

FIVE

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 get 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?