

Chapter 28

Things turned in another direction when Garrett warned Liam for the umpteenth time about the mark that he had imprinted on her. Liam would be lying if he said that he didn't notice that his bond with her was growing stronger. It was against everything he thought and everything he thought he wanted.

"Fear," James said to him one day as they sparred personally.

"Huh?"

"Fear Alpha, fear is the best way to kill your attraction to her."

"What are you talking about?" Liam hissed. Surprisingly, the witch attacks stopped after the incident with Nicole. But Liam was still on the edge. He was still trying to figure out the motivation and motives of the witch while battling his sudden attraction to Nicole.

"You've been very nice lately, Alpha. She's becoming comfortable with you. Cut that off immediately. Do something that will make her see the beast in you,"

But Liam wasn't sure he wanted that anymore. He didn't know what he wanted.

"You're refuting the idea in your head, aren't you?"

"Stop," Liam growled.

"Okay. But in your own words, Alpha, you don't want to be distracted. In your own words, Alpha, you don't want to be tamed, or have you changed your mind?"

"No!" Liam growled,

"Then you know what to do."

Liam felt like he was going insane. He had been the Alpha of the Dark Moon pack for over a decade now, and he prided himself on his ability to lead and protect his people. He was strong, powerful, and feared by many. James was right, but with Nicole being a witch-bane, he had been a lot more sentimental lately.

Garrett had warned him about the dangers of allowing his sentiments to rule his emotions. "If you don't stay away from her, the mark will develop into a bond, and you won't be able to control yourself. You'll mark her again and seal your bond as mates," he had said.

Liam knew that Garrett and James were right, but he couldn't help the pull he felt towards Nicole.

He tried to stay away from her, but every time he caught a glimpse of her, his heart would race, and his wolf would stir.

Unfortunately, her newly discovered powers meant that Liam and Nicole had to work together.

Liam tried to keep his distance, but as they spent more time together, he realized just how powerful and smart and beautiful Nicole was. It was a hard pill for Liam to swallow. He had always prided himself on being in control of his emotions, but the attraction he felt towards Nicole was driving him crazy. He tried to ignore it, to focus on the task at hand, but every time he was near her, he felt like his wolf was trying to break free from its chains.

It was worse since he decided not to touch her. He had tried a couple of things. He had been doing a lot to keep her off his mind. Liam thought having numerous girls would help him clear his mind from the girl who was living under his roof, but he couldn't. Each distance he made drew him closer to her and wanted her.

He decided then to show her the part of him that he kept from his pack. The part of him that he only used in battle. Maybe if she stopped seeing him like the good Alpha his Pack members had made him be, she would hate him, and maybe it might affect the pack. Firstly, he avoided her and let James and Garrett train her.

When they finally met to train for the first time in a while after he had made a plan, Nicole arrived first, and when Liam saw her for the first time in a long time, his wolf was so hyped to see her

that Liam became angry. He hated that the mark made him want something that he couldn't have. "Well, well, well, look who's here," Liam growled as he approached her. "The great one has arrived."

Nicole frowned at the comment, but she tried to remain composed. "Alpha, let's get started," she said, her voice firm and steady.

Liam was irritated that she reacted well to him. As they began their training, Nicole's wolf quickly showed its power. She was able to control her transformations a lot better than before, and her physical strength was impressive. Liam was taken aback by her skills, and for the first time, he showed a hint of respect towards her. It further aggravated him that she was impressing him.

"That was impressive," he said, as they took a break. "I didn't expect you to be that good."

Nicole smiled tentatively,

Liam snarled, throwing his hands in the air. "What's with you? Why can't you see that this shit between us can not work?"

"Who says that I don't know? Nicole murmured.

Sieged by anger, he decided to take matters into his own hands and try to get her to hate him. He hoped that if she despised him, his attraction to her would go away.

Liam grabbed her arm and broke into a sprint. Nicole was finding it hard to keep up, but he didn't stop. His wolf was mad that he was treating her that way.

"What's wrong, Liam?" Nicole asked, out of breath, as he pulled her.

"Nothing," he replied sharply. "Just enjoy it. You'll see when you get there."

Nicole was panting as they zipped through the forest. She had stumbled a couple of times, and he refused to stop. She could tell something was off, but she didn't know what. She tried to make small talk with him, but he wasn't having it.

Finally, they arrived at a clearing in the woods. Nicole looked around in awe at the beauty of their surroundings, but Alpha Liam was focused on something else entirely.

"Nicole," he said suddenly, turning to face her. "You don't know shit about me. What you're seeing is what pack members have told you."

"What?" Nicole asked, confused. She was panting heavily with her free hand clutched on her chest. She wondered if it was some sort of training.

"You don't know me," Alpha Liam repeated, his voice firm. "I can't have you seeing me as some sort of hero, I'm not. Those praises you hear about me are wrong. Do not for one day think that I

can see you as more than what you are. You're nothing to me, so the earlier you get rid of those notions, the better."

Nicole was taken aback. She had no idea what to say to that.

"I don't know, I-I," she stuttered.

"Try to see me as I truly am," Alpha Liam growled, his eyes hard. "I'll give you a reason."

With that, Liam led Nicole to a pack of rogues that he had been tracking. He knew they were dangerous and had been planning to take them down for weeks.

As they approached the group of rogues, Alpha Liam turned to Nicole.

"Watch this," he said, a wicked grin on his face.

Nicole watched in horror as Alpha Liam attacked the rogues. He moved with a grace and ferocity that she had never seen before. His movements were fluid and evil. He didn't spare any of them. He single-handedly ripped all of them apart, growling and howling as he killed them.

One by one, he took them down, his claws and teeth tearing into their flesh. The sound of their screams filled the air, and Nicole felt sick to her stomach.

Finally, Alpha Liam stood alone in the clearing, covered in blood and panting heavily.

"See?" he said, turning to Nicole. "Now you have a reason to hate me."

Nicole's eyes were open, and she was trembling.

"Why?" She asked.

"Rogues," he hissed, "they were rogues. They are in alliance with the witch."

Nicole swallowed, fear clouded her being. But to Alpha Liam's surprise, Nicole didn't look angry or disgusted. Instead, she looked sad and scared.

"Alpha Liam, what's happening to you?" she asked softly.

Alpha Liam was taken aback. He had expected her to hate him and not be concerned about his well-being.

"What do you mean?" he asked in a hoarse manner.

"You're not this," Nicole said, her voice shaking. "I don't know who you are anymore."

With that, she turned and ran away from him, leaving Alpha Liam standing alone in the clearing.

Liam went after her and grabbed her, roughly holding her arms and shaking her.

"Do not be deceived, Omega, you walked out on me and forgot your place. The anger in my veins will make me rip your throat out. You are nothing to me. You're only valuable because you are a witch bane, and once this is over, you become useless. Don't think for a second that I've changed. I'm the same."

Nicole's eyes threatened to pop out as she regarded him. He was surprised by the fear lurking in her eyes. His claws dug into her flesh as he held her. He pushed her away and laughed darkly. He couldn't deny that, even after all he had done, he still found her attractive. He led the training session in front of the bodies he had torn apart. He could tell that Nicole wasn't comfortable during that particularly grueling training session. She struggled and made a lot of mistakes that made him happy. They sparred together, and as the sweat dripped down their bodies, Liam couldn't help but notice how gorgeous Nicole looked. Her eyes were bright with determination, and her skin glowed in the dim light.

They were both breathing heavily, and Liam could feel the tension in the air. Without thinking, he leaned in and kissed her. It was a soft, tentative kiss at first, but it quickly turned passionate.

Liam's hands roamed over Nicole's body, and she moaned into his mouth.

Suddenly, Liam pulled away, his eyes wide with shock. "I can't," he said, backing away from her.

"I can't do this."

Nicole looked at Liam, confusion and hurt etched on her face. "What do you mean?" she asked softly.

Liam took a deep breath, trying to compose himself. "I mean that I can't let myself be affected by the mark," he said. "I can't let myself fall for you, no matter how much I want to."

Nicole's eyes filled with tears. "But why?" she asked. "Don't you feel the same way about me?"

Liam sighed, running a hand through his hair, and then he laughed resentfully.

"Stop being slow to understand," he growled, "every time I kiss or touch you, it's the mark's doing. You're nothing to me. You have never been more than some cheap slut at a bar, Nicole.

Gasping, Nicole turned away from him.

"Don't try too hard, Alpha. I finally understand what you're trying to prove. I've been seeing it all this while, I understand it now," she said, her voice trembling, "you want this fucking mark to fade? Stay the fuck away from me."

Fear and disgust pooled out of her as she talked. It was what Liam had always wanted, but he didn't know why he was so hurt by it.

With that, she turned and sprinted away. And from that day she steered clear of him. She avoided him like he was some sort of virus.

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