

## Chapter 102

But the wolf, driven by an instinctual longing for his mate, continued his frenzied dash deeper into the unknown.

The struggle between Liam's human consciousness and the wild spirit of the wolf intensified with each passing moment, a battle fought not only in the physical realm but within the depths of his being.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting long shadows upon the forest, James and Garrett pressed on, refusing to give up.

James had already mind-linked the warriors. They were combing the forest in search of him.

The forest was a blur as Liam's wolf raced through the underbrush, a force of raw power and untamed fury. His senses were heightened, his instincts primal.

And like magic, he perceived the faintest of Nicole's scent lingering through the air. Letting out a soft growl, he followed it. Every fibre of his being yearned to find her, to bring her back to safety.

But as soon as it appeared, it vanished. Liam's wolf was going into a frenzy again, his primal instincts clashed with his desperate longing, and he felt the grip on his self-control slipping. The world around him blurred as his wolf's relentless pursuit took over, leaving Liam trapped in the depths of his own mind.

Within the pack, panic set in as news spread of Liam's uncontrollable transformation. James and Garrett had mobilized the warriors and sentinels, directing them to search for Liam before he unleashed his primal wrath upon innocent bystanders, but the fear was eminent. If Liam went feral now, it was over for them.

"Spread out! We have to find Liam before he causes any harm," James commanded, his voice laced with urgency. "Stay alert and be prepared to subdue him if necessary."

The pack members fanned out, their eyes scanning the forest, their senses attuned to any sign of their Alpha. They moved swiftly and silently, their determination overshadowed by the fear of what Liam's unleashed wolf might do.

Meanwhile, deep within the recesses of Liam's mind, he fought to regain control. He grappled with his wolf, struggling against its relentless dominance.

Images of Nicole flashed through his thoughts, memories of their love, and the life they had built together, serving as an anchor in the tumultuous storm of his emotions.

"I have to find her," Liam growled through gritted teeth, the fierce determination in his voice echoing in the depths of his mind. "I won't let anything keep us apart."

His wolf's instincts drove him forward, leading him through the maze of trees. The forest was yet a blur of green and shadows as his senses sharpened, honing in again on the faintest trace of Nicole's scent. His pace quickened, the urgency of his pursuit heightening with each passing moment.

But as he neared what seemed to be a breakthrough, the scent vanished once again, leaving Liam with an overwhelming sense of frustration and desperation. He let out a roar of frustration, the sound reverberating through the trees, alerting his pack members to his presence.

James and Garrett, who had been tirelessly searching for Liam, sensed the surge of power and immediately changed their course, their bond with their Alpha guiding them unerringly toward him.

Their hearts pounded with a mix of relief and concern as they drew closer, prepared to face the challenge of subduing their own Alpha.

The forest grew quiet as Liam's wolf paced restlessly, his eyes scanning the surroundings. James and Garrett approached cautiously, their presence a calming influence amidst the storm raging within Liam's mind.

"Liam, we're here," James called out, his voice steady and reassuring. "We're not your enemies. We're here to help you."

James was glad that he wasn't feral, not yet. But he needed Liam to be in control.

Liam's wolf snarled, his hackles raised, but a flicker of recognition flashed in his eyes. Slowly, the intensity of his wolf's rage began to subside, allowing Liam's human consciousness to regain control.

His wolf form melted away, and Liam stood before them, his chest heaving, his eyes filled with a mix of exhaustion and anguish. "I... I lost her scent. I need to find her, James. I can't lose her."

"You caught her scent?" Garrett blurted out.

Liam growled and began pacing around. "It's prominent around this area, but it continues vanishing."

"Hmmm, surprisingly, this is a new part of the forest. How haven't we been to this part before?" Garrett questioned.

"It means we've gained ground," James commented. "This route was abandoned a long time ago. No wolf wanders into this part. It has a history of dark magic."

"It's probably why the scent vanished," Garrett said.

All their talk seemed useless to Liam. His wolf was clawing for release again.

"Yes. It's also a track route to different pack borders."

They all turned to look at James.

"What?" Liam growled.

"There's a secret route to different packs. I'm guessing whatever spell Lillian placed on her led her right to this place and also let her through the routes."

"Then we should find it!" Liam growled.

"Do you know why this place is avoided, Liam? It's enchanted. The moment you step into it, it drives you crazy, sucks out your energy, and kills you. If Nicole went through it and survived, it's only because Lillian's spell was propelling her. We can not take this path at this time. I know a better way."

"It's dark. We had better return home," Garrett said.

Liam growled and surged forward.

James approached Liam, his voice gentle yet firm. "We'll find her, Liam. But right now, we need to focus on keeping you and the pack safe. We can't let your wolf's rage consume you."

Garrett stepped forward, his voice filled with empathy. "We understand your pain, Liam. We all want Nicole back. But we have to approach this with a clear mind. Let us help you."

Liam's shoulders slumped, the weight of his emotions almost too much to bear. He nodded, a mix of gratitude and resignation in his eyes. "I... I don't know if I can do this alone. Thank you, both of you."

Together, they returned to the pack, their footsteps echoing through the forest. The search for Nicole would continue, but for now, the priority was to restore Liam's balance and protect the pack from the dangerous storm that raged within their Alpha's heart.