

## Chapter 21 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Ember's POV

"Sleeping on this rock seems like a first-class ticket to severe back pain the next morning," I complained.

"Oh, I'm sorry, do you have a better option?" Lucas replied sarcastically, which shut me up.

"Are you, um, sleeping on top of this stone with me?" I asked nervously, my hand pointing at the cut-out stone I was seated on.

"Well, that's the only stone of decent size; the rest are barely enough to contain half my body," he replied.

"I see..." I muttered.

"Why? Do I make you nervous?" He asked, a small grin forming on his lips.

"Of course not, why would I be nervous?" I retorted, trying to maintain a cool composure.

Lucas chuckled, "Relax, Ember. It's just for the night. We'll make it work."

He started arranging the wood in the fire, the warm glow flickering in the cave. As the fire crackled, casting dancing shadows on the cave walls, my mind raced with multiple emotions swirling inside me.

I shifted uncomfortably, feeling the strange tension in the air. Lucas was shirtless, and the glow from the fire just seemed to make his toned body look more desirable. I blamed the mate bond for my attraction to him.

The warmth from the fire seemed to amplify the chemistry between us. Lucas caught my gaze on his body, and a mischievous glint appeared in his eyes.

"You know," Lucas said, his voice low and husky, "we could make this night a lot more comfortable."

My heartbeat quickened as Lucas moved closer, the proximity sending shivers down my spine.

"I'm not interested in playing your games," I protested, though my resolve wavered as Lucas traced a finger along my jawline, his touch sending tingles through my skin.

Lucas leaned in, his lips inches from mine. "Ember, we can both feel this strong pull from the mate bond, our undeniable chemistry. Why resist it?"

His breath brushed against my ear, making it difficult to deny the connection.

His lips met mine in a heated kiss, and I felt a fire ignite inside me. The cave seemed to disappear, leaving only warmth and electricity between us.

My hands found their way to Lucas's bare chest, and every bit of my self-control flew out of the window.

His hands wrapped around my waist, pulling me until my body was pressed against his chest. I inhaled sharply, breathing in his intoxicating scent. I was extremely turned on from being so close to him.

My body relaxed into his hold.

His lips nuzzled my neck, biting and sucking on it. There might be a hickey on my neck by the time he was done.

"Mphm," I moaned softly, enjoying his touch.

"See, your body desires me more than you want to admit," he whispered, taking a step away from me.

"I- I..." I stuttered, at a loss for words.

"Admit it, allow me to quench your thirst, let me give you the pleasure your body desires," he proposed, his gaze fixed on me.

I felt small under his gaze, my arousal undeniable but leaving me confused. I thought I hated him.

"How is it that Lucas has made me desire the idea of him so much? He used to be my bully!" I thought.

"Please," I begged, lost in my feelings.

"Say it, tell me how much you want it," he whispered.

"I need you so bad," I begged.

"Good girl," he smirked, his hands settling under my plump ass as he picked me up like I weighed nothing and placed me on his lap after he sat down.

His lips immediately met mine, exploring and ravishing me like he couldn't get enough.

His hands roamed my body, stopping on my boobs; he caressed and squeezed lightly, forcing strings of moans from me.

By the time our lips parted, I was breathless. We stared into each other's eyes in silence, gaining comfort from just being next to each other.

"Fuck, you're beautiful Ember" he grunted.

I turned my face away shyly trying to avoid his eyes. Every time he stared at him it felt like he was staring into my soul. It made me feel so open, it scared me.

"Look at me darling" he whispered, and grabbed my chin gently.

I don't think my face could possibly get redder than it already was. I was full-on blushing.

"There's so much I want to do to you right now," he said almost painfully, like he was struggling to hold himself back. His prominent bludge was all the proof I needed.

As much as it turned me on, it still freaked me out.

"No! I shouldn't be doing this!" I said, flustered.

I made a move to get off his lap and walk away, but as soon as my feet touched the ground, I fell in pain because of the pressure on my injured leg.

"Are you alright?" Lucas asked worriedly, moving to assist me.

"No! Don't come any closer! Don't touch me, please!" I yelled, halting Lucas's steps.

"Please get away from me," I weakly begged.

"What's wrong, Ember?" Lucas asked, staring at me worriedly.

"Can we please pretend that never happened and continue with this project?" I asked.

Lucas's concerned look quickly changed to anger, then nonchalance.

"Sure, whatever," he replied, grabbed a shirt from his bag, and stormed out of the cave.

"It's for the best, I'm only protecting myself," I repeated like a mantra, but the pain in my heart said otherwise.

I couldn't even tell what was right for me at this point...

I tried as hard as I could to hop on my makeshift bed without hurting my injured leg further.

I pulled the blanket Lucas had left behind for me tightly around myself, seeking comfort in its warmth. Staring into the darkness, I found myself questioning everything.

Exhausted both physically and emotionally, I closed my eyes, hoping sleep would offer me an escape from my complicated reality.

## **Chapter 22 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember's POV

The next morning when I woke up, Lucas had already returned to the cave, and from his damp hair, I could tell he had just taken his bath.

"Good morning," I greeted as I got up to a sitting position. I wanted to make sure things weren't weird between us after yesterday.

Lucas just nodded and continued to arrange his stuff.

"We should head out soon; go ahead and take your bath," Lucas said.

"Yeah, I will. Where am I supposed to bathe though?" I asked; this was all an open space except for the few trees.

"Behind the cave, there's a stream of fresh water rushing by. Don't worry; I won't look," Lucas replied, a mischievous smile on his face.

I gave him a pointed look and ran out of the small cave; I was scared of things getting awkward between us again.

Just as he said, there was indeed a small stream that I hadn't noticed yesterday because of how dark it was.

After making sure Lucas really wasn't looking, I quickly took off my clothes and carefully entered the small stream. I still couldn't swim, so I had to be careful not to drown inside the water. Luckily, it wasn't that deep.

When I had finally washed off every dirt from my body, I got out of the water.

Wait! I was in such a hurry that I didn't think of carrying clean clothes with me. What's worse was that my clothes were lying prettily inside my bag, far away inside the bush.

I was left with no choice but to borrow clothes from Lucas. Gosh!

"Lucas!" I called out nervously, wrapping my arms around myself as I stood on the less deepest part of the stream.

A few seconds later, Lucas walked towards me, arching an eyebrow when he saw my state. My waist was covered by the water, and I was trying my best to cover my chest with my hands.

"What's the matter?" he asked, his eyes glancing down at my chest for just a second.

"I, um, forgot to bring clean clothes with me," I stammered, avoiding eye contact.

"My bag is somewhere in the woods, and I don't want to walk all the way into the bushes naked to get them."

A playful grin tugged at the corner of his lips.

"Well, well, looks like you got yourself into a predicament."

I shot him a glare. "This isn't the time for jokes, Lucas. Can you please lend me something to wear?"

"And why should I help?" he smirked.

"Ugh," I pouted in disappointment.

He chuckled, reaching into his bag and pulling out a spare set of clothes. "I figured something like this might happen. Here you go."

"Thanks," I mumbled, taking the clothes and turning my back towards him to change.

As I fumbled with his large shirt, I could feel Lucas's gaze on me, making me more self-conscious than ever.

"You know, you could have just asked me to turn around or something," he teased.

I sighed, pulling on the borrowed clothes. "Can you please leave?"

Lucas laughed, enjoying the situation a bit too much. "Sure, sure. Your secret is safe with me."

I shot him a look of mock annoyance. "It's not a secret; it's an embarrassing moment that I'd rather not relive."

After Lucas went back to the cave, I was finally able to step out of the water and dress properly. When I was done, I went ahead to join him.

"Ready to head out?" Lucas asked, his tone more serious now.

"Yeah," I replied, grateful that there wasn't any awkward air between us.

"We should go get your bag first, yeah?" he asked.

"Yes, please," I replied.

We both walked back towards the direction I got attacked yesterday, and just as expected, my leather bag lay on the dirt. My map and the flower sample were already ruined by the mud.

Luckily, my things inside the bag weren't ruined.

"Now that's done, we should get going so we can finish this task on time. With your map ruined, I don't think you have much choice but to tag along with me," Lucas said.

I just nodded and followed him reluctantly. Lucas led the way, and we followed the route the map directed us to.

"Tell me about your life before moving to the pack house," Lucas said, breaking the silence that had settled between us.

The shock was evident on my face when I heard his question. I was surprised Lucas was suddenly interested in my past.

"Why?" I asked, staring at him suspiciously.

"Can't I want to know about my lovely mate?" Lucas asked.

My steps halted, making Lucas turn to look at me.

"What's wrong?" Lucas asked in concern.

"Why are you doing this all of a sudden? You and your brothers said the thought of me being your mate disgusts you. Then why this sudden interest in me?" I asked weakly.

"Is this supposed to be another sick joke you're planning? Well, guess what? I'm not falling into your trap again!" I yelled angrily.

"No, I promise, this is real. I wanted to hate you, but the more I see you, I can't help but be interested in you, Ember," Lucas said.

"I can't deny the pull I feel towards you. Fuck, I want you so bad. All for myself," he whispered, staring into my eyes with so much intensity.

"I-" I muttered, completely speechless.

"You don't have to say anything now; just give me a chance to show you how sorry I am. I won't stop until you can finally forgive me," Lucas whispered.

"Allow me into your life, darling. Let me know you," he said, gently caressing my cheeks.

I wanted to hug him, to inhale his delicious scent and pour all my worries on him. But I can't afford to let my guard down.

I can't trust him...

"I'm sorry, this," I said, gesturing between the both of us.

"This can't work."

## **Chapter 23 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember's POV

"Sure," Lucas drawled out with a mischievous smile.

The competitive look in his eyes gave it away that he had no intention of backing down anytime soon.

I simply ignored it and continued walking. We were already closer to where the flower was, since I could already perceive the unique scent from a distance.

We were out of the woods now; we were walking on top of tall mountains which had a cliff by the side, which scared the heck out of me.

"Careful, darling, stay by my side," Lucas said when we reached the narrow part of the mountain with the cliff just inches away from us.

"Don't call me that," I grumbled.

"You know I wouldn't stop; now, please stay by my side and don't get yourself hurt," Lucas replied.

"Tell me something about yourself. What do you do for fun?" I asked, trying to start a conversation to distract myself from the scary cliff.

Lucas raised an eyebrow, surprised by the change in conversation.

"Hanging out with you," he smirked.

"Yeah, right. What do you really like, Lucas?" I said seriously.

"Well, I love cooking, just like my mother," he responded with a small smile.

"Cooking, huh? I never would have guessed that," I teased and nudged him playfully.

I chuckled, feeling a bit at ease; we were halfway through the narrow pathway.

"And what about you, Ember? What's your idea of a good time?" Lucas asked.

"Reading and archery," I replied, a hint of pride in my voice.

"Not as fancy as your cooking adventures, but hey, it keeps me sane," I said.

"I think it's really cool you read," Lucas whispered, a strange look in his eyes when he glanced at me.

"Are you ready to finally tell me about your past?" he asked.

"Um, sure, I guess," I replied.

Anything to distract my mind...

"So... I grew up alone with my father, like you and half the school already know. My mother died just after my birth, so things have been a bit tough," I said.

"I'm sorry, Ember," Lucas said.

"No, you're not," I laughed painfully.

"I know I've been an asshole, but let's just call that a moment of silly behavior on my part," he said.

"Sure, sure," I replied, not interested in pushing the conversation any further.

"It wasn't all that sad though; life with my father has been pretty fun. He was such a great father. I miss him a lot," I muttered.

"Oh..." Lucas said; it was obvious he wasn't that good at offering comfort, but I didn't want him to, anyway.

"How about we don't talk about my depressing life? Tell me about your own life. I bet it's more fun," I offered.

"Not fun, really, but it's alright," Lucas said.

"Details, please?" I inquired.

"Sure, sure. Well, I and my brothers have been sticking together for basically everything. I know I probably don't show it much, but I love them a lot," he said.

"Aw," I cooed.

"That's really sweet, Lucas," I said.

"Sure, whatever, please don't mention it to Caleb and Tristen," he pleaded.



“Your secret’s safe with me,” I teased.

As we continued our banter, the tension of the cliff’s edge seemed to dissipate.

The conversation flowed, revealing more about each other's likes, dislikes, and quirks. I learned so much about Lucas, which made me start to see him in a different light.

He was no longer just the scary and cold Alpha son; he was a person with a softness in him that he managed to hide perfectly well.

We shared so many personal stories and laughter; it shocked me that this was happening.

Attempting to focus, I walked further, finally about to get through the narrow pathway to the open space. However, a loose pebble disrupted my balance, and I slipped dangerously close to the edge.

Panic rose inside of me as my body wavered at the brink, the abyss below a terrifying sight.

In a heartbeat, Lucas reacted, his hand shooting out to grab me. Our fingers interlocked, and he pulled me back to safety, the relief evident in his eyes.

The narrow escape left me breathless, and my usual resistance momentarily shattered.

“Thanks,” I breathed, grateful for his help.

Lucas grinned, a look of relief on his face.

“Always got your back, even if you don’t want me to,” he said.

“Wait, look! The flower is over there!” I yelled in excitement.

Who would have thought we would find the flower so quickly?

Filled with excitement, I wrapped my hands around Lucas’s neck, hugging him tightly. His hands gently wrapped around my waist, and he spun me around happily.

“We did it,” he whispered, after he dropped me on my feet.

There was only a tiny distance between us now as we both stared into each other’s eyes.

“Yeah, we did,” I whispered back.

Lucas’s eyes glanced from my eyes to my lips; I copied his actions by glancing at his inviting lips.

The air between us felt a bit more tense, and slowly, he leaned in. My heartbeat quickened, and I felt the warmth of his breath on my lips.

As his lips met mine, it was a slow and deliberate connection that sent shivers down my spine. The kiss was tender yet passionate, a dance of emotions that spoke volumes without a single word.

Time seemed to stand still as the world faded away, leaving only the two of us suspended in a moment of shared vulnerability.

His hands gently cradled my face, the touch sending electric pulses through my body. I responded with a soft sigh, surrendering to the unexpected tenderness of the kiss.

Finally breaking away, we gazed into each other's eyes, the unspoken words echoing between us. It was a kiss that marked the beginning of something new.

A soft spot for Lucas had just formed in my heart...

## **Chapter 24 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember's POV:

I cleared my throat and backed away from Lucas.

"We should get the flower and get out of here," I stuttered.

I hated how things felt like they were moving too fast, and I was starting to have little feelings for the man who was part of the reason my life has been hell. Why did everything have to become so messed up?

Now all I had to do was return home and keep my distance from Lucas so everything would be fine, and I could go back to wholeheartedly hating his guts. I bet being together alone with him for days and him acting like a completely different person was messing up with my mind.

"Yeah, we should," he replied lowly. He looked confused by my sudden change of countenance.

I walked further to where the flower was; it was a garden of different flowers, and this one was the only one of its kind, glowing so brightly.

"Careful," Lucas said, pulling me back when I reached out to pluck the flower.

"Here, the flower has thorns in them. I don't want you getting blisters," Lucas said and handed me a glove he just brought out from his bag.

"Thanks," I said dryly and put on the gloves on my right hand.

I reached out again and carefully plucked out the flower from the garden, a huge smile formed on my face which quickly turned to a frown.

I stepped back in fear when all the remaining flowers in the garden started to wither immediately.

“Lucas, what is happening?” I asked worriedly.

“I have no idea, but I think it’s best we just get out of here,” he replied.

The entire garden was almost completely withered away, and the soft golden glow it once had was now pitch black.

“Can’t we fix this? Leaving this beautiful garden in ruins really upset me,” I said wearily.

“No, Ember, there’s barely anything we can do. This looks like a sign of danger, and it’s best we just get out of here as quickly as possible. Our job here is done anyways,” Lucas said, urgency in his voice.

I watched in confusion as Lucas quickly shifted into his wolf.

“Shift now, let’s make a run for it,” Lucas said after mind-linking with me.

Without further instructions, I quickly allowed my body to restructure itself, and I fell on my paws after I shifted into my white wolf.

“Lucas is right, I smell danger,” my wolf said worriedly.

“Oh, would you look at that? You think you two can just come and steal a gem from our pack and get away freely?” An unfamiliar voice mind-linked with us, and I slowly turned around to see five shadows of large wolves stepping out.

When they finally came into view, I could easily tell they were of high ranks. I and Lucas had very slim chances of defeating us since they outnumbered us and I wasn’t even a skilled fighter.

Oh boy...

I shivered in fear as the five large wolves closed in on Lucas and me. My wolf instincts kicked in, sensing the coming danger and adrenaline coursing through my veins. Lucas, in his wolf form, stood protectively in front of me.

The alpha of the opposing pack, a massive black wolf with piercing yellow eyes, took a step forward, his fur bristling.

“You can’t just waltz into our territory, steal our gem, and leave unscathed. That’s not how things work here,” he deadpanned.

What the heck was even happening? Not once did our instructor mention we were stealing the flower.

Lucas growled a low, menacing sound that echoed through the darkened garden.

"We didn't come here to steal. We had a mission, and it's accomplished. We didn't expect this reaction from the garden," Lucas said calmly.

The black wolf scoffed. "Excuses won't save you. You've trespassed, and now you'll face the consequences."

Without warning, the wolves lunged at us, teeth bared and claws extended. Lucas and I tried dodging and countering their attacks.

I faced off against a particularly less aggressive she-wolf. We circled each other, waiting for who to attack first. With a swift move, I lunged forward, clashing with my opponent.

Teeth snapped, and a portion of her grey fur flew as we wrestled for dominance.

Meanwhile, Lucas was engaged in a fierce battle with the alpha. It was clear that this alpha was a well-trained fighter, matching Lucas's strength move for move.

I managed to pin down the she-wolf, but before I could catch my breath, another wolf lunged at me from the side.

Lucas, noticing my situation, quickly intervened, locking jaws with the attacker and dragging the angry wolf away from me.

We fought with all we had, but the odds were against us. The alpha seized an opportunity, launching a surprise attack on Lucas. In a flash, Lucas was knocked to the ground, momentarily stunned.

I rushed to his side.

"We can't hold them off much longer," I thought through our private mind link.

Lucas, recovering quickly, nodded. "We need a plan. They're skilled fighters, but we can outsmart them."

"Don't worry, we are here to help," a familiar voice said after joining our private mind link.

I glanced behind me to see the familiar wolf of Tristen and Caleb coming into view. Lucas and I simultaneously let out a sigh of relief.

We would have been doomed if they hadn't shown up right on time.

“How did you-“ I wanted to ask.

“Let’s keep the questions for later, we have some angry wolves to fight against,” Tristen replied and ended the mind link.

I had not expected we’d get saved by the other triplets, but luckily they were here. This has to be the first time I was glad about their presence...

## **Chapter 25 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember’s POV

After what seemed like forever, the triplets managed to weaken our attackers and we ran for our lives. We were now back to the cave Lucas and I spent the night since there was no way we’d get back to the academy before dawn.

“Fuck, that was such an unwelcome surprise” Lucas groaned and took a seat on the rock beside me.

Caleb and Tristen were perched on the ground opposite us.

“How did you guys know? You weren’t following us for no reason right?” I asked them curiously.

“Of course not, we overheard a conversation between Vera and Diana”

“Wait they had something to do with this?” Lucas flared up angrily.

“I’m just as surprised too” Caleb muttered.

FLASHBACKS

CALEB’S POV

I was on my way to exit the academy when I overheard the familiar voice of my ex-girlfriend coming from the janitor's closet.

“She had to go, Diana and you know that!” I heard Vera say.

“So you put the life of Lucas in danger too?! What the fuck is your problem Vera? You realize we would be doomed if anyone finds out?” Diana replied, anger laced in her voice.

“Don’t worry, no one would ever find out. I paid the instructor a hefty sum so he would give Ember a dangerous task she wouldn’t be able to survive. Lucas wasn’t supposed to be in the picture but whatever, I bet he would be able to protect himself.” Vera said.

“Also no one is spilling anything, it would just be an unlucky death for Ember” Vera giggled.

“Fuck! Don’t you see Vera? You’re turning into a monster” Diana said weakly.

“Don’t try to play innocent Diana, you already got involved the moment we tried to drown her. Why not just finish the job huh?” Vera retorted.

“It wasn’t supposed to go this far...” Diana replied.

“Well guess what? It’s already done! Now you better not think of backing out unless you want me to go out in public and confess every fucking thing we did together”

I heard a gasp from Diana followed by footsteps shuffling back.

“You wouldn’t-“ Diana said.

“Dare me bitch! That stupid Ember is coming in the way don’t you see we have to drive her out? She’d ruin our chances of becoming Luna’s together. Have you forgotten our dreams, Diana?!” Vera begged.

“I’m not even sure I want that anymore if this is the route we’re taking,” Diana said.

“Do we have a choice now? Lucas and Ember are already far away, and closer to the danger that awaits them. Don’t worry Lucas can save himself” Vera replied.

“And Ember?” Diana asked.

“Lucas doesn’t give two fucks about so he’ll most likely leave her to her fate which would be in our favor,” Vera answered.

“Does Fiona know?” Diana asked.

“No, I rather not involve too many people so keep this between us, and the instructor of course” Vera replied.

“Fine!” Diana said.

I was stunned to the core by what I had just heard. How had I been so blinded not to see the monster I once dated? I and my brothers had been stupid enough to let the girls go scot-free after the lake incident.

But this??

This can’t just be brushed away, I would make them pay dearly! But first I needed to get more information about their plan so we’d have a chance of saving Lucas and Ember.

I angrily pushed open the janitor's closet door and stormed inside the small storage room. Diana and Vera flinched both shocked by my presence.

"Caleb honey, what are you doing here? Why do you look so angry?" Vera said after masking her shocked expression with that of fake concern.

Her voice was sickening and I felt like my ears would start bleeding very soon. How could I have dated someone like her? I was having the urge to choke her till she passed out and died but I held myself back.

"Drop that fucking act! You thought you could get away with this? Planning Ember's demise and risking Lucas's life?" I spat out, my anger boiling over.

Diana stammered, "Caleb, you shouldn't have heard that. It's complicated."

"Complicated? You call plotting someone's death complicated?" I scoffed, glaring at both of them.

Vera, with her false innocence, smirked,

"Caleb, darling, we were just ensuring our future as Luna. Ember was a nuisance, nothing more." She said.

"You heartless witch! Who even said you stand a chance at becoming the Luna?!" I snapped, clenching my fists.

"Caleb, please, don't expose us. I was manipulated into this. Vera convinced me it was the only way." Diana pleaded, guilt over her face.

I paced in the small room, seething with rage.

"Manipulated or not, you two are responsible for this mess. Lucas and Ember are in danger because of your greed for power."

Vera, unfazed, sneered, "What do you care, Caleb? You're not exactly the knight in shining armor for Ember."

"That's my fucking Mate! Vera," I retorted, my patience wearing thin.

"Please forgive us" Diana pleaded, tears streaming down her face.

I scoffed again, "Forgive you? After what you've done? You're lucky I haven't killed you yet"

"You won't do that, Caleb. You're not that foolish," Vera hissed.

"I see you've gotten some courage," I said darkly and pushed her against the wall with my right hand squeezing her throat painfully.

I smiled in delight as I watched her face turn blue with eyes wide open begging for mercy.

"What's coming for you is even worse, now tell me what exactly was your plan" I ordered after releasing her when she was at the brink of death.

I probed them for more details, gathering information to form a plan to rescue Lucas and Ember from the impending danger. Tristen and I were set to rescue them without involving the Academy.

We were going to deal with the girls by ourselves.

Give them an agonizing torture...

## **Chapter 26 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember's POV

"Damn," Lucas whispered after Caleb was done filling us up on what happened.

"Well, I'm not surprised" I announced.

The triplets all looked at me with guilt-filled eyes.

"We're so--"

I cleared my throat loudly, interrupting what I knew was going to be another stupid apology.

"So..." I drawled out.

"What do you guys intend on doing now?" I asked them.

"Make them pay of course" Tristen deadpanned.

"But how? You guys mentioned torturing them. You don't plan on killing them I hope?" I asked carefully.

"They literally tried to kill you twice and you're still worried about them??" Caleb yelled.

"Well excuse me, I rather not be a part of any murder plans" I retorted.

"It's just payback Ember, you don't want revenge?" Lucas asked.



“Not when it’s done by you guys! I’ve been dealing with my shit alone all this while so I can handle this myself too! Don’t fucking try to play heroes with me now” I retorted angrily.

“Ember calm down” Caleb requested.

“Just don’t!” I said.

“Let us handle this okay? If it makes you feel better then you can think of it as us only getting revenge for Lucas” Tristen started.

“Which by the way isn’t true but if it makes you feel less tense then sure” Tristen bargained.

“Whatever I’m going to sleep” I muttered.

“Don’t just do anything please, I don’t need your help” I said and arranged my things to go to bed.

“Fine, we won’t do anything,” Tristen said while folding his hands.

After wearing a jacket for the cold, I started to walk out of the cave.

“Where are you going Ember?” Lucas asked.

“None of your business” I muttered.

“It isn’t safe outside,” Lucas said.

“Well that wasn’t the case yesterday when you didn’t mind leaving me to sleep here alone,” I said and stormed off.

There was a much smaller cave nearby where I intended to sleep. Everything was all too overwhelming for me and I felt a bit sick.

Why were so many things happening all at once... I could barely even keep up now.

Of course, I wanted revenge! I wanted those girls on their knees before me begging for mercy. But it just hits differently when the triplets help me with this, I hated them just as much too since they are the main reason for the girl's attacks too,

Although deep down I knew I stood no chance at getting revenge without the help of the triplets. I was just an omega no one cared for after all.

Who would listen to me?

As I settled into the smaller cave, thoughts raced through my mind. The anger, frustration, and desire for revenge were like a raging storm inside me.

I couldn't deny the truth, the triplets had power and authority beyond mine, and maybe, just maybe, they could help me achieve the justice I craved.

But the idea of relying on them irked me. Closing my eyes, I tried to push away the chaos in my mind and find solace in the darkness.

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### THIRD PERSON POV

"You sure she's going to be fine?" Caleb asked after Ember had just stormed off.

"I don't know, but it's not like we can change her mind and have her come back here" Lucas replied tiredly.

The triplets were completely drained after the events of today and even though they had managed to escape their attackers their minds were far from being at peace.

"Were you being serious when you told Ember were going to drop every plan for revenge?" Lucas asked Tristen.

"Of course not, that was just to calm her down" Tristen answered.

"Better" Caleb smirked.

"We can't just let them go scot-free. At least not anymore..." Caleb continued.

"Now we need to think of the perfect way to torture Diana, Vera, and Fiona" Lucas announced, an evil glint in his eyes.

Lucas, Caleb, and Tristen gathered in a hushed conversation, plotting the perfect strategy to bring justice to Ember and make Vera, Diana, and Fiona pay for their sinister plans.

"We need to expose them, not just physically harm them. We have to reveal their true colors to everyone at the academy, tarnish their reputation, and make sure they are banished afterward." Tristen said.

"Agreed. Let the entire academy know what they've done. But I wouldn't be at peace without personally torturing the ones responsible for hurting our mate." Lucas said angrily.

"What do you suggest we do?" Caleb asked.

"Oh, just a little locking them up in one of the abandoned basements near the pack house. No food or water for a week, if they wish to die in the process then that's their problem, not mine." Lucas said darkly.

“And of course, they won’t just do nothing while in the underground basement, they will continuously write apology letters to Ember non-stop until we finally release them to face their judgement.” Lucas continued.

“Hmm, interesting” Caleb whispered.

“I thought you’d say we crawl their skin until they are bathed with their own blood” Tristen groaned.

“Well that could be a fun addiction” Lucas smirked.

“Deal” they all agreed.

## **Chapter 27 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember’s POV

In the eerie quietness of the night, a chilling breeze crept through the cave , carrying with it a haunting melody that echoed like a ghostly lament.

My eyes jolted open as I scanned my surroundings worriedly. I felt like someone had walked passed me. I got up from my uncomfortable position on the floor and walked out of the small cave.

My heart skipped a beat and my eyes wide opened in panic as I felt the ground beneath me shift like quicksand, trapping my every step.

I heard low voices singing horrifying tunes I couldn’t understand. What on earth was going on?

Strange figures emerged from the darkness, their faces obscured by black masks that seemed to shift with each passing moment. Their laughter echoed in harmony, sending shivers down my spine.

I stumbled backward, fear gripping me.

“Hold on, darling! Don't let the darkness consume you," I heard a woman plead, her voice filled with desperation.

I turned my back to where the voice came from only to see my mother staring at me in distress.

Again? Was this another dream where my dead mother visited me?

But this felt too real...

“What are you talking about Mom? I don’t understand what’s going on” I asked extremely scared.

“Come my daughter, I’ll protect you for as long as I can,” my mother said and stretched her hand out for me to take.

“Please tell me what is happening?” I begged.

“I’m sorry there is no time to explain, I have to get you out of here, they are after your life!” My mom yelled and tried to pull me out of the quicksand.

But it wasn’t helping, I was stuck.

“Mom!” I yelled with tears streaming down my eyes as I watched her get dragged away by one of the dark figures.

"I can't save you from everything, but I'll always love you," she whispered with sorrowful eyes before vanishing into the shadows.

“Now your turn,” a voice said darkly.

A dagger was raised high up into the sky just above my head and was suddenly dropped.

“Nooooooooo” I screamed in fear as the dagger drew closer to me. Unfortunately, I was unable to move because of the quicksand I was stuck in.

I suddenly woke up still screaming, I was drenched in cold sweat, the haunting echoes of the surreal nightmare lingering.

“Ember!”

“Are you okay?”

“What’s wrong?”

The triplets asked simultaneously after barging into the cave where I slept.

“We heard you screaming, what happened?” Lucas asked worriedly.

“Yes, what happened? Did someone try to attack you?” Caleb questioned.

“Uh- it’s fine,” I said.

I didn’t want to talk about my reoccurring nightmares, it was a lot easier to just brush it off as nothing.

“Are you sure? You can talk to us” Tristen urged.

“It was just a silly nightmare, sorry if I woke you guys up” I apologized, looking down at my feet.

“You shouldn’t apologize Ember. And besides, we were already up and preparing to head back to the academy. It’s a long journey back home” Lucas said.

“Oh,” I muttered.

It was then I noticed they were all dressed in freshly cleaned clothes and looked prepared to start our journey back.

“I should go get ready then” I announced.

“Yeah, we’ll wait for you here” Caleb replied.

I made sure not to forget my leather bag when I headed to the nearby stream for a quick bath. The cool water was refreshing against my skin, washing away the lingering unease.

As I returned to the cave, the triplets were gathered, preparing for the journey back to the academy.

Lucas glanced up from adjusting his bag.

"Feeling better, Ember?"

I nodded, forcing a smile. "Yeah, the cold water did wonders."

"You'll need some energy for the journey," Caleb said and handed me a packed lunch. I guess they brought that along with them. Lucas and I were already out of food.

"Thanks," I replied, grateful for their concern.

"Alright, let's go over the route once more. We need to be cautious, especially after what happened yesterday." Tristen said, with a map in hand.

“We'll stick together and keep a watchful eye." Lucas chimed in.

The journey began with the forest surrounding us as we walked back through the part we passed earlier. As they walked, the sunlight filtered through the leaves, casting a warm glow on the path.

"Do you think we'll encounter any trouble on the way back?" I turned towards Lucas, directing my question to him.

"We'll be vigilant. Besides, the academy is our destination, and safety lies within its walls." He reassured me.

‘For you guys’ I wanted to say but I held it back.

The triplets continued chatting, sharing stories and laughter to lighten the atmosphere. We kept walking continuously and it felt like my leg was about to fall off.

"Let's take a break here. The journey is too long," I grumbled.

“We have to get back as quickly as possible, I rather not spend another day here” Tristen replied.

“How about we just take a very short break” Caleb bargained.

“Sure whatever” Tristen replied.

We found a shaded spot near another stream. The soothing sound of the stream provided a calming backdrop to our conversation.

Tristen glanced at Ember. "Feeling better now?"

I nodded.

“Yes, thanks” I replied dismissively.

“You’ve been acting a bit cold, did we do something wrong?” Lucas asked.

‘Yes? A lot of things, did you guys suddenly think we’re best of friends??’ I wanted to answer but of course, I held that back again.

“I’m fine Lucas” I replied.

“Suree” Lucas drawled out.

The triplets continued talking amongst themselves while I sat in the corner trying to calm my mind. Images of my mom's worried face came back to my mind which left me confused.

Could it be that my dead mother’s ghost was trying to tell me something? Or was this just nothing but a silly nightmare?

I’ll go for the latter.

“Okay time go Ember” Caleb announced.

“Sure” I replied, I was well rested anyway.

The triplets moved with an effortless grace, effortlessly shifting into their magnificent wolf forms. I marveled at their transformation, the sleek fur replacing their human features.

They beckoned me to join them so I shifted to my wolf and ran alongside them. The rhythmic beat of our paws against the earth created a nice melody.

Lucas, Tristen, and Caleb ran with a synchronized elegance, leading the way as we raced through the forest. We covered the ground swiftly, navigating the terrain with ease as we approached the academy.

Finally, we reached the academy gates, I hid behind the woods nearby and shifted back. I was a bit insecure about my body and wasn't comfortable with the triplets seeing me so I quickly wore new clothes from my bag and stepped out of the woods to see the triplets already shifted and dressed.

"Ember! You're back!" I heard the familiar voice of my best friend Zellina yelling excitedly at me.

Oh, how I missed her...

## **Chapter 28 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Ember's POV

Zellina rushed towards me, her eyes filled with genuine joy.

"I was really worried! Why did you go without even saying goodbye?" Zellina scolded:

"Sorry, it happened so fast," I replied sheepishly.

"Yeah right! I was so worried when I heard you had an accident then all of a sudden I found out you still carried on with your project assignment that same day! What the fuck Ember?!" Zellina yelled.

"Exactly what I told her," Caleb said with a proud smirk.

Zelina looked at the triplets and gave me a pointed look. It was obvious she wanted to know how the triplets were suddenly free to me and weren't being mean.

"Later" I mouthed.

I glared at Caleb and he took a step back raising his hand in mock defeat.

"Sorry, but as you can see I'm fine," I said.

"With our help of course," Tristen chimed in.

"Yeah, they helped a ton," I said appreciatively.

"Really?" Zellina asked, eyeing them with curiosity.

"Yeah, they helped me out," I said, trying to sound casual.

Zellina turned her attention to the triplets. "Thanks for taking care of Ember! You guys are lifesavers."

Caleb, Tristen, and Lucas nodded in acknowledgment.

"It was our pleasure. Ember is a strong companion," Tristen complimented with a smile.

Zellina raised an eyebrow. "Companion, huh? Interesting choice of words."

I glanced nervously at the triplets, wondering how to explain my current situation with them.

"Well, at least you're back safe. Let's go inside and catch up. The academy has been pretty dull without you," Zellina said, linking her arm with mine.

As we walked towards the academy entrance, I stole a glance at the triplets. They exchanged subtle nods, understanding the unspoken agreement to keep certain details hidden.

I also hope they kept their promise to not get involved with Diana and the other girls. I'll think of a way to get my revenge somehow.

The academy was already deserted since we arrived late afternoon, minutes after the training usually ended. There might only be one or two training classes still ongoing.

"Um- why are we even going into the academy anyway?" Zealina asked staring at me in confusion.

"Oh just to drop the flower, I'm way too tired to attend training anyways " I replied.

"Better, if you had any intention of staying for any training I would have personally dragged you out of the Academy" Zealina said making me giggle.

"Wait here for me please," I said to her when were already in front of my instructor's office.

"Sure," she said curtly and took a seat at one of the waiting chairs.

I knocked on the door softly and patiently waited for a response.

"Come in" a gruff voice echoed through the door.

When I walked inside his office, I watched the old man's face turn pale as soon as he noticed my presence.



“Thought I would be dead now isn't it?” I said bitterly and dropped the flower harshly on his desk.

The instructor stammered nervously, "Ember, I... I didn't expect to see you-"

“Alive?” I interrupted.

"Well, here I am," I replied with a cold gaze.

"How could you do this?" I asked.

He hesitated before speaking.

"I... I was pressured into it. Vera paid me a substantial sum to ensure you faced a life-threatening challenge. I didn't think it would go this far." He stuttered.

My anger flared as he tried to shift the blame.

"Don't play the victim here. You willingly put my life at risk. Now, tell me everything you know about Vera and Diana's plans." I ordered.

His job was on the line here and I was in control now. Gosh, being in control felt amazing.

My instructor gulped, realizing he had no choice. He revealed the details of their plot to eliminate me and how Lucas got mixed up by accident.

He wasn't in charge of the register for the groupings so he had no choice but to give Lucas the same task as me. Hearing him say all this himself sounded so messed up.

As he spoke, I could see genuine fear in his eyes but that didn't change the fact that he still planned my death.

"Consider yourself lucky that revenge isn't my priority right now. But you owe me, and you'll help us expose those responsible," I demanded.

He nodded quickly in agreement.

“Thank you so much for not throwing me under the bus, I'll do everything you ask for,” he said gratefully.

Letting you go freely? Yeah right!

With everything settled, I left the office and joined Zellina outside.

"What happened in there? You looked so serious." Zellina asked as we walked out of the academy.

I sighed, I didn't feel like talking about the whole situation just yet.

"Don't worry about it Zel, it's nothing" I brushed it off.

"Why do I get the feeling that a lot of things happened lately and you're keeping everything away from me," Zealina said sadly.

"I'll tell you everything later, I promise. Right now, I just want to catch up and forget about this mess." I pleaded.

"Understandable" She replied and we both exited the Academy.

As we walked away from the academy, Zellina couldn't contain her curiosity any longer.

"Would you at least fill me in on what went down with the triplets? Why aren't they being their usual mean self?" She asked.

"Um-" I started.

"Alright, spill it. What's going on with the triplets? They were practically friendly back there. Did you cast some friendship spell on them?" she asked with a smirk.

I chuckled, "No magic involved. It's a long story, but let me break it down for you."

I proceeded to share the details of the triplets' apology and sudden protective side. I ended up telling her about Diana and Vera's plan without going into much detail. Zellina's eyes widened as she listened intently.

"So, they're not plotting something sinister? I mean, they did have a reputation for being troublemakers," Zellina mused.

She was shocked when she heard the triplets had just quickly agreed to let me deal with the issue on my own.

I nodded.

Zellina raised an eyebrow.

"Hard to believe they'd just back down and let you do your thing but okay," Zealina said.

I sighed tiredly.

"That's a risky move, Ember. But if anyone can pull it off, it's you and the triplets, I guess. Just promise me you'll be careful," she said, gripping my arm.

"I promise, Zel. I'm going to expose their plans and keep everyone safe," I assured her.

She gave me a skeptical look, "You better. And if you need any help, you know I'm here, right?"

I smiled gratefully, "Of course, Zel. Your support means a lot."

She truly meant a lot to me...

## **Chapter 29 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

THIRD PERSON POV

In the cozy haven of Diana's room, the walls were painted in pink pastel color and a touch of white for details. The room had bright pink accessories decorated in it, it gave a really girly aura.

Diana, Vera, and Fiona, the inseparable trio, gathered for an afternoon of hangout. Thoughts about their sick plans were long forgotten as they relaxed, convinced the triplets had spared them.

The room echoed with their joyous chatter.

"Guys, do you remember that time at the beach?" Diana exclaimed, a grin spreading across her face.

"Oh, the sandcastles and endless laughter. Those were the days." Vera nodded, her eyes gleaming.

Fiona, surrounded by a sea of plush toys, added, "And that impromptu dance party under the stars! We should do something like that again."

"Gosh I still remember how Caleb looked at me that night" Vera whispered, her eyes gleaming as she recalled that beautiful memory.

"The triplets probably hate us now" Diana pouted.

"Of course not, no way they could hate us just because of Ember" Vera replied confidently.

"Have you forgotten they dumped us the moment they found out they were mated to that bitch?" Fiona said bitterly.

"Yeah whatever, but as you can see they still let us go scot-free no matter what we do. If that isn't an obvious sign the triplets are still in love with us then I don't know what is" Vera deadpanned.

"Come to think of it, that seems true, I mean they didn't rat us out to the academy that says a lot" Diana whispered.

"Right?!" Vera chipped in.

“You guys are being delusional right now,” Fiona said while rolling her eyes.

Diana's phone suddenly chimed, signaling an incoming text message. She paused, glancing at the screen.

"Hey, hold on, I just got a message," she announced, curiosity dancing in her eyes.

The room fell momentarily silent as Diana read the message, her expression shifting from amusement to surprise. Vera and Fiona exchanged glances, curious to know what the text was.

"What's up, Di?" Vera inquired, her curiosity piqued.

Diana hesitated before responding.

"It's from Lucas. He wants to meet up tonight." She said.

Vera gasped playfully.

“See! I told you!” Vera giggled.

"Wait really?" Fiona asked.

Diana's cheeks flushed, and she chuckled.

“Yeah, omg he’s still typing” she announced excitedly.

Fiona and Vera both rushed to Diana’s side and watched the text come in.

‘You should come with the girls, I and my brothers missed you guys a ton so we’d like to hang out ;)’

“Oh, my fucking gosh! I bet they realized Ember can never replace us” Diana squealed.

“Just like I said, they want us!” Vera said proudly.

“Seems like you guys were right after all” Fiona said with a smile.

“We should start getting ready, I need to look my best for Lucas,” Diana said and got up from her place on the bed to her walk-in closet while Vera and Fiona followed her.

Vera, the fashionista of the group, dove into Diana's luxurious wardrobe, pulling out dresses with a calculating eye.

"How about this one, Di? It'll make Lucas's jaw drop," Vera suggested, holding up a short, midnight blue dress styled with white pearls.

Diana, with a twinkle in her eye, nodded approvingly.

"Perfect choice, Vera. It's been a while since he's seen me in something like this." She replied.

Meanwhile, Fiona rummaged through Diana's makeup bag.

"We need to go for a look that screams 'effortlessly stunning,'" she declared, laying out an array of eyeshadows and lipsticks.

Vera, with a mischievous grin, teased Diana, "Remember when we used to do each other's makeup for those secret midnight escapades?"

Diana chuckled, "Those were the days. But tonight, we're not sneaking around; we're showing the triplets what they've been missing."

"Time for your make up Vera" Fiona announced after she was done with Diana's makeup.

"Let's go for a sultry, yet sophisticated look. The kind that leaves Caleb speechless." Fiona smirked.

After she was done, Vera finished up Fiona's makeup and they both got dressed in short pretty dresses from Diana's closet.

The trio gathered in front of the mirror, admiring their reflection.

"You look stunning, Di," Vera complimented, adjusting a loose strand of Diana's hair.

"Same with you Vera" Diana smiled.

"Ready to make an unforgettable impression tonight?" Fiona grinned.

"Absolutely. Let's show the triplets what they've been missing out on." Vera cheered.

"Um, where is the location?" Fiona asked after it all dawned on them Lucas didn't tell them where to meet them.

"Oops that slipped my mind, let me ask him," Diana said and quickly sent a text to Lucas.

'At the basement behind the packhouse, just so we get our little quiet time without any interruptions' His response came almost immediately.

"Odd" Fiona muttered when Diana read out the location.

"Well he's not wrong, no one goes to that basement anyways so surely we won't be interrupted," Vera said.

“True” Diana agreed and they all exited her room.

The trio descended the staircase, their anticipation growing as they made their way to the abandoned basement behind the packhouse.

Outside was already pretty dark since it was late in the evening. They entered Diana’s car and drove off to the pack house. Finally, they arrived and left their car parked in the woods next to the pack house just like Lucas had requested.

As they reached the entrance to the basement, a heavy wooden door stood slightly ajar. Diana, leading the way, pushed it open, revealing a dimly lit space with a cozy setup of cushions and fairy lights. The atmosphere was warm and inviting.

Lucas and his brothers, Caleb and Tristen, stood there, smiling at the sight of the girls.

“Welcome, ladies! We’ve missed you,” Lucas greeted, his eyes lingering on Diana.

“Missed us, huh? Well, we’ve got some catching up to do,” Vera teased, glancing at her friends.

Tristen walked behind them and locked the basement door while the girls watched questionly.

“Okay, fun’s over” Lucas announced darkly.

## **Chapter 30 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets**

Lucas's POV

"Okay, fun’s over," I announced darkly.

“Babe? What’s going on?” Diana asked worriedly. She walked closer to where I was standing and ran her fingertips down my chest.

“Don’t touch me,” I spat angrily, making her flinch in shock.

“Oh, and by the way, wanna know what I want?” I asked with a small smirk, which widened as I watched her face light up.

“Yes? Tell me, baby,” she replied eagerly.

“To see you at the brink of death. Oh, how I wonder how you’d look lifeless,” I said with a sinister smile.

“I think we should leave,” Vera said shakily, fear evident on her face.

“Why so scared now, darling?” Caleb asked mockingly.

“Let us go,” she gritted out.

“Don’t tell me you actually believed we’d let you all go scot-free after everything? Come on, you aren’t that stupid,” Tristen sneered.

“Please let us go, we promise we’ll avoid Ember by all means, we wouldn’t dare harm her,” Fiona begged.

“Your plea would do no good,” Caleb chuckled darkly.

“Come, let’s do something fun,” I ordered and forcefully pulled Diana with me. She was reluctant to come along, but of course, I didn’t give her the satisfaction of getting her way. I led her away from the rest of the girls and my brothers, giving them the privacy to deal with the other girls.

“Please, what are you planning, Lucas?” she asked worriedly as she reluctantly came along.

“It seemed like you were having a lot of fun when you were throwing Ember into the lake. Guess how much fun it would be to have the roles reversed,” I proposed.

“No, please don’t do this,” she begged.

I could sense her fear was now at its peak since we were now in front of a slightly nasty and abandoned bathtub filled with dirty water.

“Don’t worry, it’s going to be fun...” I whispered.

“At least for me,” I continued.

“Lucas, please.” Before she could complete her statement, I forced her head inside the bathtub completely.

She started to shake profusely, battling inside the water and trying to get me to release my strong hold on her, but I didn’t budge.

After two minutes, I released my grip on Diana, letting her gasp for breath as she emerged from the water, soaked and trembling. She was continuously sputtering out gallons of dirty water that had made its way into her mouth.

"Let's play another little game," I said with a twisted smile.

“Please, no,” she begged, scared of what I’ll say next.

“Don’t worry, you would like this one,” I reassured her.

I dragged her back to where the other girls were looking almost unconscious. I could already tell my brother must have had a little too much fun when I saw that Vera and Fiona were now bare-headed.

They must have aggressively shaved their hair since there were bruises over their heads and a small razor lying on the table stained with blood.

And here I thought I was the most brutal one?

They managed to awaken the wicked beast inside of us, I guess.

“We’ll give you guys a chance to escape, a head start. If you manage to leave this place within the next minute, we won’t come after you. But if we catch you, well, let’s say there will be consequences.”

Fear etched on their faces, the girls exchanged nervous glances. Vera, Fiona, and Diana seized the opportunity and bolted for the door.

"Run, little mice, run!" I called after them, amused by the chaos I had created.

The girls scattered, each taking a different direction in a desperate attempt to escape the impending danger I proposed, while we watched in amusement.

There’s no way to run, bitch...

I strolled out with my brothers, completely relaxed, and smiled once I saw the pack guards who we had arranged to wait outside had already caught hold of the girls.

“This wasn’t part of it! You said you’d let us go, why are they here?” Vera asked angrily, struggling to escape the strong grip of one of the guards.

“I never said it was going to be easy, did I?” I mocked.

“You didn’t think this was your only punishment, did you? Oh, we’re only just getting started,” Tristen mused.

“I didn’t have anything to do with the plan to kill Ember. I only knew about it earlier today when the damage had already been done. I promised I wasn’t involved, take them but let me go, please,” Fiona begged.

“I’m well aware of that, but that doesn’t make you innocent, you know... you were still involved in the lake incident. You might be free from the Academy’s wrath, but not ours,” Tristen replied.

“What more do you guys plan to do?” Diana asked weakly.



“Nothing much, lock you guys in the basement with no food, lights, or anything. You can starve to death if you wish or keep begging the moon goddess for someone to find you guys early enough,” I replied and watched the panic form on their faces.

“Please don’t, any other thing but that, please,” Diana begged.

“Please don’t do this to us, no one ever comes here so chances of getting found are unlikely. Just let us go, please,” Fiona joined, begging.

No part of me felt an ounce of concern or sympathy. Every time I remembered the image of Ember lying unconscious in the hospital bed because of what the girls had done, rage erupted inside of me.

Initially, I couldn’t care less for Ember, but now the mate bond pull was far too strong for me to resist, and I can’t help caring about everything that had to do with Ember. I would do anything to protect my little mate and punish anyone who dared hurt her again.

“Lock them up!” I ordered the guard, ignoring their pleas.

They would be there until the Academy started looking for them. We were already aware of Ember’s plan to involve the Academy, so the girls would receive official punishments.

But we had to get the satisfaction of punishing them first, so of course, we acted fast.

Have fun locked in the basement, bitches...