

Chapter 11: Alpha's Regret

River Colden

I couldn't explain exactly what I was feeling at that exact moment. There were so many things running around in my head and my emotions were at an all time high.

Not only did I kick out a Pack member because of a lie, but my own mate dared to lie to me?! The fucking audacity and the nerve of her to do such a thing. Who knows what she has lied to me about since then and is still lying about to me now? 1

Fuck! I'm so fucking angry that I don't care that she has guests over. I don't care if they come back to their Pack and spread news that the Alpha of White Howlers have gotten mad and kicked them out.

Right now, all I really wanted was the truth, and nothing but it.

I stomped towards the room, the closer I got the louder all their fake and pathetic giggles became too. I'm furious. I'm enraged. With all the problems in the Pack almost somewhat relating to Keira's leave, I now find out that she really didn't have to be banished? The anger rising in me can rip a wolf into pieces. 1

When I kicked open the door, the girls and Ivy turned to me in shock and immediate fear. I know that they can sense what I'm feeling right now and it's not fucking pretty, that's for sure.

"River, baby!" Ivy immediately stands up and runs up to me, panic and confusion obvious in her face.

She desperately wants to cover up my true feelings right now. She

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doesn't want her image with her Pack to be damaged, but what right does she have to do that? Because of her lies, she ruined the White Howlers' reputation years ago. 2

"Don't call me baby. What the hell did you do, Ivy?" I confronted her without bothering to minimize the volume of my voice thus letting everyone in the room hear us.

They gasp in shock and their eyes are staring at us widened, ready to gain the newest gossip.

Pissed at their presence, I turn to them and growl. "What the hell are you all still doing here?! Get out of my Castle!"

Terrified women fumble to get their things, accidentally tripping, but they don't stop until they are sprinting out of the room. They don't even get a chance to say goodbye to Ivy because I'm standing right in front of her and they know I'll claw them out if they dared to stop.

"What the hell, River?! What was that for? Why did you scare my friends away?!" Ivy begrudgingly exclaimed, crossing her arms and pouting at me.

There it is. Her defense mechanism comes into play, but this time I'm not letting her get away with this. This time, I'm not succumbing to her pouts and puppy eyes. Not anymore. Not ever again, honestly, because I see her now. I see her true colors and it's the most disgusting thing. 6

"Tell. Me. The. Truth." I stare her down, my eyes glaring at her without an ounce of sympathy.

I'm not letting her control me anymore. All these years, she's let the mate bond rule our relationship. I guess I had a part in that, too. That was

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my mistake, I admit. I had become blinded by my desperation to have a mate that when she appeared, I forgot about everything and everyone else.

"I- I have no idea what you're talking about, River. I don't like this. Baby, you're scaring me." She pouts and sniffles and usually, I would back down at this point.

I don't want her to be scared. I don't want my mate to feel threatened by me. All I wanted is for us, the ones that were born to be together, to be the best thing in each other's lives. We were supposed to be each other's solace, the only ones we needed. Us against the world.

Now it was starting to feel like she had just been using me this whole time for her own gains.

Unable to contain my disapproval at her words and actions, a loud growl escaped me that visibly scared her.

"I already heard what you told your so-called friends. I just need to hear it from you. Lie to me again and you'll be seeing your friends earlier than you thought."

Ivy trembled and I saw in her eyes her battle within herself. Eventually, she gives in and the entire thing is revealed to me. At least, what she claims is what happened from her own recollection, but I doubt it was all that really happened knowing she's been lying to me this whole time so I doubt she would stop now.

"Why would you do that, Ivy?" The question comes out of me, equal parts angry and hurt.

She doesn't say a word.

"Why would you do that to me? To Keira? She never did anything to you!" At this point, I'm starting to get more frustrated.

Memories of how I pushed Keira away, how I banished her without giving her a chance to explain, and treated her like our years together was nothing, all came rushing back into my head and it hurt just like my heart did.

Ivy scoffs and her expression hardens. "She never did anything to me?" She repeats scornfully.

"Yes, she did. I heard you talk to her in her room that day I arrived here. I knew what you two were. It was obvious she still loved you, River, and I wasn't going to sit around and wait for her to steal you away from me. You're mine!" She shouted and stomped on the floor with her hands balled into a fist.

"What the fuck are you talking about, Ivy? If you were really listening to our conversation, which you didn't have the right to, by the way, then you would have heard me telling her that you're in my life now and whatever she and I had was in the past. I told you that same day that I've waited for you for years and now that I had you I wasn't going to let anything come in between us yet you still did that? What the fuck?" 3

I'm even more pissed now. Hearing Ivy's reason for what she did doesn't console my temper, but just angers me even more because it doesn't make sense. She's trying to act like the victim here, but she's obviously not. She put someone else in danger for the sole reason that she's selfish and all these years I let her act like one not just towards myself, but towards my Pack too. Those who don't deserve to be treated like shit by her.

"You don't understand, River. I— I love you so much!" She immediately retreats to begging. 1

She walks closer to me and grabs me by my chest, holding onto my shirt tightly. "I love you so so much that I couldn't bear the thought of you being with anyone else. Please forgive me, please, baby. I'll make it up to you, baby." A naughty smirk formed on her face and she grabbed my pants, getting ready to pull it down.

I know what she's going to do. It's the apology blowjob, or more like a distraction. She does it every time I get annoyed by something she does and it always works. I fucking hate that it always works, but not this time.

"Fuck off, Ivy." I say coldly before pushing her away from me and she drops to the floor. 2

Her eyes widened in horror and shame before tears started running down her face. She began to cry in less than ten seconds and it was then that I realized how good of an actress she really was.

I knew right there that it was exactly what she did at that time, how she managed to fool all of us, trick us into believing that Keira had truly harmed her.

Well, not all of us.

Zane was skeptical that whole time. On that same day, right after Keira left, he came up to me and let's just say we had a mano y mano. If he wasn't my Beta and best friend, I would have punished him for committing such a traitorous action, but I wouldn't let that get in between our friendship.

But the thing is, it wasn't just because of our friendship. It was also because of the fact that a part of me also understood where he was coming from.

Past

"Bring her back, River! Fucking bring her back!"

Zane came out of nowhere, barging into my office with fire almost coming out of his eyes.

"You know what she did. That's treason in our Pack. Nobody hurts the Luna. I did what I had to do." I tried my best not to let his words get to me.

I had a job to do here. A role, an important one where everyone depended on me and I needed to make decisions that were hard for the sake of my Pack. I'm not going to let one person who doesn't agree with my choices dictate to me what I should or shouldn't do. 4

Zane slams his hands on my table, almost breaking it with the force. The man is my Beta, likely the second or third strongest wolf in our Pack (it's an ongoing debate between him and Aspen), so there's no surprise he can break a piece of wood as easily as right now especially with the obvious rage that's currently drowning him. 4

"I know damn well you don't think she did what your Luna claims she did. I swear to the Moon Goddess, River Colden, why the fuck are you doing this to Keira? She loved you with her whole life." I can see the struggle in Zane to keep himself together.

He wants to punch me, kick me even, but he's controlling himself.

To be frank, his words are true, but I can't find myself to admit to it, so I

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push the truth aside and stand my ground.

"Like I said, I did what I had to do. Now get the hell out. I have a lot of work to do." I stand up so he knows that I'm no longer playing his game.

His breathing becomes heavier and his teeth are gritted. His resolve not to hurt me is dwindling away by the second.

"I said get the hell out of here, Za—" He launches his fist and it comes into contact with my face. The force is minimal, but it's there.

He lessened the strength he usually uses to punch me, but I don't fucking care. Coming in here and pissing me off was his first mistake. Initiating a fight with me was his second.

"You shouldn't have done that," I told him as I cracked the bones in my neck.

"And you shouldn't have let your mate fool you. That punch is just your wake up call." He's hardheaded as fuck, but I'm not letting his action go.

"I don't need any fucking wake up call!" A second later, I landed a punch on his face that he tried to evade, but he couldn't as I was obviously much faster.

He falls down to the floor, but grabs my shirt so he pulls me down with him. At this point we're trying to land a punch at each other continuously. Not a second goes by in between our hits as I'm on top of him.

"Stop provoking me!" First punch. It hits his lips and it gets busted immediately.

"You fucking deserve it for being a stupid asshole!" Second punch. He


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hits me on my stomach and I mask the pain.

"Shut the fuck up! You don't know what the hell you're saying!" Third punch. That one is going to leave him a black eye.

"No, fuck you!" He growled before pushing me with so much force and the surprise made me tumble to the side.

Zane dusts himself off and wipes the blood off of his lip. He doesn't say anything else as he's walking towards the door. Only when he's right in front of the door, his hand on the knob, does he speak up again.

He lets out a deep and shuddery breath. "You're going to regret this, River. Not now because you'll be in some kind of fucking bliss with your mate, but you will soon. By then, Keira will be long gone." 

And then he walks out of the room and suddenly, I feel something hollow in the pit of my stomach.



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