

Chapter 89

A mixture of anger and determination welled up inside Nicole. She refused to let Garrett's twisted intentions define her. "You may have thought you had me trapped, Garrett, but I won't let your actions control my fate. We will stop you and you will face the consequences of your betrayal."

Garrett's laughter filled the air, a chilling sound that reverberated through the enchanted forest. "Do you truly believe you can defeat me, Nicole? You're still a pawn in this game, no matter how powerful you think you are."

Nicole squared her shoulders, her eyes blazing with defiance. "Maybe I was a pawn, but not anymore. I am more than the sum of your manipulations."

Garrett's eyes narrowed his own powers manifesting in an attempt to overpower Nicole. "You underestimate me, Nicole. I've studied dark magic and harnessed its depths. You won't be able to stop me. I will not stop until I get what I want. You're just a little irritation."

Nicole growled, her wolf was already in a frenzy. It wanted to rip off Garrett's throat. Yet it sensed that many things Garrett said were lies. It warned Nicole that something else was going on.

It tried to tell her that something about Garrett was not normal. There was a bigger power at play. Nicole was too heartbroken to notice what her wolf was saying. She believed everything Garrett said, hook line and sinker.

"You're going to pay for your deceit," Nicole growled.

Garrett cackled, "No. I'm not. Since you refused to leave even after I told you to, and since you love being the centre of attraction, I'm going to leave the fate of both Liam, Dark Moon and yourself in your hands.

Do you think you can escape? I brought you in here on purpose. Like expected, you fell directly into my trap. We are in a sacrifice portal. You can only leave here after a sacrifice has been made. And my dear Nicole, you will make the sacrifice for both of us."

Nicole's heart jolted. "What are you talking about?"

"Since I cannot harm you as the witch bane, I began to think of ways to get you to do what I want. None of us can leave this place without a sacrifice from one of us.

And I have the upper hand, my dear. I can still manipulate elements outside here. Like now, I'm guiding Liam to this place. We both know that the moment he steps foot into this place, he'll become the sacrifice for both of us."

A shriek made its way out of Nicole's mouth.

Garrett sighed, "Seeing that you love him so much, irritates me. You have another option. Become the sacrifice and save Liam. We all know that there's nothing you can do to stop Liam from entering here. So sacrifice yourself and save him. Or watch him die."

Nicole's heart sank as Garrett revealed Liam's impending death. The weight of his words pressed upon her, threatening to crush her spirit.

She saw the images he projected, Liam fighting with all his might to protect her, to ensure her safety even at the cost of his own life. It tore at her soul, knowing that the man she loved was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Tears welled up in Nicole's eyes as she faced Garrett, her voice filled with anguish and determination. "No... There has to be another way. Liam can't die. I won't let that happen."

"Oh, you won't die if you become the Sacrifice. You'll only lose all memories of him and this place and be transported far away from here. Isn't that what you wanted?"

"I can't... I can't let Liam die," Nicole whispered, her voice choked with sorrow. "But leaving him forever... it feels like tearing out a part of my soul."

Garrett's lips curled into a sinister smile, relishing in Nicole's torment. "Ah, the sacrifices we make for love," he taunted.

Nicole's wolf fought against it. It screamed that Garrett was lying. It was a setup.

Garrett's face twisted into a malicious smile, further relishing Nicole's torment. "Time is ticking, Nicole. Or don't you want Liam to be spared? Choose wisely."

Nicole's heart shattered as she realized the choice she was being forced to make. Her love for Liam was undeniable, but she couldn't bear the thought of him sacrificing himself for her. She took a deep breath, her voice trembling but resolute. "I'll do it. I'll make the sacrifice."

Garrett's laughter echoed through the forest, a chilling sound that fueled Nicole's anger. "I knew you would do the sensible thing. Hold my hands and close your eyes. Be fast; Liam approaches. We have to complete it before he arrives."

Nicole feigned compliance, her heart heavy with sorrow as she moved toward him. But as she moved closer to Garrett, determination burned within her. She couldn't let Liam die. She couldn't let Garrett win. If she vanished without an explanation, Garrett would win because Liam would go feral. And even if he didn't go feral, Garrett could still kill him.

Immediately she placed her hands on Garrett's cold palms, the air around them cackled with energy. Garrett laughed, a cruel smile played on his lips.

Nicole didn't like what she felt. A buzz of energy swept over her and she felt memories of the Dark Moon and Liam erasing.

Garrett whispered a couple of spells and her eyes shot open as she realized that it was a lie. The spells he said, were for her death.

With a sudden burst of agility, Nicole pushed herself away from Garrett, rupturing the spell. Garrett growled, his appearance flickering. Unsheathing a hidden silver blade, she lunged at him with lightning-fast precision.

Before he could react, she slit his throat, the sound of his gurgling gasp filling the air. Blood poured from his wound as he stumbled backwards, his eyes wide with shock.

"You underestimated me, Garrett," Nicole hissed, her voice filled with a mix of anger and triumph. "I won't be manipulated by your wicked games any longer."

But she was stunned by what she saw. She had attacked Garrett, but it wasn't his body that fell dead to the ground. Fear crept through her body.

Although the spell had been ruptured, she felt her emotions and awareness draining away; she immediately knew that the longer she stayed in that place, the more she was likely to die.

So she immediately sprinted away. She didn't know where she was going, but it had to be as far away from the Dark Moon as possible.

What she didn't know was that with each step she took, her memories of Liam faded. She continued running until the only thing she remembered was when he was wicked and mean to her.