be better than that?

"I want to go!" I quickly agreed, afraid my father would think I didn't want to.

"But don't think you can enjoy a Lycan's privileges in school. All your training will be the same, or even stricter because you will be the protector of everyone in the future. In addition, you will have to train with Aldrich for at least three days a week. Your awakening period is almost up, so you must compensate for the training you have missed," my father told me sternly.

I nodded. The situation was even better than I had expected. I only needed to train with Aldrich for three days. After that, it was like a dream.

"Sigh, our baby has grown up." My mother leaned against my father and said, "We should have registered her at a school earlier. It looks like she wants to attend school tonight."

I held my mother's hand and shook it. "No, I would still like to be with you the most. It's all because Aldrich is too annoying!"

"You two are interesting." My mother covered her mouth and laughed. "You should be happy about your charm. Aldrich is a good kid. He is not usually like this."

I pouted and snorted.

"Hey... "My mother tapped my head with her finger.

"Don't worry. After getting familiar with each other in a few days, you'll be fine." My father chuckled. "Training is always interesting, isn't it?"

"I'd rather it be boring ..." I mumbled. They laughed even more happily.

"Alright, since you've decided to go to school. Do you want to start tomorrow?" My father asked.

"Let's start tomorrow!" I nodded.

"Then, I'll register you for tomorrow afternoon's class?"

I nodded. In fact, any time was good as long as I could reduce the time I spent on the training ground with Aldrich. He was annoying.

“Selma, you have to promise me that you’ll train well after you go to school and that you’ll treat everyone equally.”

“I promise you. I will treat everyone equally.” Except for Aldrich, I added in my heart.

My mother smiled and pushed me back. “Alright, I would like to spend some alone time with your father. You must be tired after training. Go and rest.”

17 Going For A Walk

Selma Payne’s POV:

“There will be guests coming in a while.” My father told me at dinner, and I simply nodded without paying much attention. I’d accompanied them to meet many people during this time.

However, I almost choked on the food when I saw Aldrich and another strange tall man come in. If I didn’t quickly drink a glass of water, I would have become the first princess to choke to death.

The man beside Aldrich should be his father, Duke Frank because he looked very similar to Aldrich and was a gentleman with good manners. However, the atmosphere now made me feel that something was wrong. No one spoke. It was so strange. I didn’t dare to eat anymore and pushed the food aside. Aldrich didn’t tease me today. Instead, he stood solemnly and silently beside his father.

Duke Frank and Aldrich saluted my father and mother, and my parents also solemnly and seriously accepted their salutes. I was the only one who seemed out of place. If I knew this, I wouldn’t have been dawdling just now and would have finished eating and left earlier.

“Mr. Frank, this is Selma, whom I mentioned to you before. She has royal blood, but she grew up in Europe. This time, we’re here to prepare for her werewolf awakening.”

My father turned to me again. “Selma, this is Duke Frank, Aldrich’s father and my best assistant. I have many things that I cannot do without his help.”

Duke Frank looked quite kind, and I felt very close to him. He smiled and nodded at me. “I remember Aldrich telling me he would train a girl. I believe it must be her. In the critical period of the werewolf’s awakening, strict training is needed.”

“Yes, but she just had her first training this morning. I hope she’ll be better after that,” my father said softly. I could see the pride on his face.

“I wonder if you’re adapting well here? Selma?” He asked me affectionately, not as annoying as Aldrich, but this was the first time I spoke to a royal family member. I was

very nervous, but my mother looked even more nervous than me, which made me feel a lot better. I smiled kindly and tried to answer him as steadily as possible.

“Yes, Your Excellency. Everyone is very good to me. I’m very happy here.”

“That’s good,” he said with a friendly smile. “There are many sceneries here that can’t be seen abroad. So you should go around and explore. It will be good for you to know more about this place in the future.”

“Of course. I can’t wait to learn more about this place ...” His attitude made me feel a lot more relaxed.

“She just arrived. We’re too busy to bring her out to sightsee.” My mother explained, “And we’re the only people she knows here. We’re worried about leaving her in the hands of others. It’s hard to say who’s the bad person.”

He nodded in understanding and suggested, “Children can’t stay locked in. We should let her go out and have fun more often.”

“She’ll feel better after going to school and making new friends,” my father said in a low voice.

“It doesn’t matter. Let Aldrich take her out to have fun. They are both young and have more topics to talk about. They will spend more time together in the future, so they can get to know each other more now.”

My smile immediately froze. Fortunately, I still remembered the occasion and didn’t lose my composure. Aldrich still had a serious look, and his sunny mood immediately turned dark. However, Duke Frank’s expression was very sincere, and I couldn’t find any reason to refuse.

“Of course, it’s a good suggestion, but isn’t Aldrich busy today? You didn’t have to take the time to come out.” My mother probably knew what I was thinking, so she said tactfully.

“Your Majesty, I’m on leave today. I’ll only start work tomorrow.” Aldrich took the initiative to step forward and said.

“That’s great, then let Aldrich take her out to look around,” Duke Frank suggested.

I had already completely given up on the possibility that we could avoid being alone. I sighed in an almost inaudible manner.

“You guys can go out and have fun. You’ll be in school for a long time, so you won’t have time to play around.”

After obtaining my parents' approval, we left one after another.

Laughter came from behind the door. I felt that it was my parents laughing. They were always like this, pretending to be serious, but they were waiting to see me make a fool of myself.

Duke Frank's voice was faintly heard, but I couldn't hear it clearly. Maybe there was something important to discuss, so he had to find a way to get the two of us out. I hoped that their conversation would be quick. I hoped today would end quickly so I could spend less time with Aldrich.

"I thought you would refuse..." He proudly turned the car key Duke Frank gave to him.

"Do you think I'm a hothead like you?" I rolled my eyes.

18 Thoughts

Selma Payne's POV:

"Alright, alright! I'm the only fool here. So then, beautiful lady, do I have the honor of inviting you for a walk?" He bowed to me, showing his row of white teeth and his gray eyes shining. I suddenly felt my face heat up, probably just my imagination.

"Call me Selma."

"Alright, Selma. What do you think?"

I glanced at him and shrugged. "Do I have any other choice?"

He ran to the garage smiling, and I followed him slowly, hoping that time would pass faster. He was indeed very handsome, but he was also annoying. He only knew how to say some pretty words to win the favor of young girls. If I had other choices, I would not go out with him. But, again, I only hoped time would pass quickly.

"Where do you want to go?" he asked me from the driver's seat.

"Anything is fine. Anywhere is fine." My mind wasn't on this at all.

"Then, let's go to my house?" He winked at me playfully.

I snorted angrily. His frivolous words made me feel uncomfortable. Even though I knew it was a joke, my face felt hot. How dare he talk to me like that?

I didn't speak for a long time, so he smiled apologetically. "Alright, alright. It's all my fault. I'll show you around. Get in the car, okay?"

I stared at him. "You promise you won't say such nonsense to me again?"

"I promise,"

Only then did I get into the black Mercedes passenger seat. He started the engine and drove away slowly. I didn't talk to him but stared at the scenery that flitted by. This pack was very, very lively. Green plants and flowers surrounded it, and everyone was always smiling.

I didn't know why, but I suddenly recalled everything from the past. The past was so far away, and I knew everyone. My friends who played with me, my loving adoptive parents, and Rhode, and Benson's cold rejection. Fortunately, I had escaped from all of this, from the hands of a man who despised me.

I didn't understand why I was destined to be tied to a man from the beginning. I could understand his rejection and supported his determination to find his true love, but why did he humiliate my existence like this, throw me into the dust, and treat me like a dog wagging its tail for sympathy? I didn't need a man to bring me happiness. True love could only be found within me, and I wanted to become the Queen Regent, fighting for happiness for myself and the whole country.

The cars gradually came to a stop. Finally, we arrived at our destination.

This time, the place he chose was not bad. The green trees were arranged like waves, the air was fresh, and there were few people. Occasionally, a few butterflies could be seen flying around in the flowers.

"Are you still unhappy about what happened just now?" He turned his head and asked me.

I realized that the melancholy of the entire journey had made the driver feel very uneasy, but at the same time, I felt that he wasn't that bad. So I tidied my hair and smiled at him. "No, I just ... Have something else on my mind."

"Maybe you need someone who can listen to you? I'm happy to help." His gaze was firm, but it didn't make me feel ill at ease. Instead, I felt encouraged. Perhaps I could tell him about my past, the nightmares that kept me trapped? I wasn't sure. I must be out of my mind. I was angry with him, but now I was thinking about telling him the truth.

"No... Nothing major. Did you stop here because you've reached our destination?" I turned my head and stiffly changed the topic.

Anyone sensible would know that this was a sign I didn't want to continue the conversation, but he wasn't such a person. Instead, he looked at me worriedly as if I was going to die the next second because of my worries.

“Tell me. You look like you’re in a bad mood. I guarantee that this is a secret only the two of us know.” He blinked. He was surprisingly reliable at this time.

I’d been trying to stop thinking about my terrible past, the bright bonfire, and the cold night, but now I couldn’t help but go back to that night. Benson looked at me with coldness and disgust in his eyes. My nightmare had appeared again. I’d become a weak person again, a burden to everyone.

“That was the worst day of my life ...” I started dryly, but I didn’t know how to continue. Aldrich didn’t say anything but quietly waited for me to continue. I turned my head to the other side.

“That night, I ... And a man ... In any case, that was the darkest night of my life.” I couldn’t go on. I didn’t want to bring up the scars of the past. So I pretended to be relaxed and leaned back in my seat. “But it’s all in the past. We have to look forward.”

“I’m sorry, I didn’t know you’ve been through so much.” His gray eyes looked very sad, but he didn’t say anything. He hugged me gently. “It’s okay. I’ll be with you.”

At this moment, he was not as annoying as before.

19 Friends

Selma Payne’s POV:

I was very happy that his consideration at this moment allowed me to recover from the sudden sadness.

“I’ve misunderstood you all this time. Thank you for being so considerate today,” I whispered to Aldrich.

He laughed again. “Don’t take it to heart. If anyone tries to bully you in the future, just come to me. I’ll beat them up.”

I chuckled and extended my hand to him. “In that case, I’ll reluctantly acknowledge you as my friend.”

His hand was warm and strong, and we firmly shook our hands once.

“Alright, where do you want to take me?” I asked him with interest. He was much more pleasing to the eye, making me look forward to the journey more.

He didn’t answer immediately but asked me, “Are you sure you want to go have fun now? You don’t have to force yourself if you wish to find a quiet place to chill. ”

“I want to go for a spin. Let’s go, handsome.” I patted his arm.

We started moving again. This time, I could finally put all my energy into admiring the beautiful scenery of this place. They were right. I had been tense during this time and should relax. Given Aldrich's mysteriousness and refusal to tell me the destination, guessing where we were going through the roadside scenery had become fun to do along the way.

We stopped in front of a manor. He claimed it to be his family's. It was very big and had a lot of small animals. I followed him to feed the sheep and cattle. He also took me to ride horses. When I really became friends with him, I found that he was very humorous and energetic. He told many jokes and was very clear about the local customs. He also told me a lot of exciting stories.

There was also a swing in the manor under the shade of the tree. He pushed me for a long time, and I didn't know where he got a basket of fresh blueberries. I hadn't been so happy in a long time.

"Let's go to the restaurant to eat, shall we? Unfortunately, there's nothing good to eat here." He exaggeratedly explained how terrible the chef's cooking was. I held back my laughter and followed him to a small restaurant.

As soon as I went in, I knew that this was the restaurant he often visited because the waiter who ordered the food saw him and asked with a smile, "The same order?"

As soon as we sat down, many people came to greet him. It was obvious from their behavior that they were from the military, while some were even wearing military uniforms. I wasn't surprised by his popularity here. The son of a Duke was able to forget the glory brought by his father and train hard every day to bring victory after victory to everyone. Therefore, he deserved all the applause and attention.

"Yes, but let's wait for this beautiful lady to order first."

This made me have a dilemma. I'd never been particularly good at making choices among these things.

He wasn't surprised. Instead, he rubbed my head and suggested in a low voice, "How about a beef sandwich and a glass of beer? It's a pity that I have to drive. Otherwise, we would both be drunk."

"Thank you for your suggestion, but one sandwich is enough for me. Let's have a beer next time. I can't leave you here to enjoy myself."

He squinted and smiled. When he wasn't deliberately showy, he was a very reassuring friend, which made me much happier. Aldrich was my first friend here. Otherwise, I wouldn't have told him about this, in case he acted proudly again.

The waiter brought a huge tray over. I finally ate the sandwich that I had been longing for. It was indeed not bad, at least not bad for me. A glass of wine was placed in front of us. The waiter winked cheekily and said, "This is from the lady over there. You're quite lucky with women."

I thought he would happily go over to that woman. Instead, he shook his head and said, "Put this glass of wine on my bill."

He looks very depressed, completely different from what I imagined. Could it be that I'd misunderstood him all along?

"You're not going to say hi? She's pretty good-looking. "

"No, no, there's no need." Aldrich shook his head, his eyes filled with sorrow.

"You already have a mate?" I asked tentatively.

"I had. No, there was a time when I thought I had, but she wasn't ready, so ..." He shrugged, looking nonchalant.

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Wow, I did not expect that. I thought he was a frivolous person, but I didn't expect to find out that he just didn't know how to get along with the opposite sex.

I swallowed the food in my mouth and tried to comfort him. "It's okay. She will never know what treasure she has missed."

He laughed nonchalantly as if he had already moved on.

"I'm fine. It's been a long time. You, on the other hand, looked much sadder than I did. Would you like to tell me about it?"

He looked like he wanted to know, and this wasn't that important to me anymore.

"I was once supposed to be someone's mate, but he harshly rejected me."

20 A Strange Feeling

Selma Payne's POV:

Aldrich examined me very seriously, trying to judge the degree of 'harshness' from my expression.

He took a sip of his drink and asked in confusion, "Why? You're a Lycan. Who would reject you?"

“He thinks I’m a human, so... I don’t think I care about Benson that much anymore. I could even easily recount the whole thing. I don’t care about his rejection, but he said many things that hurt me.”

Aldrich took a big bite of the sandwich in his hand as if he was avenging me.” Before the transformation, a Lycan looks like a human. Doesn’t he know that you’re a werewolf? You didn’t tell him?”

I shook my head. I didn’t know what he thought of my actions. Finally, he consoled me, “It’s fine. It’s all because of his poor taste. He doesn’t know what treasure he missed.”
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I didn’t know it was such a happy thing to be comforted by a friend. There were already tears in my eyes, but when I saw his serious face and indignation on my behalf, I couldn’t help but smile. “Yes, this is all his loss. He said a lot of nasty things and even asked me to die. A real gentleman would not treat any woman like this.”

“What?” He slammed the table and stood up. Everyone in the restaurant looked at him. I quickly pulled him to sit down.

“Calm down!”

“How can I calm down when he treated you that way? If I had known you then, I would have thrown him into the river to wake him up. Fortunately, you were not affected by him. You are very important, and we all need you.”

I laughed bitterly in my heart. He had already affected me, but fortunately, I shouldn’t have tried to off myself because of him. No matter what, Aldrich’s reaction touched me.

“Relax, I’m still here. Don’t take his words to heart.” I didn’t know if I was telling this to him or for myself.

He nodded, and we continued to eat. After we footed the bill, we walked out side by side.

“Hey, maybe you should try to get the girl you love back. Maybe she’s ready now,” I whispered to him.

However, Aldrich shook his head. “We might not be together for the rest of our lives. Our relationship is very complicated ...”

I heard his faint sigh. “I’m sorry.”

“It’s okay. It’s all in the past now. We’re friends, aren’t we? You don’t have to be so polite. ”

I opened the car door and got in. He looked relaxed and said with a smile, "Maybe you should consider getting a boyfriend and forget about the unpleasant past, or tell me where that d*mned sc*mbag is. I'll beat him up for you."

Beat him up? In my mind, I imagined Benson's bloody nose and swollen face as he begged for mercy. This might be a good idea, but I was afraid I couldn't do it right now. There was no need to do it at all. Keeping him in my mind all the time wouldn't make me better. It'd only make me sink deeper into depression.

"I don't think I'm ready for a new relationship or a fight," I said with a smile.

"I'm sorry, what do you plan to do? Are you going to let go of the person who broke your heart?"

I looked into his eyes. He was furious and sad about what I had experienced. I could see the anger flickering in his dark gray eyes. If Benson had appeared before us, he would have attacked him without hesitation. He looked much cuter now. Perhaps I should hug him and thank him for his concern for me, but I didn't like him earlier and bickered with him. It would be too strange to hug him now.

He got into the car, and a pleasant smell of the ocean spread in the small car. I couldn't control my wildly beating heart. This was a sign that I was slowly awakening, but I was upset now and didn't know whether to be happy or react.

He smelled so good, like a delicious cake waiting for someone to take a bite.

To avoid doing anything irrational while driving, I didn't look at him the whole way. Perhaps our relationship had eased up, but the atmosphere wasn't as gloomy as when we first arrived. He would tell one or two light-hearted jokes from time to time, making me hold my stomach and laugh non-stop. Even if I didn't speak, I felt very comfortable, except for the scent on his body that was getting stronger and stronger.

He parked the car in the garage, and the soldier waiting beside him immediately said something to him. Finally, he turned around with a serious face and waved at me to leave.

I licked my lips. I didn't know why I suddenly felt timid, but I still called out to him. He turned around and looked at me in confusion. Finally, I mustered my courage and hugged him. His arms were warm, but I let go quickly to avoid embarrassment.

"Thank you. I'm very happy to be able to go out and have fun with you today. I had a pleasant day."

He looked at me with an ambiguous expression and smiled. "Me too, Selma. I've never been so happy before."

I looked at him as he left, my heart thumping.