

Chapter 107

Nicole sprinted through the dense forest, her heart pounding in her chest, matching the rhythm of her footfalls. Each stride carried her farther away from the familiar into the depths of the unknown. The cool breeze brushed against her skin, the sounds of nature surrounding her like a comforting embrace.

As she ran, her thoughts raced alongside her. The encounter with Liam had left her reeling, emotions swirling within her like a tempest. She couldn't deny the undeniable pull she felt towards him, the way her body responded to his touch. But at the same time, the memory gaps and the fear of the unknown clouded her mind.

Breathing heavily, Nicole slowed her pace and found herself in a clearing bathed in the soft glow of the moonlight. She looked up at the celestial body, its ethereal beauty casting a serene ambiance upon her.

She pleaded with the moon goddess for guidance, her voice a whisper carried away by the wind. "Moon Goddess, grant me clarity. Help me understand the depths of this connection. Show me the path I should take."

She hadn't prayed to the moon goddess in a long time. She believed that it was useless. She believed that the moon goddess didn't care for slaves like her.

The moon shone down upon her, casting a soft glow on her as she continued to run. In the solitude of the forest, she sought solace and answers. Every stride brought her closer to a sense of clarity, though it remained elusive.

Her wolf, restless and eager, howled within her, echoing the turmoil in her heart. It longed for the bond with Liam, recognizing him as its rightful mate. The primal instincts tugged at her, aching to reunite with him, to embrace the love they once shared.

Nicole, finally coming to a stop in a small clearing bathed in moonlight, gazed up at the luminous orb above, her eyes filled with a mix of hope and uncertainty. The moon seemed to hold the answers she sought, its serene presence offering a glimmer of reassurance.

"Please, moon goddess, grant me the strength to face the truth," she whispered, her voice carrying the weight of her emotions. "Guide me towards the path that aligns with my heart and my destiny."

The forest around her seemed to respond, the rustling leaves and whispering wind lending an ethereal quality to the moment. Nicole closed her eyes, letting the stillness seep into her soul. In the silence, a newfound sense of calm washed over her.

She realized that amidst the confusion and doubts, she held the power to discover her truth. She would embark on a journey of self-discovery, unraveling the layers of her past and embracing who she was meant to be.

Maybe it was time to let go of what hunted her and look forward. She smiled. She knew exactly what to do. There was only one way to test Liam's so-called love.

As soon as Nicole got back to the pack that evening, she went in search of Liam. She found him alone in the guest room the Alpha of Silverwood provided for him.

"Hey," she said quietly, and her conscience was eating her up.

"Hey," Liam rasped, the need in his eyes as well as the hurt was evident, and surprisingly, she felt a pang of hurt.

Nicole took a deep breath, gathering her courage as she prepared to share her deepest wounds with Liam.

"We should talk." She said.

Liam swallowed, and she sensed his fear. It was odd to see him so afraid, so vulnerable, and it warmed her heart and hurt her at the same time.

"Okay," he said hesitantly.

Nicole sat the farthest she could from him. Admiring his profile. She watched as he sat down, his gaze fixed upon her with a mix of anticipation and concern.

"Liam, there's something I need to tell you," Nicole started, her voice laced with vulnerability.

Liam gulped and nodded. Running his hand through his hair. It was like he was prepping himself for the worst.

"Before I came to the Dark Moon, my parents were lone wolves. They sold me to Crimson, where I endured unimaginable horrors. I was manipulated, tortured, and abused..."

Liam's eyes widened with shock, which slowly turned to anger. Nicole's heart skipped several beats as she continued. She told him everything. She told him of her sexual assaults, the beatings, the orgies... everything.

Liam's fists clenched, his knuckles turning white as the reality of Nicole's suffering settled within him. His voice was laced with a hint of rage as he spoke, "Nicole, how could they do such a thing? Why... why didn't..."

"I'm not done," Nicole cut in.

With a great effort, she stood on her feet and turned her back.

"Nicole. What are you doing?" Liam asked, his fear pooling in the air.

Without saying a word, Nicole pulled off her top and allowed her hidden scars to show.

Liam let out a low and menacing growl. Afraid that he might find her revolting, she hurriedly tried to put the top back on.

"Don't fucking move," Liam growled and her body trembled. His fear had quickly transformed into anger.

Tears welled up in Nicole's eyes as she nodded, her voice quivering with emotion. "I tried to escape, to fight back, but I was trapped. I was trapped in a world where everyone thought I was the Luna, but I was still a slave to the Alpha's whims."

"These scars... They are... they're a mark of their cruelty."

Unable to contain his fury, Liam reached out and gently traced the scars that marred Nicole's delicate skin. His touch was tender yet filled with an underlying rage. "No one should ever have to endure such pain, Nicole. What they did to you... it's unforgivable."

Nicole craned her neck, heart clenched, fearing that Liam would be repulsed by the sight of her scars. But as she looked into his eyes, she saw something unexpected tenderness. His anger was directed not at her, but at those who had caused her harm.

She took a step away, "Liam, I cannot remember what happened or how you claim we are mates. But someone like me... I'm not fit to be the Luna of your pack or your mate. I'm a mess."

She moved further away and he followed. His hand wrapped around her waist and pulled her into him. Her back hit his hard chest in a way that felt familiar. Her breath hitched as shivers ran down her spine.