

# Caged between the beta & alpha

## chapter 60

### 60. His Ridiculous Lie

#### RAVEN

I hated myself for this, I hated how I was making him feel. He was no less a man than Liam. he

did not deserve this.

Liam walked out, giving Damon a curt nod and shutting the door behind him.

"Hey, how are you feeling?" Damon asked, about to place the gorgeous bouquet of purple flowers down when I reached out and took them.

"I'm great and these are beautiful!" I said, looking up at him.

I'm such a horrible person...

He bent down, wrapping his arms around me tightly. I hugged him back, his comforting scent and those tingles rushing through me. I could hear his racing heart and the guilt inside of me only grew. I glanced at Aunty Red, seeing the sadness in her eyes too, before she looked away, smoothly busying herself with Azura's hair.

Damon moved back and jerked his thumb at the paper bag.

"I brought you breakfast." He said, turning to Azura and raising his eyebrows playfully before flashing her one of his dazzling smiles.

"What breakfast is it?" Azura asked, curiously staring at the bag that I just picked up.

"You've eaten baby." Aunty Red said, cuddling her.

"Of course, she can eat again, there's plenty." Damon said and I nodded.

"You look tired." I said to him concerned as I unboxed the food.

Chicken sandwiches, yoghurts and a box of freshly cut fruit. Azura took the box of fruit and Aunty Red shook her head, settling back and helping her remove the lid.

"I'm not too bad." He said. "I asked someone to bring you a drink."

"Thanks, Damon." I said softly.

Aunty Red asked him something as I bit into a sandwich. Yes, I was a bitch, but I needed to do the right thing and I would, because this man before me deserved someone who would put him as number one...

I had been discharged from the hospital that afternoon and Uncle El had come to tell me that he had told Dad what had happened. Needless to say, Dad didn't take it well. Although Uncle El didn't tell me exactly what he had said, I had a feeling he had nothing but hatred and blame towards me. It seemed Liam was still going through with Dad's trial on Monday, something I was rather shocked about. I was even tempted to ask for an extension, but then I decided to leave it.

I needed to let go of my past and remember how Dad treated me. He still had time before the

trial anyway, although I knew losing a mate wasn't something you could just get over.

I had gotten back to the packhouse, managing to shower before a large number of the other members who lived there had come to ask how I was, several getting me flowers or cards, I found it so sweet. Mom's death still felt surreal, I was glad that it wasn't common knowledge yet, I just needed some time.

It was a little awkward when two of the girls addressed me as Luna!

"I'm so sorry you had to go through that." Isla, one of the she-wolfs, said sympathetically as she arranged the bouquet of flowers for me. "I'll get someone to bring in more vases."

"Thanks." I said politely to her.

The bedroom door was open and I felt a bit overwhelmed with the visitors. I just left the door open, which let me stay wrapped up in my blanket on the bed.

I hadn't seen Liam or Damon again, although both had mind linked to check up on me occasionally.

What sucked was that I couldn't really tell Kiara what was going on either, despite her texting earlier. I didn't mention my injury or that Mom was dead. Just then, someone I actually wanted to see walked through the door, and my eyes lit up.

"Taylor!" I said. He flashed me a smile, his arms laden with a chocolate bouquet, drinks and a hamper of more chocolates! Ah, this man was a keeper! Could I put him in my pocket and keep him forever?

He placed the things down on the bedside cabinet next to me and the hamper on the bed.

"Hey, girl." He said, wrapping his arms around me and giving me a good squeeze. He moved back as Isla left the room, giving us some privacy and me a small wave.

"Thanks for everything!" I called out, appreciating her effort in sorting my room a little, which was beginning to resemble a greenhouse. Ok maybe that was a bit of an exaggeration...

"How you holding up?" Taylor asked.

"I'm good." I said, Mom's eye-less face flashing in my mind.

"I'm so damn sorry, I should have taken care of you." He said, guilt in his eyes as he sat down opposite me.

I shook my head, my hair falling in my face.

"No, you have nothing to apologise about. I went on my own and I made sure I was quiet." I said, pulling a wrapped truffle off the bouquet and unwrapping it. I was about to eat it but paused to offer it to him. He smiled, taking my hand and biting half off before feeding it to me, a warm smile on his face.

"You need to eat all the chocolate you can, it will bring your energy back. I'm sure the Alpha or Beta would like you to be at your best." He winked teasingly, yet my smile vanished. Liam's traumatising revelation returning with full vengeance. "Sorry... bad joke."

I shook my head, glancing at the open door.

"Oh, don't even talk about men, I think I'm put off for life!" I said shuddering.

"Why?" Taylor asked curiously.

"I just..." I hesitated. Wait. Taylor was a guy... I should ask him... "Is it true... That..." I glanced at the open door again and Taylor frowned slightly, getting up he went and shut the door, looking at me curiously.

"What is it?" He asked.

I huffed, embarrassed.

"Well, is it true that a man's penis girth can be thicker than my forearm?" I asked, cupping my arm just beneath my elbow.

Taylor's eyebrows shot up as he stared at my arm.

"Damn, that's one hell of a picture... A terrifying picture." He said sounding amused.

I frowned, oh it was a terrifying thought too...

"It is... and now I'm scared..."

He began laughing and I glared at him.

"Hey, what's to laugh about!"

"Sorry, it's just, like, seriously? I mean, maybe if we're talking huge, then about this thick at most, but even that would be super rare..." He said, cupping the middle of my arm between my elbow and wrist. To my dismay, he fell back onto the bed and began laughing. "Goddess, you are so innocent. Have you never watched porn? I mean, you must have seen an erect penis at some point, right?" He burst into more laughter and I felt my face burn with humiliation. "How could you even think that big of a dick would exist? Like how would it be possible to even make that fit?"

"Hey! Babies come out of a vagina! Things can fit!" I growled.

I swear I am going to kill Liam, the dickhead! How dare he over brag about his dick when I swear it's probably going to be the size of a fun-size chocolate bar! The type you fill a party bag with- tiny! Miniscule and dysfunctional! Stupid Alpha!

"Ok, stop laughing, it's not that funny!" I shouted, smacking his chest.

He simply rolled over, laughing more. I kicked him off the bed, grabbing one of my huge plushies and throwing them at him with as much force as possible!

Stupid, stupid men! Urgh, Liam is so bloody dead.

"Ok, ok! I'm so damn sorry. Who told you that?" Taylor said, his face red as he tried to control his annoying laugh.

I swear if he laughs anymore, I will sabotage that Cher poster he cherishes so much!

"Liam did." I said unhappily.

Taylor grinned.

"Well... I would say he's boasting, but surely... You've probably seen him turned on, right? Like even if you haven't had sex, maybe when you kissed?" He questioned, making me frown even more.

"Of course, I have!" I stated before my frown faded away and I realized what he meant.

He nodded with a small smile. I have never seen a stupid forearm size shaft in there.... Yes, he was big but not that traumatizingly big... Fuck Liam you're so dead!

# Caged between the beta & alpha

## chapter 61

### 61. Extreme Measures

#### RAVEN

I was still fuming, and Taylor breaking into snickers every few minutes didn't help. Goddess, I can't believe I fell for that. Urgh, I'm so angry right now.

Liam had mind-linked not long ago to ask everyone to report to the packhouse meeting room.

Me, Taylor and Nina, who had come to my room with more vases, now walked down the stairs together.

"I wonder what it's about..." Taylor murmured.

"Maybe they found something?" I said as we entered the large hall that was extremely full.

"Maybe." Taylor said, glancing around at the number of pack members that were gathered here.

From my quick estimate, I think two thirds of the pack were here...

I saw Liam standing there at the head of the room, talking to Zack, well mind linking... Liam was just nodding, his arms crossed with one hand on his chin. The frown on his face made me realise that he was still very much cold towards others. Although at times, I saw him bring those walls down.

More people crowded in, Taylor and I made our way through the throngs of people until we reached the front and I realized that there were no children here. Uncle El was here, but Aunty Red wasn't, and neither was Damon's mom.

"I know you all probably have a rough idea of why I've called you here. However, with one more murder taking place I think we need to put down some more measures. Initially, I didn't want it to come to this, but my hand is being forced and, as much as I hate this, if push comes to shove, I will put everyone under Alpha command to weed out the killer." Liam said, his eyes flashing dangerously. "Three people have been fucking killed already. This isn't a joke, so I'm going to put some drastic measures into place."

Everyone was silent as some exchanged looks, others were worried, whilst some waited to hear what he meant.

He turned and his cold cerulean eyes met mine. His gaze raked over me, making my stomach flutter before our eyes met for a fleeting moment and he turned back to the gathered pack members.

"I won't hide the fact that every member of this pack; including myself, my Beta and my Delta have been cross-checked. Those who have alibis that are absolute will be the ones I'm putting on guard duty from now on, I know some of those accounted for are not warriors, but they will be given charge of the surveillance."

A ripple of murmurs and uncertainty rushed through the room, and I frowned. That would drastically cut patrols by a lot...

"I know this isn't ideal, however, it comes down to the fact that anyone could be the killer. They could be in this very room with us, finding this a fucking joke... If you're here then I'd like to say something" Liam continued. "I will find you, and when I do, you're going to fucking pay. For every person you have killed and hurt, directly and indirectly, you will pay for your crimes."

A wave of unease crossed the room, I saw a few people glance at one another. Fear... un-trust against once another... This is what was beginning to seep into the pack...

"The rest will be put under strict curfew. I don't care if you have jobs, work, or whatever to do, at eight in the evening everyone is to head home. If rules are broken, I will start putting fucking electronic tags on people, and I fucking mean it. Dismissed!" Liam said coldly, about to turn away.

A murmur of shock crossed the room and even Damon and Zack looked at Liam in surprise. It was clear they weren't expecting that part. Uncle El frowned deeply, I felt someone needed to give the people some hope... Liam was about to turn away when I quickly rushed forward.

"Wait! Li- Alpha, can I say something?" I asked.

He turned back frowning slightly as I stopped right in front of him.

Oh, I will bust you about the stupid forearm thing later, but right now these people needed some light.

"What is it?"

"It's about the last death." I said quietly.

He frowned and nodded. Those who had been about to turn away stopped, I looked at the group. I gasped when Liam lifted me onto the table that stood behind them. A few people chuckled and I glared at him. I'm not that small!

Well, now I was a foot or so taller than him and I had a good view of the room...

"I know everyone has things to do, I also know we are all feeling super scared and worried... I am too... But it's ok to feel that way. I won't take too much of your time." I began playing with my fingers. "The last victim was my mother, Kimberly, or as most of you knew her, Kim. I was the one who found her body."

Gasps and murmurs rippled through the room, I even saw a few suspicious looks but I didn't mind. It was human nature to look for something or someone to blame. It was our way of coping with things.

"I know things look rough now, but I promise things will get better. We will find the killer, and although the measures are harsh." I said, looking at Liam, I was not going to sugar-coat the truth. "They are there for a reason, to protect us and our people. That's all we can do right now, and I'm sure we will get to the bottom of this soon enough."

Many nodded, I felt the worry from them ease slightly. Damon gave me an approving smile and nod, Uncle El was smirking ever so slightly, and Zack nodded in agreement to my words. I looked at Liam, who was observing me with an emotion in his eyes that I couldn't read. He stepped closer to the table but I jumped down before he could even lift me down.

"I need to talk to you about something." I said, narrowing my eyes at him.

He cocked a brow and nodded.

I'll be stopping by tonight.'

'Ok.' I said, my stomach fluttering.

I turned to Zack and Damon, looking at Damon. He deserved better... I would talk to him the next chance I had, because he did not deserve this, at all.

"Nice speech, Luna." He said with a wink.

"Thanks." I said softly, unable to even come up with a comeback, because it was like he already knew...

His arm wrapped around my shoulders and he kissed my forehead. I wrapped my arms around his waist giving him a squeeze, no matter what, he'd still be important to me.

It was much later and I was pacing my room. Do I kick him in the balls or do I just shout at him?

I knew it was him the moment I heard the knock on the door and pulled it open; he immediately had me in his arms, kicking the door shut behind him and passionately kissing my lips. I kissed him back, trying not to drown in the pleasure that consumed me, before I remembered that there was something I really needed to do!

Tugging away, I frowned at him, making him raise a brow.

"Did I do something?"

"Yes! Your dick is not the side of my forearm!" I blurted out, instantly regretting how stupid that sounded... Wait... What if Liam thought I knew it had been a joke? But it was too late for me to say anything when Liam crossed his arms, curling his lips in as he suppressed a smirk

"Oh yeah? Have you seen it?" He asked and I could sense his amusement growing. "Or... has that been on your mind all day?"

My cheeks burned and I glared at him.

"Not at all! There are many better things to talk and think about than your disturbing minuscule penis!" I growled.

"At least minuscule works, I mean from what I could see your fucking tiny-"

I smacked his arm hard.

"Hey!" I scolded, feeling absolutely mortified. "Listen! This isn't funny; you scared me when you said your dick was that big!"

He chuckled, and I mean full on laughed, not even caring that I was humiliated and terrified here.

"Seriously Raven? I said your forearm, I could have meant from your wrist or any part of your arm." He teased, still laughing.

The sound made my stomach flutter, but it was so awkward!

"You said forearm!" I said, staring down at my wrist. "That terrified me."

He smirked, leaning down.

"Why were you imagining us having sex?" He teased, advancing towards me.

My heart skipped a beat, and I did my best to poke my eyes out at him.

"Not at all, I don't want to have sex with you." I lied, my heart racing when he caged me between the walls and his arms.

"Really?" He whispered, our eyes met and I licked my lips.

"No, not really..." I said, my gaze falling to his moist lips. "I want a kiss though..."

A small smirk crossed his lips before his lips met mine in a delicious sizzling kiss that ignited that flame of desire that coursed through me and made me whimper in pleasure. His body was pressed against mine and I became very aware of his now hard wood that was pressing against my stomach.

Our kisses became hungrier. I wrapped my arms around his neck, pulling him down.

Goddess, he was such a good kisser... I gasped for air and broke away, wishing I didn't need air right now... wanting to stay moulded against him. I stared into the magnetic blue eyes of his wolf, breathing hard.

Moving back slowly, I looked down at the visible tent in his grey sweatpants, although his boxers seemed to be restricting him somewhat. I swallowed hard and a devilish smirk crossed his lips.

"What's the matter love, want to take a look?" He asked huskily.

My cheeks flushed. As much as I wanted to, I shook my head, tiptoeing and kissed him hard before running my hands along his shaft for a moment, trying to get a rough idea on the size. He groaned in pleasure before I pulled away and glared at him. "You ain't getting anything more because you made a mockery of me!" I stated before getting into bed, trying to get rid of that ache between my legs.

"I've waited for years... I can wait a little longer." Llam said softly as he got into the bed behind me.

His words tugged at my chest and I realised that he didn't really have long left. Time was ticking, and we still didn't know the answer to the curse... »

## **Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 62**

Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 62

TAYLOR

It was the following day and I had decided to bite the bullet and go see Channing again. Shit. I wasn't ready for this, but I had to do it. Taking Mama's flapjack and shepherd's pie with me was not enough... but this was the time I needed to do this. Anna was going to be out and I needed to do this when she wasn't around.

Goddess' and God's above, lend me your strength of courage and bravery because I need as much as I can get.

Reaching Channing's home, I did the doorbell, before opening the door and entering.

“Channing?!”

“Tay! In here!” His voice came.

I quickly went to the kitchen, placing the food on the worktop and entered the living room.

It was warm and cosy, decorated in browns and navy. Channing was on the sofa, remote in hand and holding a bottle of J20 orange.

“Grab yourself a drink and come join me, I was going to watch the replay of last night’s boxing match.”

“Right!” I said. Going to the kitchen and opening the fridge, I took a bottle for myself and returned to the living room.

I looked at Channing. That smile that he always had on his face was still there, his scruffy stubble and his hair that reached his shoulders.

My hero.

“What is it? I know something’s on your mind.” He said, his eyes crinkling as he smiled at me.

I gave him a small smile, looking down.

“The kids out?” I asked, trying to stall a little.

“Yes, they are making the most of being out during the day, thanks to this curfew. I’m not complaining. I’d be happy if they came home on time every night. Would at least make me feel better and at ease.”

“Remember how we used to sneak out after Mom and Dad went to bed?” I chuckled.

“Oh, don’t remind me about the shit we got up to.” He grinned. I remembered how we used to always sneak out and go for a swim, or a run, or just spend some time alone even leaving park grounds. Unlike me, Channing was able to talk to everyone. I like to be alone and am more of a n introvert. I hate socialising, being super awkward and shy in large groups, so he never used to invite anyone extra on our brother time. Just the way I liked it.

“Fun times, huh?” I said quietly.

“Yeah, one hundred percent fun times!” He said, glancing at the screen as he took a swig of

his drink.

"Yeah... They were..." I murmured.

Since the battle, I had taken Channing out a few times. I would shift and he'd hold on to me as we went for a run, but the pain in his eyes after killed me so I stopped asking to take him. I thought it would help, but it had only seemed to remind him of what he was missing out on. However even then, not once did he refuse me... but slowly, slowly, our brothers nights out stopped.

"Channing... there's something I need to tell you." I said, my voice soft as I stared up at him.

"Tell me, kid, I'm a big guy and I know it's eating up at you." He said, placing a large hand on my shoulder.

I nodded, looking at his tattoos that climbed up one arm as I took a deep breath.

"I found my mate...but he didn't seem to want to accept me." I began quietly.

Channing's eyes flashed, and he growled.

"Tell me his name, and I'll show him what happens when someone messes with my brother!"

I smiled slightly, maybe he'd want to kill Zack after I told him the rest too..

I didn't want to associate the two together because I wanted to tell him about Anna cheating a s completely separate first, I didn't want him to accept everything because Zack was my mate. I knew Channing enough to know how selfless he could be.

"We'll see what happens. This is why I didn't tell you, you'd rip the guy to pieces." I joked.

Channing chuckled,

"You bet I would. No one fucks around with my brother. That is unless you want them to." He said, making my cheeks heat up a little, only making him roar in laughter. "Ah, you are too easy to tease!"

"Yeah, I guess I am. There's something else I wanted to tell you too." I said, biting off the metal cap to my bottle and taking a gulp.

"You can tell me anything, you know that Tay." Channing said warmly.

Yeah... I know.

"It's about Anna." I said quietly, looking u at him. I looked into his warm blue eyes determinedly. "Anna has been cheating on you over the last few years."

There I said it... I watched him, preparing for the worst, my heart thundering loudly, but his reaction wasn't what I expected. He nodded, sighing heavily.

"Yeah, I know. I know." He said, making me stare at him in shock.

He patted my shoulder and nodded.

"What... Then how... Like why are you still..."

"For the kids... and the fact that I clearly am not enough anymore. I let it go... but I think she didn't realise that no matter how many showers you take, another man's scent stays behind." He said, staring unseeing at the TV.

I felt so fucking bad, but the fact that he knew...

"Channing... You know, you don't need to stay like this. She does not deserve you..."

"It's not that easy, but I appreciate you telling me. How did you find out?" He asked, now looking at me seriously.

Another hard part... I stared at my hands, then looked at him, feeling a wave of guilt wash over me.

"My mate... He had a fling with her, but he cut it off when he found his mate – me – but she told him she'll ruin his reputation. He told me because he still felt guilty." I rambled.

Damnit, why did this have to happen? I hated it!

His moment of silence felt like flipping forever.

"He told you, that's a step in the right direction. As for Anna blackmailing him... That's not right." Channing frowned. "Do you like him?"

I looked down.

"I love him, but-"

"No buts, does he like you?"

"Yeah... but he was holding back because of all this," I mumbled. "Yeah... I think he does like me."

"Well, there's nothing not to like. You are one of the purest souls I know, Tay. I appreciate you telling me about him and Anna, but I feel like he's punished himself enough. Forgive him, Taylor, if he really wants to apologise to me, bring him around. I have a few things around here that need fixing, he can get those done for me." He said grinning.

Only Channing could be so damn selfless. If he wanted Zack to clean the entire back garden with his bare hands, I'll make sure it damn well happens!

"And Anna?" I asked, feeling so much lighter.

"Her messing around was one thing... Her blackmailing your mate is another. I think I need to take that step and set us both free... It won't be easy but I'll do it."

"I think that's the best decision." I said quietly.

"Yeah... I think I've had months to prepare, I knew it would inevitably happen, and now is the time. So, who's the lucky guy?" He asked.

I felt my cheeks burn up again.

"Zack, our Delta." I said, taking him by surprise.

He let out a whistle and slapped my back.

"Now that's a handsome fella." He chuckled.

"Yeah." I agreed, he was damn fine.

"Now don't waste any more time with me and go get that mate of yours." Channing said.

"There's no rush, I'm watching this show with you." I said, crossing my arms.

Channing nodded, giving me a grin. "Yeah, let's watch this first, I heard it was a good match."

I smiled and looked at the screen. Boxing was never my thing, but if Channing could sit through my RuPaul's Drag race, I can definitely sit through his and I enjoy it, because I was here watching it with him.

After a good two hours and when that bitch Anna returned, I took my leave, mostly because I really felt like slapping her a few.

Stepping out of my brother's home, I mind linked Zack, feeling so damn nervous.

"Zack? Mind if we can meet up? There's something I want to discuss with you.'

'Tay... Umm, can we do that another time? I'm pretty busy right now.'

I felt like I had just been punched in the gut.

'Yeah, sure.' I replied, ending the link.

That really flipping hurt. I know he was probably busy, but yeah, it still hurt. Maybe it was just me who thought he desperately wanted to talk to me.

# Caged between the beta & alpha

## chapter 63

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ROBYN

It was mid-afternoon. The weather was cool yet the sun was shining brightly and the windows were wide open. The sound of people shouting, some of the boys playing ball and a few girls laughing in a room down the hall, filled my ears.

If I didn't know better, I would never have thought such an environment would be shadowed by the eyes of a killer.

Right now, everything seems so normal. Raven and I were seated on my bed as I silently observed the girl in front of me.

I don't mean to be a bitch, but seeing Raven pay so much attention to Liam and literally just ignore Damon was fucking breaking my heart. At the same time, I wanted to go over to her and shout at her for doing that.

Did she not see that he was fucking hurting? I wish I could just comfort him, but I knew that we couldn't just be friends, not with that situation. Me staying away was for the best.

I felt like I had been cheated too... I remember the first time I told him out loud I wanted him as my mate, and asked wouldn't that be great? He had smiled and agreed.

But really? He had a mate already. On top of that, when the mating ball came and I had run to see him only to discover that we weren't fated, it broke me. But still, I held out hope that somehow, we could be together. I lost the will to even want to find my mate.

Damon was just something special; someone sweet, giving and so loving. He had a huge heart and I know he fucked up, cause I agree he did, but it didn't take away from the fact that he was a good person

We were now pondering on the curse once more, I swear I have done so much analysis into this that my head literally had memorised a lot of it.

The book just delved into what we knew, there didn't seem to be any more clues. I wanted to break our Alpha free from this curse, because he meant a lot not just to our pack, but to Damon...

Raven was sat opposite, looking through the book once more. She wore an oversize net top that showed off her dark purple crop top underneath with leggings.

She was a nice girl, I won't deny that, but I'm still mad at how unfair Damon was getting treated. Even if she wasn't doing it on purpose, it was obvious!

"From your notes, it feels like you think the answer lies in Liam. Like he has to figure it out." She said, her eyes full of concern.

"That's what I feel like it's implying, and Amelia's message to him with the card. I feel like she believed he could do this."

"So, you're saying that there's nothing that we can do?" Raven asked, her eyes filled with hurt and worry.

Damn, I felt bad about this entire curse thing, but I honestly think that was somewhat what's been implied...

"I'm still looking and searching, I'm sure something will come up." I said comfortingly.

I won't give up, I'll keep trying. She nodded, staring down at the book in her hands.

"Robyn... I know it may be out of line, but did you love Damon?" She asked quietly.

Her question made my heart thud, and I swallowed hard. Stay damn strong, Robyn.

"Yeah, I do love him." I replied in a clipped tone.

My voice came out colder than it was meant to, but can you blame me? It hurt, it really fucking hurt, and what sucked even more was that he was hurting too. Even if I had stepped back and sucked it up, hoping he'd feel no guilt and move on, I still saw him fucking hurting...

"You do..." She whispered, her voice holding sadness.

I looked up at her, my eyes flashing green as I pressed my lips together for a second.

"You know, you need to stop hurting him." I said bluntly.

She looked up at me, her eyes widening. I swear I felt awful. She was a nice girl, but she needed to get her shit together.

"I know... I know I'm hurting him." She whispered, clutching the book tightly.

"He's a really nice guy who has fucked up, I get that. But he doesn't deserve any less than the Alpha. They are both your mates, then treat them with equal respect and love. I just feel like Damon is being used and he's a damn idiot for allowing it too!" I said irritably.

She looked at me, and to my surprise, she simply nodded.

"I know... He said to make it work with Liam, but it wasn't the right way and I can't balance it ... I'm hurting Damon, every single day... I know that."

"Then reject him, set Damon free so that he can at least be happy and find comfort elsewhere; comfort and love that you can't seem to give him." I said as gently as possible because I didn't want to hurt her feelings, but I was hella mad.

"If it came to that... Would you be there for him? Would you...you know..." She trailed off, but I knew what she meant, making my heart squeeze in pain.

I shook my head.

"No... I may find my mate... I don't want to hurt him the way I was hurt. I will just wait for my mate or stay single. I get dating, falling in love and having fun is part of life... but I'm trying to hold myself together. It's not easy when you love someone so fucking deep that when they suddenly cast you aside, you feel like you're nothing. I made myself a deal, that I'll only fall for my mate from here on out because he won't cast me aside... but it seems like even mates get rejected." I finished off quietly.

I don't know why I said it all, I should have stayed quiet. She looked really upset and I felt like shit too, but if she thought that Damon and I could just pick stuff up, then no it wasn't happening

It would probably make her feel better, but I was not going to think of anyone but me. I don't want another heartbreak. He tossed me aside the moment she returned, yes I ended it, and I would not stay with a mated wolf, but it did hurt. I'm human too, I have feelings and I am going to guard this heart, now and forever.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean it like that. I was just wondering... Damon said he had a connection to you... So I just thought maybe you love-"

"I do love him, but that doesn't mean I'm going to go back to him." I corrected her.

She nodded, sighing heavily as she looked down at her legs.

"You're amazing, you know what you want, how to do the hard thing even if it's painful... and you still hold yourself together." She said, frowning thoughtfully.

I gave her a small smile.

**“You’re amazing too, Raven. You’ve been put in a shitty situation and you’re trying to do the right thing, even if it isn’t fair for everyone. But... You need to make your choice, your decision. If you want Damon too, then you need to give your Alpha the ultimatum that he deals with it, or he walks. And if that isn’t something you want to chance, then it’s clear you need to reject Damon.”**

**Our eyes met, I saw the pain and sadness in them...**

**It wasn’t an easy decision... but it was one she needed to make. Soon.**