

Chapter 84

As Nicole ventured deeper into the forest, an eerie stillness surrounded her. The air felt heavy with an unusual concentration of magic, and yet, it seemed not to affect her. She moved with purpose, her senses heightened, searching for an exit that remained frustratingly elusive.

Every step she took seemed to lead her further into the heart of the forest. The trees loomed tall and imposing, their branches intertwining above her,

casting long shadows that danced eerily on the forest floor. It was a maze of ancient secrets, and Nicole couldn't shake the feeling that she was trapped within its confines.

She tried to retrace her steps, relying on her instincts and the faint echoes of battle in the distance. But no matter which path she chose, it only led her deeper into the mysterious forest. It was as if the very landscape shifted and rearranged itself to keep her ensnared.

The silence was unsettling. Normally, the forest teemed with life and whispers of nature. But now, there was no birdsong, no rustle of leaves, only an oppressive quiet that weighed upon her. It felt unnatural, as if the very essence of the forest held its breath.

Nicole pressed forward, her determination unwavering. She couldn't afford to be trapped in this strange realm, separated from the battle that raged outside. She needed to find a way back to Liam, back to the pack.

As she walked, she couldn't help but notice the peculiar absence of any other living beings. No animals scurried through the underbrush, and even the insects seemed to have vanished. It was a desolate emptiness that sent a chill down her spine.

Nicole's thoughts swirled with questions. How did she end up here? Was this a deliberate trap set by the enemy? Or was it something else entirely, a manifestation of the forest's ancient magic?

Frustration and determination fueled her steps as she continued her search. She called out, her voice echoing through the stillness, but received no response. It was as if the forest had swallowed her words, leaving her alone in its depths.

Just as her frustration threatened to overwhelm her, a familiar figure stumbled upon her. It was Asha, her presence unexpected and unsettling.

"Asha?" Nicole's voice held a mix of surprise and caution. "What are you doing here?"

Asha's eyes held a glint of madness as she regarded Nicole, her features twisted with rage. "You think you can take everything from me?"

"Asha?" Nicole said, but suddenly she disappeared.

Nicole's body ran cold. What she couldn't understand was if she made it to camp or if it was one of the witches' many tricks.

She began to hear more voices. As she trudged forward, the eerie voices grew louder and more distinct. The cries of anguish and pain reached her ears, like echoes of a torment she thought she had left behind.

She recognized the familiar voices of her pack members, their desperate pleas for help cutting through the air.

"Liam!" she called out, her voice filled with fear and urgency. "James!"

But her cries seemed to be swallowed by the ever-present silence of the forest. The voices remained distant and unattainable, teasing her with their haunting echoes. It was as if they were trapped in a different realm, forever beyond her reach.

Amidst the symphony of cries, she discerned the voice of Liam, his pained howls slicing through the air. She could almost feel his anguish, a deep ache that resonated within her own heart. The thought of him in pain fueled her determination to find a way out.

The voices shifted, and suddenly, she heard the venomous words of Shane. His taunting tones cut through the air like a serrated blade, mocking and reminding her of the torments she endured under his rule.

"You thought you could escape me, little Omega?" Shane hissed with sadistic glee. "You're nothing without me. Your pathetic attempts to find happiness will always be thwarted."

Nicole's blood ran cold as she recognized the voice of her tormentor. It brought back painful memories, wounds that had not yet fully healed. She fought back the rising fear, refusing to let the past consume her.

With every step, the voices seemed to grow louder, intertwining and overlapping in a disorienting chorus. She closed her eyes, blocking out the sights of the forest and focused on the voices, trying to discern their source.

"You thought you could escape me, little omega? I will always be with you, haunting your every step. You will never be free from my grasp."

Nicole's heart raced, a mix of fear and anger surging through her veins. She refused to let his cruel words weaken her spirit. She had fought so hard to break free from his oppressive grasp on her mind to find her place in the Dark Moon pack. She wouldn't allow him to drag her back into the darkness.

She clenched her fists, her determination flaring within her. "You have no power over me anymore, Shane," she declared, her voice filled with defiance. "I am stronger than you ever imagined. I've found a new family, a new home, and I won't let you taint it with your venomous presence."

Shane's laughter echoed through the forest, mocking and taunting. "We shall see, little Omega. Your newfound happiness will crumble, and you will come crawling back to me, begging for mercy."

The memories started flooding back, causing her to shake. She fought her mind. She refused to succumb to the mind games the witch was playing with her. She had fought tooth and nail to escape Shane's clutches, and she would not let him nor the witch tear her down now.

The chorus of voices intensified, shifting to different eerie persons as each one stabbed at her heart with its unique brand of cruelty.

"You were always so stupid and weak," her mother's voice sneered. "No wonder we gave you away. You were a burden we couldn't bear."

The barrage of hurtful words pierced Nicole's soul, each accusation echoing in her mind.