CHAPTER 14: GOING BACK

Sebastian stood at the entrance of the restaurant, darkness shrouding his entire essence, making him look like a vengeful dark angel. His face was set in a displeased frown, his aura crackling angrily around him as he took a step into the restaurant. Involuntarily, Claire let out a shudder as she felt his power roll over her menacingly even though she knew he would never harm her.

Seeing Sebastian staring at her intently, disappointment etched in his face, Claire wanted to run into his arms. She wanted to explain to him it was all an act and Liam meant nothing to her. That she only cared for him... But she couldn't. Not when Liam and Diana were watching her every move.

She could only look at him with her eyes full of love for him, hoping that even if he couldn't understand her intentions, he wouldn't hate her. Because if he did, it would be meaningless to have this second chance at life. It may be selfish of her, but she needed him in her life. The only person who she could always trust...

Sebastian stood there, feeling anger, disappointment and pain warring inside him. He couldn't help but remember the morning when they had walked together, her gentle smiles and carefree laughs flashing in his mind. He truly believed that she felt something for him. But seeing her holding

hands with Liam was an eye opener. She was already marked by another man, and any hope he had for them was a lie. He didn't have a chance...

Just a while ago, Sebastian had just gotten a call from Sasha, his beta, urging him to go back to his pack to take care of urgent pack business. But he was hesitant, since he had promised Claire he would stay. But seeing her act so lovingly to Liam, even feeding him with her own hands with that tender smile, he wondered if it was all in his mind. Did he mean anything to her, or did she see him as just a stranger? Will she even care whether he stays or leaves? Then why should he stay here and torture himself by watching her being in love with another man? Wouldn't it be better to just go back and mind his business? Yes. That's exactly what he has to do!

In a fit of anger, Sebastian took his phone and called his beta back.

"Hello Alpha?" Sasha answered, her tone puzzled. He had just refused her request to go back to the pack and him calling again this soon confused her.

"I am coming back," Sebastian announced without further ado.

"Wow. That's great news Alpha! When are you coming back?"

"Now."

"Now?"

"Yes, now. Is there any problem with that?"

"No. I mean, it is great, Alpha. I will arrange everything right now."

"Alright."

Sebastian cut the call without waiting for her reply, his decision to leave only increasing his pain. The thought of being away from her ate at his heart even when he knew he should stay away from her. Why was it this hard?

Sebastian shook his head and looked at Claire, who was still staring at him. The playfulness he had seen in her eyes was no longer visible there. Instead, she was looking at Sebastian with a conflicted look, making him puzzled. Just a moment ago, she was happy with the man next to her. And the next moment, she was staring at him as if she had lost something precious to her. What does that mean? He simply couldn't understand her...

Sebastian sighed, about to leave the restaurant, when Liam noticed Claire was looking at something. He looked up to see Sebastian standing there with a blank look on his face. For a moment, Liam's face twisted in rage, but then he smirked, determined to show off his relationship with Claire to Sebastian.

"Oh, Alpha Sebastian! What a surprise to see you here. Please join us for dinner," Liam invited 'politely'.

Sebastian looked as if he would just ignore the request and

walk away, but then he looked at Claire's big blue eyes that were begging him to stay. He let out a sigh before nodding and walked towards them, sitting on the chair that James offered to him.

"So Alpha Sebastian, how is your stay in the pack so far?" Liam asked with a grin, his arms going over Claire's shoulder, making her stiffen. Just a moment ago, she was trying to entice Diana's jealousy by acting close to Liam. But when Liam did the same, watching Sebastian with a boasting grin, Claire could only grit her teeth and curse Liam to the seventh hell. Even the fact that Diana was glaring at Liam with a pissed off frown didn't help cheer Claire, who sat sullenly.

"It's okay," Sebastian replied with a blank face, his murderous gaze on the hand that was drawing circles on Claire's shoulders. He narrowed his eyes, fighting his urge to rip that damn hand off his mate's body.

"What would you like to have for dinner? Shall I call the waiter for you?" Liam asked, his eyes full of glee as he watched Sebastian sitting there with a sullen look.

"No. I am not hungry."

His entire appetite was ruined at the sight of his mate feeding another man. How could he even think of eating a bite while watching the disgusting sight of Liam petting her in public?

"Oh. At least a drink?"

"No."

His tone booked no argument and even Liam had the sense to leave it at that.

"Alright..." Liam paused dramatically, making Claire sense he was up to no good. She stiffened, expecting him to say something stupid, and he didn't disappoint.

"So 'my girl' told me she took you to visit the pack today. What do you plan on doing tomorrow, Alpha Sebastian?" Liam asked, emphasizing the words 'my girl' and just like he wanted, Sebastian's gaze honed in on Liam's hand that was still holding Claire possessively.

Slowly, he looked up at Liam, his gaze promising murder, and Liam's senses became aware of the mightier predator in front of him. Though his ego disagreed Sebastian was the stronger one amongst them, his body knew better, and Liam shuddered involuntarily. He leaned back in his seat, his hand pulling away from Claire reflexively before he even realized.

Sebastian blinked, shaking himself out of his rage before he did something he would regret later. Claire would hate him if he hurt Liam and he couldn't live with it. The thought sobered him up, and he just stared at Liam with reproach before schooling his face into a blank mask.

"I have nothing planned for tomorrow here because I am leaving tonight," Sebastian replied nonchalantly and Claire gasped, staring at Sebastian with a look of disbelief. He had

promised her to stay, and he was leaving suddenly without even telling her a word?

"Oh. Urgent pack business?" Liam asked, a tone of excitement leaking into his voice.

Sebastian just nodded at him before getting up from his seat.

"I have to go now," he said, his gaze on Claire, who was biting her lips, her eyes looking moist.

Claire stared at Sebastian, her heart beating crazily at the thought of him leaving this soon. She had just met him in this life and he was already leaving even before she could even get used to his presence. It may sound unreasonable, but she just wanted to be around him, to assure herself that someone loved her as she was. Just because they cared for her and not for any power or position. She just wanted to be with her soul mate and her circumstances weren't even allowing her to voice her wishes. Why did it have to be like this?

Claire wished she could just ask him to stay because she wanted him to. But she couldn't because she couldn't let Liam become suspicious at this stage. She looked at Sebastian begging with her eyes, wishing he would understand her desperation. She wondered if she could say anything to demand him to stay without making Liam suspicious.

A thousand excuses fluttered through her mind as she tried

to grasp onto something. She bit her lips, stopping herself from simply crying out 'Stay please!' like her instincts were screaming at her. Even her wolf Mia was going crazy in her head at the thought of Caleb leaving and that didn't help Claire, who was already desperate. As she saw Sebastian standing up from his seat, Claire opened her mouth, but before she could even utter a word, Liam sprang up from his seat next to her.

"Oh, is it already time for you to leave? It's a pity. Hopefully, we will see more of each other when I become the Alpha officially," Liam said boasting about his soon to be Alpha status and, to his credit, Sebastian didn't even blink at his declaration.

"I will walk you out, Alpha Sebastian. Let's go," Liam said, and Sebastian nodded absentmindedly.

Claire could only close her eyes and sigh in defeat as she watched Liam stroll towards Sebastian eagerly, ready to walk him out. If only she could follow her heart and just kick Liam out of her life. But it wasn't that easy, was it? She could only beat Liam by playing his own game against him, and revealing her real attitude to him will only make him lash out. She didn't think it would end well for her or anyone in her pack. No. She can't take that risk...

As Sebastian walked away from Claire, his wolf Caleb howling in his head in protest, he turned to Claire one last time. Seeing her standing there with her eyes full of sadness, a lonely drop of tear sliding down her cheek,

confusion clouded his mind. One moment she was perfectly content with the man who marked her and the next, she was sad at his departure. Why was her attitude changing in the blink of an eye? Was there more to it, or was he simply imagining things? His mate sure was an enigmatic puzzle he couldn't solve. Just what was he supposed to do with her?

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