

In Love With My Best Friend Chapter 46

Leo

I couldn't move or speak because I was stunned. Was it true that I was her great-grandson? Did I just walk into a relative's home? Who would have imagined such a thing?

I glanced at her without saying anything. For a long time, I had been waiting for someone who would recognise me. When I eventually met someone who claimed to know me, however, I felt compelled to demand confirmation of her assertions.

I didn't want to be taken advantage of. I wasn't eager to believe whatever I was told. But I couldn't think of anything to say. Her reaction was not what I had anticipated.

"Leo," she said with a smile, but she frowned when I continued to look blankly at her.

"What went wrong? Is there a problem, Leo?" She inquired.

I forced a smile on my face. It was strange to hear someone address me by a name other than the one I had become accustomed to during the previous several weeks. I made an effort not to show it. Nonetheless, I believed I was failing.

I cast a peek towards Jace, who gave me a kind nod. I knew he was trying to get me to speak up, but I couldn't. My mouth was open, but no words came out.

"What's going on?" miss Wilma inquired, her brow furrowed in a deep frown.

"He doesn't recall anything about himself, Miss Wilma. He can't even recall his own name. We'd been calling him Jack and tried to find someone who might recognise him, but no one had ever come across him until now," Jace informed her.

The old lady locked her gaze on him for a few moments before turning to face me. Her gaze was drawn to mine, as if she were waiting for answers.

“What’s up, Leo?” she inquired. “You have no recollection of anything? Zoro, how about you?” She asked, looking straight at me.

It added to my confusion. Zoro? Who was that, exactly? I shook my head and furrowed my brow.

“Who is Zoro?” I inquired.

Her lips were parted, and she gave me a worried look.

“I suppose I should scan through your head,” she told me.

She took us into the room. Jace stood behind me, as he always did, offering his support. I drew him in closer and spoke to him.

“Are you certain she’s trustworthy?” I muttered under my breath, when she walked ahead of us.

“Of course. What would she gain by pretending?” he whispered back.

I noticed her pull out a wooden chair out of a room.

“Leo, please have a seat. While I work on you, I believe it would be better if you sat down” she stated

I took a step forward, thinking that the only way to find out if she was telling the truth would be to believe her right now. At the very least, Jace seemed to believe in her.

I sat in the chair, swallowing my anxiety.

She said, “Close your eyes and relax.”

While she whispered something beneath her breath, her chilly fingertips brushed against my temple. I tried but failed to understand what she was doing.

Finally, I gave up attempting to decipher her peculiar language and let her get on with her business.

I felt a nudge in the back of my head. It felt as if a hostile force was attempting to infiltrate my mind. It began as a minor sting, but it quickly became more intense.

It was little enough to be overlooked at first. Nonetheless, soon my head felt like it was about to burst. While attempting to withstand the power, I found myself clasp my fists together. Despite the coldness of the air, I was sweating profusely.

She finally let off of me and took a step back.

“Leo, open... open your eyes,” she said. It was only after I opened my eyes that I realised the force I had felt had also touched her.

She was panting heavily. She took a tissue from Jace and cleaned her face with it. He also offered one to me.

“I couldn’t see anything,” she exclaimed as she sat down on the house’s couch.

“Come here, Jace and Leo,” she said, motioning to the unoccupied seat in front of her.

She slumped back into the sofa, her body lying on the cushion. Perhaps the amount of energy she expended had exhausted her.

“I was unable to access your memories. They were obstructed in some way. Your mind is as big as an abyss. There’s nothing but darkness in there “she said, her face distorted in worry as she looked at me.

I nodded, sighing. “That’s exactly how I’m feeling right now. My past is a mystery to me, and I’m feeling lost. I’m delighted Jace and his family came upon me that day. They were there for me every step of the way. They even paid for my medication and became my pals at a time when I most needed them “I admitted it and cast a sidelong glance at him.

“I don’t think I’ll ever be able to reciprocate their generosity,” I said with a genuine smile that he returned.

He chuckled as he lifted his hand to fist bump me.

He said, “We’re like brothers,” and I agreed. We truly were like brothers.

Miss Wilma’s happy expression told me she was thrilled. She bowed her head and rubbed her palms together.

“I’m glad as well. I now regret not returning sooner from the lycan kingdom. I’ve come to attend a crucial function that I couldn’t miss. I still need to return. I sensed the presence of negative energy in the palace area while I was there, but it didn’t persist long enough for me to follow it down. I’ll return to my work as soon as the event is expired. I will not allow anyone to abuse magic in any way” she said, her gaze turning to me.

“And, Leo, there’s so much we need to get done. First and foremost, we must inform your family members. They are worried sick about you. Your folks don’t get much sleep at night. They’re attempting to convince everyone that everything is fine, but they can’t hide from me, can they?”

Her eyes reflected emotions she’d been suppressing for a long time. My desire to meet my parents grew stronger. As I observed her face, my lips parted. She appeared to be a decent elderly lady. Jace was absolutely correct. What would she gain if she pretended to be someone else? She’s got to be telling the truth about me.

“And there’s Astrea... The poor girl is in shambles. I can sense the melancholy that she is surrounded by,” she went on.

My heart raced a little faster. Astrea... My mate. Miss Wilma had been telling the truth all along. If she wasn’t related to me, she wouldn’t have known my soulmate’s name.

“Astrea?” As a smile grew across my face, I whispered.

“Do you recall her?” She asked, her eyes twinkling with hope.

With a shake of my head, “No, I don’t. But I have a mark on the crook of my neck with her name etched on it,” I told her, lowering the collar of my t-shirt to allow her to see my mark.

Her wrinkled face lit up with a broad grin.

“Yes, indeed! The mark!” Clapping her hands together, she exclaimed. “I’m not sure why I didn’t think of that before!”

She jumped from the couch and stumbled straight to a closed door, which I assumed was another room. We awaited her return with bated breath. She did so while clutching a purse in one hand and squinting at a phone which she held in the other.

“Now... where is her phone number...” she muttered under her breath as she slid her fingertip across the screen.

“Here...” she said, a satisfied grin on her lips. “I’m calling your mom,” she added, putting the phone to her ear and grinning from ear to ear.

My mouth became parched. My...mom?

Throughout the chat, my heart thudded hysterically in my chest. Was she, in fact, talking to my mother? I grasped at every word, wishing I could hear my mother speak.

“Yes. He is now safe,” she remained silent as she listened to my mother speak.

“Both yes and no. I’m afraid I won’t be able to depart right now. If I do, I’m afraid the king will be upset. He had requested that I stay for a few days. Only until the Wizards’ Conference, which takes place every year at the Academy of Magic,” she got off on a tangent.

“Yes, yes, yes. You are welcome to come. Remember to bring Astrea... sure, you can talk to him.”

She smiled as she handed me the device with which to communicate.

I cleared my throat and nervously held the phone against my ear.

“H..hello?” I stated.

There was a brief pause, followed by a sniffle.

“Leo,” a feminine voice said, making my heart skip a beat. I took a big gulp of air. I’m guessing my given name was Leo. But who was Zoro, anyway? I resolved to inquire about him later with Miss Wilma, so I remained mute.

“We’ve missed you, Leo... Wait... we’re heading there...”

The conversation came to an end. I gave the phone to Miss Wilma, who glanced at the blank screen.

“Are they on their way?” she inquired, and I nodded, leaving her with a satisfied smile.

“Umm... Miss Wilma...” I attempted to ask about Zoro. Yet, when she scowled at me, I trailed off.

“What? I’m your great-grandmother. Please continue to refer to me as nanna, as you did in the past,” she said, her lips pressed together in a small pout.

Her expression suddenly shifted to one of sadness as she waved her palm in the air. To my surprise, a scenario appeared in the air, playing out like a movie in front of my eyes. I was speechless as I watched the events unfold in front of me.

Miss Wilma shared the same residence. The interior and furniture were identical to the one we were in.

“Grandma,” said a tall woman with dark hair and blue streaks who hugged her. I was surprised to see myself walking into the room after the lady. It seemed as though I were viewing a taped video.

“Nanna, hello there. I haven’t seen you in a long time,” I hugged her and smirked.

The scene faded away, returning me to the present. Her lips twisted into a sorrowful smile as she stared deeply into my eyes.

“That was a memory from a few years ago. Before travelling to the Lycan kingdom for training, you came to see me with your parents. You used to refer to me as Nanna. So don’t change anything about that,” she requested.

“Nanna,” I responded meekly, smiling.

“Were you going to ask me something, Leo?” she said, nodding.

“Yes,” I said, “who is Zoro?”

“Why, Zoro is your lycan.”

My mouth was hanging open. My ears couldn’t believe what they were hearing. I shook my head and blinked. Maybe I misheard her.

“Excuse me?” I inquired.

She shrugged her shoulders and said, “he is your lycan. Zoro is the friendly beast that lives within you. You see, you’re not like the rest of us. Your mother

is a lycan-sorceress hybrid, and your father is a werewolf. You, too, are similar to her," she gave a kind smile while she explained.

I sucked in a deep breath. I never thought learning about myself would be so overwhelming.

"I understand how perplexing it is," she suddenly commented.

"I've seen into your head. It's completely empty. But don't worry, we'll figure it out together," she promised.

I leaned back and ran my fingers through my hair after taking a big breath. I so wanted to believe her. I sincerely hoped that we could work things out such that everything made sense to me.

"Grandma?"

A female voice called from outside the room we were in. I narrowed my eyes. That voice...

Suddenly the tall woman with dark hair and blue streaks stumbled into the place we were in, followed by a well-built male who had dark brown hair. They gaped at me, shocked and speechless. Another young brunette stumbled in after them.

As our eyes made contact, my heart raced and my breathing hitched. She most definitely was the most beautiful girl I had laid my eyes on.

"Mate," the girl exclaimed, staring at me with glossed eyes.

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Leo

My attention was locked on them as I stood up automatically.

"Mate!"

The girl echoed her previous comment and leapt into my arms. As she wrapped her arms around me, tears streamed down her face. She sobbed into my shirt, and a shudder ran down my spine. As she whimpered and clutched at me, her tears saturated the fabric.

I reluctantly placed my hand on her shoulders. My heart thudded in my chest the entire time. Should I try to get closer to her? I flashed a peek towards Jace, who appeared astonished yet pleased at the same moment.

She glanced at me, sobbing and sniffing, and examined my face.

“Leo?” she asked, her brow wrinkled into a frown as she cried.

I forced a smile on my face.

“A... Astrea?” I inquired, but her frown only grew wider. Perhaps she felt that I was being a bit too distant.

“Leo?”

The couple who had just entered the room approached me. I couldn't help but stare. It would be an understatement to say that I was overwhelmed. My furious heart was really thumping in my ribcage.

“Uh...” I couldn't think of anything to say.

Miss Wilma... no, Nanna, stepped forward after clearing her throat.

“There is a minor issue. This is, without a doubt, our Leo. But, regrettably, he has no recollection of anything,” she informed them.

I gave an apologetic smile as I looked over to the trio who had just arrived a few minutes before.

My gaze was drawn to the young woman who was clinging to me. Her face was tinged with a hint of anguish. I began to feel queasy. If only I could recall them all.

“You don't remember who I am? You have no memory of us?” she inquired, her eyes glossed, as she stared at me.

Despite my discomfort, I nodded. Instead of keeping them in the dark, I'd rather tell them the truth. I have no reminiscence of anything. There isn't a single detail from my past that I am aware of.

“I attempted, but failed, to search through his memories. Someone has harmed him in some way. He has no idea of his origins. It appears to be a never ending void of darkness,” they were informed by Nanna.

Astrea took a deep breath and exhaled slowly.

“I’m sure Calvin has something to do with this,” she stated emphatically.

I c****d my head and looked around the room. They seemed to agree with her. Only Jace and I seemed to be the only ones who were left in the dark.

The tall lady chuckled, “Leo doesn’t understand anything. By the way, I’m your mother, and this is your father,” she explained, pointing to the athletic man who drew me into his loving arms.

My mother wrapped her arms around us, sniffing.

“We really missed you,” she replied, her voice quivering.

I had a smug grin on my face by the time they let me go. I was finally able to find my family. I would have felt elated if I hadn’t been so confused and overwhelmed with emotions.

“Grandma,” my mother said as she turned around. “You say he has a blank mind. Didn’t you get a sense of Zoro there?” she inquired.

Nanna pursed her lips and shook her head.

“Nothing. There was no sign of that friendly beast. He had no recollection of his previous existence, nor did he have an idea of who Zoro was,” she clarified.

“He was rescued by Jace and his family. They found him drifting away in a river, right?” She glanced at Jace, who nodded in response.

“He just told us he discovered him beaten up and unconscious in the water. And they’ve been referring to him as...” Nanna’s voice faded off. She bit her lip as she struggled to remember the name.

“What did you call him?” she asked Jace.

“Jack,” he responded, a sheepish grin on his face. “We had to give him a name.”

As my parents and my mate looked at him, there was silence.

My father inquired, “Y... you mean he was oblivious when you found him in the river?”

In response, Jace nodded his head.

“Yes. He was hardly alive, to be honest. My cousin and I were talking about the possibility of someone attempting to... uh... you know... I’m sorry...” he said, trailing off.

I could sense he was hesitant. It was possible that he wanted my approval before telling them what he and Jett had speculated. He might want to tell them everything because he trusted his mentor and because they were the closest people to me.

He gave me a sidelong glance, and I signalled to him that it was fine to tell them.

Before starting, he took a deep breath.

“We were concerned that someone was attempting to assassinate him. Teeth marks and other bruises were visible predominantly on his right shoulder. He had expended a huge quantity of energy just before he lost consciousness, according to hospital investigations. A lot had apparently transpired, and the more we talked about it, the more hesitant I became to send him away,” he confessed.

Astrea reiterated her prior allegation, “He must have done something. Is there anything we can do to help him relive his memories?” she inquired, her gaze falling on my parents and Nanna.

“Perhaps if we could get Zoro back?” Nanna made a suggestion.

“If it was simply magic, I might be able to help. But it’s not just magic. There was one thing I couldn’t get past. A tenacious wall that wouldn’t budge in his head,” she clarified

Astrea’s teeth were clenched. “That maniac. He had to have given Leo something. I warned you. Calvin is a deranged aspiring scientist. He has a large laboratory where vials and solvents are developed. I’m not sure what he has and doesn’t have... he is insane.”

I couldn't take my gaze away from her. So, Calvin must be a foe. Jace and Jett's instincts were correct. Someone must have assaulted me, and I must have used magic to defend myself. After being hurt, I must have tried to flee but fell into the river, or they threw me into the river thinking I was dead. In any case, if they discover that I am still alive, they may try to attack me again.

"However, I believe that if we can bring Zoro back, he will remember everything," dad said, nudging my mother's arm.

"Do you recall what happened the night we discovered Astrea?"

I was perplexed as I looked at them. My mother laughed and nodded.

"After all, you've already marked each other. I'm convinced you're the one who can bring him back, Astrea," she stated

As she looked at me, her face reddened. I couldn't help but think she looked adorable with her cheeks coloured in a light pink colour.

"Umm..." she said as she took a look around. "Here?"

Her lips were twisted with a shy smile. I cast a sidelong glance towards my folks, who shrugged as if it weren't a problem.

"Yes. After all, why not? When you were feral, Zoro licked your wolf's marking point in front of everyone. That was the catalyst for your return. It might also work with Zoro and Leo," what Dad said, made my eyes widen in surprise.

Zoro did what?

From my peripheral view, I could see Jace's sly smirk.

"Did he?"

Astrea sounded taken aback.

"Yes. You were feral and out of your head. Maybe that's why you didn't see anything that transpired that night," mom clarified

"Imagine my face when my son started licking the neck of my best friend's daughter," dad said, causing my face to flush. Jace let out a snort before quickly covering his mouth with his palm. Astrea's flush had intensified, but she was clearly attempting to maintain her composure.

Mom rolled her eyes and said, "Nolan."

"Right," Nanna said. "I was living in peace if I hadn't known. But, yes, Astrea might be able to... uh... reawaken Zoro."

She drew a small line between her lips.

"Actually," she said as she went out of the room, "I guess I'll wait outside."

Mom cast a glance at her husband. "We have a lot to talk about with grandma," she remarked.

"Do we?"

"Yes!" she said, grabbing Dad's hand and bringing him outdoors.

Jace followed them outside, snickering, touching my arm and winking at me.

I faced Astrea when we were alone and took a long breath to calm my pounding heart.

Her face softened and her eyes widened as she looked at me.

She cupped my cheeks and said, "Leo." She took a nervous breath in.

"I..." she trailed off before grabbing the collar of my shirt and pulling it tight, her lips colliding with mine. I was caught off guard. I'm not going to lie. I was enthralled, and I soon found myself reacting to her lovely lips.

We kissed till I could taste the saltiness of her tears in my mouth. I glanced at her face after breaking the kiss. I wiped away the tears that were flowing down her face.

"Why are you crying?" I asked her, lovingly caressing her beautiful face.

"Leo, the sparks. I'm no longer aware of the sparks, "She was in tears.

My forehead creased. "Sparks?"

"Leo, we're mates. But we were already in love before we realised it. We discover our soulmates in a variety of ways, one of which is through the sparks we feel as our skins brush against each other. It... isn't there," her voice trembled.

“So,” I murmured, “that’s bad. Could Zoro be of assistance? I mean, what if he returns?”

She shrugged and wiped her nose with her shirt sleeve.

“I hope so. Maybe we can reconnect each other with our marks,” she expressed her optimism.

“That mark, you know, is how I learned your name. It was recognised by my friends as a mating mark,” I told her, and she giggled for the first time.

The sound of her laughter made my heart swell. It was without a doubt the most beautiful sound I’d ever heard. I’d go to any length to hear it again.

“They’re right,” she remarked, lowering her shirt’s collar just enough for me to notice a similar mark in the crook of her neck. When I noticed that my name was carved on it, just like hers was, my lips twitched.

While grinning like a fool, I brushed my thumb across it, making her hiss. Fearing that I had harmed her, I hastily removed my hand.

She murmured, her eyes now darkened, “Leo. You seem to have forgotten how that makes me feel.”

“I’m sorry...”

I attempted to apologise, but she pressed her fingers on my lips, sealing them shut.

“No. It makes me feel elated. It’s wonderful.” The way she whispered stirred something in me.

She didn’t look away as she unbuttoned my shirt gently. I took a big gulp. How could somebody have the ability to hypnotise me simply by looking into my eyes? It was... enchanting... It was almost as if our spirits were merging...

While her hands worked, I was captivated by her seductive eyes. My heart was racing, and as she got closer, my breathing became laboured.

She began to brush her tongue over my bare chest, whispering, “I missed this.” My body was filled with waves of pleasure. I took a deep breath and shuddered. Her hands were tightly wrapped around my torso, and her mouth was performing miracles.

When she trailed kisses across my collarbone, I was drowning in a sea of lust. I felt a rush of pleasure run through my body when she planted her soft lips on the mark. It reawakened a desire that had been latent for quite some time. My already wrapped-around-her hands tightened, pushing her in closer.

I was becoming agitated. That was evident by the bulge in my pants. She didn't appear to mind leaning against it. She was pushing her hips against my arousal, in fact.

I sighed. If this was how my mate made me feel, I'd want her by my side for the rest of my life.

She peered into my eyes and smirked after taking her sweet time licking and kissing my mark. She began to unzip my jeans and expertly handle my manhood before I could realise what she was about to do.

"Mine," she snarled, sending shivers up and down my spine.

As she knelt down and took it into her mouth, I was amazed. She bobbed her head, taking the length of my shaft into her mouth with one hand while fondling my balls with the other.

A loud groan escaped my lips. I was ecstatic. It's fantastic. She didn't stop until I reached the peak. I stood there in awe as she licked every last drop away.

"Mine," she said again, satisfied. Her canines grazed the crook of my neck as she wrapped her hand around me for the second time.

"I'll mark you again, my darling. Ash believes it will awaken Zoro," she spoke in hushed tones into my ear.

"Ash?" I asked, still panting.

She replied, "my wolf."

I nodded, "do it."

When she sank her canines into my flesh, I was still giddy after that mind-blowing o****m. I sighed. I assumed it would hurt, but I was mistaken. It ushered in a whole new level of contentment. She licked the wound and gave me a hopeful expression.

“Umm... Is he coming back? Do you have a mental image of him?” she asked.

I attempted to listen to anything while adjusting my jeans. I should be able to sense Zoro’s presence if he dwelt in my head, right?

I waited, but to my disappointment, there was no response. Nothing existed in my head, which was a mute blank.

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Leo

It was a colossal letdown. Everyone was disappointed with the outcome. I didn’t notice any changes after she marked me. It was as though Zoro had vanished.

As numerous thoughts agitated me, fear settled in my heart. What if my beast was no longer alive? What if the substance I was given killed him? It was a frightening concept. I didn’t say anything since I didn’t want to disappoint them any more than I already had.

Astrea was clearly discouraged, but she made a concerted effort not to show it. I was frustrated by the lack of results as well, but there was little we could do at the time.

“So, let’s call it a night and retire to our beds. We’ll figure it out, I’m sure,” Nanna let out a sigh.

“Since it’s getting late, why don’t you stay here for the night?” she indicated, as she cast a peek at my parents.

“We can’t stay. We’ll have to return. When we got your call, Amelia and I were trying to track down the dark energy you mentioned. We can’t put it off any longer. Who knows what they’re up to,” my mother’s brow furrowed.

As I glanced at Astrea, my lips parted. Did this imply that she, too, was on her way out?

“In the Lycan kingdom, a lot is going on. We’re worried that, like the last time, Calvin will launch his next attack during the next blood moon. If he’s enlisting the aid of evil wizards, I’m confident they’ll accomplish something that night. He wasn’t going to be silent for long,” mom said.

“I’ll have to return as well. My squad has been put on high alert. I was given permission to come here tonight. There is still a lot of work to be done. We still need to find the Calvin-affiliated spy or spies among us, and we’re running out of time ,” Astrea told us.

“And the next blood moon’s night isn’t far away,” Nanna murmured. “You must leave. As soon as the conference is over, I will join. It’ll be no more than three or four days at most. If I’m lucky, it’ll be over in two days,” she stated

Astrea gave me a hopeful look.

“Are you coming with us?” she inquired.

I cast a peek over at Jace, who shrugged. I wished to go with them. Despite the fact that my memories were gone, I was certain they were my relatives. They were both my parents and my companion in life.

Nonetheless, I couldn’t leave without meeting the family who had been so supportive of me over the past few months. They had saved my life and ensured me safety and comfort while I recovered. They provided me with a home and treated me as if I were a member of their family. If I didn’t offer even a thank you before leaving, I’d be considered ungrateful.

After taking a big breath, I mustered a smile.

“I’d be delighted to. But before I leave, I need to meet Jace and Jett’s families. I’d particularly like to meet Jett. He didn’t accompany us tonight. I won’t be able to leave without saying my goodbyes,” I told them the truth.

They exchanged nods. They appeared to get my reasoning.

“I’ll be returning soon. I’ll be able to take him with me,” Nanna offered to help.

Mom’s face lit up with a grin.

She answered, “That sounds like a fantastic idea.”

My father ruffled my hair and whispered, “See you soon, son.” Mom and Astrea hugged me alternately before holding hands. Mom gave me a grin before snapping her finger and they were gone in the blink of an eye.

I lay around on the bed for a long period that night, unable to sleep. I couldn't stop thinking about Astrea and my parents. The way she flushed and spoke to me in a shy manner. After she marked me, I could still see her eyes twinkle with hope. The thrill on her face evaporated as soon as she realised I didn't feel anything.

When my mother and father found out it didn't work, I recall how they exchanged glances. They didn't say anything, but I could see they were disappointed.

I sighed and rose to my feet. Why would Zoro refuse to awaken? Was he really gone?

"Zoro?" I called him and waited for an answer. However, all I could hear was silence.

"Come on, if you're in there. You've got to get up," I gave it another shot.

I stopped trying after calling Zoro for a few minutes with no success. I felt like a fool who was talking to himself. I sat back down on the bed and closed my eyes shut once more. I needed to get some rest. I intended to spend as much time with Jace and Jett as possible over these two or three days before I had to leave the kingdom for good.

The following day was jam-packed with activities. Jett and Jace stayed with me all day. I thanked his entire family from the bottom of my heart when they gathered for dinner that night. I knew there would be no adequate words to express my gratitude. Seeing their contented expressions, however, meant a lot to me.

That night, I slept late and was fatigued. My eyelids began to drop as soon as I sat down in bed, and before I realised it, I was drifting off to sleep.

I was shocked when I awoke in the middle of the night. In the back of my mind, there was a pinching sensation. I massaged my temples and shifted to the side, hoping to fall back asleep.

However, I was unable to do so. With the passage of time, the annoyance in my head grew stronger. Wasn't sleep meant to be a restorative experience? I was perplexed as to why my body refused to relax. I was fatigued after a long and hectic day.

I thought I heard something. Maybe it was simply the breeze. I ignored it and buried my face in the pillow. I stayed like that until a stern voice called my name.

“Leo.”

I paused after removing the pillow from my face. Is it possible that I’m hearing things?

“It’s me, Leo.”

The voice spoke once more. I jumped out of bed and took a peek around the room.

“Who?” I inquired.

“It’s me, Zoro,” he said.

As the realisation hit me, a faint breath escaped my lips. Zoro? Really? My lips formed a small smile as they twitched.

“Zoro?” I inquired, eager to hear him speak again. It was surreal, but I had hoped it would happen sooner or later.

“So, what exactly happened? I’ve only recently awoken. I have the impression that this was not a typical night’s sleep. I’m experiencing an odd sensation,” he informed me.

Hearing his words inside my thoughts felt strange. Nonetheless, it was not unpleasant. It was as if my conscience was speaking to me, but instead of imagining it, I could hear true words within my head.

“Uh... Do you recall what happened before you fell asleep, Zoro?” I voiced my thoughts.

“Yes, please! Danisha is a scumbag! She confronted Xander and took action. I believe she possesses magical abilities as well. We need to warn them,” he spat out the words in a single breath.

Meanwhile, I was taken aback by what he had just said. Danisha? Xander? Those were probably the folks in my life before everything went wrong. Danisha had to have attacked both of us. I was curious if she knew Calvin, the man my parents and Astrea had mentioned earlier.

As I analysed the scenario, my heart thudded rapidly. Could Danisha, if she possessed magical abilities, be the source of the negative energy Nanna felt when in the Lycan kingdom?

He interrupted my stream of thought with, “by the way, what is this place? And why are you thinking about such things in the first place? Danisha, of course, is a traitor. Have you completely forgotten about everything?” he went on to say more.

I let out a sigh.

“Zoro, to be precise. Yes, indeed,” I told him what had transpired recently and explained it to him.

He exclaimed, “Damn. I hadn’t expected any of this when I awoke. They must have done something to make me hibernate, I suppose,” he muttered something.

“Wait a moment while I show you what happened previously. Relax and close your eyes,” he instructed.

I relaxed, ready to see what Zoro had in store for me.

It all started during my childhood. In the pack house, I was content to live with my folks. My parents were the beta family. My childhood best friend was the alpha’s daughter.

Astrea. My heart raced a little faster. It was her. Her eyes had the same twinkle in them even when she was a child.

We grew up together, but I was forced to go to train in the Lycan kingdom. I put in a lot of effort to train, and she showed up. We fell in love. That memory brought a smile to my face. She was absolutely correct. We were head over heels in love.

Zoro took me back to the night we discovered we were mates. My parents were right, but then I remembered why Zoro had done it. Astrea got afflicted after being forcefully marked.

The scene dissolved and the action picked up on the day we were attacked. We were on the lookout. It was Danisha... the blond b***h.

I began to feel sorry for Xander. His girlfriend was the one who betrayed us.

“That’s all I recall,” Zoro said. I knitted my brows. That wasn’t all, though.

“Jace and Jett discovered me beaten in the water, and they claim that I expended a lot of energy, implying that I attempted to fight back,” I explained.

“I’m not sure... maybe, If I had been available, you might have shifted to me. You may not have been able to contact me, so you fought with what you had,” Zoro responded. “Make an effort to recall. Did you fight with fire?”

My head hurt as I attempted to think. I began massaging my temples while groaning.

“Or maybe, you could go to bed. However, we must return and warn them. Danisha must go,” he declared emphatically.

I tried to sleep for the rest of the night and closed my eyes.

“Please, Zoro... I’m sure you’re in there! I require your assistance!”

I begged. I was surrounded by blue flames, but it was my current situation that worried me the most. Dirty and bloodstained. My clothing was drenched through and through. Sweat was dripping down my face in beads. I was doing everything I could to heal my damaged shoulder, but it was impossible without Zoro’s help.

Calvin’s lycan jumped over the flames and landed perfectly in the centre of the circle I had formed, much to my dismay.

“Are you trying to connect to your lycan? Too bad he is gone!”

Despite the pain in my body, I tried to fight him off. I wasn’t going to give up. A ball of fire formed on my uninjured hand but before I could shoot, something pricked in my left shoulder, taking me by surprise.

The sound of his menacing laughter made me want to throw up. I was losing hope.

“I won’t lie. I admire your courage. At such a young age and despite losing your lycan, you put up a good fight. You could have won. I would say you almost did. It’s too late now. We have injected the poison into your body.”

Poison? Was he telling the truth to me? I felt every ounce of bravery depart my body. Was this the last straw for me?

I was surprised and drenched in perspiration when I awoke. I looked at the time and then at the curtained window, panting. I slept through most of the day.

“Leo... that nightmare...” in my thoughts, I heard Zoro. I wiped my brow as I caught my breath.

“Zoro... I believe we have just witnessed how we came to be in this situation,” I responded.

He remarked, “Maybe... but that couldn’t have been poison.”

I nod my head, “Yes, indeed. But there’s no doubt he wanted to kill me. It just didn’t work out.”

“It’s time to go back,” he said, his determination growing.

“It’s time to put an end to him for good,” I agreed.

In Love With My Best Friend Chapter 49

Leo

I sat on the bed, freshened up, staring at the blank screen of my phone. Jace had graciously loaned me one of his old phones so that we could communicate. But now that my memories had returned, all I wanted to do was get in touch with my relatives. My mate, especially Astrea.

I dialled her phone after debating whether or not I should call. Before she answered the phone, it rang a few times.

She responded professionally, “Hello, General Astrea speaking.”

My heart skipped a beat as a smile tugged at my lips. I hadn’t heard her wonderful voice for much too long.

“Hello?” she inquired once again.

I swallowed my saliva and cleared my throat.

I said, "Hey."

Then there was silence, followed by a gasp.

"Leo?"

As she yelled out my name, I could feel her smile.

"How? I didn't give you my phone number... hold on" exclaimed she.

"Did you... did you recall?" She sounded optimistic. "Do you recall my phone number? Do you remember everything that happened?"

I laughed out loud. She sounded like such a sweetheart.

"Is that really Leo?"

On the other end, I heard another woman talk. My smile vanished as a result of that voice. Danisha. She was accompanied by that scumbag. Was she still trying to pass herself off as a helper?

"Yes." I took a big gulp of air when I heard Astrea reply to her.

It's too late. I didn't want Danisha to know I was still alive. That, though, was no longer an option. My teeth were clenched. The next best thing I could do was keep Zoro hidden from her. I would allow them to believe that Zoro is no longer alive at the moment. I would tell the people I trust when it's more convenient for them.

"Astrea, I got the number from my Nanna," I winced as I lied. I despised lying, especially to her. But it had to be done this time.

"Oh," she exclaimed, her voice quivering. I was remorseful for lying. When she asked about my memories, she seemed ecstatic, but it vanished as soon as she heard my response.

"Anyway," she sighed, "it's wonderful to hear from you."

I was careful not to divulge too much information as we spoke on the phone. The risk was too great because Danisha was still working closely with them. I wanted to tell them everything at times. I wanted to tell the truth, but I decided to keep quiet. If I was going to accuse her of something, I wanted to be able to

back it up with evidence. Grandma might be able to assist. She might be able to access my memories now that they're back.

I chatted with my parents as well as the others. I was in tears by the time the call finished. I yearned them, and it was difficult to act as if I didn't remember them when all I wanted to do was tell them how much I missed them.

I walked downstairs in search of something to eat. I'd missed breakfast, but I knew there would be something in the kitchen to reheat and eat.

In the microwave, a plate of spaghetti and meatballs awaited me. After reheating it, I took it with a satisfied smile. My mind was wandering all over the place while I satisfied my hunger. The traitorous Danisha was still among them.

"I need to tell Nanna," I said quietly to myself.

I picked up the phone and dialled Nanna's number, but it went to voicemail right away. Her voice note told me that she was at a conference and wouldn't be able to answer calls or texts until it was over.

My lips were pursed. She had never been a fan of cell phones. She used to refer to it as a nuisance because everyone seemed to be busy on it most of the time. Despite owning one, she wasn't really fond of it. She probably turned it off because she found it distracting.

I muttered to myself, "I guess I'll have to wait."

The conference lasted three days, which seemed interminable to me. I attempted to contact her several times but was unsuccessful. I even attempted to get Jace to make an appointment for me, but she was completely booked. Her day began early, and by the time she arrived home, it had already passed her by. I had no choice but to wait until the conference was completed before speaking with her again.

I was overjoyed on the third day when Jace informed me of Nanna's plans to leave that night. Jace and Jett accompanied me to her place that night. The entire ride was deafeningly quiet. Jace sighed heavily as he parked his flying automobile in front of Nanna's house.

“Keep yourself safe, guy. I believe you are putting yourself in grave danger. Those who have previously attacked you will undoubtedly try to do it again,” he warned.

“I understand,” I said.

“This time, however, I’m conscious. I know who is trying to stab us in the back, and I’m not going to let them succeed this time,” I told them firmly, determined to put an end to it for good.

We all walked into Nanna’s home together. She appeared to be completely ready to depart.

“Ready?”

As soon as she saw me, she inquired.

I told her, “Yes, Nanna.”

“Stay in touch,” Jett said, and Jace followed with a brotherly hug.

I told them, “I’ll miss you guys.”

As he touched my shoulder, Jace flashed a lopsided grin.

“Perhaps you’d be too preoccupied to miss us. Don’t forget about us, but,” he made a comment.

“Come,” Nanna said, interrupting our bittersweet moment. “We have to get there as fast as we can!”

My heart skipped a beat when I heard her desperate statement.

“Can you tell me what happened?” I inquired, concerned about what Danisha may do.

“I’m hoping there’s nothing wrong,” I added.

“Things aren’t quite right. The next blood moon is approaching, and I’ve been warned that the dark energy I’ve been sensing is becoming stronger by the day,” she informed us.

“Dark energy...” I mumbled.

“Yes, yes, yes. I dialled your mother’s number as soon as I could. She and Amelia are putting in their best effort. We need to deal with the dark wizards...”

“In fact, Nanna. There is something I believe you should be aware of,” I cut her in and told her all I knew.

We were at the Palace in the blink of an eye. Everything was ready for us as we walked into the foyer. I was relieved to see everyone who cared about me, despite the craziness that kept them on their toes. My family and friends. My parents, my mother, and my mate’s parents. In addition, some members of the Dark Howl pack, including Amelia and her mate, Elijah, and the whole royal family, particularly Xander. I smiled at my new friends. Sarah, Allan, Elena, and Rafael are the members of the group. It was great to see everyone.

Arnold was the only one of us who wasn’t present. My fists were clasped. I couldn’t help but think it was all tied to Danisha. She had to be the one who let Natasha get away. After all, they were great friends. The night Allan was poisoned, and the night Zelda was kidnapped... only someone with easy access to the security system could have done it. Danisha was a fantastic fit.

I gazed around the foyer, attempting to detect her presence. After sniffing the air, I smiled because I didn’t detect her scent. She was not present.

I informed them, “There’s something really vital you all need to know. It can’t be put off any longer. I had to tell you now rather than later. Somewhere a little more secluded, ” I stressed.

The royal pair exchanged a few glances before motioning us to the conference room.

“What exactly is it, Leo?” As soon as the door shut behind us, Sir Elliot asked.

I turned to face them after taking a long breath.

I informed them, “I recall everything.” Their expressions brightened, but I quickly resumed speaking.

“I recall the night we were assaulted, and I saw who attacked us,” I said, and the room fell silent.

Everyone sat quietly and listened to what I had to say.

“Can you tell me who it was?” The Queen inquired.

“Danisha,” I said, and I looked at Xander, who looked surprised.

The awkward silence that followed was deafening. I asked Nanna for assistance, and she nodded.

“I believe I can display his memories for us to see now that he has remembered everything. So, how about it?”

I smiled and took a step closer to her. She put her hands on my head, and the events of that night began to play back in my mind. When Danisha attacked Xander, I heard someone gasp out. I attempted to strike her, but she hurled something at me, and I fell under her spell as well.

My mother exclaimed, “That’s not normal.”

“No, it’s not. That’s magic. Who is this mysterious young lady? Do you know her origins?” Nanna was the one who responded.

The Queen was shocked for a few moments before frowning and shaking her head.

“Yes. Her parents are both outstanding Lycan citizens. They are ordinary people, but she is a dedicated worker,” she cast a glance at her son, who remained perplexed.

“Wait... wait... Perhaps that isn’t her. Perhaps she was impersonated. Someone impersonated Leo that night, you know,” he made the point.

My brows drew closer together. I couldn’t figure out what he was saying.

“What do you mean?” I inquired.

“Someone turned off the CCTV system that night, and all the evidence points to you,” he added.

“What? Me?”

I was taken aback.

“Yes. After casting a spell on the guards on duty, you enter the security room and switch it off, according to the film. We didn’t trust them when they said it was you. We have faith in you. However, I cannot make the same statement about the rest of the kingdom. Some of them assume it was you who did it,” Sir Elliot elaborated.

“Holy fish balls,” I said quietly as I stared at him.

“So that must be the source of the negative energy. I believe we should inspect all of the chambers as well as all of the warriors. Especially those who work in close proximity to us, ” Nanna made a suggestion.

Nanna, mom, and Amelia tried to keep an eye on the employees, especially the warriors and janitors, who worked with us. Meanwhile, Astrea and her team went about their business, while Xander and I chose to scout the palace garden since the guards on duty had been brought in for questioning.

“Did you get really beaten up to the point that you lost your memory?” As we walked through the shadows, Xander inquired.

“I suppose. They also injected something into the system. I’m not certain...”

I took a detour due to an unpleasant odour. Why would anyone be in the garden in the first place? Except for us, no one else was supposed to be there. It was a little strange that they were in an area where they weren’t supposed to be.

I looked over at Xander, who was also on high alert. He had sensed it as well. We surveyed the area silently for any signs of life. We observed that a shadowy figure was standing quite far away from us. Perhaps the scent of the invader was blown by the wind towards us.

Before the intruder was alerted, Xander took some of the wolfsbane lotion to erase our scent. We drew nearer to the enigmatic figure to spy on her and were surprised when a familiar female voice spoke.

“It’s a disaster. I’m not sure if he recalls anything, but this is critical. Notify the boss. Inform him that he has returned,” she added, pausing for a moment.

“No! I’m sorry, but I’m unable to leave right now. Not even for a fraction of a

second. If I teleport, the wizarding kingdom's old hag will immediately recognise me. They are getting too close..."

"Yes. We have to put an end to him. We won't be able to keep him alive. I can't risk his memory returning. Not after what he had witnessed. If that happens, I'm afraid everything is over," she stated

"This must be completed. Whether it's a blood moon or not, it's time to attack! I can't take the chance of them marking each other and ruining everything again," she went on.

"Yes, yes, yes I've put the potion in her drink. The spell will now speed up, and she will change in no time. I'm holding my breath..."

Xander grabbed my arm and bolted into the Palace. I attempted to keep up with him, but he was lightning fast. He dashed into the room where the others were working and barged straight in.

In between deep gasps of breath, he tried to warn them by frantically waving his hands.

"Quick! She's the one! She's the one! She..."

"Who?" A familiar voice interrupted his speech.

Wide-eyed, I drew my gaze to the attractive blond who stood at the entrance.

In Love With My Best Friend Chapter 50

Leo

As she sauntered inside, her eyes set on Xander, and it appeared to me that she was attempting to read him, I was stunned.

"What exactly are you talking about, Xan?"

I was completely taken aback by her simple speech. She was a natural actress. I would have believed she was innocent if I hadn't seen what she did months ago or heard what she said over the phone only a few minutes ago. Her fragrance was also a mystery. When she was in the garden, I couldn't help but notice how different she smelled. We thought a stranger had broken into the security system, but we were mistaken. And all of a sudden, she

reeked of her familiar scent. It was bizarre. Without a doubt, it could only be a work of magic. I couldn't fathom how someone could change their odours any other way.

On the other hand, Xander was shooting daggers at her. He was definitely enraged. She'd already be six feet under if looks could kill.

"You!" he yelled angrily, pointing a finger at her.

"You deceived me! While stabbing us in the back, you messed with my emotions! You're associated with those thugs! The entire time, it was you!"

His shouts reverberated throughout the room. Xander trembled with rage. I'd never seen him so enraged before. He was typically laid-back and calm, but this was a completely different side of him.

She looked around with a grimace on her face.

"Xander, what exactly are you talking about? I... I'm not sure..."

I could see she was faking it. She was a natural at it, but she'd been acting for far too long.

"Enough!" Xander yelled, his knuckles whitened from the intensity with which he grasped them.

"I've had enough with your lies! I overheard you talking on the phone with the thugs. Nothing will be able to change the fact, Danisha. Not even your enchantment!"

The words were literally spat out of Xander's mouth.

"Danisha, put a stop to it. Your secret has been revealed. You won't be able to fool us any longer," I stated firmly, my glare fixed on her.

Her expression shifted in an instant. Her eyes darkened abruptly, and I thought they had changed colour from piercing blue to chocolate. Her lips parted briefly as her eyes honed in on me.

"So you've returned. You remember everything, right?" She guffawed. Surprisingly, for someone who had been caught red-handed, she appeared to be rather relaxed. She didn't appear to mind being surrounded by her adversaries.

“So it’s true,” the Queen said as she took a step forward. “Arrest her!” she commanded, as several guards rushed to carry out her orders, but a force field encircled her just in time. Anyone who attempted to break through the field was flung across the room by an unknown force.

Nanna attempted to strike her with a bolt of lightning, but it was rebounded.

“Watch out!” I shouted and dove for cover. The lightning bolt struck the wall, creating a large barge, but no one was wounded.

Danisha made no move to flee. Instead, she burst out laughing. Her laughter was unsettling, and the idea that she was shielded by magical energies was alarming.

“Do you honestly believe this will deter me?” She screamed, her voice breaking through the din of the room.

“It’s too late,” she grinned, snapping her fingers, “and there’s more than meets the eye.”

The air around her swirled and she vanished from view before I could realise what she had done.

“It’s a ruse! She’d teleported into the woods, right?” Nanna was hysterical.

“I overheard her talking to the rogues. They must be on their way to attack right now!” Xander promptly informed them about the conversation we heard in the garden.

“She had specifically told them to attack now!” He added, stressing on the seriousness of the matter.

“Quick! Bring in the troops!” Sir Elliot immediately began barking orders. The warriors ran around, and the entire area was quickly engulfed in chaos. I scanned the area, hoping to locate Astrea. She was not present. I sniffed the air for a whiff of her scent, but there was none.

“Can you tell me where Astrea is?”

When Sarah began to zoom past me, overwhelmed by the sudden change in plans, I asked her.

“I’m not sure. When we were on the lookout, she was with us. She went to use the restroom, and then I’m not sure what happened. Since then, I haven’t seen her” she retorted

“Is there anything you had to drink... I mean... Did she have any drinks?” I inquired, hoping she hadn’t actually consumed anything, especially if it had been provided to her by that scoundrel.

“Yeah. We drank some energising drinks,” she took a look around. “She must have arrived by now...”

“I’ll keep an eye out for her. You’re going to join the others, aren’t you?”

I dashed over to where her team had been stationed previously, after she sprinted to join the army.

My mate’s scent lingered faintly in the air, causing my racing heart to calm down a little. She had been with them, but where had she gone now?

“We need to find her, Zoro. We need to mark her now if what we heard from Danisha is genuine. Maybe then we’ll be able to free her from the enchantment,” I said.

“Follow her fragrance. We’re in this together. We must not allow anything to happen to our mate,” he consented.

I went with my instincts. It led me to the restrooms, but before I could get there, a rumble swept through the air, freezing me in place. That sounded familiar...

“No...” I breathed out as I dashed towards the source of the sounds. It came from the outside. As I rushed out of the palace, my heart thudded madly in my chest. Everyone had already gathered to battle. Unfortunately, we didn’t have the same amount of time to prepare as we had the last time. The rogue army had apparently been planning this for quite some time. They wouldn’t have been able to enter the perimeter so quickly otherwise.

Outside the palace, all hell had broken loose. Innocent individuals were fleeing for their lives. Some of them were not as fortunate as others. Several civilians were already dead in their bloody pools. While some of the young and sick were murdered, men and women attempted to get the remaining to safety.

It was a heartbreaking scene to witness. With a shake of my head, I expressed my dissatisfaction with the situation. It shouldn't have turned out this way. I took a quick survey of the surroundings. My attention was drawn to a bipedal wolf who appeared to be out of her wits. I grasped my fists and clenched my teeth.

Calvin must have worked out that even if she battled us to death, we wouldn't attack her.

"Ash!" In my head, Zoro whimpered.

I immediately transformed into my lycan. It would be safer for me to let Zoro approach her if she was in her wolf form.

A familiar lycan, though, leapt in front of me and showed a menacing grin. I focused my gaze on him.

"Zoro, the Lycan in our nightmare..." I muttered.

"Kali, why am I not surprised? You're as twisted as your human," Zoro narrowed his eyes on him.

So this must be Calvin's Lycan.

Scoffing, "so I hear you came back from the dead," he snarled.

"Or perhaps you misjudged me," Zoro hissed and swung his first fist landing it on his jaw.

Kali stumbled backwards, but he quickly recovered. As Zoro fought Kali, I cheered for him.

"Zoro, burn him!" I urged.

Kali was a difficult opponent to overcome. Especially considering he was fighting for death. Honestly, that should be our goal. There wasn't another way out. If I didn't kill him, he would gladly finish me off. He had almost succeeded once. The issue was that he was older and had more experience than I had.

He took advantage of his experience and choked us by grabbing Zoro's neck. As Zoro battled to breathe, my entire life flashed before my eyes. He struggled to break free, but Kali was a formidable opponent.

He snarled, “She’s mine! I’d like to have you observe how I claim her, but you’re too obstinate. I’m sorry, but I have to finish you off first!” between his clenched teeth, he growled.

“But here’s something I’d like to share with you. I’m going to make her mine. Every single day, I’m going to mark her and f**k her...”

I felt a surge of rage. I despised hearing him talk so disparagingly of my mate. Zoro pierced Kali’s flesh with his claws, causing him to cry in pain and loosen his grip on his neck. Zoro inhaled deeply and buried his claws deeper into Kali’s arms.

“Kill him!” I growled.

Zoro made no attempt to communicate. He sank his claws into Calvin’s throat and ripped it out, putting an end to the nightmare named Calvin.

I chuckled. I liked how he was lifeless in a pool of his own blood. And I admired how Zoro didn’t spend time making inane remarks. Calvin had already created enough havoc.

I took a quick survey of the surroundings. The conflict had not yet come to an end. The lycans were battling the rogue wolves. Several of them have evolved into bipedal wolves, making them more difficult to fight than regular rogues. They had indeed prepared properly for this fight. Nonetheless, I was positive that our warriors could defeat them.

I knew Nanna and the others with magical abilities were assisting the Lycan army. So, I chose to concentrate on Ash, who was wildly ripping at anyone who dared to confront her.

I told Zoro, “We have to figure out a way to mark her.”

He answered, “There could only be one way.”

Her pupils were dilated and her eyes were bright red. As she growled into my face, drool dripped from her jaw, She was going to claw at my chest, I knew it. Zoro also was aware exactly what she was about to do. So, just as she was about to rip through our flesh, he grabbed her hands and yanked them back together.

When Zoro's claws mistakenly dug into her arms and injured her, she hissed in pain. I winced. I didn't want her to feel even the slightest bit of pain, but there was no other way we could have kept her under control without enlisting the support of others.

She screamed into Zoro's face, making it difficult for him to constrict her untamed movements.

"Ash, snap out of it!" I muttered beneath my breath.

Urging Zoro to hold her still, "don't let go of her," I said.

We both fell to the ground as she attempted to break away. It wasn't safe because she was constantly attempting to injure Zoro with her razor-sharp teeth. Anyway, she was our soulmate, and her bite would be far from fatal to us.

Zoro managed to pin her to the ground and straddle her throughout our fight. We were doing everything we could to keep her safe though she sought to cause harm. She did expose her neck on occasions, but only for a few seconds. If we were quick enough, we might be able to brand her.

"Do it, Zoro!"

"But... she keeps moving..." he said, his voice strained from the constant fight.

"Just go for it! That's the only option," I was tense.

Zoro kept attempting to get a perfect aim. Finally, he managed to hold her in place and tenderly bite her neck after a number of fruitless efforts to gain access to her marking site. I could feel her stiffening beneath us. It was relieving that the matebond was assisting us. He took advantage of the situation and dug his teeth deep into her marking site.

She let forth a deafening shout. Because she wasn't aroused, I knew it would hurt, but I didn't have much of a choice. To save her, I had to brand her. As we injected our essence into her bloodstream, she gradually relaxed, but we made sure she couldn't move until the marking was complete.

She had entirely calmed by the time I retracted my canines and licked the mark clean. I sat up and glanced at her, hoping to catch a glimpse of her

hazel eyes gazing lovingly into mine, just like she always did. My chest tightened with panic as I realised her eyes were closed. She was unconscious. She began to morph back to her human shape in that state, much to my dismay.

“s**t! This isn’t good!” I let out a gasp. Zoro shifted gears quickly and handed over command to me.

“Rea!” I frantically cried out, hoping to wake her up. Alas, she remained silent.

“No, no, no. This is not happening,” I coughed as I hurriedly scooped her in my arms and dashed to the hospital.

The battle was far from over, hence none of the wolves seemed to mind me rushing a naked female towards the infirmary. Yes, she wasn’t clothed, but it was the least of my worries.

All I wanted was my mate to be safe.