CHAPTER 15: JUST YOU WAIT...

After Liam walked him out of the restaurant, Sebastian declared that he would take it from there. Liam looked as if he would love to watch with his own eyes and confirm Sebastian's departure. But seeing Sebastian's threatening glare, he just shrugged and went back to the restaurant.

Once Liam vanished from his line of sight, Sebastian sighed, his shoulders sagging in defeat as the blank mask slid off his face. He closed his emerald green eyes that were a bit moist to his liking and bit his lips hard enough to draw blood. It was either that or scream his heart out in the parking lot of the busy restaurant.

Inside his damn head, his stupid wolf was howling and moaning like a puppy who was kicked.

'Why are we leaving? We need mate!' Caleb moaned.

Sebastian rubbed his forehead and sighed.

'Take a hint, you stupid wolf! She doesn't need us!'

'That's a lie, and you know it. Our mate adores us. Well, maybe not you, but who could blame her? I mean, you are a stingy bastard! But she certainly

loves me!'

Sebastian just sighed in response to his narcissistic wolf.

'Whatever. Just let me figure this out on my own.'

'Do whatever you want. Just don't come crying to me when your stupid impulsive actions cost us our mate!' Caleb huffed before closing their link and Sebastian sighed. A pissed off wolf huffing and puffing at him. Just what he needed now!

Left alone with his thoughts, Sebastian leaned against his car, his thoughts flashing to the moment inside the restaurant when he announced his departure. Though he had angrily announced his decision after seeing Claire with Liam, a part of him was certain she would stop him and ask him to stay. Even as he walked away, he expected her to call him back, and demand him to fulfil his promise. But she just stared at him with those innocent blue eyes that somehow looked as if they carried secrets of lifetimes. Not a word. And that left him feeling disappointed, angry and, more than all that, lost. Just what was happening?

Though he had left the restaurant in jealousy and anger, he just couldn't get her sad eyes out of his mind. After all, she was his mate, and he simply loved

her, even if he couldn't have her. And somewhere in his heart, he knew he mattered to her too, even though it may not be the love he wished for.

Seeing her sad, especially when it was because of him, Sebastian couldn't bring himself to just leave like he planned. But he couldn't stay either. He just had to make sure that she would be fine after he left. And he knew exactly how to do it.

Sebastian straightened up, his Alpha aura automatically radiating off him as he took his phone. He dialled his friend's number with determination, his thoughts still full of his mate.

"What's up, man?" Devin answered cheerfully.

"I am leaving tonight," Sebastian answered without beating around the bush.

"Tonight?" Devin asked, his tone full of shock.

"Yes."

"But... Did you tell Claire?"

Sebastian sighed. He had not admitted to having feelings for Claire but it was not that hard to see he was absolutely head over heels for her. Of course Devin would know.

"She knows."

"Oh…"

"I called to ask you a favor?"

"Tell me, man."

"Look after her for now. She seems troubled and I need to know she is okay."

"Of course. I will do it even if you don't ask. She is my friend too, you know?"

"Alright. I trust you to take care of her until I am back," Sebastian said, hinting that he plans to come back even when he hadn't actually made any such decisions yet.

"Certainly. She will be okay."

Feeling better, Sebastian headed back to the packhouse where everything was already prepared for his trip. Before he knew it, he was already bidding farewell to the Ashwood pack without even seeing his mate again.

In a few hours he was back to his pack where everything looked the same as when he left but nothing felt the same. How could things change this drastically in a matter of days? How could he feel like everything in his life was different even when nothing changed? He was the same mateless Alpha he

was even when he had found his mate...

The next day, Sebastian sat in his office, going through the pile of documents that required his sign. Normally, Sebastian would scan the documents thoroughly even if they had already been checked by Sasha, his beta, but today he was just signing them hastily, a faraway look in his emerald orbs.

Sasha stood in front of Sebastian's desk, wearing a loose black T-shirt and jeans, her black hair tied up in a tight ponytail. She stared at Sebastian, her black eyes full of confusion.

"Umm... Alpha? That's the document for the transfer for the warriors from the moonstone pack. You didn't have to sign it before having them fight our warriors and proving their skills, right?" Sasha asked nervously, hesitant to interrupt Sebastian who looked as if he was in a daze.

"Oh? Right," Sebastian replied, putting away the document and taking the next file before scanning it absentmindedly, his thoughts flashing back to Claire and her sad look when he left. Just what exactly was going on in her mind?

Sasha stared at Sebastian with a frown, noticing how absentminded he was. She was his beta for years and she took pride in knowing his routine, and

mannerisms thoroughly. But right now, he wasn't behaving like himself. He was acting confused and lost. What happened to him in those few days that he was away from the pack?

"What is wrong, Sebastian?" Sasha asked worriedly when he just kept staring at a page for minutes without turning it.

Sebastian snapped his head up, irritation evident in his gaze.

"Nothing. I am fine."

"You don't look fine."

"But…"

"I said I am fine!" Sebastian declared, not liking that someone could read his discomfort. He wanted to hide his pain and put on his tough Alpha mask as usual but he was failing at it miserably. He didn't want Sasha to remind him of that.

"Alright…" Sasha agreed half heartedly.

"And Sasha…" Sebastian called and Sasha perked up.

"Yes?" She asked hopefully.

"Call me Alpha," Sebastian ordered before going back to scanning the documents while Sasha stood there,

unable to mask the disappointment in her face.

"Yes, Alpha," she muttered dejectedly while staring at Sebastian with longing. She had always loved him and as each year passed by with him not finding his destined mate, she hoped he would make her his Luna one day. Sebastian deserved the best and hence she always strived to be the best in everything.

Knowing her looks didn't matter to Sebastian, she tried to be the best warrior in their pack, only Sebastian able to beat her in a fair match. She was the best beta he could ever ask for and she wished she could be the best luna to him too. But he always treated her like she was one of the men, never as a woman. She would have loved that treatment from anyone else but not him. Sasha knew she was pretty, and she didn't lack confidence in her looks but Sebastian's disinterest didn't help her esteem a bit. She wanted him to see her as a woman for once but he never even blinked in her direction. Sasha could only hope it would all change one day. And she will be there by his side, loving him and being the perfect luna for their pack.

Sasha was snapped out of her daydreams when Sebastian started speaking.

"There are five requests for Dr. Jordan's treatment?"

"A–ah, yes."

Hearing her stutter, Sebastian raised his brows at her questioningly but Sasha had gathered her wits by then. She just gave him a polite smile in response and he shrugged off his confusion.

"There was a fire accident last week. I had given the report already," Sasha said and Sebastian nodded in response. He had already known about the incident and had got the reports too. It was a minor accident in a household, no loss of lives but a total of seven people were injured.

"Those five people have severe burns and they seek Dr. Jordan's treatment for speedy recovery and also to prevent scars."

Sebastian looked as if he was deep in thought before he nodded.

"Alright. I will grant it."

He looked at the heap of files in front of him before looking at Sasha who was still standing.

"This will take a while. I will go through them and get back to you. You have training now, right? You may go."

Sasha looked as if she wanted to protest. She didn't

care even if she had to stand for hours as long as she could be near Sebastian. But telling that to him will not end well and she knew it. She had to wait patiently until he realized she was the one for him. And he was right. She had training and she would never slack off from her responsibilities when she wanted to be the best for him.

Sasha nodded at Sebastian before turning and leaving the room while Sebastian sat there with a thoughtful look. Seeing Dr. Jordan's name made Sebastian remember how Claire had known about him and his miraculous track record. His mind kept flashing back to the moment when Claire mentioned how she had been too late the last time. Her words 'last time' somehow kept ringing in his mind, making him believe that there was more to it than she told him. He simply couldn't let go of it even if he wanted to. He wanted to know what exactly was going on with her...

Making up his mind, he mind linked Bryant, the best spy of his pack.

'Bryant, come to my office.'

'Yes, Alpha.' The reply was sharp and immediate.

Within a few minutes, there was a knock on the door.

"Come in," Sebastian said, looking up from the file he was checking.

A brown eyed brown haired lean man dressed in a light green T-shirt and black jeans stepped inside before bowing at Sebastian. He was the picture perfect definition of 'average' that no one would spare him a second glance in a crowd. And that was why he was an excellent spy. He was never noticed.

"Good morning, Alpha. How may I help you?"

"I am giving you a new assignment."

When Bryant nodded in agreement, Sebastian leaned forward.

"I want you to investigate Claire Black, daughter of Alpha Gavin Black."

He saw the slight widening of Bryant's eyes but he ignored it and continued.

"I want you to investigate her past, and I want you to find out what and how she knows about Dr. Jordan. Also, I want to know if Alpha Gavin was ever seriously ill and if so, I want all the details. Got it?"

"Of course, Alpha. I will start right away."

"Good. You may go now."

Sebastian leaned back in his seat as he watched Bryant walk away, his mind going back to Claire's panicked look after she blurted out about Dr. Jordan.

"I will know your secret sooner or later, my dear mate. Just you wait…"

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