

Alpha's Rejected Mate Returns as Queen

Chapter 21 Being Loved

Selma Payne's POV:

I had a perfect day; the person I spent it with was Aldrich. Fate changed, and we became very good friends. Not long after, I began to miss my new friend. Being with him was much more interesting than watching my parents deal with government affairs in the palace, but I had no choice but to follow them obediently and help them do some small tasks that were within my power. At the same time, I also learned how to deal with these things that made people bang their heads against the wall.

As the future Queen, this was a responsibility that I couldn't avoid. Every regent had to pay a sacrifice that others couldn't imagine to be able to carry this golden crown. If I had this ability, I would have to bear all of it.

The morning passed by quickly with my full concentration. I wanted to go out with Aldrich like yesterday, but he also had things to deal with. I was a little disappointed that I missed training with him. I think the support and understanding between good friends were the most important.

No matter what, I managed to get myself a beautiful and intricate dress after a whole morning of hard work. The neckline of the dress was connected with a very smooth curve. The top was dark green velvet, and the chiffon dress was white with a hint of gray. The length was just a little above my knees. It was layered and soft like a cloud. I could already imagine how beautiful this dress was even before I put it on.

This was the dress I had to wear when I went to the academy. Although it was a dress with nothing but beauty, I'd be injured if I wore it in battle. It was not its fault for being beautiful.

"Don't worry, darling. You'll wear sports attire during training. There won't be any training today. After all, it's only the first day. I think you'll need some time to get used to it." My mother seemed to have seen through my worry and winked at me playfully.

I couldn't believe I'd canceled my training with Aldrich when there was no training at school. This might be the only time we could be free these few days, but... Oh, god! It was too late to say anything now.

"I thought I could train today..." I pouted in frustration.

"Don't worry, sweetheart. You can start training tomorrow."

"I'm not worried about that!" I blurted out.

"Oh?" My mother laughed. "Are you talking about Aldrich?"

"I wasn't!"

My mother ignored my weak explanation. "Someone was so reluctant to go to training a few days ago. So why is she crying and begging to go now?"

"I misunderstood him before. He's really super nice!"

"You can try going on a date with him. Your father and I are very open-minded." My mother's rotten suggestion made my face turn red. Although he was a good person, he already had his mate, although I didn't know why they couldn't be together.

This reminded me of Benson. I didn't know why his face would suddenly appear in my mind at such an ordinary moment. It was probably because of his rejection. I'd tried my best not to think about that painful night, his rejection, the bonfire, and the cold water. Perhaps I didn't like Benson that much, but I was really in pain because of his rejection.

What caused this? It was as if fate had naturally given him the power to look down on everything from above. As for me, I was like a pitiful little girl, constantly panicking at the possibility of being rejected by others.

Would I be alone forever? This sounded terrible and miserable.

My mother noticed the change in my mood, but she didn't say anything. Instead, she quietly hugged me and waited for me to take the initiative.

"Mom, what if no one loves me for the rest of my life?"

"My father and I will always love you." My mother smiled and touched my cheek.
"Darling, you need love, and it does not necessarily have to be romantic."

My mother's gentleness made me less anxious. I asked timidly, "But I was ruthlessly rejected. Am I not worthy of this love?"

"You're the smartest and cutest child I've ever met. Everyone will like you." My mother looked into my eyes. "Besides, you were not born to be loved. I gave birth to you in the hope that you can start your own life bravely, smile, explore, open a great chapter, and not wait in fear for an imaginary person to love you."

I nodded. No one had ever told me this. Although the pain from Benson's rejection was still there, I believed I would be able to forget everything one day.

“Mom, do you need a mate to be a Queen? I think I can handle all of this by myself,” I muttered.

My mother smiled and tidied up my scattered hair. “If you meet the right person, you’ll want to be with him all the time. So don’t be in a hurry, sweetheart. We can take our time.”

I kissed my mother’s forehead and sighed. “I used to wonder what my parents would be like. I’m so happy to find you.”

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“Likewise.” My mother’s eyes were glistening with tears. “Alright, go get changed. There’s a surprise waiting for you!”

22 Enrolment

Selma Payne’s POV:

When I returned to my room, they tied my hair with a dark green hairband. Then, I looked at myself in the mirror. Although I was a little narcissistic, I had to admit that the person in the mirror was quite cute.

I walked out of the room. My mother was waiting at the door. When she saw me, she said with a smile, “You’re so beautiful. When you were a baby, I always thought you were the cutest of all the children.”

I was acting coquettishly with my mother when I saw someone walking toward us from the corridor.

The familiar figure and outfit, it was Aldrich! I could smell a fresh lemon scent on him. Although, compared to the smell of lemon juice, the scent on his body was more like crushed lemon peel, with a bit of bitterness.

I turned to look at my mother. She smiled like a sly fox. “The King and I wanted to send you to school, but we were busy, so we had to ask Sir Aldrich for help.”

Aldrich bowed respectfully to my mother. “It is my honor, Your Majesty.”

My mother left quickly, leaving us to look at each other.

“I didn’t expect to have the honor of sending you to school on your first day.” Aldrich looked at me.

“It’s my honor...” I mimicked his words.

He laughed loudly and stopped. He looked into my eyes and suddenly said, "But you're really beautiful today."

"Thank you for your appreciation. Let's go. I don't want to be late on the first day." But, I had to say, it was really good to suddenly see Aldrich, especially when he would be sending me to an unfamiliar campus. It gave me much comfort.

"Yes, my beautiful lady." He winked at me playfully.

We talked and laughed along the way and soon arrived at a building very close to the palace. We went straight to the office.

Aldrich asked the receptionist directly, "Perhaps the King has already sent someone to inform you?"

"Yes, Sir Aldrich. Is this the girl who will be enrolled here?" The receptionist sized me up carefully, and even her gaze was gentle.

Aldrich nodded, and the receptionist asked me kindly, "Can you tell me your name?"

"I am Selma Payne. It is a pleasure to meet you."

"It's my honor." The receptionist stood up and said, "Please follow me."

Aldrich waved at me. "Looks like I have to leave! Bye!"

I followed the lady through the bright and clean corridors of the school. From time to time, students would pass by and stop to say hello to the lady. They would also look at me curiously.

I didn't dislike this sizing up, but at the same time, I felt my heart beating fast.

She brought me to a class with about ten girls around my age. A female teacher stood at the front.

The receptionist said a few words to the teacher, led me in, and left.

"This is Selma Payne, our new classmate. Everyone can give her a round of applause." The teacher stood on the podium and announced.

The gazes and whispers from below the stage made me feel at a loss. I even felt a warm sensation spread on my cheeks.

"Hello, I'm Miss Horace, and I'll be teaching this class this semester. If everything goes well, I'll accompany you throughout your academic career. Please take a seat. We're going to start the class."

I nodded and walked to the only empty seat in the class.

Walking to my seat, I heard many discussions, which made me feel a little overwhelmed. I'd never been the center of attention, let alone in school.

"Alright, ladies, be quiet." As soon as Miss Horace spoke, the entire classroom returned to silence.

I sat in my seat, trying my best not to appear so flustered.

This was going to be the longest day I'd ever have, but at the same time, I was secretly looking forward to it. I might be able to make new friends here and start a new adventure.

Miss Horace's class was very interesting. She was teaching us how werewolves slowly wake up from their deep sleep.

"I now know the order of their awakening. Their senses are the most important, including taste, smell, and hearing. After that, their senses will become more sensitive as time passes. Then, they will wake up and communicate with us in our minds. Finally, we will become friends who trust each other.

I thought of the lemon scent I smelled this morning. I had to admit that the scent on him was as likable as him. This might be a sign that my werewolf senses were recovering, but unfortunately, I couldn't smell my father and mother because my senses weren't yet developed. I hoped that this could happen faster. I wanted to become stronger.

"Alright, ladies, please focus your attention. What he was about to say next was very important! When the werewolves in your bodies are resurrected, you must establish a close connection with them. This way, when you transform, it will be smooth and not be so painful."

How amazing it would be to have a good friend to whom I could talk about everything!***innread.com***

23 Making Friends

Selma Payne's POV:

The people around me already had their wolves; even Aldrich had his werewolf, but I'd never seen it before. My parents seemed afraid of hurting my feelings, so they never let their werewolves appear. It was because of this that I was always surrounded by people with werewolves, but I'd never seen one, not even once. Today, I should go back and act cute with them to convince them to let me see their werewolves.

Miss Horace added, "The first transformation is the most painful and the easiest to fail. The only trick is to let everything happen naturally. Don't force anything to happen. Once the first transformation is completed, there will be no more difficulties, and you will successfully become a werewolf who can transform at will."

She used a lot of research and case studies to help explain, telling us how important this step was for every werewolf. The class was very quiet, listening attentively to Miss Horace's explanation. Although she was strict, she was an excellent teacher, and we couldn't move away from her class for even a minute.

Time flew by, and the class was over. There was a break between the two classes.

During the break, I also received my class schedule. I wrote it in fine black ink on paper with the school's emblem. I studied it carefully. The class started at noon, and it was the same every week. We had three classes for physical training. Miss Horace said that good physical fitness was ideal for the transformation of werewolves. I thought I needed this because I'd never been prepared for the transformation since I was young like others.

Maybe I could convince my father to let Aldrich give me more training every morning, just that... It would be very beneficial to my transformation.

As I was thinking, two girls walked toward me.

"Hi, nice to meet you." One of the girls with black hair and eyes greeted me first. She was a passionate girl with light brown skin, and her curly hair was wrapped around her chest.

"Hello," I greeted them.

"I'm Mara, and she's Avril." She pointed at the blonde girl that she had dragged over.

Avril and Mara were completely different girls. She had a round face and blue eyes, like a doll in a display window.

"I'm Selma. I'm so happy to be able to chat with you."

I shook hands with both of them. I was delighted to make friends on the first day.

"Have you chosen the club you want to join?" Mara asked me.

"What club?" I was confused.

"Didn't your parents tell you before? You can ask them. Your parents would be informed of specific types of clubs on the first day. There are many different clubs in the school. After you join them, you'll be able to learn specialized knowledge and make friends with

similar interests. What's even better is that the club will regularly invite more experienced people to guide you."

Well, it seemed that my parents were too busy and forgot about it. I had to ask them about it when I got back.

"So, what club did you choose?" I asked curiously.

I was interested in opera, so I joined the opera club," Mara said. I wasn't surprised at all. She looked like a natural performer.

What surprised me was Avril. Although she looked as cute as a doll, she was in a boxing club.

I didn't like either of these clubs and wouldn't join them. I hoped there was a club here that could teach me how to become a queen or something like that. It could help me, and I wouldn't be so flustered.

We continued to chat about a few irrelevant topics until Mara finally couldn't hold back.

"By the way, are you not from this place? I've never seen you before. I have a good memory, but I've never seen you before."

"Yes, I just arrived a few weeks ago." I arrived through the river, I added in my heart.

Mara nodded in understanding. "No wonder I've never seen you before. No wonder."

"You and..."

Mara seemed to want to ask something important, but Avil kept tugging at her arm.

"It's fine. I'll try my best to answer any questions you have. "

"What's your relationship with Her Majesty?" Mara asked.

I recited my pre-set identity and said, "We're related by blood, and I've been living abroad all this time. I've only returned recently, you know. So I'm preparing for a change."

"Wow! You're so cool!" Mara and Avil said in unison.

"Which country were you in before? Was it nice? What's the difference between that place and here?"

"I didn't stay in a specific country, but I think this is the most beautiful place," I told them.

“Can you imagine that the person in front of us is a relative of the Queen?” Mara said to Avril.

“I thought you would be training in the palace,” Avril said softly.

I smiled at them and explained, “Well... Her Majesty thinks it’ll be helpful for me to integrate into a new place and make new friends.”

24 After Class

Selma Payne’s POV:

Their eyes lit up. “Can we be your friends?”

“Of course.” I smiled at them.

I had never imagined that I would be able to make friends so quickly. I had always been the most unpopular person in the class. Although I had some friends, the relationship was more like that of a protector and a protected person. I was thrilled to have their help, but this kind of relationship always made me feel I lacked a little reciprocity between friends. I was always protected and the receiver.

My new friends were very interested in me and asked me many questions.

“Who is the Queen to you? You two look quite alike.”

“Where do you usually live? The Imperial Palace?”

“Do you have a mate?”

In the face of such violent enthusiasm, I was at a loss. Fortunately, Miss Horace walked into the classroom and saved me.

“Alright, it’s time for class. I hope you can still focus on the class.”

This class was about war, the history of war, and war techniques. In fact, Miss Horace’s lecture was very interesting, but the people in the class had two different attitudes.

One of them was led by Mara and the others. They weren’t interested in the class and even secretly made faces at me when I turned around. My deskmate and I led the other group, who were completely engrossed in the class.

Speaking of my deskmate, she was also a very strange person. She seemed to be out of place in this classroom. She didn’t move during the break, and no one talked to her. She didn’t seem to care. She just lowered her head and continued to read.

However, I didn't pay too much attention to any of the people in the classroom because I had to concentrate on everything related to war. I had never been involved, but one day, I would become the Queen, and one day, I would fight for the safety of my pack. Without a doubt, any failure was unacceptable to my pack. Any injury or death would mean the loss of one family after another.

With my full concentration, time flew by. Finally, after a few hours of class, Miss Horace dismissed the class.

"Hey, my name is Selma. What's your name?" I smiled and greeted my deskmate, who was tidying up.

She was stunned for a moment before she whispered to me, "Hello, my name is Dorothy."

After she finished speaking, she left as if she was running for her life without waiting for my reply.

"Don't mind her. She's just kind of strange." Mara shrugged.

But her choice of words made me uncomfortable. "Has she always been like this?"

"Yeah, she never shares, and she never interacts with others."

I wanted to continue talking about my deskmate, but Mara wasn't too interested, so she quickly changed the topic.

"Do you live in the Imperial Palace? Will people from the royal guards be coming to pick you up later?"

I scratched my head helplessly. "Thanks to the Queen, I do live in the palace, but the royal guards... It's impossible."

"That's very cool! What does it feel like to live in the palace? Do you see His Majesty often? Are there many handsome men in the palace?"

"There's nothing special about living in the palace." I tried my best not to sound like I was showing off.

But Mara and Avril's attention was no longer on me.

"Look! There! It's there! Did you see that?" They looked in the same direction and screamed in excitement.

I leaned over in confusion, but I didn't see anything. "What's up?"

A bitter lemon fragrance filled my nostrils. It seemed that someone couldn't escape the fate of picking me up after class this afternoon.

"Sir Aldrich is here!" Mara told me excitedly. "He's the most handsome man I've ever seen, and his personality is amazing!"

Aldrich appeared at the end of the corridor and waved at me.

Mara and Avil turned to look at me simultaneously. "He's here for you?!"

"You guys can't be..."

"No!" I interrupted their thoughts. "Have you ever thought he might have been forced to accept this mission? He's my friend, and I heard he likes someone already."

They wailed in low voices.

"I can't believe my heart is broken so quickly." Mara's expression made me giggle.

"I'm not like you. I never expected him to be single forever. As long as I can see his handsome face, I'll die without regrets."

Their exaggerated performance was very interesting. I wanted to rush to Aldrich and share it with him, but he was probably used to it. Being pursued by everyone was the common fate of handsome men all over the world.

"Can't you have some ambition!" Mara said in exasperation.

"Rather than thinking about how to marry him, why don't you think about finding your mate?" asked Avril.

I waved goodbye to them while they were still arguing. Then, I walked toward Aldrich, who was still standing there. He was like the moon high in the sky. The whole world wanted to take him down, but he would only take the initiative to run toward his true love. Although that lucky girl didn't appreciate it, it was enough to make people envious.

25 Looking For A Mate

Benson Walton's POV:

Late at night, I was sitting in the office dealing with the documents that I couldn't finish in time during the day. Even my Beta, Rhode, couldn't help but fall asleep. I told him to go back and have a good rest. I did work a little too much during this period, and even he had to train the soldiers during the day. At night, I had to deal with these long-winded and boring documents. I was very happy to have chosen Rhode as my Beta because you couldn't find anyone more loyal than him.

In the high-intensity repetition day after day, everyone was whining. Only he was like a machine, perfectly repeating the monotonous daily routine with a set program. Although I was the same, I felt my motivation came from my sense of responsibility and desire to protect our pack. This was my pack, and no one else could protect it except me.

But at the same time, problems gradually surfaced. My feelings were getting weaker and weaker, and there was nothing that could move me or make me feel satisfied for even a minute. I was becoming more and more like a set robot, and in exchange, I was getting more stable packs and stronger warriors. This was a good deal, and I was continuously fulfilling my promise.

But we couldn't relax yet. There would always be enemies eyeing us, pack. Our wonderful life was like a dream, and someone could break it anytime. Only by becoming stronger could we protect everyone.

Protecting our pack would require a lifetime of effort, but destroying it would only require a little effort. We couldn't afford to relax for even a moment.

At that moment, I heard someone walk in.

I didn't raise my head. To be honest, I was a little impatient. I hated people disturbing me when I was working, especially when the people disturbing me were my parents.

"I didn't expect my son to become a workaholic." My mother stood before my desk and sighed.

"It's still early, Mom. I'll be home in a while." I didn't even look up as I focused on the long, annoying paperwork.

"It's already midnight. You'll be able to see the sun tomorrow soon," my father said. "I know you want our pack to become better, but it takes a little time, doesn't it? Don't give yourself so much pressure."

I looked at the small mountain of documents and information before in disbelief. I didn't do anything today; time had passed in the blink of an eye. All my efforts were useless; it was not enough even if I worked late into the night every day. I would never be able to become an excellent Alpha like my father.

I sighed. "I should have finished dealing with these things today, but there's still so much left. I didn't do anything at all!"

My father placed his hand on my shoulder. "You need to rest. Work will never be finished. If you keep giving yourself so much pressure, you'll break down one day."

“Your father is right. I’m really worried about your health. Child, you’ve already worked hard enough.” My mother massaged my stiff shoulders and neck, which made me feel much more comfortable.

I didn’t know how my father did it so well—one thing after another, with all kinds of loopholes. When I was training, even soldiers complained that I was under too much pressure and intensity. They didn’t have the determination to fight for our pack.

I also heard some people secretly saying that I was not as good as my father, that my means and abilities were inferior.

I was very depressed. The more I wanted to prove that I wasn’t that bad, the more I acted like a young kid. I had to admit that it was quite stressful to bear the entire pack alone. I didn’t know how my father could lead our pack so calmly and without making a single mistake. I had never seen him so tired and depressed in the face of such things.

“Father, I might never be able to compare to you. How could you have handled everything so perfectly?” I held my head and felt like a loser trying to find an excuse for himself.

“Child, you’re already good enough. There’s no need to compare yourself to anyone. You’ve always been our pride.” My father smiled gently at me. “I used to be this busy. Fortunately, I met your mother. She helped me a lot. You may need to find your mate to help you.”

“I hope you’ve already met your mate. It seems we need to look for one in other packs.”

I was already exhausted, but when I heard this, I suddenly quivered.

My parents were talking about how I hadn’t met my mate at my age. The Moon Goddess didn’t care about me.

Mentioning my mate at this particular moment always made me feel that my secret was about to be exposed. However, only two people know about that night’s incident. Now that the other person had left this world, I was the only one left who knew.

He was also the only victim.

Since that night’s incident, Selma’s name had become a ghost. However, people would mention it from time to time, making me feel a wave of coldness and break out in a cold sweat.

26 Daniel’s Mate

Benson Walton’s POV:

An Alpha's mate being a weak human. There was nothing more humiliating than this. If I accepted her, a weak human, our pack would become a laughing stock.

"Alright, child. Go and rest," my mother urged.

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I continued to read the documents. This was the part I hated the most in the past. It still was.

"I'll leave after I'm done reading these," I mumbled.

My father's face turned solemn, and as before, he firmly ordered, "Get up, go to sleep, and then go to the nearby pack tomorrow to find your mate."

"Huh?"

My mother giggled. "Son, you have to go out and relax. This is what your father and I discussed. You can go find your mate. Remember to bring Rhode with you since... Forget it. One of you can always bring back a girl."

"No," I retorted sternly. "I still have many things to deal with. So how can I go out and have fun?"

"I'm begging you. You're like a boring robot that only knows how to work. When you open your eyes, you're working, working, and working. Being too serious won't make everything better. You have to learn to relax sometimes."

I might have to rest, as my mother said, but it was definitely not now. I still had a bunch of unfinished things to deal with. How could I be like a bored child skipping school to head out without saying a word?

"I said, I still have work to do!" I couldn't help but say irascibly.

My mother pouted. "See, I told you he only knows how to work. I can't believe my son has turned out like this."

"Benson, mind your tone." My father stared into my eyes. "This is not a discussion. Get out of the pack and relax for a few days. These few days, the soldiers have complained to me that the training intensity is too high and that one string can't be constantly stretched. So go out to other packs and learn something."

"But..."

"No buts. You and Rhode will leave tomorrow morning. I've already told him that your mother and I will manage the pack. I've already contacted the Silver Moon pack, and they will take good care of you two."

Things were quickly confirmed just like that. I didn't even have a chance to resist. My parents sent me to the car to leave our pack the following day.

This time, in addition to Rhode, we also brought the pack's head guard, a very good young man called Daniel. He hadn't found his mate yet, so he could take care of protecting me and finding his mate this time.

I sat in the car and watched my parents gradually become smaller. They would never know that I had already found my mate, a fragile human. Of course, if I knowingly rejected her, they might be disappointed.

But I thought any rational Alpha would be smart enough to reject a human Luna. She could do too little for the pack. I needed help, not a burden, an existence that needed my protection.

I couldn't get used to it. After becoming an Alpha, I rarely had such free time, I felt like I was wasting time, but I needed to find a good Luna for our pack. We had no choice. Soon, we reached the Silver Moon Pack.

Our arrival was warmly welcomed, perhaps because my father had informed them in advance. The Alpha of the Silver Moon Pack and his Luna both welcomed us and held a welcome party. In addition, they told us that all girls without a mate would attend the banquet, which meant that we would have many opportunities to meet the one we loved.

This was very good. The sooner I found my mate, the sooner I could return to our pack. I had always found it challenging to give up my responsibility.

The banquet had just started when I heard Daniel's low growl. The strange sound he made meant one thing. He had met his mate. I followed his gaze and saw a smiling girl walking into the banquet, surrounded by people.

To be honest, that girl was really beautiful. Her beautiful brown eyes were shining under the light. What surprised me even more was that she was the daughter of an Alpha, and at the same time, she was also the most powerful warrior in this pack. I was so jealous of Daniel. If only my mate were such a powerful person, we would make our pack the most powerful.

I met many people tonight, but none of them gave me the familiar throbbing feeling. I didn't smell anything special either. Fortunately, Rhode didn't find his mate either. At least I was not alone.

Rhode and I drank with our arms around each other. We watched as Daniel was mesmerized by the girl. He was in a daze, and the girl looked at him in surprise. They quickly left amidst everyone's cheers.

Love always made people beasts. Daniel's action was especially obvious. I hoped I wouldn't be so air-headed when I found my mate.

27 Teresa

Benson Walton's POV:

I talked to the Alpha of the Silver Moon Pack. He looked a lot more aggressive than the first time we met, which was expected. His precious daughter was going to follow a young werewolf to another pack after just one night. No one would be happy.

After that, he had a long conversation with Daniel. Rhode and I waited for him in the corridor. He was a lucky kid. He found his mate so quickly. At least we wouldn't be bringing back nothing this time.

As long as one of us found a mate, my parents wouldn't have an excuse to kick me out of our pack. I hope they wouldn't.

Daniel and the Alpha with the Silver Moon Pack came out smiling. It was apparent that Daniel was lucky enough to be able to hold a beauty today.

We stayed here for a day and rushed back to our pack. Daniel and his mate were talking happily, Rhode sat in the driver's seat, and I sat in the passenger's seat. We tacitly left the backseat for the sweet couple. As soon as they got into the car, they began to go at each other, hugging each other and exchanging sweet nothings.

I didn't want to hear it, but Rhode and I had nowhere else to go.

Rhode looked a lot more relaxed. He gently hummed a light-hearted tune, which was in sharp contrast to me, who was sitting on pins and needles. If it was before, I might have teased this couple, but after becoming an Alpha, I felt that this was too unstable, and I was rarely satisfied with anything. Everything could have been more perfect, but things always slipped in the direction of not being too good. After I took over my father's job, I always felt powerless.

This sense of powerlessness gradually evolved into a more strict and serious me. My sense of humor and joy were slowly being stripped away from me. Yet, in the face of such a beautiful scene, all I could think about was how to further cooperate with the Silver Moon Pack.

"Welcome to the Dark Shadow Pack. I'm Rhode. What's your name?" Rhode broke the silence between us.

The girl smiled in embarrassment. Her soft brown hair was braided and hung down to her chest. Her beige dress made her glow, at least in Daniel's eyes. He couldn't move

his gaze away from the girl and stared at her unmovingly. If we weren't in the car, they would probably be kissing.

"Thank you! I'm Teresa. I'm pleased to meet you guys."

Daniel finally struggled out of the passionate love and seriously introduced Teresa. "This is our Alpha Benson and our Beta Rhode. I'm the head of the guards responsible for their safety."

Teresa was filled with curiosity about our pack and asked a lot of strange questions along the way. She was talkative and interesting, sharing many interesting things about her with us. Although I didn't feel anything, Rhode and Daniel laughed loudly. I sat beside them and tried my best to smile in agreement.

Everyone's face was filled with a warm smile. Rhode smiled and said, "This time, at least one of us has found his mate. However, I am unsure if your father will continue to make you leave the pack to find yours."

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I thought of my parents. They had always hoped that I could find my mate. To be honest, I was also looking forward to it, but it wasn't so easy.

"We'll see..." I shrugged.

"Wow, you're so handsome and still haven't found your mate? I thought you guys were here for a business exchange with the Silver Moon Pack!" Teresa said with an exaggerated expression. Her mate Daniel was amused by her and laughed like a silly dog.

"They haven't found theirs yet. Finding a mate was the purpose of our trip."

"Do you still want to continue looking? What happened?" Teresa asked curiously.

I shook my head. "Perhaps my fate hasn't arrived yet."

"I... I'm not in the mood..." Rhode said dejectedly as he thought of something.

Teresa noticed that Rhode's mood was off, so she didn't continue to prod. Instead, she asked Daniel in a low voice. But how could her whispers escape the ears of an outstanding warrior?

Rhode answered the question graciously, "It's alright, Miss Teresa. It's not a big deal. My sister Selma accidentally fell off a cliff some time ago, so we recently held her funeral."

"I'm sorry..." There was sympathy and helplessness in Teresa's eyes.

When I heard Selma's name again, I didn't react in time. Instead, I was stunned on the spot for a long time. I didn't know why my life was constantly filled with her ghost of her. She was a weak and willful human. But, I also gradually realized that her position in my heart was gradually changing.

Selma was like a curse. She easily terrorized me. If the secret I'd buried deep in my heart was discovered, my peaceful life would be instantly shattered.

"I'm fine. I just... Suddenly miss her. I somehow feel she's still alive, and I hope she can witness my happiness... But it's okay. I'll move on someday..." Rhode pretended to smile casually.

The atmosphere in the car was extremely depressing.

28 A Second-Time Mate

Benson Walton's POV:

Even someone as insensitive as Daniel realized that the atmosphere was not right. He quickly came over to smooth things over. "Okay, okay, today is such a happy day. Let's put aside our sorrows and continue to look forward!"

Although his words didn't give any comfort, at least he gave me a chance to change the topic smoothly.

"Yes, I didn't expect Daniel to find a mate first. Remember to toast at the dinner party later, lucky boy!" I pretended to be relaxed and teased.

"That's right. You've won the heart of such a beautiful lady. I'm so jealous. Go and show off."

Daniel scratched his head and giggled. There seemed to be a thread connecting the couple, and they hugged each other as if no matter how dangerous the situation was, they could easily overcome it.

I moved my gaze away from the two and turned to look at the trees and flowers that flashed quickly outside the window. I couldn't give up on finding my mate just because a human had left. I should find my mate as soon as possible, so I could completely get rid of Selma's ghost.

Fortunately, we arrived at the entrance of our pack in no time. My parents and some of our packsmen came out to welcome us when they heard the news of our return. They were incredibly enthusiastic, especially when they saw Teresa, who had just joined us. I watched as the young couple was escorted away by the crowd. Tonight, we were going to hold a grand celebration for them.

After being busy for so long, Rhode and I finally had time to catch our breath. Finally, I could completely forget about these damn mate searching or Selma and other such disgraceful things and take a long, relaxed breath.

“What a lucky guy,” Rhode said with a smile. No one could see any jealousy or dissatisfaction on his face.

Then, I heard him mumble softly, “If only Selma were here too. She loves these kinds of lively events...”

There she was again! Since I rejected her, she kept appearing in my life! She was too incompetent, but now she wanted me to bear this load.

“Are you going back?” I pretended not to hear his sigh and casually changed the topic.

Rhode shook his head. “I’m going to my parents’ place.”

After becoming my Beta, he moved out to live alone because we always worked late. He didn’t want to affect his parents, and only very rarely did he take some time to go back.

“What’s wrong? Go back and tell them you didn’t find a mate.”

“They... Are not in a good mood. I hope I can try my best to make them feel better...”
“Rhode said in a low voice.

The smile on my face froze. When would I be able to remove this name from my life?

“I thought they had already moved on?”

“I thought so too. Later, I discovered they were always staring at Selma’s photo. I even heard my mother crying in the middle of the night. They never locked the door at night, hoping Selma would suddenly find her way home one day.”

Rhode looked in the direction of Selma’s fall. “My parents have been hiding their pain. They don’t want others to worry about them.”

I thought that they had completely let it go. She was just an ordinary human, and there was nothing worth reminiscing about. However, their wounds had never healed, and it tortured this kind family with new pain and blood daily.

God, I groaned in my heart. If I could return to the day they found that human, I would throw her far away.

“Take care, Brother.” I hugged Rhode and watched him leave.

After saying goodbye to him, I walked straight to the library. I must find my second mate. No matter what, no matter what means I use, I must get rid of Selma. She thought she could threaten me with death. So I must use a new relationship to forget all these unpleasant things.

The library was empty, and only the librarian was reading with his head lowered. This was normal. All the knowledge we needed was learned in school. Even if there were questions that we didn't understand, we could ask the elders at home or fight with them.

However, the question I wanted to ask was a secret that belonged to me alone, so I could only come to the library alone to find the answer.

Fortunately, few books could answer my questions, so I quickly picked a few. I sat by the window and opened one of them. It described in detail how vital a werewolf's mate was to them. Unfortunately, not much was said about the second or replacement mate.

I didn't give up and continued to flip through the other books, but I found nothing.

Damn it! Was I cursed? With such a troublesome mate, yet I couldn't even find any information?

The administrator saw my books and thought I was studying about mates. So he recommended another book, and I finally found a detailed record of getting a second mate.

"After a werewolf's mate dies in an accident, it is difficult to get a second mate."

Did this mean that I would never find a mate after that human?

Motherf*cker!

I had never hated Selma so much!

29 The Training Ground

Selma Payne's POV:

A month had passed, and I almost couldn't feel the passing of time because my life was too interesting. I felt like I had fallen into a rabbit hole and could start a new adventure anytime. Undoubtedly, I loved adventures, and other than going out with Aldrich, adventure was my second favorite thing.

It was really interesting to hang out with him. He was the kind of person who had a sense of humor and knew a lot of strange but interesting things. We had endless things to talk about, but he wouldn't tell me what the girl he liked looked like. I guess he must have been very sad back then, so he couldn't face that girl now.

I was different. I'd already moved on from the hurt that Benson caused me. We didn't even have the chance to start a beautiful relationship before he ruthlessly ended us. Although his humiliating words would still come to my mind from time to time in the quiet night, I was no longer afraid. Everyone around me affirmed me and told me how important I was. I know that they said this mostly because they loved me.

It was because of this that I had to overcome the dark past. I had to recover from the pain to love them 100%. Only then could I deserve the love and comfort they gave me. I was not useless in this world. I had many friends and family who loved me.

I felt that I had grown a lot recently, physically. The werewolf in my body was constantly awakening. I could now clearly smell everyone's scent. My vision was improving, and my physical training class performance was not inferior at all.

Psychologically, I gradually realized how ridiculous I was in the past. For an unrelated person, I ruthlessly hurt my brother and my adoptive parents, who loved me. Although this incident allowed me to find my birth parents, the damage to them was never going to be reduced. I could imagine how hot my adoptive mother's tears were.

But I was not ready to go back and face all of this. It was true that I didn't care about Benson as much anymore because of everyone's love and concern here, but when I thought about that night, I really couldn't bring myself to face them. I still needed to devote myself to the preparations for the transformation. But it was almost over. I was about to face them with a new me.

As the days went by, I got used to the training schedule with almost no personal space. This was a concession I made to become stronger. With Aldrich's company, I looked forward to it every day. He was not only a good friend but also a good teacher.

He was usually very serious in class, and after class, he would always make strange faces at me. Our weekend dates never stopped. Thanks to him, I now had a clearer understanding of the city I was about to protect.

The only problem was that I had yet to see my parents' wolves. They were too busy. Even though they would always find a way to meet me out of love, it was usually before I went to bed. I completely understood them. Governing a country was not easy. They needed a lot of energy to do it. I was proud of them.

That was why seeing my parents' wolves was delayed indefinitely because of their time. However, I was not in a hurry. That would happen one day.

It was a Friday, and I was thrilled, not only because I could go out with Aldrich but also because I had physical training today. I liked it very much. Although the teacher's teaching was not as perfect as Aldrich's, this course always made me understand that I was not as weak as I was before.

“Hey, guys!” I waved excitedly at Mara and Avril. We had become very good friends. They had helped me a lot in school, and because of them, I was looking forward to going to school. Being with friends was the happiest thing I had ever had felt.

“I thought you would be late,” Avril said slowly.

Mara pursed her lips. “The probability of her being late is like an eclipse. Although there is a chance, it’s pitifully low. You might as well guess when I’ll skip class.”

The conversation between them made me giggle, but they were right. I liked physical training and combat skills classes because I knew that these would come in handy one day, and that day wasn’t far away, so I was always more active than usual.

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“Let’s go, or we’ll be late for real. I don’t mind being punished to do a few more sets of training.”

As soon as I finished speaking, they immediately stopped bickering and dragged me hurriedly to the training ground.

There were already a few people at the training ground, but my gaze was completely focused on the figure at the front of the team. His silver-gray eyes and hair, as well as his strong body, were so familiar. Even the bitter lemon scent on his body that I liked so much was so familiar and nice.

He was frowning as he flipped through some paper documents. The coach beside him was pointing at them, saying something.

30 Aldrich’s Training

Selma Payne’s POV:

“Heavens! Oh my god! Pinch me! Is this the real Sir Aldrich or my illusion?” Mara shook my arm excitedly as if she would faint the next second.

“What is he doing here? Could it be that he wants to save us from the hands of the devil? Haven’t you heard anything?”

My friends were all asking me excitedly. I stared at him without saying a word and shook my head in confusion. He had never revealed any related information to me, but he suddenly appeared here this morning, like magic.

But I made a guess, and I was confident that it was for the military. When I was helping my parents deal with the documents, I heard them say that the army would select some people from among us. Aldrich was in charge of this, and he was very experienced. So no matter how I look at it, he was the best choice.

Our coach gathered and informed us, "Students, this is Sir Aldrich. He will be joining us for the next few weeks."

Someone raised his hand and asked, "Why?"

"There are a few spots in the army. I know that many of you want to join the army. This is a very precious opportunity, but not everyone can be enlisted. Sir Aldrich will test you in the next few weeks to see if you are fit," our coach said sternly.

I raised my eyebrows smugly. It was just as I had guessed. He had come for the army, but this could not hide the fact that he had come quietly without telling me.

"Also, whether you want to join the army or not, this course is compulsory. If you don't want to be punished, you'd better attend it on time."

The information on the brutal physical training class did not receive any whining. Instead, many young girls blushing talked about the young knight.

I met Aldrich's eyes in an instant. He didn't smile at me or was as casual as usual. I felt that he was wearing a dull and severe mask on his face. He had become a stranger to me. He seemed calm and waved to everyone seriously.

"Now, gather around. We're going to warm up and run fifty laps."

The excitement on everyone's faces turned sour in an instant. Even the handsome Aldrich couldn't save me from the pain of the fifty laps. Since Aldrich had trained me, this amount of exercise wasn't a big deal to me. However, for Mara, who didn't like physical training, it was as good as killing her.

When the team finally left, she almost couldn't stand up. I tried my best to support her weak body. Unfortunately, everyone's condition was not much different from hers.

"I thought he would be gentler. I announce that Sir Aldrich is no longer one of the candidates to be my boyfriend. He's simply inhumane!"

Mara's exaggerated expression made Avril and me laugh so hard that we couldn't stand up straight, but Aldrich didn't care what happened here. He didn't give us time to catch our breath before gathering everyone. Even our coach, whom we called 'the devil', gave us an extra ten minutes of break.

The crowd stood in a line unwillingly.

He first taught us all the techniques, and then he wanted to find someone to go up and practice with him. So I took the initiative to raise my hand, and he made eye contact with me, but I saw him look away as if nothing had happened and pick another person.

After confirming that everyone had mastered these techniques, he divided our class into two-person groups. In his words, only after real combat would one know where they were lacking. I was undoubtedly left behind. He wanted me to sit here and watch the others practice!

This was completely unforgivable!

I sat angrily at the side, watching Dorothy fight with another girl from my class. Her opponent was very strong, about 1.8 meters tall. The poor Dorothy was as small as a child before her opponent. Their sparring was very exciting. I held my breath and watched their fight. I was worried for Dorothy.

However, Dorothy learned very well. She used her agility to drain the strength of the bigger opponent. Soon, the other girl was panting, and Dorothy took the opportunity to kick her opponent over. Only at this time did she reveal a relaxed and happy expression, like a child who had received a reward, proudly puffing out her chest.

This was the only time she had temporarily emerged from her dull and quiet shell and acted like a person her age. Her past had always been shrouded in a fog, and because of this, I was even more eager to know what the real her was like.

As people always pretended to be lonely, no one could draw the courage and strength to move forward from the falsehood.

I'd received help from many people, so I also wanted to help others a little. We'd made significant progress. At least we would use small notes to chat briefly in class.

However, the improvement in my relationship with Dorothy did not help improve my current feelings. After the last sparring group, Aldrich had not arranged an opponent for me. Did he want me to sit here the whole day and watch others fight?

I raised my hand in anger and requested to participate.