

## Chapter 109

Liam's eyes slowly opened, and a smile tugged at the corners of his lips as he beheld the sight of Nicole sleeping peacefully beside him.

The morning light danced upon her features, casting a soft glow that seemed to radiate from within her. He couldn't help but marvel at the beauty that lay beside him. He felt like the luckiest wolf in the universe.

Regret wanted to seep in, regret for ignoring her and mistreating her when she had already been through too much. But his wolf stirred within him, a low rumble of contentment resonating through his being.

It recognized its mate lying beside him and reveled in the fulfillment that came with being in her presence. Liam's hand gently reached out to brush a stray lock of hair away from Nicole's face, his touch feather light so as not to disturb her slumber.

Nicole stirred, her eyes fluttering open as she gradually became aware of Liam's watchful gaze upon her. A warm smile graced her lips as she looked back at him, her voice filled with affection. "Good morning, Liam."

Liam's smile widened, his voice tinged with adoration. "Good morning, my love. I can't help but be captivated by your radiance."

Nicole's cheeks flushed with a rosy hue, and she playfully nudged him. "Oh, stop it, you. You're making me blush."

Her voice was groggy. It sounded like she wasn't done sleeping. It made him beam with pride. He liked that he had worn her out. Now he needed her to sleep to her satisfaction, and then he could feed her before feeding on her.

Liam leaned in, his lips brushing against her forehead in a gentle, lingering kiss. "I can't help but marvel at how lucky I am to have you by my side. You bring light into my life, Nicole."

Nicole blushed deeper and snuggled closer to him, making him chuckle. "I wore you out, didn't I?" He questioned, contemplating going another round that morning.

Nicole giggled, then groaned. Still chuckling, Liam's hand tenderly caressed her cheek. Her fingers intertwined with Liam's as she fell back into a sound sleep. Liam had never been prouder of himself. He grinned at her, carefully studying her like she was the most intricate thing in the universe.

So this is what it felt like? He said to himself. He considered closing the blinds, so his mate could rest well.

"We should go home." He said, his heart swelling. "But you'll rest first, my queen."

Suddenly, a surge of danger jolted through their pack bond, shattering the tranquility of the moment. Carefully removing her hand from his, Liam sat alert. Something was wrong with the Dark Moon.

He looked at Nicole, resisting the urge to wake her up. They needed to be on their way immediately. The sound of urgent banging on the door echoed through the room, snapping Liam's attention away from Nicole's slumber.

Reacting swiftly, Liam sprang out of bed, hastily slipped on his pants, and rushed to answer the door. His senses were on high alert, anticipating the worst. Standing before him was James, his eyes glowing with a fierce golden hue, a clear sign that danger loomed.

Without wasting a moment, James delivered the grave news. "Liam, the pack is under attack. It's Crimson pack; they've launched an assault."

Rage surged through Liam's veins, his grip tightening on the doorknob. His mind raced with a torrent of emotions, knowing that it was the same pack that had inflicted unimaginable pain upon his beloved Nicole.

"Shane is a fool of fools," Liam growled, albeit quietly.

His eyes darted back to the sleeping form of Nicole, stirring in her slumber. He had to act swiftly to protect her and make Shane pay for what he had done. He turned to James, his voice seething with anger and resolve. "Tell the Alpha of Silverwood to keep Nicole safe until I return. I won't let them harm her."

Nicole's eyes fluttered open, confusion etched upon her face as she tried to comprehend the urgency in the room. She sat up, rubbing her eyes, her voice filled with concern. "Liam, what's happening? Why are you in such a rush?"

Liam crossed back into the room, his heart beating faster. He reached out, cupping Nicole's face in his hands and pressed a passionate kiss to her lips. It was a bittersweet moment, torn between the need to protect her and the desire to stay by her side.

"There's no time to explain, my love," Liam murmured against her lips, his voice filled with urgency. "The Crimson pack is attacking, and I need to go and defend our pack. James will inform the Alpha of Silverwood to keep you safe until I return. Trust me, I'll come back to you."

Nicole's eyes widened, her breath hitching. "Shane?" She asked, fear pooled through her body.

Liam grumbled, "I'll get him for what he did. I promise."

"No. Don't. It's my battle." She whispered.

Liam hated the fear in her eyes. "But..."

"Liam, you can do whatever you want to him, but if anyone should kill him, it's me. Please don't take that satisfaction from me."

Liam swallowed but nodded, "On one condition only. You stay here. You stay put."

Nicole tore her gaze away. She wasn't a weakling. She could hold her own in battle.

As if reading her mind, Liam said, "No, you're not a weakling. You're the most powerful wolf I know. However, you've been through a lot lately, babe. Your memories are not fully back."

She nodded grudgingly, allowing the warmth that emanated from him to calm her down. But Nicole was sad. She knew that Liam had to protect their pack, but she couldn't help but feel the ache of separation. "Please be safe, Liam. I'll be waiting for you."