

Chapter 11: Love Can Kill

Many years ago, Sebastian's great-great-grandfather, Bernard Armstrong, was fated to a woman named Emilia Woods. Emilia was a winter-grey wolf. She met Bernard by chance in the nation of Paredon.

Because of the natural love and the bond they shared, Emilia gave up her life as a winter-grey wolf warrior and moved to Vottara for Bernard. They marked each other and became the Wind Walker Pack's luna and alpha.

Bernard and Emilia lived happily together until a distant relative of the royal family came to the Wind Walker Pack. This distant relative was a woman younger than Bernard. Her name was Rebecca Lamberg. She and her family, along with the biggest packs in the West, were planning to overthrow the alpha king.

Rebecca met Bernard in one of the alpha's meetings, and she fell in love with him. She made it her life's mission to have Bernard despite not being fated mates.

Bernard was promised riches and a chance to be king of Vottara, something Emilia could not give. The opportunity blinded Bernard. Even the elders of the pack and his family became consumed with greed. Thus, Bernard attempted to reject Emilia.

Emilia, however, was strong and stubborn. She did not agree to the rejection outright! Breaking the bond dragged on until Rebecca brought rogues from the East to fight with Emilia.

Bernard set a trap for Emilia, taking her into the forest where the rogues awaited. From there, she was attacked, and Bernard merely watched everything, enduring the pain his mate was experiencing.

It took over ten rogues to wear Emilia down. Only then did she finally agree to the rejection.

Bernard watched as Emilia was pinned to the ground by the rogues. After seeing she was held still, he said, "I'm sorry, Emilia, but the Moon Goddess made a mistake of naming you as my fated. I, Bernard Armstrong, reject you, Emilia Woods, as my mate and my luna!"

On the ground, Emilia was heaving. Her eyes watched as she accepted, "I, Emilia Woods, accept your rejection, Bernard Armstrong! I renounce

my position as your wife and luna of the Wind Walker Pack!"

With the rejection formally recited and accepted, the pain kicked in for both Bernard and Emilia. Bernard fell on his knees, screaming his agony. At the same time, Emilia cried her heart out. Her body was too weak to react to the torture.

"Why, Moon Goddess? Why?" Emilia raised. "You should not have paired me with Bernard, who does not honor the mate bond!"

It took several minutes for the pain to fade, and eventually, the rogues who restrained Emilia released her. Emilia took the chance to declare war, saying, "I swear on my life, Bernard, I will make you and Rebecca pay for the pain you have caused me!"

"Bernard, did you hear that? Are you going to make that woman threaten us? Do something! Why should the fucking Moon Goddess dictate our future? You and I deserve to be a king and queen!" Rebecca evoked. The entire time, she had been watching, rejoicing in Emilia's miseries.

Because of the pressure coming from Rebecca, Bernard became enraged. He grabbed a silver blade from one of the rogues and attacked Emilia!

Emilia tried to fight back, but because her strength was depleted, she failed to escape Bernard's final blow. He stabbed her in the chest, and she bled. Worst, Bernard pushed her down to roll on the ground.

Hurt and dejected, Emilia used her connection to the Moon Goddess. With every remainder of her strength, she requested bitterly, "Moon Goddess! I beg you! Give me justice!"

Emilia still had a chance to live. Being a winter-grey wolf has its advantages, including a remarkable healing ability. However, she made a wish and exchanged her life for it, "I curse you, Bernard Armstrong! May the Moon Goddess deprive you and your sons of love and happiness! Never again will you and your offspring find their true mates! You and your sons do not deserve it!"

"Moon Goddess, take me! Take me! I don't want to live this life anymore!" Emilia begged the skies. She rolled on her back, repeating, "Take me away from the cruelty of Bernard Armstrong!"

Rebecca laughed at Emilia. On the other hand, Bernard had that look of

fear on his face. He was starting to regret hurting Emilia, but alas, it was too late.

The skies immediately turned glum. The rain fell in thunderous applause. It was as if the Moon Goddess had cried herself that day!

Emilia died, but the downpour continued for days. When the skies finally cleared, Rebecca brushed off Emilia's claims. Bernard was still fearful, and because of his worries, he never gave his heart entirely to Rebecca. Still, They continued with their lives and the plans to crawl up the ranks.

Bernard and Rebecca became parents to a boy. They were the alpha and luna of the pack, but they never marked each other.

The time came, however, when Bernard and Rebecca had to present themselves to their allied packs. It became essential for them to bear each other's mark as a symbol of Bernard and Rebecca's unity. Thus, they marked each other during a formal mating ceremony.

Unfortunately for them, after the completion of the ritual, Bernard died unexpectedly. No one was able to determine the cause of death.

After Bernard Armstrong, his son, Ryder, took over the Wind Walker Pack. He was warned about the curse, but back then, no one truly fathomed how the curse worked. Ryder never found his mate. Instead, he gained mistresses and bore a son. In the later stage of his life, he met a woman whom he thought he loved.

Ryder eventually married and marked the woman he adored. However, just like Bernard Armstrong, Ryder died after the marking ceremony.

It was from that moment on that everyone believed that the curse in the Armstrong family was true. The sons of the Armstrongs cannot sense their fated mate. Assuming it may result in their death.

~ Kate ~

Kate's eyes were watery. Somehow, she related to Emilia and felt betrayed for her. Countless times, she sniffed the tears that threatened to fall down her face.

She heard Sebastian say, "If you are wondering, yes. My father suffered the same fate. He had many women left and right because he couldn't find his mate. Ultimately, my father, Hector Armstrong, chose to have a

family with my mother."

"After some time, my father's feelings for my mother grew very strong. He strongly believed that she was his mate, and my mother kept assuring my father that she was his fated too," Sebastian scoffed.

Kate saw how his blue eyes seemed to have darkened as he described, "I was still young, but I remember how my mother quarreled with my father because she wanted his mark. She was constantly jealous and wanted assurance, especially since my father was named as the alpha king's general. He was climbing up to the ranks, and my mother wanted more."

"As for my father? To prove his love for my mother, they officially had a mating ceremony when I was ten years old. He was confident with his decisions because he earnestly loved my mother," Sebastian sighed. He repeated, "Ten years old. I was that young."

"Just like my grandfather, my father died after he marked my mother," Sebastian revealed. "As it turned out, my mother was not his true mate. At least, that is what we assumed about the curse."

"After my father died, my mother left without looking back," Sebastian said, and from where Kate sat, she saw how he balled his hands into fists. He was trying to hide his anger, and it looked to Kate that his mother's leaving greatly affected him.

"My father's Beta raised me instead. I consider him my uncle, my only family," Sebastian resumed. "When I took over the pack, many other theories about our curse surfaced. Some said that my heavily scarred face was the curse itself. I did not bother to correct the gossip. It was of no use."

"Remember what I said before?" Sebastian asked in an unfriendly tone. "Love can kill. I won't bother looking for my true mate. Many people depend on me. I will carve my destiny and live!"

Kate thought that was the end of it. Yet, after almost a minute of awkward silence, Sebastian leaned closer to his desk. He declared, "So, let's be clear, Kate. I won't have those feelings for you."

It was strange because Kate never wanted Sebastian in the first place. She even ran away from their marriage over a year ago.

He won't have feelings for her, so he won't love her. Isn't that what she

wanted? However, why did his words sting?



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