



CHAPTER 43: HIS SWEET ADDICTION

Claire leaned against a tree, panting hard and fighting the dizziness that threatened to drown her. She had run away from Liam, her instincts guiding her outside the packhouse once she realised she had marked Liam under the effects of the drug. She wanted to be as far away from him as she could and, if possible, never see his filthy face ever again in her life. How dare he drug her and make her mark him? How dare he treat her as a toy he could manipulate?! But now she was in no state to act out her anger and all she could do was try to stay away from his sight. Her priority was to save herself from his lecherous advances when she was drugged and vulnerable. 1

Claire looked around, her gaze taking in her surroundings, and she realized that in her panic, she had run into the forest. But Liam may come looking for her and she had to be in a place he wouldn't think of looking for her. And she just knew the perfect place for that.

Taking a deep breath, Claire gathered her strength before running again, letting her instincts take over. She could run to this place even with her eyes closed and senses shut out because this was the place that she always saw as her safe haven. Before she knew it, Claire was already standing in front of the bushes that hid her secret place away from the world's eyes. Here she could finally feel safe. Here Liam will never find her...

As she raised her hand to part the bushes, she paused for a moment. This place always held special memories for her in her past life, too. This was the place where she used to spend alone time with her father, just a daughter and father, spending time together as family with their games and little picnics, away from his responsibilities as the alpha, even if it was for a little while. And when those instances became less and less, it became the place where she came to find solace, her little safe haven. 1

In her last life, even when she thought she loved Liam with all her heart, she never told him about this place. Maybe in her heart she knew it all



along that he was not the one for her. And maybe that was why it was easy for her to show it to Sebastian, the other half of her soul. She cherished this place even in her last life, but now it holds even more precious memories than that. The times she trained with Sebastian flashed through her mind at that thought. His worry at her getting hurt, the mantra 'Same place, same time,' that they told each other before leaving every day, and simply the peaceful moments they share silently while sitting in front of the pond... 1

With a sigh, Claire parted the bushes and entered her secret place, relief hitting her at the realization that she was finally safe from Liam's clutches. She would have to stay here until the effects of the drug wore off and then decide what to do next now that she was marked by Liam. This just complicated the already mess of a situation she was in and only the Goddess could help her out of it now. 1

Claire was about to walk towards the pond when she paused, her eyes falling on the figure of the man already standing there, staring at her with wide eyes. Claire let out a gasp, indescribable emotions hitting her as she stared at Sebastian, who was gazing at her with longing. Pain, longing, guilt, anger and much more that she couldn't even decipher anymore. But the one thing she knew for sure was this. Whatever problems she may have with him, he was the only person she could bear to see at this moment when she was at the most vulnerable. Only him...

"Sebastian..." Claire called out in a broken voice before falling to her knees.

Ever since Claire had stormed off angry at him and Devin, Sebastian had been feeling down. He had wanted to clarify her misunderstanding, but the distance she kept from him during their subsequent training sessions didn't help his situation at all. Sebastian wished he could just talk to her and make it clear that he wasn't a narcissist who thought of women as possessions. He just wanted to tell her how she meant the world to him and he will never let anyone, including himself, hurt her. But how can he tell her anything when it was clear that she would not listen to any



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Seeing her look at him with those big blue eyes full of pain and accusation, he could only swallow his words and hope his actions would speak louder. That she will understand how much she meant to him. But all his efforts were in vain, and Claire maintained that stupid formal attitude to him. She even cancelled their training and he couldn't help but wonder if it was because she had some other important work, like she claimed, or just because she didn't want to see him.

The thought sent a bolt of pain through his heart. How could he bear it if she wanted to stay away from him? A feeling of loss enveloped him at the thought and Sebastian just wished she will return to him as the Claire he always knew. With her sweet smile and gentle, playful attitude, she was his angel, and he wanted her back. He couldn't lose her ever. Even if he couldn't have her as his mate, he just wanted to be a part of her life and the idea that she would decide to cut him off her life just about felt as if he was stabbed in the heart with a rusty knife. It was torture!

With the thoughts of Claire clouding his mind, Sebastian found himself wandering absentmindedly. It was the time designated for their training and without seeing her; he was feeling like a junkie who was denied his daily dose of drugs. She was his addiction. His sweet addiction.

Sebastian looked up and paused, his eyes widening as he took in the place



he had wandered into. He was standing right in front of the bushes that hid the secret place where he trained with Claire. His body had taken him to this place of its own volition, probably seeking her presence even if he knew she would not be there.

Sebastian sighed before parting the bushes and stepping inside, mixed emotions assaulting him as he stared at the peaceful scenery in front of him. He knew how much this place meant to Claire and he was amazed that she had shared it with him, even though he was practically a stranger to him. The place which she hadn't even shown Liam, the man who she was supposed to spend her life with. He felt privileged to be given that opportunity, but now, standing in that place with just the silence of the nature surrounding him, he felt anything but soothed.

Sebastian leaned against a tree, standing in front of the pond where ripples spread through every once in a while, just like the turmoil that rolled around in his restless mind. He remembered the first time he had visited this place with Claire. The excitement that shone in her eyes while showing her treasured place to him. Then her excitement about starting training with him. The stolen moments where she fell into his arms, feeling the softness of her body in his arms as they lost each other in the other's gaze. Her worried looks whenever she thought she had hurt him, making him bask in the warmth of her affection. Even if he hadn't claimed her as his, this place still held a lot of memories that he will always cherish. And he could only hope that it would get to witness more of those beautiful moments...

Sebastian sighed, wondering if he will ever get to see Claire smiling at him with her playful eyes. What he wouldn't do to see that sight once more...

Just that moment, he stiffened, hearing the sound of the bushes parting.



Only Claire knew the way to this location. Did that mean she was here? Did she change her mind?

Sebastian turned around, his eyes full of hope as he tried to see the newcomer. Seeing Claire stumbling inside, his heart swelled with joy and he took a step forward without even making a conscious decision to do so. 'She came!' The thought repeated inside his head like a mantra as he stared at her with a smile on his face. But then a feeling of wrongness enveloped him. Something was wrong...

As Sebastian stared with a puzzled frown, Claire staggered forward, her legs resembling those of a newborn foal. She looked up and paused, her face pink and coated with sweat, while her eyes looked unfocused. Something was really, really wrong with his mate. What happened to her?

Hearing her cry out to him before falling to her knees, Sebastian rushed forward, all thoughts vanishing from his mind. He had to make sure that his mate was alright, and that was the only thing that mattered now.

Sebastian caught her and helped her to a sitting position before sitting next to her. He looked at her with a worried frown as she closed her eyes, a pained look crossing his eyes.

"What happened to you, Claire?" He asked in a choked voice, but even before she could answer him, he caught a whiff of her scent, which was all wrong. Then it clicked. The dazed look, the sweating, the unsteady steps and the scent... His mate was drugged!

Sebastian felt anger like he had never felt before invading his senses as he clenched his fists and gritted his teeth, which suddenly felt longer than usual.

'Who harmed, mate? I will kill him!' Caleb snarled from inside his mind



and for once, Sebastian was in total agreement with the plan. Yes. Whoever dared to toy with his mate needed to die!

Claire let out a moan, her breathing ragged as the drug started acting up again and Sebastian stiffened as the scent of her arousal hit him. Damn it! She was aroused and if she didn't get relief now, she will be in heaps of pain which he could never bear to see. He looked down at her with pained eyes, knowing what he had to do. Even if it was the last thing he wanted to do, if it meant his mate's wellbeing, he will do it in a heartbeat. His mate was in a condition where she needed a man to sate her needs and since he couldn't be that man, he will have to get the one she wants. He will have to get that bastard Liam for her, even if it kills him to think of that rascal with his grimy paws all over her. He had no other choice...

"You are alright. It's nothing." Sebastian paused and took a deep breath. "I will get Liam for you," he said through gritted teeth, feeling as if he had nails lodged in his throat.

But he was surprised by Claire's reaction.

"No!" she shouted, opening her eyes wide and looking at him with panic. He blinked, looking at her with confusion as she shook her head vehemently. "Anyone but him. Please. I don't want to see him!"

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