

## Chapter 101

The forest seemed to close in on Liam as he ventured deeper, his heart heavy with the weight of Nicole's absence. Every step seemed to echo the ache within him, the gnawing emptiness that consumed his soul without Nicole by his side.

James and Garrett exchanged concerned glances as they followed him. He was tethered too close to the edge, and it made them wonder if they were going to have to wrestle with him in the forest.

The three of them trudged through the dense forest, their senses on high alert. They separated and scouted on their own for a while, checking bushes, barks, track prints, and sniffing the air.

"Anything?" Liam asked as soon as they found their way back to each other. His voice was laced with frustration as he scanned the surroundings, hoping for any sign, any clue that would lead him to Nicole.

James sighed, his face etched with weariness. "No, Alpha. We've scoured every inch of Lilian's territory and questioned her pack members, but there's no trace of anything that can lead to Nicole."

Garrett's jaw clenched as he stepped forward, his voice filled with anger. "We can't let Asha get away with this, Alpha. She's partly the reason Nicole is missing. She needs to pay for her betrayal."

Liam's eyes burned with a mixture of pain and determination. "I don't care about that right now. I only care about finding Nicole. She's out there somewhere, and every second we waste brings her closer to danger."

As they continued their search, the silence was heavy, each step echoing the urgency that pulsed through Liam's veins. Thoughts of Asha, the one who had once been Nicole's closest friend but had turned on her, intruded upon his mind.

"But what should we do with Asha?" James's voice cut through the quiet, his tone filled with contempt.

Liam paused, his eyes narrowing as he contemplated the fate of the betrayer. "Imprisonment won't be enough. She needs to suffer to understand the consequences of her actions."

James' voice was cold and unforgiving. "Perhaps a fate worse than death would serve as a warning to anyone who dares to harm our pack."

Liam's gaze turned distant, a flicker of a memory igniting within him. He recalled the moments he had shared with Nicole, their love and bond that seemed unbreakable. The thought of her suffering, of her being lost forever, sent a surge of primal rage coursing through his veins.

"No," Liam said firmly, his voice filled with determination. "Our focus is finding Nicole. Everything else can wait. Asha is insignificant compared to her. Once we have her back, we'll decide what justice she deserves."

Garrett grumbled under his breath, but James nodded, understanding the depth of Liam's desperation. "You're right, Alpha. Nicole is our priority. We'll deal with Asha when the time is right."

As they continued their search, the forest seemed to whisper secrets, the wind carrying a sense of foreboding. Liam's mind raced with thoughts of his mate, her smile, her touch, and the emptiness he felt without her by his side.

Time was slipping through his fingers like sand in an hourglass, and the fear of losing control, of succumbing to the feral instincts within him, gnawed at his soul. He knew that finding Nicole was not only a matter of love but also of survival.

"We'll find her, Alpha," James assured, his voice filled with determination. "We won't stop until she's safe in your arms again."

Liam nodded, his jaw set with resolve. "I'll search every corner of this forest if I have to. I won't rest until Nicole is back where she belongs."

They had walked for hours, and there was nothing. They had circled the point where they had found Lilian dying a lot of times, checking every nook and cranny, yet nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Frustration and anguish consumed Liam. Days had turned into weeks and weeks to months, and there was still no sign of his beloved.

His pack was almost desolate because he had become unable to do any other thing than search for Nicole. It caused him so much pain to do this to his people, yet he could do nothing else.

Garrett groaned and rested on a trunk. James said nothing, but Liam could feel their spirits dampening.

Annoyed and tired of being suppressed, his wolf surged to the surface, a tumultuous transformation overtaking his body. The powerful muscles rippled and expanded, bones cracking and rearranging themselves as he underwent metamorphosis.

James and Garrett, caught off guard by the sudden change, quickly moved to restrain him.

"Alpha, calm down!" James shouted, "We need to find another way!"

But the primal instincts of the wolf had taken hold, overpowering Liam's rationality. He growled and snarled, his eyes ablaze with a wild, untamed fury. The struggle was fierce as James and Garrett fought against the unleashed force of their Alpha.

"Garrett, hold him!" James commanded, his voice strained with the effort. "We can't let him run off like this!"

Garrett, his muscles straining under the weight of the struggle, grunted as he tried to keep Liam contained. The sheer strength of the wolf was overwhelming, each attempt to restrain him met with a furious resistance. Claws scraped against the forest floor, and the earth trembled beneath their feet as the battle waged on.

"Liam, please! You have to fight it!" Garrett pleaded, his voice tinged with desperation. "We're here to help you, but we can't let you lose control like this!"

But Liam's wolf, driven by a desperate need to find Nicole, was heedless of their words. He lunged forward, breaking free from Garrett's grasp, and darted off into the depths of the forest with lightning speed.

James and Garrett exchanged worried glances before giving chase, their determination fueled by their loyalty to their Alpha.

"James, we can't let him go alone!" Garrett shouted, his voice filled with concern.

"I know," James replied, his gaze fixed on the retreating figure of the wolf. "We have to catch up with him. We can't afford to lose him in this state."

James and Garrett pursued Liam's wolf form through the dense undergrowth, their bodies pushed to their limits in the relentless pursuit. The forest blurred around them as they raced against time, their hearts pounding in sync with the thundering rhythm of their footsteps.

"Alpha! Liam!" James called out, his voice echoing through the forest. "We're here for you! We'll find Nicole together!"