Caged Between The Beta & Alpha By Moonlight Muse Chapter 15

RAVEN

My heart pounded as I stared up at him, his words ringing in my ears.

Liam loved me... Yes, although I had a connection with both him and Damon even before the bond, I had loved Liam for far longer... Until Damon's father had passed away. Then I begant o spend that time with Damon and I realised he too was special. But now that the bond was there, I needed to do this the right way... Even if Damon had been able to move on in my absence, I wasn't him, I needed to discuss stuff first...

It stung painfully.

"Liam... Can I ask you something?" I asked, pulling out of his hold.

He didn't reply, but I knew I had his attention.

"In the three years, we were apart... Have you...I mean, I know we weren't together, but was there anyone?" I asked quietly.

I don't know why I asked, the fear that he may have, would crush me. I needed something, some sign that at least someone wanted me. My parents clearly regretted having me, my mates didn't seem to care, and Damon... Well, he had moved on in my absence... I needed just something...

"No..." Liam said but I saw the guilt in his eyes.

My heart clenched painfully, the room was suddenly lacking air and I knew I didn't want to hear it.

"But?" I still asked, trying to remain calm.

He looked away, swallowing hard as my gaze went to his Adam's apple. Goddess, he was so handsome. But instantly, I remembered the guilt he was feeling and I turned away.

"I... Two years ago, a year after the time we found out we are mates, I got drunk at a mating ball that Dad wanted me to

attend..."

My heart thudded. He was on about that night, that night he saw me. What did he do?

My chest squeezed painfully but I still wanted to hear this. He walked over to me, cupping my face in his large hands.

"I took some pills to take the edge off the fucking pain and I know that isn't a fucking excuse but... I saw a girl. I swear I fucking thought it was you. She was just sitting there, I don't know what overtook me, I kissed her... But I promise you, nothing more happened. When I realised it wasn't you and just the fucking drugs in my system, I walked away."

I was stunned, unable to move or speak. That night... Fuck, that night Liam thought I was someone else...

I felt a surge of relief. He pushed me away because he thought i

I was someone else!

The urge to tell him that it was me was on the tip of my tongue, but I held back. No, we needed to do this together, all three of us...

"Thank you for telling me. Good night Liam, it's been a long night." I said softly tugging out of his hold. +

"Night." He said quietly, a frown on his face and that coldness surrounding him once more.

He left the room, shutting the door behind him. I went over and locked it.

Liam doesn't even know he kissed me that night...

Goddess, why was this all such a mess?

The following day, training went by without a hitch. Taylor asked if everything was ok, apparently his mom had heard some noises and I was assuming she saw what took place. I told him I left early having a little argument with my dad, but what kept niggling my mind was this 'brother' of mine that I had never ever heard of.

Surely Aunty Red or Aunt Angela must know something?

I had come home to find three of the pack warriors in my room painting the walls. Three walls were a grey lilac, with one wall a deeper purple. This was totally Liam's doing, but did I find it

cute? Yes, yes I did, but it didn't mean everything was forgotten.

Knowing that my room was being hogged by those decorating, I decided to sit down in the lounge and order some items for my room. I needed bedding, curtains and a few other bits and bobs.

The lounge was huge. The walls were painted a pale grey, the floor had grey floorboards and there were three sets of black leather sofas. A huge TV was on one wall with a choice of several movie apps already there for anyone to watch what they wanted. To one side was a few bookshelves with many books on them and where I was sitting, there was a coffee table in the middle. Soft teal rugs were in front of the sofas and under the table. A mix of coloured cushions scattered across the sofas, in ochre, teal and navy. The curtains were navy and the windows were open, letting in a pleasant breeze. A few she-wolves were sitting in the corner near the bookshelf chatting and doing something with their hair.

I was busy browsing, when Aunty Red Mind linked me.

'Raven, I hope I'm not disturbing you.'

'Oh, not at all.' I replied cheerily.

'Well, we are having dinner tonight, and I want you to come.'

Dinner? Who else is going to be there?

"Oh, just family." She replied.

'Ok, want any help with cooking? Not that I can cook...'

Aunty Red laughed.

'No, just bring yourself, say six o'clock?'

'Perfect, see you then.'

My fingers paused on the iPad screen.

Liam would be there... I don't think I was ready to be in the same room as him with Aunty Red and Uncle El around... but there was no reason to refuse. Growing up, that had been my home, where I felt happy, so why should I shut them out? At least Aunty Red actually cared enough to text me and phone me often enough, despite how much she had going on.

"...Believe it."

I looked up as Owen and another guy whose name I couldn't remember entered.

"This is getting fucked up." Owen muttered, shaking his head.

Both stopped talking, noticing me.

"Hi." I said, flashing them a grin.

Was it bad that I knew my bright grins irritated people, yet I

still used them?

Owen clenched his jaw. He didn't cause a scene in training anymore, but he still had a mood on. Not that I cared if he was going to have issues, as long as he didn't be a dick towards others.

"Hi..." The other guy said.

"Hmm, don't you think it's weird Chayce, that these killings only started recently?"

"Owen..." Chayce muttered, but I did see that flicker of uncertainty in his eyes.

I smirked. Really? Was he going to insinuate that this was my doing?

"If I wanted to kill someone, I think I'd start with assholes." I remarked, shaking my head and returning to my tablet.

"Yeah? Well, it's weird... Why now? Like too strange, huh?" Owen said, walking over to one of the sofas and dropping down.

"I don't know but I'm sure you will have your damn assumptions." I said, glaring at him.

"I'm just saying it... but everyone is thinking it." He shrugged.

My stomach twisted at those words. That was true... This did start after I came back, and although I wasn't the one behind i t, how many people would be suspicious of me?

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16. Dinner For Seven

LIAM

Seriously?

"Don't look at me like that, is there a problem?" Mom asked, cocking a brow.

I swear she had that attitude of a feisty lioness and if you get o n her bad side...

"No, I just thought it's a fucking family day?"

"Yeah family, and they are our family." Mom said, for a moment she looked concerned. "Liam.. talk to me."

"Isn't that what I'm doing?" I asked glancing out the kitchen window, where dad was pushing Azura on the swing.

It fucking hurt seeing him so much quieter, losing Uncle Raf really did fucking do a number on him. 2

"You know what I mean." Mom said shoving an electric whisk into my hand and a bowl full of powder and milk.

"Yeah, well time changes people."

"Yes, but you never said what happened." She said as she began slicing the puff pastry before she began spooning in the tuna and cheese filling.

Mom was an incredible cook, her and Kiara both were...

"Nothing happened." I lied.

"Sooner or later, you will need to talk about it." Mom said, stubbornly.

"Yeah... maybe."

"After you have whisked the cream go set the table for seven."

Seven?

"Who's the seventh?"

"Raven."

Fuck, just fucking great... this was going to be so fucking stressful...

An hour later the scent of delicious dishes, mixed with Raven's scent filled the dining room, I had just set the table, and everyone had just arrived.

Raven looked fucking fine, dressed in a black halter dress that left most of her back on show, paired with net tights and boots. The only colour in her look was her deep blue earrings that matched her hair and the same colour that touched her smoky eyes. Her lips painted a gorgeous nude that made them look oh so fucking tempting.

I looked away from her, just as Aunty Monica and Damon who had just entered.

Shit, thanks to my own fucking ego, I never bothered finding out how Aunty Monica was doing and by the fucking looks of it, not good...

She had lost weight, and that vibrant gorgeous smile that once used to light up her face, was gone, I couldn't help but notice how Damon was holding her hand. Losing a mate wasn't easy for most...

"Monica." Mom said pulling her into her arms.

"Scarlett, you shouldn't have." Aunty Monica murmured, giving mom a weak smile.

"Hey." Dad said before hugging her.

"Hey guys." Damon said with a small smile glancing at me and Raven. "You look great." He added to Raven which only made jealousy flare up inside of me.

"Thanks." Raven said smoothly, but I didn't miss the way her heart was fucking racing.

We all sat down with Dad at the head of the table, mom on his right, with Azura between mom and Aunty Monica. To my irritation Damon took the seat opposite his mom and Raven sat next to him which fucking annoyed me and I got the last seat next to her, with dad on my other side.

Well fuck.

"Did you ladies have anything planned for the weekend?" Dad

asked, his gaze on Aunty Monica who sat silently.

"Me and Monica are going for a manicure." Mom said.

"I can't, Aaron said we're going out." Aunty Monica said quickly.

I looked down, thinking she lost her mate and was suffering and here I was not even able to have mine who was right by m y side...

"I think he'd like you going out M." Dad said, giving her a small smirk.

He glanced over at mom and I saw the love in his eyes, yet there was also the fear of losing her, or her losing him.

"I want manicaw too." Azura added staring at her hand.

Speaking off the little pumpkin, I had got a proper fucking telling off from mum about her having coke. Like it was my fault...

When I had asked, she had said that she was allowed to have it, mom and dad had looked at me like I was fucking stupid. Guess I was, for listening to a little monster.

"My baby can come too." Mom said kissing her head as she placed a pastry on her plate.

"I heard you moved to the pack house Raven, how is it so far?" Dad asked her.

I glanced at her, she was so fucking tiny that I really fucking

wondered how she had been paired to Damon and I? Like how even that shit worked? I think one man was more than enough for her...

"It's good, my room was painted today, and I ordered some curtains and stuff, so its going to feel like home super soon." She said brightly crossing her legs, my gaze dipped to her thighs and really was it so fucking wrong to admit that I wanted to run my hand up those sexy thighs. She may be tiny but she had meat in the right places...

"Sorry to change the topic, but with everything that's going o n, what's your take on it Uncle?" Damon asked, glancing at Azura who was eating a potato croquette like there was nothing more fascinating in life then food.

Dad sighed.

"I don't actually know, its rather baffling, the notes, the way it's done, no scent...
I mean if we think its internal as Liam suggested, we could go down that path, but it might rile the pack." He said clearly reluctant about my proposal.

Damon glanced at me,

Ok so I haven't told my fucking beta my idea. Who cares?

'What idea?' Damon asked through the link.

"To fucking put everyone under alpha command and question them."

"What do you think of his idea anyway?" Dad asked.

"What is the idea?" Raven asked.

"To question everyone under Alpha command." Mom said, frowning with concern.

Raven's heart skipped a beat as she looked at me.

"Liam would have to be the one to do that... if you put your pack through that... it would be..."

"Damaging." Damon said quietly. "Putting everyone to trial would really hurt them, not to mention they will feel betrayed

and that they are being accused."

I clenched my jaw.

"And you just recently took that position." Dad added.

"Exactly..." Damon murmured.

"Yeah, well then how about we let them carry on and let another few get killed." I said glaring at him.

"Liam." Mom said warningly, looking between me and Damon.

The tension in the room was fucking thick, and dad glanced between the two of us as well.

"What is wrong with you two?" He asked frowning deeply.

"Nothing." We both replied in unison.

Mom cocked a brow and Aunty Monica looked at me suddenly.

"Damon will be a good Beta, he is a good Beta just like his father." She whispered before looking away.

Guilt rushed through me, fuck I don't want to hurt her...

Mom reached over giving her hand a gentle squeeze.

"He is a good Beta." Dad said firmly, now turning to me. "And I would expect you to work alongside him, I don't know what happened between you two but I want it fucking fixed.",

The table fell silent and Azura gasped.

"Daddy said a bad word! Daddy needs a spanking Mama! Just the way he said he's going to spank you the other day!".

Kill me fucking now. I did not need to know that shit.

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/ Caged Between The Beta & Alpha van 17. Feeling Lesser

DAMON

The tension that had built vanished the moment Azura spoke, replaced by shock.

Everyone had frozen, Aunty Red's cheeks burned, a rare sight actually, but Uncle El simply smirked.

A small giggle from Raven made me glance at her. Although her cheeks were flushed, she was finding this amusing.

"Yeah, it doesn't work like that." Uncle El said pointedly to a very confused Azura.

"And you two need to be careful, there's a kid in the damn house." Liam muttered.

"I'll remind you of that when your time comes." Aunty Red shot back.

That made Liam tense and Raven's heart skip a beat.

'I mean it, I want you both to sort your shit out. This pack needs their leadership united.' His voice came through the

link.

I knew we both could hear him.

'Understood.' I said, making sure Liam could hear too.

I wanted to sort this shit out, I really fucking did. I glanced at

Scanned with CamScanner

Raven. She looked hot. There was something about her. Although she was twenty-one, she was a tiny thing. I won't lie, there were definitely things that I wanted to do to her, but I knew I had no fucking right to even think that right now.

"When I grow up, I'm going to be were-koala!" Azura stated.

"You can be anything you want, baby girl." Aunty Red said, smiling down at her.

"Oo I want to be a were-panda!" Raven added excitedly.

Azura's eyes sparkled with excitement.

"Really?" She said with awe.

"Yeah, you just need to gain about 150 pounds or so..." Liam remarked, smirking slightly as he looked at Raven.

I felt envious at that, wishing that we could have that old bond again with Raven. Every time I felt like speaking to her, the fear that Liam was going to lash out only grew.

But we did need to get our shit together, if not for each other, then for the pack at least.

Dinner finished and Raven offered to clean up, Aunty Scarlett agreed and took Mom to the living room with Azura, I had offered to help and even Liam stayed behind.

The tension that settled the moment the adults left was fucking palpable. Raven quickly began gathering the dishes, leaning over to reach the plates from across the table, leaning

on one leg with her other one raised, only making her perky ass a little too tempting.

'If you are done fucking perving at her.' Liam's cold voice came in my head.

'She's my mate too.'

'Funny you remember her now.' He shot back. •

I didn't reply, not wanting to cause even more fucking drama.

We headed back to the kitchen, and Raven began emptying the dishes into the bin.

"Who's washing?" She asked.

"Didn't you offer?" Liam asked, cocking a brow.

She frowned,

"Yeah, and so did you two. So, Liam you wash, Damon, you dry, and then when we're done... let's talk." She said.

Damn.

The dreaded words: Let's talk, that shit ain't good.

"Not that there's much to talk about." Liam muttered.

Raven shot him a glare and I hid my smirk.

She was a tough one, like Grandma Amy used to say – she was a 'tough cookie'. She really was, small and sweet, but a tough one.

"You heard the woman, get washing." I said lightly, smiling ever so slightly.

"Shut it or I'll fucking shove your face in the sink."

"Want to try it?" I shot back,

He was seriously being a dick now.

"Can you two not do this?" Raven said suddenly, we both looked at her and the hurt was clear in her eyes as she held the dishcloth and spray to clean the table. "You keep acting this way, but it just makes me feel like shit, knowing I'm the reason for you to being at each other's throats. Fix up boys because I swear, I'm so close to being done."

She shook her head, turning and stormed out of the room, leaving us both feeling fucking guilty.

"She isn't wrong. We do need to sort this out. Now that we're all back, we need to come to an agreement."

"So what? Tell me, how will we decide what's going to happen. I want her, for myself, I don't share." He said coldly, his eyes flashing with anger.

"I know but what about what she wants..." I said quietly.

It fucking hurt knowing I was the inferior one...

"She can choose. The bond will hurt for a short while, but she'll get over it." He said quietly.

My stomach twisted and I looked at him as he began washing u

"So you are ok with her experiencing pain? Liam... Do you fucking hate me that much?"

He paused, clenching his jaw, before continuing to scrub the dishes.

"No. I don't hate you; I hate this fucking situation. She is the one girl I always fucking wanted Damon. You got your shit on with Kia, then Robyn and Goddess knows who the fuck else, but I want just her. I am an Alpha. Sharing isn't in my fucking nature. It's almost as if Selene's fucking making a mockery out of me. Yeah, share your fucking Luna with your Beta, that's some messed up shit. The mate bond is meant to be between two souls, there's no space for a third." His voice was cold, and if I already felt like the third wheel, then I felt even worse now.

Yes, there had been a connection between Raven and I, but what Liam felt for her had probably been fucking more. However now that the bond was there...:

I couldn't even reply. I felt like shit, I suddenly didn't even feel worthy of anything. I kept my gaze down, drying the dishes silently, thinking of all the crap that was going on.

I heard footsteps, Raven was back, glaring at us both. She went to the fridge and took the milk bottle out.

"Do either of you want a drink?" She asked coldly, or what was her best version of a cold tone.

"I'll have a latte." Liam replied.

"No thanks," I added quietly.

"Can you even make hot drinks?" Liam asked.

She shot him a frosty glare.

"Yes, I can."

"Ok...good luck." Liam definitely did not sound reassured.

She got about to making the drinks. The kitchen had just been cleaned and I wondered if we were actually going to talk. She was about to carry the tray of hot drinks to the lounge when the doorbell rang.

"Who could that be?" Raven asked.

"I'll go check." Liam muttered, leaving the room.

Raven placed the tray down, walking over to the door, I followed. Her scent and the way her bare back looked...

I turned away, feeling that hole inside only grow.

The front door opened to reveal none other than Alejandro carrying two car seats, behind him was Kiara holding Dante's hand.

The king smirked coldly as he looked at us.

"Well, well, looks like we have a fucking house full."

"Surprise!" Kiara said, her eyes on Raven who had gasped.

Just when I thought we were going to actually get to talk.

Damn.

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/ Caged Between The Beta & Alpha van RAVEN

"Kia!" I exclaimed, running over to her. She rushed forward and we both hugged each other tightly.

"We weren't expecting you." Liam said, lifting Dante up.

"It's a surprise." He said, as if this wasn't obvious.

I smiled, oh goddess that kid was cute. Al shook hands with Liam whilst giving Damon a curt nod.

I had video called Al after his brother had passed away, but I didn't go, knowing they needed time with both their own families. I didn't want to go and make Liam stay away.

I bent over looking at the two adorable dumplings that I just wanted to gobble up completely.

They were soo cute!

"Kia you make cute babies! Ah, they are even cuter than the last time I saw them."

"Hun, I sent you a picture of them just two days ago." Kiara said, hugging Liam tightly.

"Hmm nope, still cuter than ever." I whispered, caressing Skyla's cheek.

"Alpha Alejandro, Kia." Damon said.

"Hey, Damon." Kiara said with a small smile, giving him a quick hug as Al looked at him coldly.

I felt sorry for him, what with Liam's treatment of him and now Al's.

"I never can get away from you." Al said to him. But compared to how much he hated him years ago, I could tell it had calmed down.

I knew his reason... Damon and Kia had been in a sexual relationship for a while.

"Kiara" Uncle El said, smirking as he came over, meeting his daughter first then the rest. "How are you all doing? It's a nice surprise to see you all come down."

"Yeah, I thought we'd stop by, not that we'll be here for too long." King Al said.

Uncle El nodded.

"How are they doing?" He asked quietly.

My heart squeezed seeing the wave of sadness that washed over Kiara, Al and Uncle El. I knew he was asking about Alpha Rafael's family.

"As best as they fucking can in this situation." Al said with a smirk that held no light.

Kiara looked up at him, her eyes filled with emotions, the love she felt for him strongly showing. She stepped closer, cupping his face as she tugged him down, kissing him softly.

Gosh, if you wanted a perfect hot couple, it was these two.

"Don't just stand out there, come on in! Monica and I want to see the kiddies!" Aunty Red called.

I smiled, I loved how Aunty Red was so considerate of Aunty Monica. It was heart-breaking to see her like this, I promise I will do more. I will, I don't care what happens with me, Damon or Liam but I will try to do more for her...

I headed back to the kitchen to make some more hot drinks, Kia followed me after meeting her mom and aunty Monica.

"So how is it being back here?" She asked.

"Ok I guess..." I said, I wasn't sure if they knew about the murders.

They had enough going on, so unless Uncle El or someone told them, I won't mention it.

"Still nothing?" She asked softly as I poured some more milk in to make something for them.

"Nope, nothing. So do you guys want food first?" I didn't want to talk about my issue.

"No, we ate on the way, a hot drink is fine." Kiara said as she took out two mugs. "Things will get better."

"I'm sure they will..." I said, smiling at her.

I still wanted to ask someone about my brother, but I guess it was going to have to wait.

The evening passed by with everyone just sitting and chatting.

Dante and Azura played together, although Dante was a little bossy, and when Azura refused to listen, he just got angry. He also told Azura how he was a big boy and she was a baby, which only angered her even more. What can I say about these two alpha-blooded children?

The twinsies were happy, although Kataleya cried a lot, Skyla was a little more.calmer. They both did settle down and enjoyed the constant being carried. They were passed around, and even Aunty Monica looked a little more cheerful.

No one mentioned the murders, and when Kiara got up to put the kids to bed, Damon also said he and Monica would be heading home.

Uncle El gave him a small nod before telling him to be careful.

'If you need anything when it comes to Aunty M, I'm here, even if it's just to spend some time with her if you're busy.' I said through the link, glancing at him.

He wasn't alone, he had us all. I wanted to make sure he knew that I would be there for him too, even if I was three years too late...

"Thanks, Raven,' His reply came, was it me or did he sound

sad?

"I better head home too." I said, standing up and picking up the dishes.

I had no idea the state my room was going to be in, but let's see when I get home.

"Ok, take care of yourself." Aunty Red said, giving me a smile a s she too picked up Azura.

"Finally." Al muttered, taking out a cigarette.

I knew he tried to hold off on smoking inside when kids were around, even if smoking now still travelled, but hey, at least he tried.

"I'm going to head out too. See you all tomorrow." Liam said with a small nod, I knew it was because I got up.

Al looked between both of us, but said nothing, turning back to Uncle El. The two of them were friends, a bond that was first forged by their link to Alpha Rafael... a bond that is still in existence.

My heart ached as I looked at them, and I suddenly felt very upset. Life was short; what were we doing?

I didn't speak to Liam, even when he reached over and opened the door for me. We both silently made our way back to the packhouse.

"We still need to talk." I said the moment we were inside.

"Hmm." He said emotionlessly,

I frowned, looking up into those cerulean eyes of his.

"Liam, you've changed." I said quietly.

He looked away and my heart ached a little more.

Where was that compassionate, loving Liam?

"Good night, Raven." He said quietly, walking off towards the stairs.

I sighed, deciding to grab a water bottle before I headed upstairs. I could hear some of the guys in the game room, and someone watching TV, but the kitchen was dark. The smell of freshly mopped floors and detergent filled my nose.

I liked this smell, it was so clean... I tiptoed to the fridge, hoping I didn't ruin the floor that the omegas must have just cleaned and grabbed a bottle from the fridge. I was about to close it when I saw a shadow of someone walking past behind me. My heart leapt and I jumped, spinning around only to see a young Omega girl holding a mop.

"Goddess!" I muttered, placing my hand on my chest.

"Sorry Miss." She said nervously.

She looked startled too, she was slim and of average height, her hair up in a messy bun.

"Hey, it's cool. Damn, I just didn't hear you." I said, flashing her a smile.

She smiled, looking relieved.

"Oh sorry, I was just going to put the mop away." She said, holding it up, brushing back a strand of her straw-coloured locks.

"Sure, carry on. I'm sorry if I messed your floor up." I said apologetically.

She smiled and shook her head.

"It's fine, it gets dirty quickly anyway."

I left the kitchen thinking since the murders, I felt on edge. Even now, I couldn't get the images out of my head. I knew, just like yesterday, those eyeless corpses would haunt my dreams...

Caged Between The Beta & Alpha By Moonlight Muse Chapter 19

/ Caged Between The Beta & Alpha van **19. A Surprise**

RAVEN

I stepped into my bedroom with a small towel wrapped around me, towelling my hair with a second towel when I froze, seeing both Damon and Liam standing there. Arms crossed, both shirtless, their gazes fixed on me. My heart was racing as I stared at them.:

What the hell was going on?

"What..." My words died on my lips when they both approached me.

Liam pulled me close, sending sparks rushing through me. Those were only heightened when I felt the heat of Damon's body behind me. His fingers grazed up my thigh, sending off rivets of pleasure. I gasped. What was happening?

"Don't think so hard beautiful, relax..." Liam murmured. Reaching down, he threaded his fingers into my hair, tugging my head up.

With his other hand, he ripped my towel off, making my eyes fly open, but before I could even say anything, his lips met mine in a delicious kiss.

I sighed softly against his lips, feeling Damon's hands cup my breasts. My cheeks heated up, unable to comprehend both men closed in on me, caging me between their muscular bodies.

Fuck...

My core throbbed, my lips moving against Liam's hungrily, his touch dominating, hungry, possessive... Damon flicked my hardened nipples, his lips meeting my neck, sucking hard there just as Liam's hand slipped between my legs.

Goddess!

The pleasure that was coursing through me was dizzying when suddenly, someone was knocking on my door.

Go away...

Liam's tongue slipped into my mouth as Damon squeezed my breasts, biting into- .

"Raven?"

My eyes snapped open and I jolted upright in bed, my heart pounding. I looked around my room. My cheeks were burning, my entire body was tingling and my core was throbbing."

"Oh, goddess..." I groaned, burying my face in my hands, mortified.

I just had such a naughty dream. Dammit! I mean, I don't even have a bathroom here! Urgh why hadn't I realised it was a dream?

"Raven?!"

Wasn't that Taylor?

"W-what?" I called out, still sounding breathless.

There was no training today, what did he want?

"There are a few items that have arrived, I picked them up from the collection point. It's nearly eleven, I'm sorry if I disturbed you..."

"Oh umm, no you didn't... it's just on my day off I like to sleep i n... Just leave them outside..." I mumbled.

"Ok if you're sure girl!"

"Thanks!"

The smell of my arousal was in the air, so I was not going to let him in here! This was mortifying! I jumped off my bed, running to the window and opening it fully. The smell of paint was still strong, but still, I wasn't going to risk it!

The room was fully painted, my luggage still lay in the middle of the room.

Opening one of my bags I pulled out one of my perfumes and sprayed the room strongly. Taking a whiff, I felt satisfied and quickly went to the door, opening it. I looked around the hall and quickly tried to grab my parcels, only for a few to slip from my grasp. I flinched, quickly picking them up and throwing them over my shoulder before slamming the door shut behind me as if someone seeing me might result in them learning

what I had dreamt of.

"Yikes!" I breathed a sigh of relief now, looking down at my parcels.

Ooo this is going to be fun!

But before I could even open them, my phone rang. Going over, I looked at it to see it was from Kia.

"Hey, baby girl!" I answered.

"Hey hun, hope I didn't disturb you."

"No, not at all. I just woke up." I said, my cheeks burning from the reminder of my dream.

What would have happened if I hadn't woken up?

"Great! Well, I have told Mom and Dad to take some time off and that I'll manage Azura for the night, soo I was wondering if you want to come spend the day with us?"

"Is that even a question?! Of course I will! You can't get rid of me when you have come to our pack!" I said smiling.

"Well, pop down whenever you can, I'm making brownies too!"

"Ooo chocolate brownies..." I loved chocolate, and Kiara's cooking was to die for.

Hanging up, I looked at my parcels. I guess I'll open them tonight. Bending down, I opened my suitcase and chose an outfit before rushing to the bathroom.

An hour later, I was carrying three plushies and a Batman action figure as I made my way downstairs, planning to head t o the Westwood's' home.

I hope they liked these...

I smiled at the alien plushies I was holding. They were so unique and cute!

I was dressed in blue jeans, an oversize black top and boots; m y hair was pulled up in a messy bun. I was excited to spend the day with Kia.

I stopped on the stairs, spotting Liam making his way upstairs. He stopped too and our eyes met. My dream from earlier rushed to the forefront of my mind and my cheeks burned once again.

I quickly looked away.

Oh goddess, send him away...

"Are those for the bin?".

I frowned at that, looking at the plushies that I had chosen with such thought!

"What does that mean?" I asked unhappily.

"They're ualv."

"Hey, they are so ugly they're cute!" I said, glaring at him.

He simply gave me a small smirk.

"You really are a unique one, bitesize."

He brushed past me, on purpose, making sure his arm light knocked mine and sending a flurry of tingles through me. His scent filled my head and I felt dizzy for a moment until he was gone. Taking a deep breath, I continued on my way.

Knocking on the door to the Westwood's home, as I held the three large plushies and the action figure, I waited for someone to open it. Just then, Al pulled open the door, cocking his brow arrogantly as he stared down at me.

"Why the fuck are you here so early, brat?"

I frowned up at him.

"Listen to me big boy, Kia invited me, and besides, I don't need an invitation to come here."

I tried to push past him, only for him to clamp one of his hands on top of my head and actually lift me off the ground, dropping me back outside again.

He smirked coldly.

"Don't test me. Now, how about you ask fucking nicely?" He folded his arms and I glared at him.

"Kia! Al is being a bully!"

"Baby..." Kiara's soft voice came, and I heard her approach.

I cast Al a dirty look but he simply turned when Kiara reached u s and pulled her into his arms, kissing her passionately.

I hope Kia remembers what he did after he's used his charm to seduce her...

I pouted unhappily before smiling brightly and snuck past them, rushing into the lounge where the two babies were sleeping on the sofa, while Azura and Dante were sitting on the floor playing with blocks.

"Babies!" I exclaimed, "Look what I brought!"

Azura looked up curiously, whilst Dante simply rolled his eyes, ignoring me. I pouted, a Rossi to the core... 1

"Zuzu look, which one do you want?" I asked, holding out the three plushies as I crouched down.

"Hmm..." She came over, pouting thoughtfully as she stared at the three, before taking one and examining it. I smiled, watching her as she placed that one back in my arms and took a blue one.

"This one." She said happily, "Thank you Waven."

"Aww, you are welcome, my baby."

"Yes, Azura baby," Dante snickered, making me shake my head.

"I no baby!" Azura retorted, walking back to the blocks. She purposely stepped on Dante's tower of blocks.

"Azura!" He shouted, picking up a block and was about to throw it when Kiara grabbed his wrist.

"Dante, no hitting." She said firmly.

"Azura destroy my tower!"

Oh, dear... I walked over, silently placing the action figure next to him before placing the other two plushies next to Kataleya and Skyla, giving them both a tender kiss.

I love babies, I can just eat them!

"He is his father's son." I said, smiling slightly when Kiara managed to calm him down.

"I hate girls!" Dante said, pouting before standing up and storming out of the room.

Kia paused, I knew she probably mind linked Al.

She then turned to me and smiled slightly as she caressed Azura's hair.

"Thanks for the toys, you really didn't need to."

"Oh, it was nothing much."

"So, I heard you're at the packhouse now."

"Yeah, I moved, think it was high time I did."

"That's good. Your parents may have been upset that you left. "Kia said."

"They're ok actually." Neither cared to mind link. Well, I actually had no hope for Dad anyway, and after all that, I didn't really want to talk to him.

A short while later, I was telling Kiara how I said to the boys we needed to talk. Just then, Al came walking in with a moody Dante, who stormed back to the blocks and began playing very unhappily.

Al took a seat behind Kiara, who was on the floor next to Azura, threading his fingers together as he leant forward, his elbows on his thighs.

"So, now that you're back, any of the fuckers made their move? "Al asked, glancing at me.

I knew he probably heard the conversation anyway, considering his hearing.

"It's complicated." I said, sighing.

"I still don't get how this shit will work." Al remarked.

"Alejandro..." Kiara said softly, looking up at him with a frown.

He shrugged, "I'm just saying, a fucking Alpha having to share is fucking degrading. That's my fucking take on it."

"Or it just means Damon is equally worthy." Kiara added firmly.

I simply stayed silent; it was a constant tug of war either way.

"You should be prepared for the worst-case scenario." He said, turning his cold gaze upon me.

"Baby... That's not fair." Kiara replied, displeased.

"Life fucking isn't."

Kiara frowned, I really didn't want them two to have an agreement because of me.

"I'm not going to sugar coat shit, if this doesn't work, you will have to choose one over the other. If you three can't work this shit out, then ultimately a rejection will have to happen. It seems they both fucking want you, so you may have to choose one over the other, or neither. So, the million-dollar question i s, who will you fucking choose?"

Caged Between The Beta & Alpha By Moonlight Muse Chapter 20

/ Caged Between The Beta & Alpha van **20. A Late Night Visit**

RAVEN

Night had fallen and I had returned home to the packhouse an hour ago. I had decided to get my stuff unpacked.

I was opening my parcels, admiring my new bedding and curtains, when I paused, remembering part of the conversation that I had with Al and Kia as it replayed in my mind. My stomach twisted and I dropped onto my bed, sighing heavily.

I'm so scared of this talk that I knew we needed to have, but it needed to be done. I picked up one of my parcels before sighing and tossing it on the bed again.

Rejection... Al was so adamant that it would need to happen.

Why did Selena pair us together if all she wanted was to hurt u s and tear us apart? I sighed, standing up and grabbing a plastic tub from the bedside table.

I think I needed to talk to Damon about this, and I won't lie, I needed to see Aunty M.

I walked downstairs, the warm bustle of the other young adults around the packhouse was pleasant. I snuck out and headed towards Damon's place.

I wondered if they had found any lead on the killings? I knew for a fact that Kiara didn't know, but I had seen the guards posted around their house too. Well, I guess with everything they had going on, they didn't need any more stress and they weren't here for long anyway.

I looked around. The entire place was like a small town. Lights glittered in the windows of the houses and the few shops that lined the streets. There was the odd person walking around, but one huge difference that I noticed was that there were no children out and about. I guess it made sense.

I stopped outside the Nicholson home and rang the doorbell.

"Is that your dad, Damon?" Monica's voice came.

I closed my eyes, feeling so broken at the hope in her voice.

"No Momma, I'll get it." Damon's voice came before the door was opened.

His eyes widened slightly, clearly surprised to see me.

"Raven..." He said softly.

"Sorry for intruding. I got brownies that Kia baked?" I offered, holding out the small tub and smiling gently.

My heart was racing under his gaze, but when he smiled, stepping back, I felt relieved.

"Well, I can't turn down an offering." He said, shutting the door behind me. "I won't lie though; I'm surprised to see you here."

"I know, I just... Why didn't you ever tell me Aunty M's health was getting worse?" I asked quietly.

He paused, his dusky blue eyes meeting mine before he looked away.

"I didn't want to worry you. You left and -"

"I made a mistake; I should never have left." I said quietly as we entered the living room, ending the conversation.

Aunty Monica was sitting on the sofa, holding a book limply in her hand. She looked at me and smiled slightly.

"Oh, Raven. Welcome, I'll put on some tea..."

"I'll do it, Momma."

"No, you two sit and talk..."

A better day?' I asked through the link.

'One of those where she thinks Dad will be home soon.' He said quietly as Aunty M left the room.

"The usual? Hot chocolate for both?" She called out.

"Sure, thanks." Damon replied.

I frowned at him, taking a seat on one of the sofas.

"You know, you should have still told me. Then again, I knew you had just lost your dad, but I still left." I said quietly.

Sure, I had stayed around for two months, but it clearly wasn't enough. We had become closer at that time, but then everything went out of control after that Blood Moon.

Damon sat down on the opposite sofa and I looked at him. He was playing with a ring on his finger, his head down. It was almost as if he was keeping that distance between us.

"Damon..."

His head shot up, his heart thumping.

• "Hmm? Sorry I spaced."
Yeah, I could see that... It was almost as if he was worried about something

"Mind sharing what was on your mind?"

"Not much, I guess." He flashed me a smile, but I wasn't blind or stupid.

Like I said, I was a pro at those fake smiles.

Aunty Monica returned with the hot drinks and a Victoria sponge cake.

"There you go, I'm going to head to bed, I'm so tired. Have fun you two." She said, smiling brightly.

"Sure Momma, goodnight." Damon said standing up, he gave her a tight hug and kissed the top of her head.

I smiled watching them.

"Thank you Aunty M, I love your hot chocolate!"

"You love anything with chocolate." Damon added with a small smirk.

I smiled sheepishly.

"Well yes, but still..." I pouted.

Aunty Monica laughed, I just wished she would always remain like this: Happy and herself... But it was just thanks to the illusion that her mate was alive...

She left the room, closing the door behind her as Damon sat on the sofa a few feet away from me. Picking up the TV remote, he put a random movie on, I knew it was so a tense silence didn't fall between us. A typical Damon move.

"So, want to share exactly what's going through that mind of yours?" I asked.

He glanced at me, before placing a slice of cake on a plate for m e. He held it out, but I simply smiled, taking the icing coated slice in my hand.

He grinned at that.

"You never change."

"Nope and you shouldn't either. So, how about for one evening you forget I'm your mate and talk to me like a friend? "I said biting into the cream-filled cake, licking my lips to remove the layer of icing powder that coated them. Not

missing how he swallowed at that, I looked away.

"I thought we are doing that already?" He sidestepped.

I raised a brow, tilting my head,

"Really Damon?" I replied, kicking my boots off and turned towards him on the sofa, crossing my legs.

Damon smirked, spotting my Little Miss Naughty socks.

"Nice socks."

"Why thank you, I got it in a pack of six." I replied proudly.

"Are they for adults?" He asked teasingly.

"Hey, I have a small foot... and maybe they were from the kids' section..." How the hell did he figure that out? They weren't that childish!

He chuckled.

"So vou."

"I like my socks and tights." I protested, sticking my tongue out.

He reached over, taking one of the mugs, making my attention fall to those bulging biceps of his. Damn these boys for having mighty fine sexy bodies. I quickly looked away, blushing when I remembered the dream that I had this morning.

He leaned back against the sofa, relaxing visibly, and I smiled

"So... Can I ask you something and will you answer me honestly?" I asked, finishing off my cake.

"Do I even have an option?"

"Not at all, or my socks might come to haunt you in your dreams." I said, sticking my foot out and wiggling my toes.

Damon chuckled, reaching over. He grabbed my foot, making my stomach flutter.

"These tiny feet can't scare me." He teased.

My stomach jumped when he smiled. His eyes met mine and his smile faded. I couldn't bring myself to look away from those eyes that always held warmth.

"Talk to me, Damon." I whispered.

"What do you want to know?" He asked quietly, letting go of my foot, but not after brushing his thumb across it gently.

"Everything."