

**CHAPTER 42: THE MARKING**

Liam had always taken pride in his ability to plan things ahead of time. His biggest plan so far had been to make Claire fall in love with him, paving the way for him to become the Alpha like he always dreamed of. Everything had been going smoothly exactly like he planned until the night Claire turned eighteen. Just like he planned, she had fallen head over heels for him, looking at him as if he was her entire world. He had been careful to rile her up to fight Alpha Gavin by the time she turned eighteen. Just like Liam wanted, she rebelled against her father by marking him even when she knew he was not her mate, like she had hoped. But that was where things started going wrong.

It was like she changed into an entirely new person the moment he marked her. He had been planning to get her to mark him the moment she wakes up so that he could have the right to claim the Alpha position once he gets rid of Gavin. But the stupid woman foiled all his carefully laden plans when she refused to mark him after waking up that night. Still, he thought it was just a matter of time and she would come running to him like the besotted fool she was and mark him. But as each day passed, it became apparent that she had no plans to mark him anytime soon.

He had no idea why, but he had a feeling that she no longer looked at him with the same lovesick eyes like she did before him marking her. With each day that passed without her marking him, his anxiety grew more and more. What if she never marked him? Then he will never have the right to be the next Alpha once Gavin is out of the picture!

After all the trouble he had gone through all these years to woo Claire and hide his bond with his mate Diana, he can't just let it go like that. He couldn't just sit back and wait until Claire was done with her games and



come back to him. He couldn't wait until she marked him of her own volition, and he knew it was time to take matters into his own hands.

With her loyal maid Eunice out of the way, it was the perfect time to act, and that was why Liam paid Claire's new maid to drug her. Now she will have no choice but to mark him. And his plans will get back on track just like he wanted!

Liam stood inside Claire's room, the door shut behind him, safely trapping her under his mercy. He smirked as she laid helplessly, welcoming him to do whatever he wanted with her. How nice!

Claire opened her mouth as if to say something, but then let out a moan as her eyes went unfocused. Her breaths were coming in pants, her breasts rising and falling rapidly, catching his attention and making him gulp. It was true that Liam loved Diana and wanted her as his Luna. But that didn't mean he was immune to Claire's looks. She was way too good looking, and she had a fine as hell body. He must be mad to say no to that!

When Liam pursued Claire, he actually didn't have any interest in her, even though she was pretty. For one, her besotted smile was such a turn down for him. And though she was pretty, she never had that capturing allure like Diana did. She looked more like a pretty princess. But if he had to be honest, it all changed ever since she turned eighteen. She looked more confident, mature and sexier, making him give her more attention. Her sudden change in attitude and closeness to Sebastian only made him take her as more of a challenge and target her as his prey.

Diana had always been against the idea of him having any real relationship with Claire, but she had given an exemption the night when she turned eighteen, permitting him to have sex with Claire to complete their bond. A necessary sacrifice for their plans to work in the long term. But it hadn't worked, and the only disappointment Liam had then been



that his plans were foiled. But now he wondered what it would be like to hold her soft body in his arms and run his fingers through the golden tresses. He felt his member rise at the thoughts, and Liam took a step forward, his eyes clouding with lust. Diana, who seemed to notice his growing interest in Claire, was now wary than ever and absolutely refused to allow him to have sex with her, even for the sake of the bond. Liam licked his lips, staring at Claire's prone form, his excitement rising with each ragged breath she took. Diana didn't have to know what happened inside these closed doors, right?

Claire looked at Liam in a daze while he strode towards her. She was flustered by the effects of the drug by the time he reached her and as she gazed up at him; it was not Liam that she was seeing anymore. Dark hair replaced his brown mop of hair and his muddy eyes turned to glowing green eyes. So handsome...

"Sebastian..." Claire moaned out passionately, her lips curving up in an alluring smile.

Liam paused his strides, his eyes widening with shock as he stared at Claire. Did she just call him Sebastian?

"Sebastian..." Claire repeated dazedly, her eyes full of affection and lust as she stared at him and Liam gritted his teeth. He had known that Claire cared for Sebastian. But he didn't imagine that the girl who had professed him as the love of her life would call another man with such passion. With her inviting smile, it was clear she certainly wasn't calling just a friend. This was a woman in lust calling for a man to sate her needs and she hadn't called his name!

Jealousy and anger reared their ugly heads as Liam stared at Claire with disbelief. She had been so madly in love with him when she marked him. So how could she stare at another man as if he was her world now? What



happened to the girl that acted as if he was the centre of her universe?! Liam thought he didn't care about Claire's feelings, but seeing her smile at 'Sebastian' like this, there was a strange feeling growing in his chest. And it didn't feel pleasant. Not even a bit. She was his prey and she couldn't just like another man, just like that. Never! 1

Liam's first instinct was to lash out at Claire and declare that he was not Sebastian but Liam, the guy she was supposed to love. But then he paused, staring at Claire's adoring smile. Well, it would be easy to get her to mark him when she was looking at him like that. What did it matter that she thought of him as Sebastian as long as she ended up marking him?

With that thought, a devilish smirk formed on Liam's face. Yes. That will be the perfect punishment to her for calling him another man's name.

"Yes, babe?" Liam cooed at Claire and she frowned, feeling something wrong in the way he called her. But Liam was already in front of her by then, pulling her to him. He leaned down, claiming her lips with his, and she moaned, closing her eyes. Even though there was a sense of wrongness, she was too far lost in the haze of lust to analyze the situation and just kissed him back, thinking he was Sebastian, the man who owned her heart and soul.

Liam pulled back from the kiss and looked at Claire, whose hair was messed up, her lips swollen red as she stared at him dazedly. Damn. She was beautiful and at his mercy to do whatever he pleased. Wasn't he a lucky man?

"I love you so much, my darling. Won't you just mark me?" Liam asked in a singsong voice, baring his neck to her, and Claire blinked, her gaze falling on the place where his neck met his shoulder. Mark... Why can't she mark Sebastian, her mate? She was his and when he asked for it, how

could she say no?

Claire touched his lips before rubbing them teasingly and Liam tensed up, his desire for her increasing with each moment. Was she always this sexy?

Claire placed her lips on his cheeks before trailing them down towards his neck, and Liam let out a groan. She placed her lips on the place where she was supposed to mark him and licked the spot playfully, causing Liam to gulp. What a torture was this!

"Babe," he cooed gently and in response, Claire bit down, making him cry out in pain. But soon, the pain was replaced by a sweet sensation and desire took its place as Liam looked down at Claire with greedy eyes. Finally! He finally got the mark he was waiting for. Now everything was going to be his!

Claire looked up at 'Sebastian' with a smile, only to frown when his image faltered for a moment. The moment she saw Liam standing there in place of Sebastian, her mark on his neck, Claire's eyes widened in shock. What had she done?

Her hands flew to her mouth as she stared at Liam in disbelief, the haze from the drug fading a bit. Her gaze got stuck on the glaring mark on his neck, which spelled her doom. She had marked Liam, her worst enemy! The universe had granted her a second chance, and she lost it just like that!

"Where were we, babe?" Liam cooed, stepping towards her and raising his arms as if to pull her towards him. Claire took a step back instinctively, looking at him with wide eyes, and Liam frowned.

"You can't just stop what you started. That's rude," he said, pointing



towards the bulge in his pants suggestively. He licked his lips before taking another step towards her, and Claire stiffened.

It was too late by the time she came to her senses and she had already marked him. But that didn't mean that she would just give up and let him do whatever he wanted to her. She will be damned if she would sleep with the bastard who destroyed her in every sense of the word. Hell no!

Claire was too weak to do anything to Liam and all she could do was take another step back while glaring at him without a word. Then she mustered all her strength and rushed out of the room, leaving Liam standing rooted in his spot, wondering what had just happened. One moment she was all over him and the next moment she was rushing out of the room as if the hounds of hell were chasing her. He was dazed by the cloud of lust she induced in him, and by the time he realized he had let his prey escape, it was too late. She was already gone.

Liam let out a string of curses before stalking out of the room, only to run into Diana. She had come there planning to stand in front of the room. Diana wanted to make sure that Liam didn't fuck Claire since she was wary of the way Liam seemed to grow an interest in Claire recently. She will be damned if she lost her mate to that wench!

But when she arrived, Claire was running away, looking like she was fighting death itself. She stared at Liam with a puzzled look, waiting for an explanation.

Liam sighed, running his hand through his hair as he remembered the way Claire called for Sebastian. She was certainly not besotted with him anymore, like he believed. She was out of his control.

Liam looked at Diana with determination in his eyes.

"We need to carry out our plan ahead of schedule."



Comments



Support

Commented [Ma1]: