

Chapter 103

As promised, James unfurled a worn map that depicted the intricate routes surrounding the dark forest as soon as they returned to the Dark Moon.

Liam's eyes locked onto the marked trails. His gaze was intense and focused. He studied the paths, his finger tracing the winding lines as if seeking guidance from the worn parchment.

"We need to plan our next move carefully," Liam muttered, his voice laced with nervous anticipation. "Nicole's out there somewhere, and we can't afford to waste any more time."

Without saying anything, they nodded in agreement, and all went to bed.

The night stretched on as Liam mulled over the map, his mind consumed with anticipation and nervous energy. The moon's gentle glow bathed the room, casting an ethereal light upon him.

Liam's eyes scanned the intricate paths, his fingers tracing the lines as he tried to absorb every detail. Every twist and turn of the routes danced in his thoughts, each one a potential path to finding Nicole.

His fingers tapped anxiously against the table, the weight of the unknown pressing down upon him. With each passing minute, his determination grew stronger, mingled with a growing sense of restlessness.

The next morning, Liam, James, Garrett, and Connor, the Gamma of the Dark Moon, gather in a secluded room to discuss their strategy.

Morning arrived, bringing with it a renewed sense of urgency. Liam, James, Garrett, and Connor gathered around a large table, their expressions reflecting the weight of the decisions to come.

"We have three potential routes," James began, his finger tracing the paths on the map. "Bloodmoon lies east, Silverwood to the west. There's also a rogue pack in the south. Each route poses its own challenges and risks."

Liam's brow furrowed in deep thought, his mind grappling with the weight of the decision before him. "We need to move swiftly, but we must choose our route wisely," Liam stated, his voice laced with a mix of determination and apprehension. "Bloodmoon, Silverwood, and the rogue pack lie along the path."

James nodded in agreement, his eyes scanning the map once more. "Bloodmoon is known for its fierce warriors, while Silverwood is still establishing itself as a pack. The rogue pack is unpredictable, their allegiance wavering."

Connor, his features etched with weariness, interjected with a bitter tone. "Why bother? Nicole is gone. No one survives the dark forest. The Dark Moon's enemies are taking advantage of our distraction. We're wasting energy and resources on a lost cause."

"Shut up or get out," Liam growled. He woke up with a clear and focused mind. He wasn't going to let Connor spoil his chances of bringing Nicole back.

Connor, normally known for his level-headedness, interjected with a voice tinged with doubt. "Maybe it's time to face reality, Liam."

The dark forest is a death trap. Nicole is most likely gone. We're wasting our energy on a futile search. There are things more important than that now."

"Connor..." Garrett hissed.

"Alpha, you must also consider the state of our pack. We are tired and demoralized. Our enemies may be using this distraction to their advantage. We can not afford to continue wasting energy on a futile search."

The words hung heavily in the air, causing tension to settle over the room. Liam's nostrils flared, his anger simmering just below the surface. In a sudden surge of fury, he lunged at Connor, his hands gripping the Gamma's collar with an iron grip.

"How dare you? How dare you suggest we give up on her?" Liam growled, his voice dripping with both rage and desperation.

James swiftly intervened, pulling Liam back, his voice firm and commanding. "Enough! Connor, you know as well as I do the power Nicole possesses."

She's not a lost cause. We will find her. We all know the dangers of the dark forest, but we can not abandon hope. Nicole's strength is unparalleled, and we have witnessed her power firsthand. She is no ordinary wolf."

Liam's chest heaved as he struggled to regain control. His hands trembled, the remnants of his anger lingering in the air. Slowly, he released his grip on Connor, stepping back as regret and remorse etched on his face.

Connor, his breath ragged, nodded. "You're right. Alpha. I... I apologize. It's just... the darkness of the forest can play tricks on the mind. I... I'm just speaking from..."

"Get out." Liam growled, "Get lost before I change my mind!"

Connor stumbled out immediately. The scent of his fear filled the air.

"Right after Asha, we need to take care of him next," Garrett muttered.

"He has some truth," James shrugged. "We are weak and almost defenceless. We need Nicole back as soon as possible, and we need to get the Pack working."

The room fell into contemplative silence as the weight of their mission settled upon them. The maps spread out before them, each path presenting its own risks and potential rewards. Liam's eyes scanned the routes, his mind racing with the possibilities.

"We need to make a decision," Liam finally spoke, his voice steady despite the turmoil within. "Bloodmoon, Silverwood, or the rogue pack..."

"The decision is up to you," James said.

Garrett leaned forward, his gaze focused and determined. "Bloodmoon is known for its alliances and resources. They might have information that could lead us to Nicole."

Silverwood, on the other hand, is a new pack, but they've shown their willingness to help. And the rogue pack... They could be wild cards, but they might have their reasons for wanting to find Nicole."

James chimed in, his voice was measured and strategic. "If we choose Bloodmoon, we might face resistance or even hostility. Silverwood could be more cooperative, but we have to be cautious. And the rogue pack... We can't predict their intentions. They might be a risk we can't afford to take."

Liam's gaze remained fixated on the map, "James is right. Bloodmoon... they have always been our rivals. They wouldn't hesitate to exploit Nicole's vulnerability."

Silverwood... they accept all kinds of wolves. Perhaps they have encountered her. And the rogue pack... they're unpredictable, but they might have useful information."

The room fell into a heavy silence, the weight of their emotions lingering in the air. Liam took a deep breath, his eyes filled with determination. "We will proceed. We will choose the path that leads us closest to Silverwood. The pack may have valuable information."

Garrett nodded, his voice filled with resolve. "And we'll keep a close eye on Bloodmoon and the rogue pack. They may hold the key to Nicole's whereabouts."

With the decision made, the pack members dispersed, each one preparing for the arduous journey that lay ahead. Liam's mind was set, his heart ablaze with determination to find his mate.