

CHAPTER 18: TOP PRIORITY

Sebastian threw his phone against the wall, his rage knowing no bounds as he imagined his mate in pain. He was angry at Devin for his inability to keep his mate from harm even when he explicitly asked him to watch over her. But more than Devin, he was pissed off at himself. Maybe she wouldn't have gotten hurt if he was there to keep her safe? Damn it!

Devin assured him it was a minor wound, but that didn't help a bit with Sebastian's anxiety. To make matters worse, Caleb was howling inside his head, demanding to see his mate and soothe her pain. The stupid wolf was calling him all sorts of names for abandoning his mate when he knew Sebastian had no choice. And the damn wolf had the audacity to guilt trip him by imagining how bad their mate's condition was. He was sending images of Claire in pain, her eyes brimming with tears as she sat helplessly. The wolf certainly knew to make matters worse!

'Mate! Go to mate, damn it! I swear I will kill you someday, you stupid human!'

Sebastian didn't bother to mention that it was physically impossible for Caleb to kill him. Talking to

him will only get him more excited. He certainly didn't want to hype his wolf and increase his tantrum.

Sebastian sighed, recalling Devin's words. After the initial alarm at hearing she was hurt, Sebastian had forced himself to stay calm and enquire how it had happened. Devin told him how a recruit taunted her and how she challenged him to a fight. He wanted to snarl at Devin for letting her do it, but if he had to be honest, a part of himself was proud of his mate for standing up for herself.

Devin described to Sebastian how she fought better than most of the experienced warriors and put the wolf in his place by knocking him out. Sebastian felt his chest puff up in pride as he imagined it happening. But then the thought of the man slashing her with his sword ignited his rage, and he wasn't just content with him being knocked out. He deserved to be beaten until he was black and blue. No. Sebastian should just break the brat's bones and make him regret ever looking at his mate. He has to pay!

Caleb huffed in agreement at the plan as he began concocting ideas for torturing the man that dared to wound their mate. For once, Sebastian was in total agreement.

Sebastian paused as something occurred to him.

Devin said Claire was an excellent fighter, while the guy was an amateur. Then how did he end up hurting her? She should have come out unscathed, right? Then he shook his head. What was he thinking? It must have been a stroke of dumb luck on the guy's part. It was not like his mate would just stand idle and let him injure her. Accidents happen all the time.

'Our mate needs us! We need to go to her!' Caleb whined, and Sebastian nodded. Yes. Caleb was right. Whether she needs him or not, he couldn't just sit idle after knowing his mate was hurt. Devin's assurance that she was fine was not enough. The moment he met her, he had vowed to himself that he would cherish her all his life and will never let her suffer pain. Sebastian had failed that promise already. He couldn't breathe peacefully until he saw with his own eyes that she was fine. He needs to visit her pack and see her! And yes, he has to teach a lesson to the idiot who had the nerve to harm his Claire.

Decision made, Sebastian stopped his frantic pacing. He sat on his chair and leaned back before closing his eyes and mind- linking his beta.

'Sasha, come to my office.'

'Yes, Alpha,' the reply was instant.

Within a minute, she was knocking on the door.

“Come in,” Sebastian called out, straightening in his seat.

“What’s the matter?” Sasha asked, a hopeful smile on her face. There were no urgent pack matters that needed to be taken care of, as far as she knew. Maybe that meant he had just asked her to come for a chat. Did he want to see her like she did?

“I am going to the Ashwood pack today. Take care of the pack affairs in my absence,” Sebastian ordered Sasha before getting up from his chair.

“What?” Sasha blurted out before she could stop herself and Sebastian turned to her, his eyebrows rising questioningly.

“I mean, you had just visited the Ashwood pack a week ago. Why would you visit again this soon? I didn’t get any information regarding any business with the pack. And we already had a lot of pending work because of your last visit,” Sasha said, her tone puzzled.

More than the work that had piled up, Sasha had missed him when he was gone. To be honest, Sebastian had caught up with the paperwork in a day or two once he arrived. Actually, the problem was that she didn’t want him to leave anywhere again this

soon. That too to the same pack where he had visited last time when she knew there was no particular contact between the packs so far. It was so frustrating!

“Did I ask for your opinion? I just informed you I am going. That’s all you need to know,” Sebastian replied, his mood turning foul again.

Sasha frowned at hearing his harsh tone.

“But...”

“What? If it was anyone else in your place, they would have received punishment by now for questioning my decision like this. I am forgiving you just because you are my childhood friend. Don’t take advantage of it, Sasha. Just do what I asked you to do.”

“Yes, Alpha,” Sasha gritted out, anger rising inside her. Childhood friend. That’s all she was ever to him. Was he blind to everything she did to get his attention, or was he deliberately ignoring her? Well, he may ignore her all he wants, but in the end he will have to accept her as his mate. She will make sure of it.

“Can I ask what business you have there?” Sasha asked in her best professional voice after gathering herself.

Hearing her question, Sebastian’s mind automatically gathered an image of Claire when he first met her,

looking like a goddess who had descended to Earth. Her sweet smile as she gazed at him. The time they spent in the forest with him curled up next to her in his wolf form. And their date when they walked together, where she called him Sebastian for the first time...

A gentle smile bloomed on his face as his eyes softened, and Sasha felt her breath hitch. She had always seen his indifferent mask. Seeing a genuine smile on his face was just enthralling. But then the realization hit her. The ruthless Alpha who never smiled was smiling? And his eyes, the adoring look in them. She recognized it all too well because that was exactly how she looked when she was thinking of him. And how she hoped he would one day look at her. But now he was smiling like that, remembering someone that was most certainly not her. That meant there was a girl who had caught the interest of the mighty Alpha who never looked twice at a woman.

Sasha had always thought Sebastian was incapable of emotions. She was fine with it as long as she got to have a place in his life. She believed one day she could thaw his frozen heart with her love and she would be the one to heal him. But boy, was she wrong? There was no mistaking the lovesick expression on his face. The Alpha could indeed show emotions, just not to

her!

All her fantasies of making him fall in love with her shattered around her, making her fist her hand tightly, almost drawing blood. Anger and jealousy warred inside her at the thought of him liking another woman. How could he?!

She gritted her teeth, now realising his motive for visiting the Ashwood pack. He must have liked a girl from that pack! Was she his mate? Or just some pretty face? Whoever it was, Sasha was sure that she could never love Sebastian as much as Sasha loved him. No one could. Sasha was the one perfect to be his luna, and no one knew Sebastian as much as she did. She deserved his love and she will win it. Sasha wouldn't let a nobody snatch her man from her! That bitch will pay for trying to lure Sebastian!

Seeing his gentle smile, Sasha somehow wanted to wipe it off his face. He should smile like that only for her!

“Alpha, don't you think our pack should be your first priority? Couldn't this trip wait? Abandoning the pack in favor of trivial things like a friendly visit to another pack is not worth it,” Sasha said, her tone eerily calm.

Slowly, Sebastian looked up, his eyes hard as he


glared at her.

“What I need to do now is my top priority,” He growled out before walking towards her. He stood in front of her and leaned towards her threateningly.

Sasha felt her heartbeat quicken up, and she didn't know if it was because of excitement or fear. Even if his intention was to intimidate her, she couldn't help but inhale his addicting minty scent. His warm breath fanned her lips, and if she just leaned a bit, she could kiss those tempting lips of his. This was the closest she had ever been to him, and she couldn't help but wish it was for a different reason.

“This must be the last time you ever disrespect me like this. If this repeats, I won't excuse you again. Got it, Sasha?” Sebastian said in a deep calm voice and Sasha shivered, liking the sound of him calling her name even if it was to admonish her. She loved it and hated it at the same time.

Sasha opened her mouth to reply, but she couldn't find any words and just settled on nodding her head. With that, Sebastian turned and walked back to his chair, an air of nonchalance surrounding him. Behind him, Sasha clutched at the chair to keep from falling, her legs turning weak as her breath came in pants. She was aroused, angry, and disappointed all at a time.

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She will make sure that the fantasy of kissing him will become true one day. And if she had to get that girl out of the picture for it to happen, she would do it too. Whatever happens, Sebastian was hers and only hers.

“Prepare everything for my journey. I am leaving tonight,” Sebastian said just as Sasha gathered herself and faced him with a blank expression to mask her conflicting feelings.

Sebastian looked straight into Sasha’s eyes, as if daring her to contradict him.

“I have urgent business in the Ashwood pack, and it couldn’t wait.”

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