

## CHAPTER 12: THE GAME IS ON

Claire stood looking at the moon with a smile, reminiscing about her date with Sebastian. His words 'I will stay by your side' echoed in her head and she chuckled, feeling her heart fill with joy. She had found her Sebastian again and almost everything in her life turned okay with his presence. Almost, except for the bane of her existence. At the thought of her so-called boyfriend, Claire's smile turned sour and she grimaced. Why did she have to remember that thing when she was having such a good time?

"Does being with Alpha Sebastian make you happy?"

A voice asked out of the blue, startling Claire who turned towards the newcomer with a frown. Talk about the devil and he shall come!

Inside her room, leaning against her bedpost, Liam stood with his arms crossed, looking as if he owned the place. Ugh. This stupid creature and his audacity never gets old!

Meanwhile, Liam glared at Claire, pissed off at her for her closeness with Sebastian. He had been wary ever since he watched them together in the woods the night of the party.

In the morning, he had asked Diana to follow them and hence he knew how they both spent the morning together, happy in each other's company. How could he just let it go when his entire future depended on having Claire besotted

with him and handing over the Alpha title to him on a platter? He can't just let another man sneak in and steal what belongs to him! He needed to take care of this matter before it got out of hand!

Claire pasted a smile on her face as she walked over to Liam who stood lost in his thoughts.

"Hey darling! I was just thinking about you!"

About how I would love to feed you to the crows and dance on your grave!

"Oh, you were?" Liam asked, perking up a bit. "Of course. I always think about you." A thousand ways to torture you, making you regret every cruel deeds you ever did in all your lives.

"Aww, babe. I too always think about you," Liam declared.

'About killing me of course,' Claire thought while smiling at him through gritted teeth.

Before he could go back to the topic of Sebastian, Claire decided to divert his attention by giving him a little surprise.

"Darling, you know how much Diana means to me, right?"

"Of course. She is your best friend. How wouldn't I know that?"

Of course you would know her inside out...

"I am so lucky that I found you, babe. You just complete my

existence," Claire spat out poetically trying not to grimace. She smirked for a moment before wiping it off her face and pasted a loving smile as she saw Liam's boasting grin at her declaration.

"Right back at you, babe!"

'Really? He can't even bother to respond with something equally poetic? I mean it is not like I want to hear his stupid poetry but he didn't even try here. Right back at you? What kind of a response is that? Asshole!' Claire thought with annoyance before smiling at him.

"You know I adore Diana like she is my sister. So when I am this happy, how can I let her be miserable?"

"Miserable?" Liam asked with a frown.

"Miserable and alone without a mate," Claire repeated with a smug grin and watched with glee as all the blood drained off Liam's face.

"What do you mean, babe?"

"Let's find a mate for Diana! You will help me find the perfect man for her, right darling?"

Liam gulped, visibly turning green at the thought of setting his mate up with another guy and Claire grinned. You deserve this and more!

"Why would we do that, babe? She will have a real mate out there waiting for her. He will be the perfect one for her. We

can't do better than that right?"

"You mean you are awaiting my death to be her perfect mate?"

Claire rolled her eyes at Liam.

"Did we wait for our mates? Aren't we happy? Do you think our mates could have been more perfect for us than we are for each other?"

Ha! Now what will you say?

"No, babe... But..."

"But what?"

"Um. Let's don't hurry into any decisions. We will talk about it later." Liam said and before Claire could reply, he hurried on. "Now let's stop thinking about others. I came here to say something else before you distracted me."

Hearing his tone full of accusation, Claire smiled, knowing full well his grievance was only about her trying to find another man for Diana.

"Alright darling. So what did you want to say?" Claire said without fighting him anymore. She couldn't make him suspicious after all.

"Let's go out for dinner tonight," Liam declared, looking mighty pleased with himself. As if taking her out a night was a big deal. Sadly, it would indeed have been a big deal for

her in another life. Not anymore...

Claire smiled at him, a quick plan forming in her mind.  
Alright. Let's play!

"Wow, babe! I would love to go out with you. I am so excited,  
" she droned on in an excited tone much to the pleasure of  
Liam.

"Let's go to your favorite restaurant, the Midnight Dreams.  
Get ready,babe," Liam announced before strolling out of the  
room and Claire grinned evilly. Just wait, you rat!

Setting her plan into motion, Claire decided to call for  
Eunice to get her help. As Eunice arrived, Claire smiled,  
seeing the radiant glow on her face that refused to fade  
after her date with Devin. They both were so perfect  
together that Claire wanted to squeal every time she  
glanced at them together. So cute!

"So what are you up to now?" Eunice asked with narrowed  
eyes, seeing Claire's grin.

"Who? Me? Aren't I an angel?" Claire asked with a sly grin.

"Angel my ass." Eunice raised her brows. "Now spit it out,  
girl!"

"Nothing evil, I promise. I was just thinking of finding a man  
for my darling bestie Diana."

Eunice grimaced hearing Diana's name.

"A man for her? Seriously?"

"Of course. After all, she's my best friend right? It's my duty."

Eunice just stared at Claire with a blank face.

"How can I make you understand? She really doesn't deserve it," Eunice sighed.

Claire bit her lips to keep from laughing and smirked at Eunice.

"So what do you think about James?"

"James?" Eunice asked with a puzzled frown.

"James Maddox, the warrior?"

"I know who you meant. It's just... why are you talking about that guy?" Eunice asked, distaste evident on her face.

"Why? Wouldn't he be a good match for Diana?"

"If there is ever a perfect match for Diana, that would be him. Both equally rotten," Claire muttered under her breath before freezing. "Wait, what? Did you just ask me if James Maddox, the infamous womanizer of the pack, will be a good match for Diana, your 'best friend'?" Claire shrieked, emphasizing on the best friend part.

Claire smirked at Eunice in response. Seeing her vengeful look, Eunice gasped in wonder.

"You know..."

"I do, Eunice. I got it really late, but now I really know what you always told me."

"Oh Goddess! This is such great news! You don't know how much I was worried for you. I was really scared she was going to betray you real bad someday..."

'Indeed she did... If only I had listened to you last time...'

"Now she can't," Claire replied with a smile and Eunice squealed before pulling Claire into a tight hug.

"I am so happy!"

"Can't breathe!" Claire gasped dramatically and Eunice stepped back, rolling her eyes.

"Drama queen," she muttered.

"So what do you say? Shall I set up Diana with James?"

"Hell yeah! It will be fun to see her with him!"

"It's settled then. So why don't you invite James over while I ask Diana and we will have a double date." Claire grinned at Eunice who smirked right back at her.

"James is gonna love tonight," Eunice sang before strolling out of the room with a skip in her steps.

"Let me start my work." Claire smirked before calling her 'best friend'.

"Hey girl," Diana greeted her merrily.

Claire rolled her eyes before replying.

"Hey! Could you meet me at the Midnight Dreams in half an hour? I have a surprise for you."

A wonderful surprise indeed...

"Surprise? You got me. I am on my way," Diana squealed before cutting the call and Claire gritted her teeth. Of course she would be excited. All the times before when Claire had surprised her, she always got expensive jewelry as gifts. The foolish girl she was, wanted to pamper her bestie and look what it got her in the end?

Claire sighed before shrugging her shoulders and started getting ready, going all out. After all, she can't let Diana be comfortable when Claire is with Liam, can she? She gotta make Diana sweat!

Wearing a short red dress, she paired it with a sparkling diamond necklace and earrings before applying subtle makeup on her face. She finished it with bright red lipstick that made her lips pop and smirked at the mirror.

The game is on...