

Chapter 111 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

“So, shall we?” Tristen asked softly.

His eyes were so kind, and I couldn't help but smile as I looked right at him. “OK, but you don't have to drive me if you don't want to. I can take a cab or something. It would be more convenient,” I managed at last.

“You don't need to say that, Ember. There is no way you can ever bother me, so let me take you home,” he said softly.

I smiled at that, and we both made our way out of the class to the halls. It felt weird skipping classes and I wanted to stop that, but it was so difficult to do so, and there was the small part of me that didn't want to see Lucas right now.

It was only going to be more awkward between us, and I just didn't want that.

We finally got out of the school, and Tristen opened the door to his SUV for me to get in, and I did as I was told. It was nice to be able to breathe for some time without any form of stress. I sat down, calmly placing both hands on my thighs as Tristen slid in.

“I wouldn't drive too fast,” he said softly.

I rolled my eyes. “I'm not fragile, I won't split into two if you drive fast. I think that is precisely what I want with the windows down, of course,” I muttered.

He chuckled as he pressed something on the side of the car, making the windows slide down. I looked out at the trees, and back at Tristen. He was still grinning at me, and I couldn't help the way my heart felt like it was going to explode out of my chest.

It has be as a result of Lucas's drama and nothing more.

“Are you ready?” He teased.

I smirked. “I was born for this,” I said softly.

Before I could comprehend what was going on, he drove the car at a quick speed, and I found myself looking out of the window, letting the breeze blow over my hair. It was just right, and I couldn't help but smile at some point.

The thought of Lucas's issue went down a notch, and all I did was let the wind of the evening play severe tricks with my hair, and it was just perfect.

In minutes, we were in front of the house, and my breathing was all over the place but Tristen on the other hand looked unbothered. “Ok, if I didn’t know better, I would have thought that you were a vampire,” I teased, breathless.

He scrunched up his nose in disgust. “Don’t compare me with those dead things. I’m the best of my time, Ember,” he said with pride.

I gestured with my hands slightly turned upwards. “Bravo!”

I placed a hand on my lips, stopping the laughter from springing out. Tristen was so funny sometimes, and I just couldn’t deny it. However, he was a bit different from his brothers. He had this cold attitude, but lately, I had lost the ability to see it.

He shot out of the car and went over to my side to open the door. Then, the next thing I knew, I was ushered into the house like some sort of queen.

“Would you like to eat something?” He said, as a maid bowed over to us with her hands full of clothes.

I shrugged. “Yes, that would be nice.”

“Great,” he called out.

We walked over to the kitchen, and Tristen moved around the counter, opening cabinets, and bringing out things he wanted to use to cook. I remained at the other side of the counter, putting some distance between us. This was what Lucas and I bonded over. I wondered vaguely if Priscilla also did things like that with him.

“So, what do you want to eat,” Tristen asked softly.

I shrugged. “Spaghetti?” I asked a question as I placed a finger into my mouth. “I don’t remember the last time I ate one. It would be nice to eat it today.”

He slapped the packet in front of me as he said, “Good point.”

I couldn’t help but smile as I took out a piece of it, and put it in my mouth, chewing it raw. He looked at me in disbelief, but I didn’t mind. I could behave like a child all I want right now. It was allowed after all the tears that I had shed.

“So, you know how to cook?”

He pouted sweetly. “Have you forgotten that I cooked for you the last time?”

I placed a hand on my chin as I thought about it. “Not really, but it’s only because your brothers were there to assist you. I’m sure of that.”

He rolled his eyes at this and grabbed the spaghetti from me. “I would have to prove you wrong,” he whined.

I winked at him, and he looked away quickly. “You’re game. I would be right there, watching you work. Let me see if you wouldn’t tell some maids to help you out.”

He smirked. “I won’t.”

I laughed as I made my way to the open dining area, making a sign that I was watching him with my two fingers. He smirked and went to work, cooking up a storm. He looked so serious while cooking, just like Lucas.

The more I watched, the more I felt like the tension was building up against my better judgement, and it was slightly too much to handle. I decided not to put too much thought into it, as I took out my phone and opened up my messages.

While I typed to Zealina, I spared Tristen a glance, he looked completely hot as he mixed the food. This was the most flattering way I had seen him look in a long time. Fuck! Not that thought, Ember!

Why did I feel like I was cheating by thinking about these weird stuff.

“It’s ready!” He announced after 10 minutes.

I nodded as I went over to the counter. Placing my hands on either side of the plate, I took a deep breath to perceive the spaghetti’s aroma. I got hit with the best yummy scent and my mouth instantly watered.

“So delicious,” I cried.

He smirked. “I’m glad you like it without eating it yet.”

I blushed lightly, taking a spoon. “It’s just that I can already tell you nailed the cooking.”

“Now, you hype me,” he teased.

“Don’t push your luck, Tristen,” I scolded.

He chuckled lightly, and silence settled in the room afterward. All these had succeeded in taking my mind off the issues I was facing, and I was grateful to Tristen for that, but I didn’t say anything to him.

When I looked up at him as I took a spoonful, I noticed his eyes were following my every move as I chewed on his delicious meal. My stomach flipped painfully, but I ignored it.

I moaned happily, impressed by the taste and proceeded to lick my spoon. It only made Tristen curse as he tossed the tablecloth on the table and stormed out of the kitchen.

What the hell just happened?

I stared until his shadow was only a distant memory, and it was only then that I realized that I was shaking.

Chapter 112 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

What's up with him?

I sighed as I shifted my gaze from Tristen's shadow. This day shouldn't get any worse. I should eat something, maybe, I might forget everything that happened today, and pretend my life is on track.

Just as I was about to move around the counter, my eyes caught sight of Lucas as he stood right at that door like he was born for it. Damn him for looking so handsome when he broke my heart like this?

"Babe?" He called softly.

I looked away from him as I walked around the counter, taking a plate to scoop the spaghetti. Tristen's efforts shouldn't go to waste. I was about to take my second spoonful when his hands closed around mine.

"Let me go," I said quietly.

He took a shaky breath. "No, I won't. You're not talking to me, and I'm worried that I may have annoyed you," he said softly.

I scoffed. "I don't have the time for this. And, why should I be angry at you? You did nothing," I said stiffly.

He leaned closer to me, and I took a step back before his lips could touch mine. "Please, Lucas, can you just leave me alone for some time?"

I avoided looking at him, as I kept the plate down, slowly moving away from the counter, but he pulled me back to him. His hands held mine, as we both rested it on his chest. "Look at me," he said softly.

I stubbornly looked at the opening of his shirt, feeling my heart flutter with need. This was the most annoying spot to be when I wanted to scream to the goddess to stop the mate bond. At least, I wouldn't be tortured by all of Lucas's exes!

“Ember, I’m trying to talk with you,” he said softly.

I looked up at him sharply. “What?” I snapped irritably.

He smiled sadly at that. “You’re angry with me. I can feel it, so please stop going around in circles, and tell me what the issue is,” he pleaded.

“I saw you...” His brows knitted confused, but I plunged on. “You were hugging Priscilla!” I said as I finally jerked away from his hold, moving a step back. “You both looked so good, and so in love. I bet you want to get back to her. I was an idiot to think that what we had was magic!”

“What are you saying?”

“The truth!” I cried as I slammed my hand on the pot. It rattled slightly but didn’t fall. “I know what I saw, and I know now, that you don’t feel the same way for me!”

Lucas pulled me against his chest, as his lips caressed my ears. I closed my eyes at the pain of it, and when his hands enclosed my stomach, forcing me to him, it was harder to even let him go.

“You’re wrong, babe,” he said softly.

The moment he said that, all the anger I had been holding inside my heart slid down to the ground like a pack of cards. “But...” I said stubbornly.

He nibbled my earlobe in response. “But, nothing, babe,” he whispered as he turned me around to face him. “You’re my woman. You’re my mate, and you’re my soul. And, one can ever compare to your Ember.”

My cheeks flooded with color as I looked at him. “Do you mean that?”

“You know, I never say what I don’t mean,” he teased.

I chuckled then, as I held him close. I was such an idiot. I rested against his chest, as I allowed him to hold me closer to his body. Oh, the beauty of it was more delicious than anything I could put into words.

He suddenly tickled me, and I couldn’t stop the laughter that escaped my lips. “No, Lucas,” I whined as I threw my head back.

He laughed with me, and suddenly, I was lifted from the ground and placed on the counter. Lucas moved back a bit, and I slid my hair behind my ears, watching as he took the plate I had kept aside, and moved closer between my legs.

His hair was a mess on his head, and I couldn’t stop myself from ruffling it even more. I chuckled at the mischievousness, and when he looked up and winked at me, my world became full.

I told you that you should talk to him. He loves you,' my wolf sneaked it.

I beamed. 'You were right, and I would reward you with a run soon,' I muttered through the mind-link.

“Open your mouth,” Lucas was saying. I raised my brow at him, causing him to gesticulate, and I couldn't help but follow suit.

He slid a spoonful of spaghetti into my mouth and I beamed in pleasure. This was just perfect. He leaned closer to me and kissed me again on the lips, and I pressed my lips further to his.

“I love you,” he said softly.

My eyes misted. “I love you too, Lucas,” I managed.

He beamed, as he fed me with one more spoon, and even stole some of it from my mouth. “You know, Priscilla told me she wanted to get back with me. But, I told her that what she was asking for was never going to happen. I think she gets it now.”

I calmly removed the onion on the side of his lips and stuck it into my mouth. “I'm glad she knows her place. I would never share you with anyone, and I won't tolerate any insolent behavior either.”

“That's like my Luna,” he said happily.

He kept the plate back down and raised me up by lifting my ass. I spread my hands wild as I laughed so hard. This was the most adorable thing ever, and I loved it so much. My wolf purred too, and for the first time in a long while, I was in sync with her.

“Gosh, I want to eat you up,” Lucas said as he licked the tip of my cleavage despite my clothes.

I slid down the length of him, enjoying how he nipped and sucked at my sensitive skin. I let my hands move to his shoulder and then, his face, loving it so much. This was just so good.

“Lucas, we are out in the open,” I whispered.

“Let's go to my room, then,” he said seductively.

I looked around a bit, but there was no one around. “We would have to be quick, then, and walk two steps away from each other.”

He hummed as he licked the side of my ear. “I can't think straight, woman!” He whined.

I smirked. “You have to so we can leave the kitchen,” I said softly.

He groaned. “Who cares what anyone thinks? They already know that you’re mine,” he whined as his fingers moved greedily to my zip.

I pushed him off playfully, as I winked at him. “No, Luc,” I teased. “I call the shots now.”

Just like that, I ran off. “Oh, I’m going to catch you!” He cried.

I laughed as I ran over to his room. He walked closely behind, with the door closing lightly behind me. I turned to see him, and his eyes were as intense as ever, causing my heart to skip a beat.

“There is no running now,” he teased.

Chapter 113 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

One minute, he was at the door. The next, he was holding my face in his hands as he kissed the living daylights out of me. I held on to his hands, closing my eyes as I let him take control of my lips. He tasted like chocolate and sweets. It was intoxicating.

“Fuck!” He moaned against my mouth.

I lifted my eyes to look at him as our noses slightly brushed against each other. His eyes were closed as he tried to lean in for another kiss. He pecked me softly, and then, calmly, opened his eyes once more. “You drive me crazy, babe,” he mumbled.

“I believe that’s a good thing,” I teased softly.

He smiled. “It is,” he said softly.

I sighed as I leaned even closer to him. It was almost as though I didn’t want any space between us, and it was slightly crazy, but the realest thing that I had felt in the longest time. No Priscilla could make his heart beat like me, and I would have to show him that today.

“I want to make love to you,” he said suddenly as his hands slid down the length of me to my ass, squeezing it so lightly.

I bit my lips and he groaned in need. For the first time since we stepped into this room, I could feel his erection against my stomach, and I almost went crazy with my needs. This was just too good to be true. I moved closer, rubbing my stomach against it. Lucas's eyes darkened in response to that.

Before I could think twice, he pulled me up through my ass, as he led me. I let my fingers move in and out of his hair. The texture of his hair was even more beautiful than ever, and I wanted to

keep touching it until I couldn't be able to do that anymore. But, instead, he placed me down on the bed, kissing my lips, as his hands moved all over my body.

I stretched my hands slightly upward to make it easy for me to get the top off my body. My body hummed with a soft excitement. It's been a while since I had allowed Lucas to touch me sexually, and I needed this so much. I wanted to feel like a woman again.

He pushed me back to the bed, causing a soft laugh to escape my lips. The next thing I knew, my trousers were suddenly pulled down my ankles. I wriggled my legs to make it easier for him to do. It was so sweet when he moved this way without a thought.

"So beautiful," he said heatedly as he pulled slightly upwards.

I bit my legs, clinging onto the soft sheets a bit. Lucas suddenly slid his fingers up my panties, capturing all of my sensitive spots in one move. I moaned in disbelief.

"Don't tease me this way," I cried in desire. "Touch me, Lucas. Defile your fucking mate with your dick. I want you to do it already."

His throaty laugh slowly teased the friction in my panties, and I thought I would not be able to breathe anymore. "You don't need to ask, baby," he said darkly.

With that, he licked the underside of my legs, and I tightened my hold on the sheets in response. Lucas let his mouth and his fingers do the whole thing, and before long, he had all my panties off, and he was sucking on the skin there.

I tossed and turned, moaning his name, as I thrust my hips forward. My body felt like hot chocolate now, and I had no idea how to stop the desire that threatened to get the best of me.

"Oh, goddess!" I cried in desire and felt my needs slowly reach a crescendo. I could not take any more of it as I grabbed his hair tightly, not letting go for a moment. Lucas's tongue was brutal there, and I used my other hand to hold on to my breast as I came down from my high.

"Scream for me," he said between thrusts.

My wolf took over somehow and howled. I closed my eyes towards the sensations. This was so good. Somehow, he finally stopped, and we just remained like that for a minute, hoping to catch our breath. I knew without being told that this sex had just started.

When I felt I could move, I pulled his head off me and sat up. His eyes were glassy, and my juices were still shining on his lips. The sight almost made me touch my cunt, but I held back. It was not the time to give in to my needs.

"I want to suck you," I blurted out.

"What?"

I sighed as I calmly raised Lucas up, finding his lips as I kissed him hard. He tasted like me, and that made me even wetter than before. With a sigh, I trailed my hands down his shirt, removing his buttons, and calmly pulling his shirt off. I moved to the left of his ears as I whispered, "I want you butt naked."

He growled in response, while I licked his ears softly. And, slowly, I moved down to his neck, sucking. He had a similar mark on his neck that was imprinted on my neck, and it made me more excited. No one can have him now. He was mine alone.

Pecking the mark softly, I tweaked his nipple playfully, and calmly made my way down to it. I bit, sucked, and licked his nipple, unable to take control of my senses. It was just too sweet to experience all of these right now, and I didn't want it to end at all.

But, I had to move on. I let my tongue trail saliva from there to his stomach, and then the tip of his waist. I looked at him right then, and he was hooded with desire, with thigh chunks of sweat moving down his brows to his cheeks.

"So hot," we both said at the same time and smiled at each other.

My breast jiggled as I moved between his legs, looking at the massive meat that was pointing to my face. It was just too cute, and sweet. I can do it. I placed my hands around his knob, and I could hear Lucas's sharp intake of breath, but I didn't pause. I let it stroke down and then up, and soon, I was moving quite fast. Before I could get what was going on, Lucas's hand was on my head, and he was pulling me down his dick.

I licked my lips quickly and took him in, gagging and splattering saliva everywhere, but I didn't stop. I shifted a bit, letting my fingers drill into my soaking wetness, While I mouth-fucked his dick, I touched my wetness. My eyes rolled to the back with the whole sensation that I was feeling right then.

"I need to be inside you," he said suddenly, pulling my head out.

I groaned. "I can't agree more,"

He placed his hand on my cheek, slapping it softly, and I moaned as tears filled my eyes. Before I knew it, I was up and tossed down.

Lucas was kissing me, and I loved it. It was wet, sloppy, and urgent. It was literally my type of kiss in this situation. And, I just couldn't stop myself from feeling everything.

And, when he slid into me, I arched back, taking him all in. The sensations were wild, and I thought I was in another space. I let my fingers move to his shoulders as I clawed at it. Our eyes never left each other, as he moved in and out, taking me into heights of passion that I never imagined that I could be in.

"Oh, moon goddess!" I cried with need.

Lucas quivered on me, and we both screamed into our faces as we came so hard, clinging onto each other for real life.

This was heaven, and I needed this so much.

Chapter 114 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

“I don’t want to stop holding you,” Lucas whispered in my ears.

I smiled as I held on to him. My head hurt lightly, but it was in a good way. I had not been able to sleep at all last night, as we had rounds of sex like a pair of rabbits. But, wolves should be more fitting. This only made me smile widely.

A knock sounded on the door, and I blinked a bit. Who could it be?

“Are you expecting someone, Luc?” I asked softly.

He sighed as he pecked me on the forehead. “No, I’m not,” he contradicted.

The sound came once more, slightly timid, but more urgent. I sighed as I straightened up a bit. “I think we should answer that.”

Lucas looked at me lazily, as he slowly slid his hand against my chin, caressing it lightly. “Let’s ignore them. When they are tired, then they would leave,” he stated.

I chuckled as I leaned into him, pecking him on the nose. The sheets were the only thing separating our bodies, and for some reason, I was not embarrassed by this. Instead, I embraced it more than ever.

“Baby, you know we can’t really snub the person on the other side, right? It could be important,” I said smartly.

He sighed as he pecked me on the forehead. “If you insist,” he said softly.

I held him close as I said, “I do.”

He smiled as he let me go, and I used the sheets to cover my body, while he stepped out of the bed butt naked. He turned around as he winked at me, and my cheeks flamed in awareness of him. I also felt my cheeks go warm at this. Looking away from him, I fought the smile that touched my lips.

“Who is it?” His voice boomed suddenly.

I turned to the door and heard a maid make her presence known. Lucas opened the door slightly and stood with his hand on the boxer briefs that he must have worn while I was blushing like a fool.

The girl looked flustered as she bowed a bit, and then, looked up at me calmly. "Alpha Dominic wants to see you and Miss Ember come down for breakfast," she said quickly.

"I would be there," Lucas said simply as he shut the door on her face. He turned to me as he winked, "I simply said that we need to go for another round first."

"Lucas," I whined.

But, he was already removing his boxers as he jumped right on the bed, dragging me closer to him, so we could smash as much as we wanted. The man would never change.

"We should have gone for another round," Lucas whined as we walked down the stairs.

I shook my head at him. "I'm not ready to get into your father's bad books after all this time. Sex can always wait, you know," I teased.

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"You're absolutely...right," he said softly.

The way he dragged the words was so funny, and I couldn't stop the laughter from bubbling inside of me. Lucas suddenly took my hand, and I looked at him inquisitively. He winked at me as he tucked it under his arm playfully, and I felt like I was about to go over to the ninth cloud at this point.

"This is much better," he said.

As we took the last three descents, my mind moved back to the spectacle that I had witnessed a day before. Lucas had assured me that he only had eyes for me, and he would never do anything to hurt me. But, would that promise be able to stand when it came to a love that had shone so bright for years?

Lucas and Priscilla had been the power couple at the time, and...

"There, they are!" Tristen announced at the top of his voice.

I blushed as I tried to pull my hand from Lucas coyly, but he wouldn't let me one bit. Instead, he pulled me along with him as we looked at his family at the head table. Everyone was here, including Alpha Dominic and his Luna. Luna was smiling after so many days, and I took it to mean that her anger had slowly gone down after undergoing such fierce betrayal.

“Greetings Alpha and Luna Anna,” I said slowly.

The Alpha waved me off with a laugh and motioned for us to take our seats. I looked at Tristen and Caleb, and they had a small smile on their lips. I returned it once more, feeling my chest tighten a bit.

Lucas pulled out a seat for me at the end of the table and sat down beside me. “Thank you,” I managed.

He squeezed my hand softly in response. The maids came around at once, setting the food down, and trying their best to remain invincible, still no one said a word until they were out of sight.

“Kids, I’m thinking that the pack runs are far in-between. There could be attacks at any time, and I don’t believe that we are ready,” Alpha Dominic announced suddenly.

I grabbed a spoon like the others and dug into my meal. “Is there any form of danger encroaching?” Lucas asked at once.

“No, not at all,” Alpha Dominic said with a sigh. “The thing is that I don’t want a situation where we are not prepared.”

His eyes flicked over to mine, and he frowned lightly. “Especially you, Ember,”

“What have I done, Alpha?” I asked in a panic.

“It should be, what have you not done. I agree that you have witchery abilities, but when was the last time I saw you shift to a wolf? I sometimes think that you don’t want to be one. You wish to be something else, and that is what stops you from reaching your true potential,” he scolded.

“Ember and I planned to go to some pack run earlier today,” Lucas said suddenly as he held my hand.

I looked at him in shock. I had never made such a comment before, so how could he say that? But, was it all that bad?

“If that is so, then that is ok. Training with a wolf that has Alpha blood in him can boost you to become strong,” he said.

“Ah, we are eating, dad. We can save this talk for later,” Tristen said calmly.

Alpha Dominic chuckled nervously at that. “My bad,” he whispered.

Just like that, the breakfast table went quiet again, and we all focused on eating. I was still blushing about what Lucas said. Maybe, I didn’t need to worry too much about Priscilla anyway.

“I want to say something,” Caleb said suddenly.

We all turned to him, and he placed his fork easily beside his plate. I had never really seen him this serious before when things were not going crazy, and that was a sight. And, for some reason, my wolf wanted to move to him.

Ugh!

“What is it, son?” Alpha Dominic queried.

He took a deep breath as he looked at each of us, but his eyes seemed to linger on me for a bit before turning to his father. “I got a scholarship at Everest High, and I would be going there to play football, which is my dream.”

“That’s in another state,” Luna whispered in shock.

Caleb shrugged in response. “It’s another pack, mom. Everest Moon Pack is precisely what I need right now, and I need your encouragement in this.”

“I can’t believe you’re going,” Tristen said in shock.

And, then, everyone started talking at once, and I simply looked on in shock. For some reason, I felt like a part of me was slowly melting away, and I didn’t understand it. When Caleb turned to me with a smile, I tried to smile back, but I ended up shedding a tear. He made a sign for me to cheer up, and that only seemed to make me feel worse.

I didn’t love him, so why does it hurt so bad?

Chapter 115 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

LUCAS

I looked at Caleb with pain in my eyes. I knew in my soul that he was lying through his teeth. The only reason he was leaving was because of Ember. He couldn’t afford to stay in the same place with her, and that broke my heart a bit. I had never wished to be the one to cause my brother pain, but now, it was happening, and it was as hurtful as hell.

“How long have you been planning this?” I asked softly.

He shrugged. “Is it that important to know?”

I sighed as Father rose to his feet, moving over to Caleb. Caleb stood up too, and they hugged. I could tell that most of the rage that they felt for each other had dissipated a bit. It was so painful to see, though.

I turned to Ember, and she looked slightly pale. “Are you ok, babe?” I asked softly.

She shifted her gaze to me and smiled lightly at me. “What could be wrong with me? I’m fine, Luc,” she mumbled as she rose to her feet.

I did the same, and we made our way to where Caleb was hugging Dad. My mom was crying hard again. I could not imagine what she was feeling, and I knew it was going to be a hard Christmas to bear.

“When are you leaving?” Tristen was asking.

I hit Caleb on the shoulder as he said, “I believe it should be this week. There is really nothing to do here, apart from finalize my transfer and all.”

“Gosh! You waited to the very end to tell us!” I cried in disbelief.

He smirked as he looked at the both of us. “It’s not like you both always tell me your plans anyway.”

I rolled my eyes at him. “You’re an idiot.”

He grinned sheepishly at that but didn’t say anything. Without thinking twice, I pulled him into a hug. “I’m going to miss you, bro,” I said at last.

At that moment, I felt another cool body on us, and I knew it was Tristen. He hated this sort of thing, but always turned up at the last minute. We stayed like that for some time, taking each other’s scent.

“Ok, that is enough,” Caleb whined, causing us all to laugh.

I and Tristen took turns hitting him on the head, before going back to our seats. Ember wasn’t by my side, and I shifted my gaze as I saw her move to Caleb softly. They spoke softly to each other, and she straightened up a bit before coming back to sit by my side.

“Well,” I said in a bid to distract myself. “I was thinking that it would be nice to have a sweet farewell party...or, should I say, dinner for you tonight. I mean, you wouldn’t be staying with us this Christmas, so it’s best to make hay while the sun shines,” I pointed out.

“Splendid idea, son,” mom said softly.

And, I gave her a small smile in response. The rest of the breakfast passed without much drama, and a heart to make things worthwhile for my brother.

“Babe, I will see you later,” I said softly.

Ember squinted her eyes at me, slightly confused. “Where are you going?” She asked softly.

I shrugged. "I need to do some things with my brothers one more time. I mean, it would help me feel better, and have more memories of Caleb before he leaves."

She nodded as she pressed my hand in understanding. "That makes sense. You should do what you have to do," she encouraged.

I smiled softly at her, as I ran towards the top of the stairs, and up the balcony. I knew Caleb and Tristen were already there like old times, and when I stepped in, they pulled me into a hug.

I could barely see, but I held them back. "Gosh, guys!" I said with a soft laugh.

They finally released me, and I noted that the whole place was filled with water guns and paints. I snickered, and went at one of them, using it to make Caleb's life slightly miserable. I would enjoy doing this a lot. Damn!

I had no idea how long we were at it, but finally, I slumped down on the makeshift bed with my brothers falling on either side of us. It was difficult to stay away from the other, but now, this was happening.

"I can't believe you have the courage to leave us," I said suddenly.

Caleb sighed. "I would rather not leave, but I have to move on in life, right? As much as we are all Alphas, I still have to forge my path. Every so often, I have no idea who I am," he said softly.

"You're sure this is not about Ember?"

Caleb groaned as he rolled around, and I could feel his gaze on my face. "Tristen, tell him to stop being an asshole."

"Stop acting like an ass, Lucas," Tristen said dutifully.

I rolled my eyes. "I'm being serious here."

Caleb hit me on the hand softly. "The world doesn't rotate around you, you know? I'm not leaving because I couldn't get a girl. I can get thousands of those girls anyway, and did you forget that I clinched that saucy bitch this semester? I'm the swag of you three, women are not my problem."

I couldn't help but laugh. "Ok, that is settled. We need to prep up for the dinner. Get up, already," I teased.

We rose to our feet, and when I tried to initiate the brotherly hug, my brothers ran off, screaming, "No more!"

Such cuties!

I stood at the top of the stairs and looked at the whole place. It had been transformed into a living wolf world. There were black balloons and weirdly contorted wolves, with pictures of Caleb everywhere. My brother was indeed a handsome soul, and I smiled at it.

The idiot wouldn't tease me to death like he always does. Speaking of him, he was chatting with Ember and our parents. I could tell that Ember looked like she was about to cry. I had not spoken to her today to know how much all these affected her, and I decided to do just that.

It was at that moment that the door slowly pulled open, and Tristen walked in with Priscilla in tow. My body hummed in shock, but still, I found myself racing down the stairs, but it was too late as Ember turned and noted Priscilla's presence.

Fuck!

"We need to talk," I snapped at Tristen at once.

"I'm hungry, bro," he said instead.

I glared at him as I said, "Now!"

He groaned lightly as he asked Priscilla to make herself comfortable. Of course, she moved on like she was always meant to be. I had no choice but to grab Tristen as we moved out of the house.

"Why the fuck did you bring her here, man?" I asked at once.

He sighed as he rolled his wristwatch around. "Priscilla was a real part of our home, and I thought it would be nice to have her here again."

"But, you know that I..."

"I believe you've settled that. Come on, Luc, let's not think of ourselves for today. Priscilla was also Caleb's friend, and he deserves a good send-off from his friend."

"I..."

He slapped a hand on my shoulder instead and made his way into the house. "Are you coming or not?" He asked before vanishing inside.

Chapter 116 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

My knee-length cream gown paled in comparison to Priscilla's golden gown which seemed to highlight all her curves and made her so feminine. My fingers pulled into fists beside me, and I tried hard to keep my face impassive as she stepped forward.

"Priscilla?" The Luna called in shock.

Priscilla bowed lightly to the Alpha and Luna. "Greetings, Alpha and Luna," she said softly.

I watched as the Luna's face lit up with a smile, as though she just realised that Priscilla was right there. It irritated me a bit. This woman had been dating my mate for a long time, and the whole family thought it was nice for her to come around, and act like she was the best thing in the world.

And, what the hell was she doing here?

None of the pack mates were aware of this, and it was supposed to be just a family thing and nothing more! Gosh!

"When did you come back?" The Luna asked softly.

Priscilla smiled lightly. "It was two days ago, and I thought I would greet you and the Alpha in different circumstances, but Tristen informed me that Caleb was leaving, and I just couldn't help but come around. If my presence is not allowed here, I will leave," she said softly.

Bitch...

"You don't need to go anywhere, Priscilla. Have you grown so big that you find it comfortable to say such nonsense? Go and sit beside Caleb right now. At least, he would have a woman by his side," The Luna said with a soft laugh.

"Ugh!" Caleb cried dramatically, earning a laugh from everyone except me.

Priscilla dutifully went over to Caleb and they both shared a hug. Just when they were about to talk more, Tristen came into the dining room, with Lucas not far behind. He looked at me with a smile, and I tried to return it.

"Since we are all here, let's eat now," Alpha Dominic said at last.

We all settled on our seats, and Lucas pressed a hand on mine softly. "You look spectacular," he said at last.

"Thank you," I said softly.

"He used to tell me that too when we were young, do you remember, Lucas?" Priscilla slipped in easily.

What the fuck?

I turned to Lucas, and he was smiling shyly at whatever memory that he thought of. “Yes, I do remember. We were like ten-year-olds, and so mischievous.”

“But, you’re not 10 anymore, and I’m hungry,” I said stiffly.

Priscilla laughed nervously at that, and we returned to our plates of pork and rabbit. It was an odd combination, but it helped our wolves to be brand new. I was so glad that there was no one bringing up Priscilla and Lucas's history.

In thirty minutes, we were done with the pork and the maids took our plates away, replacing it with juicy cake. I was so full that I couldn’t stand. And, it seemed to me that the whole atmosphere was so awkward thanks to Priscilla’s comments.

Poor Caleb!

I spared him a glance, and he scooped the biggest cake into his mouth. For someone who should be mingling with Priscilla since she had come for him, he seemed quiet and of course, that couldn’t be a good sign one bit.

“Priscilla, what have you been up to?” Tristen asked suddenly.

She shrugged. “I have just been settling back into the pack. I must say, the members have been so nice and accommodating. It makes me feel at ease. Though, I would have liked it more if Lucas had been there to assist me with the entire process. You know, how he is good at organising things,” she said softly.

“Lucas,” Alpha Dominic called suddenly.

“Yes, father,” Lucas said softly.

“Priscilla has gone through a lot in life, and right now, she would need all the help there is. Her mother was a great woman, and I believe that helping her should be the topmost priority right now. I think it would help to make her daughter more comfortable.”

Lucas shrugged. “I would think about that. Tristen is always there too. I mean, he was also a part of our friendship, and he was the one who invited her here.”

“I sure did, and I’m ready to help where it’s needed.”

“Perfect,” Alpha Dominic said at once, and encouraged us to eat more cake.

We were quiet for some time and I pretended to eat more cake, but I didn't feel anything at all. Suddenly, Priscilla started coughing, and Lucas rose to his feet, extending the cup of water to her. I stared at him in shock.

“How sweet,” Caleb said with a smile on his face.

Lucas finally sat back down. “You need to be careful when eating the dessert,” he scolded.

“They’ve not changed at all,” Luna observed with a slight laugh.

“Yes,” Alpha Dominic said.

“I think they are meant to always be this way. I remember when Priscilla was 5 years old and choked on a small frost cake. Lucas went crazy in panic, and if not for Caleb's expert skills in hitting the back, I think he would have also tried to choke on her. He was that crazy,” Tristen said with a laugh.

They all laughed, and the next moment, they talked about how their childhood had been. It seemed to me that Lucas was in every significant memory. And when I looked at Priscilla, she was looking at me with glee. It was beyond annoying to see at this point, and I had no idea what else to do.

“Oh, you guys were so naughty,” Caleb was saying.

She laughed at that. “Oh, please! We were just a bunch of fools and nothing more. I can’t believe I spent my childhood doing such foolish tricks. It’s so insane and unbelievable. What were we thinking, Lucas?”

“I have no idea. Father had a tough time putting us in order. And, that was the fun part!” He said out loud, as they both laughed heartily at it.

I flung the napkin on the table in rage. This couldn’t be happening right now. Everyone looked at me in shock, but I didn’t care as I rose to my feet and walked off.

How could they act like Priscilla was Lucas's mate, and not me? And, Lucas was also indulging like he wished he could go back in time.

This was supposed to be a farewell party, but it was not. It was a complete disaster and I hated it. I hated that Lucas had no respect for me!

“Oh, Goddess!” I cried blindly as I walked through the hall.

Chapter 117 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

PRISCILLA

I smirked as Ember stormed out of the dining room. This was precisely what I wanted, and I was so glad that everything was going according to plan. The bitch couldn’t stand to see how happy I was with Lucas, and she fled like a fucking pup.

“I would have to see what went wrong there,” Lucas said as he dropped his fork at the side of the table.

I rose to my feet, almost at the same time with him, holding him by the arm as I tried to stifle the urge to smile. “I would check on Ember. You know, we are girls and we obviously understand each other much better. Eat your dessert, Lucas, and put your mind at peace.”

He smiled as he placed his hand over mine. “Are you sure that would be fine by you? I mean, I would rather not impose anything on you.”

“What are you saying?” I said with a kind smile. “This is not a problem for me. Just relax, and I will go see what went wrong with her, ok?”

He nodded and slowly sat back down. I bowed to the Alpha and Luna, who looked quite pensive as I made my way out of there. In the deserted hallway, I took careful strides, trying hard not to laugh out loud. It felt so good when I actually gave her a pinch of her medicines.

What did she think? Would I simply let her take my lover from me? I have known Lucas all my life, and he was mine alone, and no other. No one could hold a candle to him where I was concerned. It was my duty to make sure that he saw that I was the only one for him, and the moon goddess was wrong. Of course, he was carried away by duty, and it was He loved to a fault.

A smirk adorned my lips as I took a sharp turn to the left. This was going to get good. A door was slightly ajar, and I sensed her essence as I moved, making my wolf lead me to her. Her scent was too sweet, and nauseating. She must be suffocating my Lucas with it.

Ugh!

Focus, Priscilla...

With a sigh, I placed my hand on the dark wood door, and slowly pulled it in. Ember stood in the middle of the room with her head in her hands, and I could tell she was crying because of the rise and fall of her shoulders. She was such a weak mate, and she deserved everything that came her way right now.

I chuckled softly so she would hear me, and she turned in shock. “You can’t even realize that a she-wolf is standing at your door. Are you a weak wolf or something? Gosh!”

She swiped at her tears angrily with the back of her hands as she glared at me. “What the hell are you doing in my room? Get the hell out!”

I sighed as I made my way to her, only for her to take several steps back.

“Oh, Moon Goddess!” I said dryly. “I didn’t want to come here, you know, but I just couldn’t help it. I hate seeing Lucas disgruntled. I mean, we’ve been close for years, and you’re so weak. You may add to his problems.”

I watched as she took a shaky breath. “He is not yours, Priscilla. And, please stop the acts, and there is nothing in me that is weak. I have tried my best to explain this to you, so why don’t you understand?”

“Explain? What are you trying to explain?” I taunted. I placed a hand on my chin as I thought about it. “Oh, that childish display that you did outside is something that I have to understand? I’m sorry I can’t get it that way. I speak in clear terms, and not like a weak wolf.”

She howled as she went over to the cabinet, knocking the creams down on the floor. I smirked as I watched the display. Oh, gosh! She was even easier to rattle than I thought. My fingers went to my hair as I tweaked it lightly. This was too much fun.

Ember suddenly turned to me, and her eyes were blazing with renewed rage. “I swear to the goddess, if you call me a weak wolf again, then I will break every limb you possess.”

I rolled my eyes as I made my way to her. “You should save your energy because the whole pack knows your strength.” I sighed as I looked around the room. “Well, I don’t have time to argue about it with you. I only want you to know that your stay here is for a time. You would be kicked out soon.”

“By whom?” She snapped.

I looked at her evenly, as I pointed to my chest. “By me, of course,” I said easily.

“You’re delusional.”

“I’m not. The bond the two of you share is not a candle where I and Lucas are concerned. You are not in a position to make the pack great or satisfy Lucas. You’re just...a stinky omega.”

She growled as she moved into my face at once. “You can’t do anything. I’ve been blessed by the goddess to be a part of Lucas’s life, and none of that is going to change because you said so.”

I laughed as I took several steps back. “Did you hear yourself?” I laughed even harder. “Ember, I’m back now. Hopefully, you’re not too slow. You saw everything in the dining area, and it only proves one thing, I’m the owner of his heart. He becomes so soft when I’m in the same room with him. So, he is mine, and I’m back to take what fully is mine. You were just holding him for a time, that is all.”

“You’re a fucking bitch!” Ember screamed in my face. “And, you know what? You need to learn to move on because you’re going crazy.”

Anger warmed inside of me, and I grabbed a hold of her hand, pulling her to me. And, in the next minute, I hit her across the face in rage.

She needs a good beating and I was going to give her just that.

Chapter 118 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

She just slapped me?

I slowly turned my angled face to the right and noted that Priscilla was smiling at me like there was no tomorrow. I growled as my wolf shot the surface, knocking Priscilla hard on the floor. She gasped as her butt hit the ground with a thud.

“What the hell did you just do?” She asked in shock.

I smirked as I slid my hair behind my ears. “This is just a tip of what I could do to you if you ever try to hit me again!” I shouted angrily.

Her eyes were wild as she said, “You’re a fucking mad woman, and...”

I screamed in rage as I descended on her. She had no time to shift to the side when I took her head in my hands, slamming it against the tiles. Just as I was about to do it the third time, she kicked me right on the stomach and I found myself flying to the other side.

My blood pumped with rage, and I crawled back at her. She struggled to rise to her feet as her hand softly massaged her head. “Stay away from me,” she cried.

Her words didn’t move me one bit, In minutes, I was holding onto her right leg, as I flipped her down to the floor. A scream tore through her throat, which only made my wolf more excited. I didn’t stop as I climbed on her, hitting her so hard across the face. She tore at my dress as she struggled to get the upper hand, but I grabbed a hold of her hand, knocking it to the side.

“You would have to learn that no one talks to me like that, or even try to hit me on the face unprovoked. You called me a weak wolf. Oh, I would show you exactly how weak I am!” I cried as I pressed her wrists even deeply while she rattled beneath me.

Her hair was all over the place, and she tried to kick me and rolled to the side. In a split second, her hands were loose from my hold, and she went at me, hitting me on the nose with full force. I saw red right there, as I flicked my nose, and saw a slight blood.

What the fuck!

“What is going on here?” Lucas cried.

I ignored him completely and went to Priscilla as she tried to escape from me. I shoved her hard, and her ankle hit the bed with a thud, causing her to scream in pain. Next, I pulled her down and she placed her hands on my shoulder, hoping to throw me off, but it was evident that she just couldn't.

"Oh, Moon Goddess!" The Luna said in horror. "Can someone at least try to separate them? This is already out of hand, what the hell? They could burn the whole house down or something!"

"Mother, calm down. I'm sure that they would be fine," Lucas tried to pacify her.

"No, I think, mother is right. We need to do something," Tristen said as he moved.

I could hear them, and feel all of their emotions, and it momentarily threw me off, with Priscilla gaining the upper hand. Her eyes were pitched black, and I knew that she had let her wolf take control of her senses. She swiped at my face, and the claws slowly grazed my face before I held her hand.

"Don't think about it, or you would rather not leave this room alive," I snapped.

She barred her fangs at me. "You make such tall claims a time, thinking that I would be scared of you. I tried to let you off because I thought that you were just being rash, but you kept coming at me. So, this time, I would show you that I don't make empty threats."

My eyes turned to slits as I bored into her eyes. "Neither do I, Priscilla."

And, just like that, the whole thing slowly went overboard, and we went at each other. I didn't know what I was grabbing or hitting at that point. All, I knew was that I wanted to draw blood. My wolf was also going out of control and wanted to come out to kill her.

I have never had the urge to kill another wolf like I did at that moment. It was the strangest thing, and the fact that I was a part of it didn't make my anger any easier to handle.

Soon, I heard Priscilla scream that they should get me off her. It took me a moment to realize that I was continuously blowing her everywhere. Her face was as red as a tomato. I tried to come back to my senses as I moved slightly from her, but then, I tripped thanks to her and hit my mouth on the bed.

It hurt like hell, and I could feel the power sizzling in my bloodstream. I turned to her, the wind rattling the windows, like a curse, and everything dangling at their spots. There was no means of escape, and it was just murder.

"Ember, please get control of your emotions," Lucas pleaded as he moved forward.

I turned to him then, and he gasped in shock. I could see that Caleb and Tristen had gone pale as they wondered what they should do, but I was too far gone. "It's too late. She would have to pay," a voice came from the inside of me.

Priscilla threw a vase at me, but it disintegrated into a million pieces before it reached me. She kept crawling backward with her palms, and I noted that her face was a mask of horror.

I focused intensely at her, gradually creeping into her mind. Her eyeballs rolled to the back of her eyes and seconds later I was in control.

She went at it with a curse, as though she had been possessed, and at the twentieth hit, she went unconscious. No one said a word, and I slowly felt the power leave my body, causing me to fall back to the ground, with my eyes drooping close.

But, the last thing I saw was Lucas trying to run to me.

Chapter 119 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

“Wake up!”

I gasped in shock as my eyes slowly took in the angry-looking Luna. Luna Anna’s hands were raised slightly, and she looked about to hit me, but she retracted her hands and rose instead. Her eyes were so cold as she glared at me. I shivered lightly as I moved backward. My eyes moved to each family member, who seemed to be looking at me with barely disguised anger.

I bit my lips as I looked away from them, and to Priscilla, who was still heavily unconscious. There were drops of water on her skin, but it was evident that she had not been able to rise to her feet, despite all these, and the room was in slight disarray.

“Look at her!” The Luna said angrily.

I swallowed. “Please, I can explain what happened here. It’s not what it looks like,” I managed.

The Luna glared at me as her eyes narrowed into slits. “Did you mean that you wish to lie your way out of this?”

“No, I don’t...”

“Shut the fuck up, Ember!” She screamed at me, causing me to flinch.

Next, she walked over to where Priscilla was and pointed at her. “She is a core member of the pack, and you hurt her. Do you even realize what you’ve done? You threatened her multiple times that you would kill her if she ever tried to cross paths with you, and also went ahead to put her in this state. Do you realize what could have happened if...? What am I even saying?” She snapped as she placed her hands against her lips. “She could be seriously hurt thanks to your witchcraft.”

My eyes misted in pain. “I didn’t mean to do that. I was just too angry, and...”

“Excuses,” Alpha Dominic interjected.

I shook my head as I looked at Lucas to help me out of this. I had never imagined that I would fight for a man like that. But, I had done so, and now, he was just standing there, watching me brawl my eyes out while his mother rained insults on me like I was the devil. And, he did nothing.

“Ember, we all knew what we saw and how we tried to stop you from fighting Priscilla. I have no idea what happened, but I know that at some point, she pleaded with you to let her go, but you did not. You insisted on being mean to her, and using your powers illegally, especially when you knew how disastrous it could be,” Alpha Dominic said sadly.

I lowered my eyes as tears dropped through my eyes. “I admit I shouldn’t have done that, but if you would give me a moment to explain myself. Lucas, you know me, and you know fully well that I wouldn’t just hurt another soul.”

“Don’t try to put him in this.” Luna Anna snapped at once.

I went quiet as I tried to search Lucas's eyes, but he seemed to have sunken into his shell, with Tristen and Caleb talking to him quietly. Did he really believe that I was in the wrong in all of these? I would never harm a wolf like that.

“Look, Ember,” Luna Anna huffed. “You might be punished for what you did to Priscilla.”

I looked at her in shock. “You can’t do that without a query. I’m not wrong for defending myself. Priscilla started all of these. I know that you knew her the longest, but it means nothing where the truth is.”

She scoffed as she turned away from me, placing her hand on Alpha Dominic’s arm. “She expected us to believe that when she made such a scene moments ago.”

“We can talk about all these later,” Lucas said as he moved in my direction. “Right now, it’s important to make sure that Ember is...”

“You mean Priscilla,” Luna Anna said at once. “Take her to the pack healer at the edge of the pack. I’m sure there would be a way to get her healed. Hopefully, Ember hasn’t killed her yet.”

I watched as Lucas placed both hands by his sides, and knew he was hesitating. I wondered who he would choose. It was so annoying when things like this happened this way. He turned away from me, and went to Priscilla, scooping her up as he made his way out of the room.

“Luc, you don’t believe that I would hurt her just like that, right? You believe I didn’t use my powers intentionally, right?” I asked through our mind link.

He turned to me lightly and smiled thinly, and then, he was gone.

He trusted me.

Lucas had not told me that in clear terms, but he did. I ignored the way they all looked at me as they walked out of the room. Only Tristen stepped forward, kneeling beside me.

“You can go too,” I said quietly.

He shook his head. “And, leave you all alone? I’m not that heartless, Ember,” he said softly.

I sniffed. “I really don’t know how,” I placed my hands in between us. “My powers flickered. I know it wasn’t fair to Priscilla because we weren’t fighting on equal terms, but I couldn’t stop myself anyway. I was just so annoyed.”

Tristen softly cleaned my tears off with his thumb. “You know that you don’t need to defend yourself so vehemently in front of me. You may have chosen my brother to be your true mate, but I’m not oblivious to what you can do and not do. I trust you so much.”

I couldn’t stop myself from hugging him tightly as I cried on his shoulder. “Thank you,” I muttered repeatedly as I wailed.

He held me so close to him, and my wolf felt safe. No one would hurt us here, and maybe, the Luna would calm down after some time. Yes, she wasn’t always so harsh. She will realize that I was not wrong and stop Priscilla from coming around.

As I held on to Tristen, I realized that it was a hard wish, but a woman could hope.

Chapter 120 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Lucas

As I carried Priscilla, I noticed that her pulse was slightly faint, and though I had been strictly told by the Alpha to take her to the witch on the other side of the border, I found myself moving over to the pack clinic. If she died on me, then, it would be too late to help her. Ember would be in trouble for the crime that she did not commit, and I couldn’t let that happen.

‘Where the hell are you taking her, Lucas?’ Father snapped through the mind link.

I gritted my teeth lightly as I looked at Priscilla in my hands. I really couldn’t feel her pulse anymore. ‘Meet me at the packed clinic, Father,’ I said instead.

‘But...’

‘I’m so sorry that I have to disobey you for the first time, but Priscilla doesn’t need the witch right now,’ I stated as I made a turn to the left, moving out of the pack house. ‘Trust me, Father.’

‘Fine, do what you have to do. We will meet you there.’ He said at last.

I didn't need to be told twice, as I used my wolf as a propeller to move as fast as I could to the clinic. Within minutes, I was in the hospital and called for Doctor Wolfe to help Priscilla. Everything happened so fast after that, and all I had to do was wait outside the operating room for them to be done.

"Lucas," Father called at once.

I turned at once and noted that all of my family had come with him. Mother looked so stressed, and though I loved her a lot, I was still upset with the way they spoke to Ember. They should have known her by now that she didn't go around flaunting her powers or looking for trouble. She was as gentle as a dove where it was necessary, so how could they blame her?

Father touched my hand softly as he asked, "What did the doctor say?"

I shrugged lightly. "I have not heard from them yet. We just have to wait for the test to be done."

"It's all Ember's fault," Mother said suddenly.

I looked at her in shock. "You're at this again. Ember did nothing wrong, and you can't blame her when we don't know the whole story. Moreover, she said Priscilla started it first."

"And, you believe her?"

"Are you trying to say that I shouldn't believe my mate's mother?"

There was an awkward silence after that, and I noticed that she looked down on the floor, obviously understanding for the first time since this evening that she was overreacting. I sighed as I looked at the closed door. I didn't need this right now, and I wish Priscilla would wake up and say the damn truth.

"Let's calm down," Caleb mumbled, for the first time this whole thing started.

I looked at him, and he gave me a small smile in a bid to encourage me. I tried to return one too, but was scared about everything. I just didn't know how Ember was faring. She had been brutally washed down by my mother, and it was just so unfair.

I folded my hands together as father and mother did side-by-side pacing. Mother chewed her fingers as she moved, and I hoped she was thinking hard about her attitude. Just as Caleb stepped by my side, the door sprung open and Doctor Wolfe stepped out, his lips drawn in a thin line.

He bowed to Father, and then, took a deep breath, looking at each one of us. It was a bit unnerving that he spent much time acting this way.

"Whoever she was fighting with wanted to kill her," he said at once.

I frowned deeply as I glared at him. "Watch your mouth," I snapped coldly.

Caleb placed a hand on my shoulder. “Calm down, bro,” he said softly.

I nodded lightly as I faced the doctor. “Tell us if she is out of danger.”

Doctor Wolfe swallowed hard as he looked at me. “Yes, she is. She escaped death narrowly. If you had brought her a second later than you did, I’m afraid she would have died. You should thank the moon goddess for giving her a new life.”

“Thank you. Can we see her?” I asked quietly.

“Yes, she is conscious.”

With that, he left, I looked at my family, and we knew that we had to get to Priscilla at once. They looked at me, and I tried my best to convey that it was ok for them to come along with me. A nurse informed me that she had been shifted to another ward, so we walked about four rooms down before we got to hers. I carefully opened the door and stepped into the all-white room.

Priscilla lay with her back turned to us, and it made me wonder if she was crying silently. I took a deep breath as I moved even further into the room, but she did not turn, as though she couldn’t sense my presence. There was a brown bandied on her wrist where the drip was being infused.

“Priscilla,” I said softly.

She turned slightly, and I noticed her eyes were red with tears. She had truly been crying, and I didn’t have an idea what to do at that moment.

“Tell us what happened,” Caleb said softly.

She shifted her gaze to him. “I don’t know where to start from.”

Father grunted as he stepped forward, looking down at her, harshly. “You have to start from somewhere, young lady, or you will be equally punished with Ember for what you both have done, so don’t test my patience please.”

She visibly gulped as she looked at her father. “I would tell you, Alpha, Dominic.”

But, it was me she looked at instead. “I wanted to help Ember, like I said at dinner. So, I walked over to her and tried to find out what was going on, but she accused me,” she whispered.

“Why did she accuse you?” Mother queried.

She lifted her hand weakly in my direction. “She told me that I had my eyes on Lucas. She said that I wanted to take her family from her, and so many weird things,” she said as she cried. “I have never seen such a thing before. When I tried to reassure her that she was mistaken and paranoid, she hit me. One thing led to another, and it went into a full-blown fight.”

She looked at her mother and father with sad eyes. "I know that pack fights aren't allowed, but what do I do?"

"You're lying," I muttered.

She sniffed. "I know she is your mate, but why would I lie?"

"Look," Caleb said as he took a step forward. "I didn't want to get involved in all of these, but what you just said doesn't sound like Ember. She has always been a mature woman, and if she experienced any problems with you, she would tell her mate."

"Then, why did she walk out of the dining table if it was so simple?"

I combed my hand through my hair as I pointed at her coldly. Priscilla was a beautiful liar. I knew my mate, and she never behaved rashly. She must have instigated her or something but didn't wish to tell the truth. She opened her mouth to speak, but I howled at her, shutting her up.

"I would not take any of these again. Just shut the fuck up! If you don't want to say the truth, fine, but it will be revealed. Stop feeding my parents with your nonsense till I come back."

"Lucas!" Mother called out, but I was already out of there.

My wolf tried to talk to me, but I blocked him. I don't wish to chat with anyone now. I just wanted to see Ember. It was a mistake to come here. I should have been with her instead. She was my mate, and it was my duty to make sure that she was in good health. She should come first before anyone else.

The night was cool, and by the time I got to the pack house, everywhere was so silent. I knew that the omegas had retired for the night, but it still felt strange. I took the steps two at a time and turned over to Ember's room. It was wide open, and when I peered in, my heart stopped.

In front of the bed were Ember and Tristen hugging each other like it was their last.