

## Mated To The Beastly Alpha

### Chapter 21

## **Chapter 21**

Nicole sat at a cafe, swirling her drink around in her glass. She was lost in thought, thinking about her past and how it had brought her to this moment. Garrett's words from the day before gave her a lot to think about.

He didn't know it, but his words were exactly what she needed to hear. So she decided to take things into her own hands and come out of her thoughts. She dressed up nicely and found a cafe where she was currently seated.

It felt good to just sit and plan for her future. She decided that she wanted more out of life, especially after all she had been through.

Nicole was so caught up in her thoughts that she didn't notice Garrett approaching her until he spoke.

"Hey there," he said, taking a seat next to her. "You look like you could use a friend."

Nicole looked up, surprised by the sudden interruption. She took in Garrett's appearance, noticing

his warm smile and friendly eyes. She couldn't help but be happy with him. She tried to hide it by wrinkling her nose.

She knew he was referencing their conversation from before.

"Thanks," she replied, offering a small smile. "I could definitely use a friend."

Garrett leaned in, lowering his voice to a conspiratorial whisper. "You know what they say, right?"

A stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet."

Nicole couldn't help but laugh. Garrett was funny, and his words were surprisingly inspirational.

She found herself tempted to open up to him; tell him about the struggles she faced in Crimson, and why she preferred to be alone, but she couldn't dare it. It would lead to deeper questions that she wasn't ready to answer and make him see her differently.

Everyone saw her as the Luna when she was at Crimson; they didn't know of the trauma she had faced. Sometimes, she had terrifying nightmares about Shane and his girls.

Garrett gave her a long stare.

"Look, Nicole, It's tough to start over in a new place," he said. "But it's also an opportunity. You get to reinvent yourself, to be whoever you want to be."

Nicole felt a flicker of hope stir within her. She had never thought of it that way before. "You're

right," she said. "I guess I just need to be more open to new experiences."

Garrett smiled, raising his glass in a toast. "To new experiences," he said.

They chatted for a while longer, exchanging stories and jokes. Nicole found herself enjoying his company more than she had expected. He wasn't as attractive as Liam, but there was something about him that drew her in.

Yet she knew that her body only pined for Liam. It didn't matter that he was harsh and disregarded her. The mark that bound them together stopped her from seeing any other person.

Besides, she could sense that Garrett was mated and was nothing but platonic towards her.

As they talked, Asha and a girl with curly hair and bright eyes approached them.

"Hey, you two look like you're having fun!" Asha exclaimed. "Nice to see you outside on your own, Nic."

Nicole found herself blushing. It felt good to be outside indeed.

"Beta," Asha saluted, Garrett grinned and introduced the new girl. "Rose, this is Nicole. Nicole, this is Rose."

The girl beamed, extending a hand to Nicole. "I'm Rose," she said. "Nice to meet you, Nicole!"

Nicole shook her hand, feeling an instant connection. Rose was bubbly and outgoing, and she seemed to radiate positivity.

They spent the next hour or so chatting and laughing, exchanging stories, and getting to know each other. Nicole felt a warmth spread through her, a sense of belonging that she hadn't felt in a long time.

At one point, Rose leaned in covertly. "So, tell us about you and Alpha Liam. Everyone keeps talking about it," she said, wagging her eyebrows. Nicole felt her face flush. She was immediately flooded with images of their time together. She loved the way he kissed her and touched her. She immediately forgot all the vile things he had said to her.

The pack members talked about their Alpha Liam a lot, didn't they? She was too busy blushing to notice Garrett glaring at Rose. Even Asha looked livid and adjusted uncomfortably on her seat.

She was about to give a silly excuse when she caught herself. How was she blushing for Liam? Something was wrong with her.

Garrett nudged her. "Come on, you don't have to spill the tea. Not now anyway," he said.

Rose looked chastised and was already getting upset.

"Why don't you guys tell me about your Alpha," Nicole said instead.

Apart from Garrett, who watched her sceptically, the eyes of Asha and Rose lit up and they told her about Liam. Telling her about his charming smile and his magnetic personality. She couldn't help but drool as they talked about him.

She listened intently, nodding along and asking questions. They told her all sorts of good things about Liam, making her heart flutter even more. But their conversation was interrupted by a sudden commotion. Nicole turned to see Liam storming towards them, his face contorted with anger.

"What the fvck is going on here?" he spat, glaring at Garrett.

Nicole felt her heart sink. She had never seen Liam like that before, at least not with his pack members, and it scared her.

Garrett smirked and folded his arms, "Sup Alpha, what's wrong?" he asked in feigned innocence.

He ignored Garrett, turning his attention to Nicole.

"Why the hell did you leave the Packhouse without informing me?" he demanded.

Nicole looked up at Liam, her face masked in confusion. Fear that he could lash out coursed

through her body. "Informing you?" She said, gripping her cup tight. "Was I supposed to?" Liam sneered. "I don't care about where you're going but you should let me know," he growled.

"You're yet to be acquainted with this pack. Plus a lot is going on."

His dominance rippled through the air. Nicole felt a jolt of surprise. Liam had never tried to claim ownership of her before. She looked at him, hoping for an explanation, but his glare set a wave of pleasure crashing into her body. She could never control her desire for Liam.

Garrett, on his part, seemed unmoved by Liam's hostility. "I'm just talking to a new friend," he said. "No harm done. It's not like she's running away."

Liam growled. "If you didn't have a mate, I would have ended you. Don't you have things to do?"

Nicole felt her cheeks burn with embarrassment. She didn't like being the centre of attention, especially not with Liam. She could feel jealousy pouring out of Liam.

"Alpha," she said, trying to calm the situation.

"Garrett is just being friendly."

But Liam wasn't having it. He grabbed her by the arm, pulling her towards him. "We're leaving," he said, his voice low and threatening.

Nicole felt a surge of anger. She didn't like being manhandled, especially not before people. She had been through a lot with Shane and she wasn't going to let him put her in that situation again.

"No, Liam," she said, pulling away from him. "I'm staying here."

Liam glared at her, his eyes dark with jealousy. His wolf flashed in his eyes.

Rose and Asha stared wide-eyed and open-mouthed. Alpha Liam was thoughtful, but it was new to see him that way with anyone. Even Garrett was amused.

"Nicole," he growled, power washed out of him, causing Asha and Rose to whimper. "You will not disregard me. You will follow me back. You will not disrespect me. I'm leaving now and I expect you to follow me."

With that, he stormed out of the bar, leaving Nicole feeling shaken. Her body was excited for different reasons. She looked at Garrett and Asha, feeling like she had let them down somehow.

"I'm sorry," she said, her voice trembling. "I don't know what's..."

Garrett put a hand on her shoulder, his touch warm and reassuring. "It's not your fault," he said.

"Liam can be a lot at times. He has a lot of things that he's working on, so he has some issues that he needs to work through."

Asha nodded in agreement. "I promise, Alpha Liam is not like this regularly," she said. "He treats us with respect and kindness."

Nicole felt a lump form in her throat. She had always known Liam to be harsh, but she had never seen him like this before. It made her body buzz with excitement.

Shane had never cared if she was with another person or not; she felt Liam's hostility towards Garrett alone. It confused her because the same Liam had made sure to tell her that he only wanted her for sex.

Garrett seemed to sense her inner turmoil. "Hey," he said, squeezing her shoulder gently. "You don't have to make any decisions about Liam right now. Just take some time to think about what you want. But it's best if you follow him. "

Nicole nodded, grateful for his understanding. She felt a sense of calm wash over her, knowing that she had people she could rely on.

"No. I'm staying here," she said.

Yes, she was terrified. She couldn't imagine what he might do to her for her disobedience, especially since he was Alpha, but she decided that it was time to make a stand for herself. She pushed thoughts of Liam aside and urged them to do so.

Garrett was highly impressed but soon excused himself, leaving her with Asha and Rose. After a few awkward conversations, the fear of Alpha Liam eased off and they became comfortable again. They spent the rest of the day chatting, laughing and enjoying each other's company. Nicole felt better than she had in days, grateful for the friends she had made.

As they walked back to the Packhouse later on, she couldn't help but think about Liam. The new things she learned about him excited her.

It was crazy because she somehow saw that beneath his gruffness, he was a nice person. But it didn't matter because if he couldn't treat her right, then he shouldn't lay claim to her.

But then she owed him a lot, and that gave him the right to do just that. But her conversation with Garrett and co helped her understand that she deserved better than to be treated like a possession. It didn't matter if she was a slave.

She made a decision then and there; she wouldn't let Liam or anyone dictate her life or make her feel small forever. She was going to work hard to set herself free. There was nothing more important than freedom and that was what she needed.

Previous

Next Mated To The Beastly Alpha

Chapter 22

## **Chapter 22**

Nicole walked into the pack house and found Liam waiting for her. His face was twisted in anger, and his body was tense with barely contained fury. "Hey, what's going on?" Nicole asked, immediately sensing the tension in the air. She decided to pretend like she didn't know what she had done.

"You know exactly what's going on," Liam growled, his voice low and menacing. "You disrespected me at the Cafe. I told you to follow me back, but you ignored me like I was nothing."

Nicole raised an eyebrow. "I didn't ignore you. I couldn't just leave like that."

Liam laughed gleefully,

He had almost gone crazy when he discovered that she was nowhere to be found, only for him to find her with Garrett, who seemed to enjoy teasing him.

"You've grown wings. Must I remind you who and what you are? You now speak back to me? Has my mark given you that much audacity?"

"What is it?" Nicole screamed, and her wolf whimpered. It didn't like the argument they were

having. "You said I'm nothing. You remind me every day of my uselessness. You instructed me to steer clear of you. You treat me like garbage and when I do what you ask of me, you come back to choke me up!"

"That's not the point," Liam snapped. "You don't get to disrespect me like that. Have you forgotten who I am? I saved you, remember? I own you."

Nicole's eyes widened in shock. "What? You saved me? You call this saving, Liam? I may be some kind of possession to you, but I'm alive. My needs are beyond what you give me sexually. I'm not some puppet."

"You bear my mark and until the connection fades, you are whatever I say you are." Liam snarled.

"I own you, so you shall do as I ask without grumbling, mumbling, or complaining."

Nicole shook her head, her own anger beginning to rise. "Respect is earned, Liam. You don't get to demand it just because you are Alpha."

Liam took a step forward, his eyes blazing. "I demand it because I deserve it. And if you can't give it to me, then maybe we need to re-evaluate your freedom and rights here. This is my world ex Luna. I rule this place. Whatever I say goes. You're also bound to this same law. Do not let me repeat myself."

Nicole felt a pang of fear shoot through her chest. His dominance held her in a chokehold. It reminded her of Shane. She didn't want to be controlled by him. She was tired. She wanted to be set free.

Yet even as they argued. She found herself drifting closer to him. It annoyed her because she wanted to hate him so badly.

"What do you mean, re-evaluate my rights? Like I have any... " She shot back.

Liam took another step forward, his body now inches away from hers. "I mean that maybe we need to make you understand that your being here is a privilege and let you remember what you are. It seems you are forgetting and overstepping your boundaries."

Nicole's heart was pounding in her chest. She didn't want anything worse than what she was going through now. She wanted freedom.

"I don't know if you can do that, Liam. You should understand that no matter what you do or say, I need to be my own person. I'll always be."

"You're nothing, Nicole." He retorted. His expression hardened and Nicole couldn't help but admire him. "I know you know that. Stop fighting it. I will control you. You are my property. I will control you until you stop being mine. You are

mine, Nicole. Stop fighting it. I need you to understand that I'm not going to tolerate disrespect." Nicole looked up at him, her eyes filled with emotion. "Can't you see that I fucking hate this?"

Smirking, Liam leaned down and pressed his lips to hers. At first, Nicole resisted, but then she felt the heat between them, the undeniable attraction that had drawn them together from the beginning.

As they kissed, all the anger and tension between them dissipated, replaced by a fierce passion that left them both breathless.

When they pulled apart, Liam looked down at her, his eyes full of longing.

"Promise me right now, that you'll never question my authority ever again." He growled.

Nicole smiled up at him, feeling a weight lift off her shoulders. Tremors swept up and down her spine. "I'll try," she murmured.

Liam grinned, a smug expression on his face.

"Good. Because you know what happens when you disrespect me, right?"

Nicole rolled her eyes, a smile tugging at the corners of her lips. "Yeah, I know. You get all possessive and jealous."

Liam chuckled. "Can you blame me? You're mine, Nicole. It's temporary, but you belong to me."

Until you stop being mine, there's nothing you can do. I'm not jealous when I own something."

Nicole leaned into him, resting her head on his chest. She could barely stand or breathe.

They stood like that for a moment, wrapped up in each other's embrace. Then Liam leaned down and kissed her again, his lips fierce and demanding. Nicole responded eagerly, her body on fire with desire. She didn't know what was happening but the resentment she felt towards Liam was somehow easing off.

As they kissed, the world around them faded away, leaving them alone in their own little bubble of passion. And for that moment, nothing else mattered.

Just as Nicole and Liam were lost in their own little world, James burst into the pack house, his face twisted with worry. He jumped back at the sight of them together.

"Alpha Liam, I'm sorry, we have a problem," he said urgently.

"What is it?" Liam asked, abruptly pulling away from Nicole and turning to face James.

Nicole immediately felt bad at the loss of his warmth.

"The witch. We've got a lead. But it seems like we were too late," James said. "Another spell has been cast and random people have attacked a town not too far from us. People are hurt, and

they're still out there."

Liam's expression darkened. "What? We have to go." He said, walking away without sparing Nicole another glance.

Nicole felt her heart crash. A pang of guilt in her chest. She shouldn't be like that. She needed to remind herself that everything they felt was from the mark and once it faded, Liam would discard her. She had been so wrapped up in her argument with Liam that she forgot herself. That something was wrong.

Nicole watched Liam and his team hurry out of the pack house, and couldn't help but feel a sense of unease. The mark was making her worry. It made her feel very stupid. Why was she allowing herself to fall into the same trap she fell into with Shane?

It was fooling because she knew that he would cast her away. Nicole felt her heart sink. She knew that Liam had a duty to protect the pack, but she couldn't help but feel like she was nothing to him.

And it was the truth. She meant nothing to Liam and it hurt. More than anything, she hated the mark that continued giving her imagination and making her hope for something that could never be.

News spread like wildfire about the Dark Moon's arrival at the scene. They said they arrived at the scene of the attack to find chaos and destruction everywhere. People were screaming and crying, and some were lying on the ground, injured and bleeding.

Nicole trembled, she knew what it was like. Feeling brokenhearted and alone, Nicole wandered through the deserted Packhouse, her thoughts consumed by Liam and her fear that he would never truly see her as anything more than a slave. He seemed to want the mark gone, more than anything.

Nicole continued moving through the deserted Packhouse, her footsteps echoing in the empty halls. She couldn't shake the feeling of pain that had settled in her chest. The way Liam pushed her away had left her feeling more lost and alone than ever before.

Her thoughts consumed her as she walked, her mind replaying the words they had exchanged earlier. Liam's jealousy and possessiveness had been overwhelming, and it had left Nicole imagining what it would be like if she was really his mate.

His possessiveness thrilled her. Nobody had ever shown her that they wanted her like that. She

was an Omega. The least wanted and least powerful. No one wanted an Omega. Even her parents

didn't want her. Yet, she couldn't help but feel a sense of fear and anxiety at the thought of Liam discarding her once their mark waned out.

As much as she tried to push it away, she knew deep down that he would never stay with her. He bought her for crying out loud and had repeatedly informed her that it was the mark that made him want her. Not himself.

The pain in her chest grew as she thought about it, a sharp ache that refused to go away. She realized that she hated feeling like she was useless. She had to do something about it.

As she reached the end of the hallway, Nicole leaned against the wall, her eyes closed as she tried to calm her racing thoughts. She knew that she needed to find a way to talk, to figure out a way to move forward with herself. She needed to prepare for the inevitable.

But the fear of rejection and the pain of knowing that she would be thrown away again was too much to bear.

A tear slipped down her cheek as she opened her eyes, feeling more lost than ever before. She had always been the most vulnerable and gullible. Liam had warned her about it. She didn't need to

make a fool of herself.

Nicole let out a shaky breath, trying to steady herself. She knew that she needed to keep moving forward, to keep fighting for what she wanted.

Freedom.

With that thought in mind, Nicole pushed off the wall and continued walking down the hallway.

She didn't know what the future held for her but she knew that she had to try.

As she rounded the corner, Nicole realized that she was making a big mistake by investing her time and focusing on a dead end. She was better than that.