

Chapter 5 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Third Person POV

"What the hell do you think you're doing?" Lucas roared, his anger directed at their ex-girlfriends who had just dumped Ember into the lake.

Diana, Vera, and Fiona scrambled to their feet, fear replacing their initial aggression. The presence of the triplets had frightened them.

Lucas dove into the lake and pulled Ember, who was already unconscious, out of the water. He quickly checked her pulse and sighed in relief, knowing she was still alive.

Caleb's eyes narrowed at their ex-girlfriends. "You dare lay a hand on our mate?"

Tristen's gaze was piercing, his voice cold and menacing. "You should be grateful we don't rip you apart for attacking her."

"Get lost," Lucas ordered, and the girls scrambled out of sight.

Even though the triplets weren't happy that they were mated to Ember, whom they despised, they were very possessive and protective of whatever was theirs, and that extended to Ember.

"You've become quite the problem for us, Ember. Our lives were complicated enough without adding this mess," Lucas grumbled, staring at Ember's unconscious frame.

"We should take her back. She's our responsibility now, whether we like it or not," Caleb muttered.

"We should take her to the hospital," Lucas agreed.

Tristen carefully lifted Ember into his arms, her limp form resting against him. The triplets moved swiftly, leaving the lake behind as they headed towards their car.

They settled her in the back seat of the car, with her head resting on Caleb's lap, Lucas at the driver's seat, and Tristen at the passenger side.

"This mess needs to end, and fast. We can't have her troubling us any further," Tristen grumbled.

Lucas shot him a stern look. "She's our mate, Tristen. We can't just abandon her. The moon goddess chose her for us."

"Yes, so what? Don't tell me you're actually interested in being with her? She's an omega! I don't even see why you wanted us to dump our girlfriends," Tristen bit back.

"What would the pack elders think if they find out we are still fooling around with other girls after finding our mate? We will be crowned Alphas very soon, so every action we take is noted," Lucas explained.

"I don't give a damn about her, but for the sake of our reputation, we better pretend to accept her in public," he continued.

"I'm not about to pretend to be nice to that girl," Tristen argued back.

"Just in public, Tristen! We can't fight the mate bond anyways, so we better make it work," Caleb said, glaring at Tristen.

"Fine," Tristen said, rolling his eyes in annoyance.

Upon reaching the hospital, they explained the situation to the medical staff. Ember was rushed into the emergency room, and the triplets anxiously paced the waiting area.

After what felt like an eternity, a doctor emerged from the emergency room. The triplets anxiously approached, ready to hear about Ember's condition.

"She's stable now," the doctor informed them. "She is recovering nicely, but she might need some time, so she will be staying in the hospital so we can monitor her progress."

Lucas nodded in relief. "Can we see her?"

The doctor led them to Ember's room.

EMBER'S POV

I was in so much pain that even the slow, rhythmic beeping of the heart monitor became a noise to my throbbing head.

A pang of pain shot through my body as the memories flooded back. The triplets discovering I was their mate, and the brutal assault by the ex-girlfriends. I winced, trying to sit up, but the pain held me back.

My eyes flickered open, adjusting to the harsh hospital lighting. The room was quiet small with minimal decorations.

"Relax, it would only hurt more if you keep moving," the nurse beside me said politely.

"Here," she said, handing me a glass of water.

I sighed in relaxation as the water wet my dried throat.

The sound of the hospital room door opening drew my attention. My eyes widened at the sight of the triplets walking inside the room.

Have they come to torment me too?

Chapter 6 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Ember's POV

The triplets walked in, their eyes focused on me. Studying me intensely, there was no hate or anger in their eyes. Why did they look sympathetic?

I looked away shyly, not used to having them acknowledge my presence. I didn't like the feeling they sparked in me either; the mate bond between us was too strong. How is it that they don't feel it too?

"Hey, Ember," Caleb greeted softly.

"How are you feeling now?" Tristen asked.

My mouth dropped in shock at his question. Why are they suddenly being nice? I wondered. How did they even know I was here?

"Except for the frequent stings of pain from my injuries, I feel okay," I muttered.

It was a lie, of course. I was far from being okay; the triplets had just rejected me and were suddenly acting nice! This was all too much for my heart to bear.

Caleb and Tristen were now both seated beside my bed, while Lucas was standing at the edge of my bed, staring down at me. I took in his appearance; he was dressed in a black leather jacket, black jeans, and a white T-shirt being the only bright colors among his clothes.

'Damn, look at that body,' my wolf, Layla, whistled.

'Shut up,' I scolded. 'Now isn't the time.'

I dragged my gaze from his muscular body back to his only to see him watching me with a smug expression on his face and one of his eyebrows raised.

A bright red blush coated my cheeks as I looked down in embarrassment.

Caleb and Tristen snickered; they had both seen me check out their brother shamelessly!

“Do you want something to eat? I’m going to the canteen to grab some stuff,” Lucas spoke for the first time since he got here.

“Yes, please. Anything would be fine,” I replied gratefully.

He nodded his head in approval and headed towards the room door.

“I’ll come along,” Tristen called and exited the room with Lucas.

“Why do you look like you have a lot of questions piled up in your head?” Caleb said, chuckling just a bit.

Of course, I did! There were tons of questions I wanted answers to, but I didn’t dare ask them. I was scared it would only anger the triplets and they would go back to their normal cruel behavior.

“Um, no, I don’t,” I replied, avoiding eye contact.

His hand grabbed my chin and gently pulled my face so I was looking directly at him. His gorgeous face up close made me want to reach out and stroke his face but of course, I knew better than to do that.

“Not even who found you? Why you’re still alive? Not even how we know you were here?” He asked.

“Well, we saved you from drowning. Twice now,” he smirked.

Saved me from a situation I found myself in only because of you? Gee, thanks!

“Huh?” Caleb asked, a shocked expression on his face.

Holy shit did I say that out loud??? I slammed my hands around my mouth.

“Yes, you did,” Caleb said, leaning back on his chair next to my bed.

“Umm...” I had no idea what to say now, I had ticked him off.

The fury that flashed in his eyes was enough to confirm my worries.

He ran his palm through his hair and breathed in deeply.

“Look, I’m sorry for what they did. We had no idea the girls would take out their anger on you after we broke up with them,” he muttered.

DID CALEB JUST APOLOGIZE TO ME????

Before I could reply, the door opened revealing Tristen and Lucas who were carrying a bunch of food. My mouth watered when I perceived the sweet aroma.

Grhgggg, my stomach grumbled loudly. Okay, you didn't have to embarrass me like that, ugh!

"Someone must be really starving," Tristen joked, passing me a plate of food.

I hurriedly opened my plate and started eating my meal. I mean you can't blame me, this was the first proper food I was eating today and it was already late at night.

Tristen chuckled, watching me eat with amusement. "Take it easy there, Ember. We've got plenty."

I swallowed a bite, feeling a bit embarrassed. "Thank you," I murmured, feeling the weight of their gaze on me.

"After you eat, we should discuss some things. Clear the air," Lucas said.

I paused, looking up to meet his gaze. "Discuss what?"

The room fell silent. The triplets exchanged glances, a silent conversation passing between them. They were probably mind-linking with each other.

What was going on?

Chapter 7 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Ember's POV

Lucas cleared his throat, "Ember, we owe you an apology."

Tristen nodded in agreement, his usually playful eyes now somber. "We've acted poorly towards you, especially considering our bond."

Caleb sighed, running a hand through his hair. "The way we've treated you isn't fair. You didn't deserve it."

I blinked in surprise, not expecting this. "Why are you apologizing now?"

"We realized our actions were wrong," Lucas began, "There is no excuse for treating you the way we did."

Caleb met my eyes directly, "We're truly sorry, Ember. We want to make amends, if you'll let us."

I stared at them speechless, I couldn't believe this was happening. Wasn't it the same triplets who rejected me cruelly just hours ago? What suddenly came over them?

I felt on edge because of the feeling that this could be just an act, what if they were planning something much worse? I had no idea if I could trust them.

My wolf, Layla, was full of excitement on hearing the triplet's apology.

'See, I knew the moon goddess wouldn't do us dirty like that! She probably warmed the heart of the triplets,' Layla said happily.

'I don't know...' I replied, unsure.

"See, I know this probably takes you by surprise, how about we start easy?" Caleb suggested.

"Like what?" I asked curiously.

"Accompany us to the mating ball after the party? I mean, you're our mate, so it's only right we attend the after-party with you and show you off," Tristen said.

The mating ball after-party was held the next morning after the main ceremony. There, she-wolves and he-wolves who found their mates the day before gather together to celebrate their union.

The triplets wanted to attend the after-party with me. And show me off??

Does this mean they wanted to accept me as their mate? I didn't know how I felt about it...

"Um-" I started.

"No pressure, of course, you are free to decline if you don't want to," Tristen chipped in.

Lucas and Caleb glared at Tristen, immediately shutting him up.

"So...? What do you say?" Lucas asked.

"I don't think I can. I mean, I'm still stuck in this hospital for like a week, so I can't accompany you guys to the after-party tomorrow," I replied.

I think I saw Tristen let out a sigh of relief, which quickly turned to a smile.

Huh? Or maybe I had just imagined that...

"It's alright, Ember. You should get some sleep; it's already really late," Caleb said.

I turned to look at the small clock beside my bed; it was already 11 pm! Holy shit, I didn't realize time had gone that far.

"See you tomorrow," Caleb said while getting up.

"Yeah..." I muttered.

The rest of the triplets exited the room and said their goodbyes.

Now it was just me, alone in this white hospital room.

It didn't take long before my eyelids shut, and I welcomed the much-needed sleep.

The soft rays of the morning sun streamed through the gaps in the curtains, warming my face. I tiredly opened my eyes, adjusting to the bright room.

Soon after, the nurse from last night came in to do a quick check-up on me and gave me my medications. The tests were looking good, and my injuries were healing nicely, but unfortunately, I still had to stay at the hospital for a couple more days.

After she exited the room, I went to the hospital restroom, freshened up, and went back to lay on my bed.

A soft knock echoed through the room. "Come in," I called out, adjusting myself on the bed.

The door opened to reveal Zealina, her fiery red hair cascading down her back, and beside her stood Ernest, his tall frame and dark complexion making him stand out. Their intertwined hands made me jealous of their mate bond. Gosh, they are so cute together!

"Ember!" Zealina exclaimed, rushing to my side and wrapping me in a gentle hug, being mindful of my injuries. "We were so worried about you!"

I smiled weakly, touched by her concern. "I'm okay, Zel. Just a few bumps and bruises."

Ernest approached with a warm smile on his face. "Good to see you're hanging in there, Ember."

"It's nice to see you too, Ernest," I replied, trying to sit up a bit.

Zealina held up a basket she was carrying, filled with goodies. "We brought you some treats. Thought you might be tired of hospital food."

I chuckled, "Thanks, Zel. That's thoughtful."

"Oops, I think I forgot to get water! Let me go get that," Zealina said sheepishly and exited the room.

Ernest leaned against the wall, watching me eat with a smile. "So how are you holding up?" he said, nudging me gently.

"Not bad," I replied with a smile.

I was really glad Zealina and Ernest visited me.

Zealina and Ernest are my best friends. It's no surprise they turned out to be mates; they have always had an eye for each other, and let me just say I ship them the most. They are literally the cutest couple ever!

The door hadn't even closed behind Zealina when another soft knock echoed.

Expecting it to be a nurse, I called out, "Come in."

To my surprise, it was Lucas. He had a bouquet of roses in his hand, their vibrant colors contrasting with his black attire.

His steps halted as soon as he noticed the other presence in the room. His gorgeous blue eyes were glaring at Ernest with so much anger it took me by surprise.

"Who the heck is this? And why is he in here with you?" Lucas asked coldly.

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Chapter 8 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Ember's POV

Ernest's eyes widened in surprise, the jovial behavior he had a moment ago vanishing instantly. He took a step back, intimidated by Lucas's towering presence.

"Lu-Lucas," Ernest stuttered, trying to maintain composure. "I was just..."

It's no surprise Ernest was threatened by Lucas' presence. The triplets were feared by everyone, most especially Lucas, who was known for being the cruelest. No one dares to be on his bad side.

Lucas cut him off, his voice icy. "You were just what? Trying to get close to my mate?" He turned his gaze towards me.

"Ember, why is he here?" He asked.

"Lucas, Ernest is a friend. He and Zealina came to visit me. Nothing more," I replied.

I didn't want any drama to happen.

I slowly got up from the hospital bed so I was now sitting at the edge of my bed.

Why did Lucas even care? I wasn't used to this side of him. Usually, none of the triplets paid any attention to what I was doing or who I was with, so this was strange.

Lucas's jaw clenched; the bouquet of roses in his hand almost crushed from the force. "I don't want him near you, Ember."

"I don't think you have the right to decide who I talk to, Lucas. You don't own me," I challenged.

I had no idea where this new confidence was coming from. Maybe it was my anger, 'cause how dare he try to drive away one of my two only friends.

Lucas took a step forward, placing the bouquet on a nearby table with more force than necessary.

"Leave," he ordered, glaring at Ernest.

Ernest threw me an apologetic glance and scurried out of the room.

Lucas's eyes were stormy; the usual grey eyes were now pitch black. Layla, my wolf, cowered deep inside me, sensing Lucas's anger.

He took another step closer, his muscular body towering over me.

"Ember," he growled.

"I won't have you parading around with anyone and everyone."

"I'm not a possession, Lucas," I shot back, my anger increasing. "You have no right to tell me who I can or cannot see."

Lucas's face hardened, his eyes narrowing. "Oh, I can," he stated, emphasizing each word.

"And I won't let you be a fucking slut, throwing yourself at every wolf who shows you a bit of attention."

Tears threatened to escape my eyes; his words hurt me way more than I would like to admit.

"How dare you," I whispered. "I am not a slut."

Lucas's expression softened slightly.

"Ember," he began, reaching out towards me.

I recoiled, pulling away from his touch. "No," I said weakly.

"Please leave," I begged.

For a moment, Lucas looked stunned.

I waited for an apology, for him to tell me he didn't mean what he just said. But nothing came forth; instead, he turned his back to me and exited the room without another word. I let the tears I had been holding fall freely.

Silly of me to assume the triplets would suddenly turn a new leaf...

The door opened again, this time revealing the nurse from earlier pushing a cart filled with medical supplies and a clipboard in hand. Behind her, a doctor followed, flipping through a patient file.

"Oh, dear," the nurse murmured, noticing my tear-stained face. "Is everything alright in here?"

I forced a smile on my face, wiping away my tears with the back of my hand. "Yes, just... a little emotional. That's all."

The doctor, a calm-looking middle-aged woman, approached me. "Ember, I'm Dr. Whitman. How are you feeling today?"

"I'm okay, thank you," I replied.

The nurse busied herself with checking my vitals and adjusting the IV drip. Dr. Whitman, meanwhile, reviewed my medical chart.

"Well," Dr. Whitman began, looking up from the clipboard, "your tests have come back, and everything looks stable. Your injuries are healing well, and there doesn't seem to be any sign of infection."

I let out a sigh of relief. "That's good to hear."

The nurse finished her checks and began disconnecting some of the monitors. "You'll still need to take it easy for a while, but you're stable enough to go home."

"Really?" I asked, surprised. I hadn't expected to be discharged so soon.

Dr. Whitman nodded. "Yes, just make sure to follow the aftercare instructions. It would be ideal to have someone stay with you for the next few days."

I nodded, thinking of Zealina and Ernest. They'd surely offer to help. If they are allowed to visit me at the pack house, of course...

"I'll make sure to do that," I assured her.

I was informed that my hospital bills had already been paid by the triplets, so after signing a few discharge papers and receiving instructions on medication and follow-up appointments, I was finally ready to leave.

The nurse helped me gather my belongings, which were barely anything, and I changed back into my regular clothes.

"Take care, Ember," Dr. Whitman said, offering me a reassuring smile.

"Thank you," I replied, taking one last look at the hospital room before heading out. I wasn't ready to go back to the pack house where I would have to face the triplets once again, but I mean what other choices do I have?

I had a few spare changes with me, so I called for a cab to take me back to the pack house. On arrival, after paying the driver, I walked inside the mansion as quietly as I could to not make my presence known.

Luckily, none of the maids were in sight, and neither were the triplets.

I quietly climbed up the stairs, heading towards my bedroom at the end of the hallway. The delicious scent of the triplets reached my nose as I walked past Caleb's room. They were there.

I wanted to continue my walk to my room, but then I overheard my name mentioned in their conversation, making me freeze on my steps.

Unable to resist the urge to know what they were talking about, I leaned in on the room door, trying to hear their conversations.

"Why did father have to make us pay a visit to that sick bitch! I'm in no mood to see her face and pretend to be nice to that low life," Tristen's voice echoed.

"Faking an apology to her has to be the worst punishment," Caleb grumbled, faking gagging.

"Luckily, she didn't accept the after-party proposal father made us do," Lucas snickered.

What. In. The. World. Is. Happening. Right. Now?

The apology and the nice act were all fake? I knew there was no way they could suddenly change, but I still held on to the fact that they at least apologized.

But that wasn't even real too?

"She should have just died instead," Tristen said.

A gasp escaped my lips before I could stop it. The room turned silent immediately, letting me know they had heard my voice.

I wanted to run away, but my feet weren't cooperating. Before I could make a run for it the door I was leaning on was pulled open from behind making me lose balance, and fall flat on the ground.

"Oh look who it is," Caleb said darkly.

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Chapter 9 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Ember's POV

The triplets towered over me, staring at me in annoyance. I tried to scramble to my feet, but Lucas's strong grip held me in place.

"Spying on us, were you?" Tristen sneered.

"I-I wasn't," I stuttered. "I just..."

"Just what?" Lucas interrupted, his tone colder than I'd ever heard. "Couldn't resist eavesdropping on our private conversation?"

"I didn't mean to," I whispered, feeling vulnerable and exposed under their intense gazes.

"Yeah right. I think she needs to be punished," Caleb smirked, bending down to my level.

"What are we going to do with her?" Tristen mused aloud, his eyes darkening.

"Let me go, please," I pleaded. I had no idea what the triplets were planning but I knew it couldn't be any good.

"Ember?" I heard Anna, Luna's soft voice call.

"What's going on?" She asked, staring at us worriedly.

"Uh- Nothing," Tristen replied quickly, an innocent smile on his face. You'd never guess this guy was capable of being cruel.

"Yeah, Ember fell, so we were all just having fun together. Isn't that right, Ember?" Caleb asked, giving me a pointed look.

"Yes," I muttered. I couldn't dare rat out the triplets. I doubt Anna would ever believe her golden triplets were mean.

"I see. Well, come along, Ember, we have some bonding to do," she said with a grin.

She offers her hand to pull me up and I gratefully take her offer. I smiled in delight, knowing I had just escaped whatever the triplets were planning, at least for now...

I made sure not to spare a glance at the triplets as I followed Anna to wherever she was taking me. But I could still feel their eyes glaring at me.

Anna took me to a cozy dressing room, away from the triplets' prying eyes. The room had plush sofas, soft lighting, and a warm setting.

"Sit down, Ember," Anna said gently, pouring tea into cups on a nearby table.

I did as instructed, sinking into the soft cushions. Anna handed me a cup of tea.

"Thank you," I said and took a sip, the warmth of the tea soothing my nerves.

"Now," Anna began, sitting beside me, "tell me what really happened."

I hesitated for a moment, not sure if I should tell her the truth. But looking into Anna's kind eyes, I knew I could trust her.

"I overheard the triplets talking," I started hesitantly. "They were saying some... hurtful things."

Anna's expression softened. "Go on," she urged.

"They were discussing me, saying they wished I had died," I whispered, tears escaping my eyes once again.

Anna reached out, taking my hand. "Oh, dear. I had no idea it was that bad."

I looked up, surprised. "You knew?"

She sighed, looking pained. "I had my suspicions. The triplets have always been a handful, but I never imagined they'd harbor such resentment."

“Just give them time, darling. They are just feeling threatened by your presence,” she said.

“But why? I have absolutely nothing,” I sobbed.

“Last year, the triplets lost their sister, my only daughter,” she whispered.

“Oh my Gosh- I’m so sorry, Luna,” I said trying to comfort her, she looked hurt talking about this topic.

“It’s okay, and just call me Anna. You see after that they had been really heartbroken and had refused to talk about her no matter how we tried to make them confide in us; it just seemed to trigger them.”

“Now you’re here, they are only just worried you’re trying to take her place. The room you’re sleeping in used to be where my little angel Gabby slept.” She revealed.

“I know this doesn’t excuse their behavior but it’d be best if you knew some part of the story,” she said.

"Wow," I muttered, feeling lost.

“What am I supposed to do now?” I asked.

I couldn’t possibly take their sister’s place, why were the triplets even worried about that? But I guess my coming here must have reminded them of their dead sister. Now that explains why their bullying had doubled- or rather tripled.

Anna thought for a moment. "For now, stay away from them. I'll talk to the Alpha, and we'll figure out a solution. I don't want you feeling unsafe in your new home."

“Oh and one important thing. Never mention Gabby’s name in front of the triplets,” she warned.

I nodded slowly, trying to process everything Anna had just told me.

"Thank you, Anna, for trusting me with this," I whispered.

Anna gave me a sad smile. "You deserve to know the truth."

I took a deep breath, wiping away my tears. "I'll do my best to give them space and avoid any drama."

Anna nodded approvingly.

"That's wise. And remember, you're not alone in this. I know it has been really hard for you since you lost your only parent. The pack is here for you, and so am I," she said.

I nodded, feeling comforted by her words. "I understand. And thank you, Anna, for being so understanding."

Anna's eyes filled with warmth. "Always, dear. Always."

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Chapter 10 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

Ember's POV

After my talk with Anna, I felt a lot better. She had this warm, motherly vibe that comforted me. We both wished each other goodnight, and I went back to my room.

Knowing this room belonged to a girl who is now dead sort of changed my view of this room. It felt a bit weird...

I changed into my pajamas, the events of the day replaying in my mind. I wished my dad was still here to hug me and tell me everything would be okay. I never really minded the mistreatment I always received because of my low rank since my dad was there to remind me of how special I was.

But now, I was all alone...

Lying down, I tried to find comfort in the soft pillows and warm blankets. Sleep slowly began to claim me, and I drifted off to a peaceful night.

The sun's rays peeking through the curtains woke me up the next morning. Stretching, I sat up and glanced at the clock, realizing it was time to get ready for school.

I quickly showered, the warm water helping to soothe my nerves. I've been away from school for two days, and honestly, I didn't feel like going back. Not only did I have to deal with being the triplets' target for bullying, but I was also the target for everyone at school.

Being an omega sucked...

After dressing in a white floral dress, I went downstairs where Anna was preparing breakfast.

One thing I noticed since I came to the pack house was that they rarely had maids around the house. They have a fixed day for coming around to tidy up the house. Surprisingly, the triplets took care of their chores themselves; I thought they were completely spoiled.

"Good morning," she greeted, flipping a pancake onto a plate.

"Morning, Anna," I replied, grabbing a plate of pancakes and syrup from the counter. "Thanks for breakfast."

"Can I assist?" I noticed there was still pancake batter yet to be cooked.

Anna smiled, placing a cup of coffee in front of me. "Don't worry about it, darling. I enjoy cooking a lot," she said, winking at me.

"I've packed your lunch for school as well."

"Thank you," I said gratefully, sipping the coffee.

"Where are the triplets?" I asked. They weren't down yet.

"Oh, they're probably still sleeping. It's still quite early," she replied.

I let out a sigh of relief because I didn't want to see their faces anytime soon. I was trying my best to avoid them.

After finishing breakfast, I grabbed my bag and headed towards the door.

"You're leaving? Don't want a ride with the boys?" Anna asked.

"Nope, I'm good," I replied quickly.

Anna followed me, giving me a reassuring hug before I left. "Have a great day at school, Ember," she said with a smile.

"I will, thanks to you," I replied, stepping outside and heading towards the school, hopeful trouble avoided me.

— — —

As I walked inside the school hallway trying to get to my locker, the usual murmur of students grew louder, and I could feel their eyes on me. They were talking about me-

Whispers filled the air, and I tried my best to ignore them, keeping my head down.

But then I heard it- Brandon (ps- the school clown) mocking voice above the others.

"Look, it's the omega who thinks she can fit in with the high ranks!" He snickered.

He is also quite popular being the son of the Beta, and also part of the academy's best fighters.

"Damn she's low-key hot, I'd bang her though" one of his friends mocked, making the rest of his gang laugh.

"Sucks she's a cursed omega," another one said.

I quickened my pace, trying to pretend I couldn't hear their cruel words.

Just then, Zeallina approached me with a worried expression.

"Ember," she said, her voice filled with concern. "You need to see this."

She showed me a video on her phone, and my heart sank. It was footage from the after-party last night, showing the triplets - Lucas, Tristen, and Caleb - making out with their ex-girlfriends, Vera, Fiona, and Diana. They all seemed to be having fun.

The same girls who had tried to kill me. What hurt the most was seeing them all having fun. Why? Why did no one punish them for what they did?

I knew Anna wasn't aware of the cause of my accident, but I'm pretty sure Alpha Dominic knew. Didn't he think I was worthy of justice?

Tears filled my eyes as the realization hit me. I would never be considered important in the pack...

"I can't believe this," I whispered, feeling betrayed.

Zeallina hugged me tightly. "I'm so sorry, Ember. But you deserve better than them."

Her support was the only thing keeping me from completely breaking down.

"Let's get out of here, please," I said teary-eyed.

"I'm so sorry, Ember, I have to go to combat class. We're getting graded today," she said sadly, pouting.

"Oh, it's fine. Go ahead," I replied.

She pulled me in for her famous bear hug.

"Everything will be okay, Ember," she whispered and ran off to her combat call.

I turned the other way to get to the isolated backyard. I didn't feel like attending my next class, which was shifting class. Our instructor mainly taught us how to connect with our wolves better and maximize our powers.

I needed a couple of minutes to get myself together so I'll be missing that class.

I walked out to the backyard, which was where the rebels came to smoke, and sometimes couples hooked up here. Hopefully, I run into none of that.

But fate had other plans.

Turning a corner, I collided with a hard chest, my books scattering across the pavement. My heart raced as I looked up, meeting the gaze of the one person I didn't want to see, Tristen.

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Wow so much for avoiding him!