

## Chapter 105

Instead of the warmth and recognition Liam was expecting, he was met with a cold and distant gaze from Nicole, as if she couldn't recognize him. It felt as though his heart shattered into a thousand pieces, the pain searing through his entire being.

"Charlene?" The Alpha of Silverwood repeated. "Are you Nicole?"

Nicole's eyes widened, She looked from him back to Liam and to Liam's entourage.

Liam could see it in her eyes. She recognized her name. It was as if she was hiding something. It was certain that she was. Determined to understand what had happened, he demanded to speak with his mate alone, away from prying eyes and distractions.

As they found themselves behind closed doors, the tension in the room was palpable. Nicole trembled, her face etched with fear and confusion. She fell to her knees before Liam, her voice quivering:

"I'm sorry, Alpha. I'm sorry. I never intended to do it. I don't know what came over me. I don't know why I killed her."

Liam's breath caught in his throat as he tried to process what Nicole was saying. The weight of her words hit him like a tidal wave, crashing against the remnants of his shattered heart.

"Nicole, listen to me. You have nothing to apologize for. I am here to protect you, not to punish you."

Nicole trembled, tears streaming down her face. "I... I ran away after. Nothing made sense. I remember... I remember hurting Lillian. How could I do that?"

He desperately reached out to her, attempting to explain, to offer comfort and reassurance, but she remained too afraid to truly listen.

What he didn't know at the time was that she had no memories and that the memories that resurfaced in her head were only the moments when he had been harsh or distant, fueling her fear and mistrust.

Each time he tried to touch her, she flinched. Liam was going insane. His wolf was feeling even worse. It whimpered in hurt. This was worse than heartbreak. It seemed like Nicole was trying to hack away their connection to each other.

In a moment of desperation, Liam called in Garrett, who had been closest to Nicole during her time away. He hoped that Garrett's presence would bring her some sense of familiarity and safety. However, as soon as Garrett entered the room, Nicole's expression shifted from fear to aggression.

"You!" She growled, charging at him, a mixture of confusion and anger emanating from her. "You liar! You wanted to destroy your pack!"

James, who had just come in at the time, held her back. The room fell into stunned silence as they witnessed Nicole's unexpected reaction. Liam's mind raced, searching for answers to the puzzle that was unfolding before them.

"He is the cause of this. I remember it now. He wanted you dead, Alpha. He's a witch." Nicole screamed, her wolf almost breaking through.

"Nicole!" Garrett tried to calm her down, but she refused to listen. It was as if she would only rest if she ripped him to pieces.

Just then, the Alpha of Silverwood burst in. Hearing Nicole scream made them think that she was under torture, and to them, Charlene was indispensable in her work of helping the new refugees who suffered violence.

It annoyed Liam to the core. He didn't understand what was happening and didn't like it. Grief and frustration welled up inside Liam as he fought to maintain his composure.

He couldn't bear to see Nicole so lost and frightened, unable to recognize the depth of their connection and the love they shared. Determined to bring her back, to help her reclaim her true self, he reached out to her once more, his voice filled with unwavering devotion.

"Nicole, please, listen to me," Liam pleaded, his voice laced with both pain and determination. "I am here for you, and I will never let anyone harm you. We will find a way to restore your memories and heal the wounds that have been inflicted upon us. You are not alone in this."

Nicole, further recoiling away from him, was the most painful of all. It's like she didn't want anything to do with him. The Alpha of Silverwood led her away quietly. It was as if Liam's heart was being ripped off from his chest.

"What the fuck was that!" Garrett growled as soon as they were alone.

James stroked his jaw in wonder while Liam paced around restlessly.

"It's possible that Lillian's spell did something to her."

"Definitely! But why does she think I'm the perpetrator?" Garrett growled.

"Because Lillian must have appeared to her as you?"

Liam wasn't with them. He needed to know what was going on. The fear of losing his mate began rising in his heart. Just then, Asha's words floated back into his memory. "Lillian's spell!" he exclaimed.

It was then that a chilling realization settled upon the room— magic! Magic had played a role in erasing Nicole's memories, leaving her with fragmented and distorted recollections.

They all stared at each other, understanding and settling in.

"But, for her to remember something..." Garrett trailed off.

"The spell wasn't complete. She knows me, but doesn't remember that we've become mates," Liam said.

"Then you must remind her. You must tell her everything."

And so they asked for an audience again with Nicole. This time around, Liam sat down and organized his thoughts. It hurt that Nicole couldn't remember, but nothing was more important than having her come back.

As soon as she walked in again, he got to his feet. If there was one thing he had to thank Silverwood for, it was how good she looked. Her skin was brighter. She looked truly happy. It hurt. It hurt that his mate was happy in some place where he wasn't.

Liam guided Nicole to a seat, his voice filled with frustration and concern. "Nicole, you need to understand the full story," he began. "We are true mates, destined to be together. You are the witch bane, a powerful force that can counteract dark magic.