

Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

Chapter 161

288 Vouchers

Chapter 161

Darius

“You mean you trust me?” He asked, and I shook my head.

“I trust Zora. I know she loves me utterly and truly.” I said and looked at him.

“Zora loves deeply and genuinely and keeps her promises,” I said, and he frowned at me.

“A lot of people don’t know this, but before I rejected my fated for her, she had done that for me,” I said, and he was shocked.

“She went to see Alpha Jake Brighton and ran into Hardy Corrigan, who happened to be her fated. She rejected him and came home to me,” I said; he was stunned, but he wasn’t surprised, which meant he knew.

“I see you aren’t surprised,” I said, making an observation, and he sighed.

“I told Hardy to let her be; that you were possessive of Zora, but he wouldn’t listen. He wanted me to write to her and tell her they were fated. I refused, and he wasn’t happy,” he told me, and I was shocked that Casey knew and had advised Hardy to walk away.

“So she rejected him for **you**?” he said, feeling inadequate. He should because Zora had done something he was incapable of.

Casey chuckled and looked at me.

“I am a **joke**,” he said, and I frowned.

“During one of our arguments in the past, I once told Zora it wasn’t fault that I found **my** fated, and she could not understand. I honestly

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believed I did well, and I tried. Now I realise I **was** weak. After seeing you give up your fated for her without thinking about it and hearing **that** she did the same, I now realise I was weak and stupid," he said, and I smiled at him.

"It is okay. We are all where we are meant to be," I said, and he nodded in agreement, but his eyes said otherwise.

"Can you tell me anything about Ramsey? He seemed a bit forceful," I said, trying to make my questions flow into the conversation.

I wanted him to answer me honestly. If I asked him about Ramsey directly, he would be suspicious and want to protect the man for Lori's sake. I could not allow that. Establishing him in our discussion on Lori and Zora had given me room to inquire more about him without raising Casey's suspicion.

"He is an obnoxious prick. He schemed with his daughter to get rid of Zora. The worst of his schemes was when he compelled a man to attack Lori and told me Zora sent him to kill her when he was caught. I knew Zora could be ruthless, but she would not kill anyone for something like that. Although Lori got the best of me, I overreacted in the process. When the eastern Alphas joined forces with Hardy, the sleaze bag remained with us. When the alphas returned to me, they were surprised Ramsey never left. I found out he was the one that instigated them to join Hardy. I have yet to confront him, but I do not trust the man. My opinion," he said quickly, and I realised Casey wasn't a stupid man. He was very wise.

"Well, since you have established that on your own, it is safe for me to tell you this," I said and looked at him.

"Ramsey **was** the one that orchestrated the attack on Gad that led to me attacking the **east**," I said, and **Casey** gasped.

Slowly I saw rage begin to show in his eyes. I could see him destroy Ramsey. He was **livid**.

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“Do you know **why**?” he asked, and I could hear a low **growl**. **He wasn’t weak at all**. I felt his wolf, and Casey was a very powerful man; **he** just seemed like the peace-loving type.

“That is why I am telling you this. I was hoping we would work together to uncover the culprits,” I said, and he was still.

“I do not need to overthink; he had been trying to get rid of my wife. The asshole knew you would attack and was hoping I would give up Zora or she would get killed,” he said, and I shook my head.

“That is too broad, Casey. I need you to take your emotions out of it and investigate. It is too specific. If what you are saying is true, it would have been a dangerous gamble because what guarantees that it wouldn’t be his daughter? This Ramsey guy is too smart not to be deliberate and specific. We need to dig deep to find out why he would do such a thing and then frame Cruz for it. Why didn’t he frame Sheperdwell or any other Alpha? Why Cruz? Do you think you can help me figure it out?” I asked Casey, and he nodded.

“I will gladly do it, your eminence,” He said with a promise, and I was happy. He had a bone to pick with Ramsey, and I doubted Lori could make him change his mind. We shook on it.

“I see you will be on the rugby team,” Casey said, and I could see that he knew what was happening.

“I guess Sheperd and Cruz are not out of danger yet,” He said, laughing, and I joined in.

“They wanted to chicken out, but I lied that it was compulsory,” Casey said, and we laughed. We weren’t the only ones that found their suffering satisfying. Casey did too.

Casey and I spent a while in the booth, and soon it was time to join our families, **so** we left the booth.

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While Casey walked **me** to my family's booth so he could **say** hello to **Zora**, Sheperd and Cruz joined. It **was** clear they were lurking around and waiting.

Casey shook his head, indicating I disagreed.

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Darius

"Your Eminence, I believe a fated is more valuable than a chosen. We feel it would be more..." Sheperd said, and I looked at him.

"You are lucky I am in the spirit of forgiveness, Alpha Blanch. I haven't forgotten that you attacked my estate with your men." I said, and he was silent.

"Tribute does not work that way. There can be no swap. As you can see, the women have moved on. Kara is happy and will marry Marcel Sidorov during the blue moon. Likewise, Eloise is four months pregnant and will marry Raphael Orlov on the same day. They are now ladies of the north and above you; they are not yours, so **a swap** cannot take place," I said calmly as we walked towards my booth.

“What if we talk to..” I heard Cruz say, and I was irritated.

I stopped in my track and looked at him.

“You are lucky Raphael isn’t here. He would have bashed your face in. How dare you ask your men to fuck your wife for entertainment while you watch?” I asked, and Sheperd gasped.

“You are lucky I am not your Alpha. I would have stripped you of your title and seized your lands and money. Then I would have had you locked up to serve time, but Casey seems a bit too liberal for the good of the **east**,” I said, and Sheperdwell looked at Cruz with disgust.

“It **isn’t what you** think. I **was** ..” Cruz said, trying to justify himself, but the **words** won’t come because what he did was wrong.

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“You hurt that woman and traumatised her. It took a lot for Theo to help her come out of it,” I told him, and he was silent. Sheperd had a judgemental look in his eyes.

“And you think you are smart,” I told Sheperd.

“Asking your wife to shift so you can beat the shit out of your wife, and no one would know. Who does that? With silver, Sheperd? Jada has scars. on her lovely white fur. I can’t believe you all did these things because you had found your fated. It is absurd. I want to believe that your mates had agendas other than having you to themselves,” I said, and they were

silent.

“Anyway, the answer is no. You are lucky I am in good spirits or I would have taken disciplinary action against **you** to discourage others that plan on walking in your footsteps,” I said. I looked ahead and saw my family’s

booth.

“Well, I guess this is where we part,” I said, shook Casey and left them to go to my booth.

It was best for Casey to say hello to Zora some other time because I did not want Marcel and Theo to deal with Sheperd and Cruz outside the pitch.

I was happy that I had found myself an ally in Casey. All that remained now was for the actual investigation to begin.

I got to the booth, and Zora looked at me with expectant eyes. I smiled at her and kissed her.

“I am alright, darling. I am not as troubled as I was this morning, and Casey and I have made headway,” I said, and she raised her eyebrow at me, which **made** me smile.

“You are right; he **is** a cool guy and highly misunderstood,” I **said**, and she giggled.

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“Cindy has delivered the items to Gezel, and we have four men on her now,” Zora **linked** me, and I nodded and looked at Marcel.

I knew I would have to tell him that his family was involved in the mess.

I did not know how he would take it, but I hope to sweep Gezel’s involvement under the carpet, so **it** does not hurt Marcel.

Whatever the case, I knew Gezel was not the mastermind.

I believe she was being used, and they wanted me to catch her so it would implicate my beta.

My gut feeling was telling me to protect them first and investigate later.

“So we **will** wait to see what they would do with the items Lily got them,”

I linked Zora.

We returned home early, and I went straight to my office. Zora followed me, and I let her sit on my lap while I went through my email on my computer.

I was still trying to trace my half-brother, and I was still trying to find Jenny’s child.

“When are they bringing the list with the names of the alpha that raised the petition?” Zora asked me, sounding eager.

“They will bring it tonight. I trusted Brian William with the task. He is my most **loyal** officer.” I told her, and she smiled at me.

“And Wilson too,” **she** said, and I did not know how to respond because Wilson was the one that slapped her when they were coming to the north. I disciplined the Brian for it, but I wondered if Zora had forgiven the guy.

“It’s **okay, darling**. The **jaw**–shifting blow Raphael gave him the **day** we **arrived** was satisfactory,” she said, giggling, and I was relieved.

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“**Him** too.

I **trust** him too.” I confessed, and she kissed **my** forehead, saying it **was** cute.

Marcel entered **my office**, followed by Theo; I knew they were eager **to** know what Casey and I had discussed.

Kara and Eloise entered, and I knew they were looking for Zora. Still, Zora remained on my lap, and I wanted her there because I was hard as hell and trying to calm down.

Her citrus scent was overwhelming, and we were hiding the fact that we were fated from our friends for now.

“What is with Gezel?” Marcel asked me.

“First, I will tell you what Casey said,” I said, trying to save the serious thing for the last.

Theo took orange juice from the small fridge in the office and gave it to Eloise, then asked her to sit on the couch.

Kara collected the juice from him and sat quickly, leaving Eloise dumbfounded .

“I get to be pampered, too,” she said, and everyone laughed.

Marcel took another Juice from the fridge and gave it to Eloise, and Eloise received it smiling while she sat next to Kara.

“Casey **said** Cruz, and Sheperdwell put him up to it. They requested a tribute swap,” I said, and Kara coughed, spilling the juice through her nose.

“What?” **Eloise** said, exclaiming.

“Yes, I want to believe **they** have either lost it or are on some medication that **isn't** good for their **minds**.”

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Cruz wanted to swap his mate for you, Eloise. Casey later explained that Cruz found out that her triplets aren't biologically his, and he has difficulty getting women pregnant. He regrets his actions towards you,” I said, and Eloise was nonplussed.

I could see her mixed feelings, and I knew it came to her **as** a shocker. After all that Casey told me, I figured Cruz might have blamed her for not getting pregnant too, which was why he visited that level of abuse on her. I wonder if he would abuse himself now that he knew the fault was with him all along.

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Darius

“Max wants to do the same. I expected it since he joined forces with Hardy to attack the estate. Those two men are desperate. We have to watch them,” I said, and Theo laughed.

“You never know what you have until you throw it away. I am so looking forward to Rugby now. How dare those two treat this as a transaction? He wants to take my pregnant mate and swap her for his fated as if they are objects. I will treat him as an object soon,” Theo said with a tinge of anger.

“How stupid is Casey to deliver such a message? And let me guess, he wanted to swap Ramsey’s daughter for Zora too?” Marcel said, and I shook my head.

“No, he has made peace with his loss. One thing I realised is that Casey genuinely loved Zora. He took her for granted and did not know his action would have consequences. He was presumptuous about many things, which cost him dearly. He wishes us the best and will work with us to expose Ramsey. He does not like the Alpha and believes the man is shady.” I said, rubbing Zora’s back gently, and she smiled at me.

I wondered how she would feel when I told her I was willing to allow her friendship with Casey to continue.

Zora is not my prisoner and has the right to have friends. I do not feel threatened by **Casey**, and I trust her completely.

“Oh, **before** I forget. Hardy Corrigan returned to the south today but said he would **be back** next week. **He** has been trying to put himself on Zora’s itinerary, and I have blocked him,” Marcel said, and I was a bit pissed **at**

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the guy. Doesn’t **he** ever give up?

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“Let him see her,” I said, and everyone was shocked. Zora looked **at** me, frowning.

“What are you saying?” She linked me, and I smiled at her.

“I trust you, Zora. I think you should hear him **out** so he **can** leave us alone. We are fated now, so I have nothing to worry about,” I linked her back, and she smiled.

There was a wickedness to her grin that let me know Hardy won’t have it easy when he saw her.

“Very well, now let’s talk about Gezel,” I said, and Marcel was eager to listen. I told him all we knew, and he had to sit down to control his

emotions.

“That bitch! Does she know the implications of her actions? If she is found guilty of treason, our family will be exiled, and she will be killed. She wants to cost us our reputation and good name,” he said, angry and worried.

“I plan on sweeping it under the carpet. I will catch the people she is working with, so we can get closer to the culprit.

I am telling you this so you can take steps that won't cause you to be implicated in this crime. You too, Theo," I said, looking at my Gamma.

"The person we are dealing with is very smart and knows the law well. So far, we have concentrated on the council, but the trail we follow leads us **away** from them. That does not mean we would not remove Pamela and Joan, but we need to be careful.

This person is trying to take away my shield and protection so they can deal with me directly. With both **of** you in exile, I will be vulnerable. Vino is a coward, so I do not expect him to be of much help. The other

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council members have been linked to one thing or the other. You need to be on the lookout. Go back to your clans and families and ensure everything is in check, so **they** don't hurt us," I said, and Theo sighed.

"I know you want to sweep this Gezel matter under the carpet, but it will be difficult. It will be challenging unless we kill everyone who knows **of** her involvement. We need to think of ways to manage the situation if it gets out," he said, stating the truth, but I wanted to be optimistic and try.

While we discussed the matter, Brian William was ushered into the office. It was time for dinner, but we needed to attend to the matter so we could retire to our bedrooms after dinner.

Brian William was holding a sheet of paper, and Zora got up and went to collect it from him. She was eager to glance at the list of the people on it. She smiled evilly and looked at me.

“Is he the one that would handle it?” She asked me, and I nodded. I did not know what she would tell him, but I had to let her handle it.

“They are seven on this list. Is there a hidden location in the north that no one knows of?” she asked a peculiar and unrelated question.

“We have warehouses and underground shelters that are isolated, Luna,” Brian William said, and she nodded.

“Skip the underground shelters. Let us use the structures that are above ground and could belong to anyone. Let us use the warehouses.” She said and looked at Wilson.

“I need **you** to abduct their wives and a child, each, if any. If they have no **spouse**, then the person closest to them. I want these people blindfolded and kept in the warehouse. They should not be harmed yet. Make sure it is done covertly, and they don’t see you,” She said, and I was shocked. Kara was grinning, and Eloise was laughing.

“I **want** you to **set** up a fictitious account **as** citizens and bombard these

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alphas to withdraw their petitions, or their loved ones won’t be returned to them. Let them believe that the people are unhappy with their actions and will riot if they choose to proceed. Also, make it seem like the citizens abducted their loved ones to motivate them to comply. Can **you** do it?” Zora asked him, and he nodded.

“I want to oversee the operation,” Kara offered.

“Me too. Croquet is very boring,” Eloise said, and Zora laughed.

“We will create fictitious untraceable emails and use them to troll them. But we have to keep up appearances at the games, so you two can’t be physically involved,” Zora said, and Kara thought about it.

“Well, it is fair enough,” She agreed, but Eloise was silent. Looking at Eloise, it seemed she wanted to be part of the process.

Brian William saluted us and excused himself.

“Now we can focus on serious matters. Those clowns will cave. More will be taken from those who prove stubborn, and if they insist...,” Zora said and paused to think deeply.

I knew she was thinking something sinister.

“Well, let’s not go there because they won’t like what I would do to them.” she completed her sentence, smiling.

“We honestly need to focus on catching the culprits. We can’t be ahead if we are nice and play by the book. These people need a firm hand, and that is what they will be getting henceforth,” she said, and Marcel nodded with approval.

“Remind me to not get on your bad side,” Theo told her, and we all laughed.

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Casey

I wasn’t ready to face Zora yet, so when Sheperd and Cruz accosted Darius and me, I used the opportunity to part ways.

I knew seeing Zora was inevitable, and I wished it would be easy, but I knew it won’t.

The last time we spoke, she was hurt.

I remembered the hurt in her eyes that day. I saw her give up completely. and it was all my fault.

I knew she was happy with Darius, but I still found it hard to move on.

She was mine right from when she was seventeen. Who would have thought our time together would be short-lived?

I felt ashamed of myself.

She had done what I failed to do.

When she reminded me of my promise the night she returned home naked and in pain, I sat on the couch and could not speak.

The truth was, I did not expect her to understand. I did not expect her to see things my way. I was afraid to let go of the rare gift given to me, and I expected her to accept it.

I knew that **that** was my inner truth.

When she complained and showed disappointment, I often told **myself** she would **do the** same thing in my shoes.

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Even though I knew Zora **was** very **loyal** and devoted, I believed she would **do** the same in my shoes.

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I had told Hardy that she would have rejected him for my sake, but I did not believe my words. I just wanted to discourage him from pursuing her and getting her in trouble with Darius.

After hearing that she rejected Hardy, I felt ashamed of myself.

How could I face her knowing I had failed her?

Darius Hand was a better man for her.

He made a promise and stuck to it.

She made a promise and kept it.

There was no way anyone or anything could come between them. There was no way.

I needed to prepare my mind for my friendship with Zora. It will be hard. It would be difficult to see and talk to her, being in the same space with her and having limits around her.

It will be difficult because she was once mine.

I needed to prepare my mind for the torture I would experience through the friendship, but I was grateful to Darius for his kind gesture.

A challenging friendship with Zora was better than silence. It was better than being estranged from her. At least I get my confidant back, someone I know I can trust and rely on. I was excited about it. However challenging it will be, I was excited about it.

I returned to **my** booth, and Ramsey was sitting next to Lori.

I honestly hated the man. He brought about my ruin, and I **was** angry and enraged after what Darius **had** just told me he did.

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I knew Cruz was **a** fool, but he did not deserve **this**.

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I wanted to beat the crap out of Ramsey and ask him what the fuck Cruz did to him to make him set us up like that. I was angry.

The lives that were lost due to that attack still haunt me.

“Darling.” Lori said, smiling at me, and I returned the smile.

“How did your meeting go?” She asked me, and I knew I needed to watch my tongue where Ramsey was concerned. Speaking in opposites was the only way to protect myself from the prick.

“Not well,” I replied, and her face dropped. She rubbed my back gently and kissed my upper arm.

“I hope he wasn’t upset,” She said with a tinge of fear, and I could not blame her. The Wolf Lord’s anger **was** something to avoid.

“I hope he isn’t. Sheperd and Cruz accosted him, and I am nervous,” I lied, and she hissed.

“I am sorry, but those two alphas are fools. Cruz was the one that got the east into this mess to begin with, he had better not try it again, and Sheperd almost got us in trouble the second time,” She said, grumbling, and I rubbed her back to calm her down.

I did not want her going into labour in the booth of a sports arena in the north.

I wanted to tell her. It wasn’t Cruz but her treacherous father, but I refrained from it. There was no use voicing my mind.

“Father, you should go against them in the committee. The east was more peaceful when you led it. Casey **is** doing a good job, but those people make it very hard. I think you and Alpha Timothy should step in to support Casey,” She said, and Ramsey shook his head. The prick.

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Of course, he will shake **his** head. He had messed everything up. I was beginning to suspect that he did it out of scorn.

Zora and I **had** increased the strength of the Magic Fang, knocking him out of first place in the east.

I was occupying his seat. Cruz and Sheperd knocked him down to fourth place. Could he create trouble for us because of it?

I believed it was more profound than that, and I **was** determined to get to the bottom of things.

“Max and Cruz have Casey’s **vote**. I can’t contest it,” Ramsey said casually, and Lori shook her head.

“I am sure Casey will side with you.” She said and squeezed my hand.

“Won’t you, darling?” She said, and honestly, I cringed.

I knew I said I wanted to try with Lori, but other than the bond, there was nothing. It wasn’t her fault; the issue was with me.

“No, I won’t,” I said bluntly, and she stopped.

“I won’t, darling, because your father is in retirement. I can also put Cruz and Sheperd in check. I won’t be able to caution your father,” I explained, and she shook her head.

“You aren’t putting those two in check. If you were, they wouldn’t have caused the war and friction between the north and east,” She said, and I shook my head.

“Cruz did not attack the Western border in Gad. I believe him. I do not know who did it, and I don’t care.” I said quickly, so the main culprit sitting with us won’t be on alert.

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Casey

“How **can** you not **care**? They took Zora away,” she said with a shaky voice.

“You did not see how they bound her in chains and took her away, Casey. She could have pointed at me or let them kill you, but she gave herself to them,” She said, getting all emotional.

“And she is now a lady of the north. I believe it served her well,” Ramsey said with a bit of jealousy or scorn.

He used his daughter to force Zora out of our home; now, Zora got herself a bigger and better wolf.

“Zora was lucky with the wolf Lord,” she said, and I stopped her. It was evening time.

“We need to return to the hotel.” I said, standing up, and she stood with

1. me.

I was tired of the conversation, and I wanted to get away from Ramsey. My mind was still processing what Darius told me about his involvement with the attack.

“I will see **you** tomorrow, daddy,” Lori said and hugged her father. Ramsey kissed her cheek, and he shook my hand. Lori and I walked away.

We returned to the hotel suite that we shared with Sheperd and Cruz.

After I showered, I changed into something comfortable and picked up the intercom to **order** a **meal**.

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“What would you like to eat?” I asked Lori when she exited **the** bathroom, and **she** smiled at me.

“Surprise me,” she said and came to bed in her night dress.

I ordered her favourite and ordered mine. She was excited and rested her head against my chest.

“Lori,” I said, and she looked at me with a smile.

“Do you tell your father everything that is going on in our home?” I asked her, and she was silent before responding. I knew the answer was yes, but I kept it to myself.

“Not that I go and tell him, he talks to me about things, and I find myself answering the questions. He is very curious, and you know I am his only child,” she said, giggling, and I pretended to laugh. Realising I needed to be secretive around Lori.

“Casey,” she said, and I answered her gently.

“Now that Zora is getting married and you know she is happy, are we going to get married too?” She asked me, and I sighed.

“We have claimed each other already. There is no need for a ceremony. Only chosen mates practise blue moon ceremonies and weddings,” I said, and she **was** silent.

I knew it was customary to have a wedding ceremony with her, but I refused simply because I knew her father was the one pushing her to do it, and I did not want to name her Luna officially too.

I wasn't there **yet**.

We ate, and Lori fell asleep thirty minutes after we finished eating. The movie we were watching was boring, so I could understand.

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My **eyelids** became heavy too but sleep left me when I heard Sheperd roaring in the living area.

I **left** the room in my pyjama pants and saw Sheperd angry and fuming, pacing up and down the room.

“What is the meaning of this? Lori is trying to sleep,” I said, and Cruz looked at me angrily.

“What good are you?” he said, and I frowned at him,

“All you had to do was demand a swap, and you failed. How can you call yourself our leader yet have no leadership **in** you? You have no spine,” He said, and I was slowly getting angry.

“You are a coward, Casey, a fucking coward. No wonder Tamai moved on quickly,” Cruz said, and I punched him.

I heard something crack, but I didn’t care. He had struck a nerve with me.

“You will respect me!” I said, getting angry. Sage had had enough of their nonsense. I was a peaceful man, but I refused to be disrespected anymore.

“I accepted the invite because of you two. Came here and ridiculed myself for your sake. I begged Darius Hand for your sake. I am a leader in my own right, yet I stooped low for your sake, and you call me a coward!” I said, livid.

“If you had kept your ranks in check like a proper alpha should, no one would use your men to attack the border of Gad, and Darius won’t rain down his terror on us and take our mates from us.

I am still hurting from my loss. I can never get over it. How dare you call me a **coward**?

It takes a lot **of** strength to walk **away** from a fight when you are challenged. I see Zora in Darius’s booth at the arena, and I dare not look. I

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dare not let **my stare** linger or talk to her. Do you think it is **easy**? It is your fault, Cruz! They took our mates because of you!" I said and then looked **at** him.

"Eloise isn't an object that you can swap at will. She is a person, and she is happy now. She is expecting a baby with Raphael Orlov, **move** on. She would not get back to you even if you were the last man on earth. After all you did to her?" I said and laughed from frustration.

"Are you on drugs, Cruz?" I asked him,

"No woman would return to a man like you after you treated her that way. You are sick. You need help. I still can't wrap my head around you asking your soldiers to fuck your wife in front of you. I can't wrap my head around it. It is sick, and you need help. She is free of you, so let her go," I said and looked at Sheperd.

"And you. I need to figure out where to start. I am ashamed that you two are my friends. I have done enough for you two. Let this be the last time either of you will talk to me about the mates you lost to better men. And before you think of a jab, I accept that I lost my wife to a better man. It is time you start accepting it, too," I said, and Sheperd shook his head.

"You might be our leader, but we are alphas. Yes, I made a mistake with Kara, but I am willing to make amends. Everyone deserves a second chance. I won't be at peace if I do not try. I was blinded by lust and fooled by the bond, I had to try. Casey. I can't come this far and humiliate myself this much to not take her back with me," Sheperd said, tears welling up in his eyes.

"I didn't mean to **beat** my Kara. Gabriella Shieldse told a lot of lies, and I believed her. Some of my men were in league with her. I believed them, I hurt Kara because I believed them. I thought Kara was malicious. I thought

she deliberately hurt Gabriella Shieldse. I believed all the lies they told me..." Sheperd said and sat on the couch crying.

59.85%

10:01

Chapter 165

288 (Vouchers

"I swear, **Casey**, I didn't mean to. It **is** just that things got heated between **us** and I reacted, and then I found myself doing that all the time," he said, and I did not want to hear him or Cruz anymore.

"Then you two will have to do it on your own. I am not going to aggravate Hand, Sidorov and Orlov over this," I said and returned to my room. Lori was sitting up and crying in bed.

I knew she heard me, but it didn't matter.

I got into bed with her letting Sage take over, and tried to console her. I was trying, but I needed to move faster.

We headed to the arena the next day, and Sheperd and Cruz decided to seek out Eloise and Kara.

They wanted to catch them when they were alone and plead their case. They were delusional, but I admired their perseverance. Too bad I did not see this going well for either of them.

87.82%

Content

10:01

Chapter 166

288 (Vouchers

Chapter **166**

-Kara-

I was having the nightmare again. The very dream that plagued my sleep and reminded me of my pain. It was the first night Sheperd beat Jada. I felt the chain and the silver, the command and the pain.

Max had stayed out all night, and I felt pain all through the night.

did not need anyone to tell me what was happening. I knew he had gotten intimate with someone behind my back. I did not know why and was determined to find out when he returned.

sat in bed and wept. I was mad at him and waited for him to return home.

He did not come home until noon the next day. By then, I had body pains and a terrible headache caused by his actions.

He walked into our home and did not say a word to me.

Our **eyes** met, and he looked away immediately.

I could see the guilt in his eyes, and he knew that I knew.

He did not speak. Instead, he walked away immediately.

I was mad. So I followed him. My head hurt, and my body ached, but I refused to be disrespected.

“Where were **you?**” I asked, and he was taking **off** his shirt.

He did not **say** anything. **He took off** his shirt and placed the shirt in a

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Chapter 166

laundry bin.

288 (Vouchers

“Max... Sheperdwell!” I asked, feeling insulted, and he sighed. He turned to look at me and sat at the foot of the bed.

“I am sorry,Kara. I am so sorry,” he said, and I got pissed

“Is that what you have to say for yourself?” I asked him, and he bowed his head.

“What do you want me to say,Kara? You know I fucked up last night,” he said, close to tears.

“I had no control over it,” he said and looked at me.

His tears fell freely, and it broke my heart because the pain was registered in his eyes.

“Control over what?” I asked him, and he shook his head and pinched the bridge of his nose between his eyes.

“I have screwed up.Kara; I am finished,” he said, and I did not know what to tell him. I began to suspect it was an act to take me away from the fact that he was with someone all through the night.

“What happened last night? Why didn’t you come home?” I asked him, and he looked at me and bowed his head again.

“I found my fated,Kara; I found her,” he said, and his words were like a moving truck.

It hit me, and I moved back until my back was against the wall.

I was instantly overcome with fear, anger and confusion. My **eyes** welled up with tears, and **my** hands began to shake.

“No, no, no, no,” I said, more to myself than to him.

19.10%

1001

Chapter 166

This was not supposed to happen to me.

288 (Vouchers

This **was** an impossible situation. No one had a fated in our pack. We knew it was impossible. That was why no one bothered and just named a chosen and claimed them during the blue moon. Why was I an exception?

“No!” I cried, knowing what would happen.

Max had fucked her all through the night; I believed we were past debating wh at he would do now. I believed he had accepted her.

“Why?” I asked him, and he did not answer.

“If you love me, you will reject her,” I said, trying my luck, but my voice held no conviction.

I was hopeful, but I wasn't sure.

He was my alpha; I was connected to him. If he accepts her, I know he won't r eject me. Where will I go to? How will I survive?

“You are my husband, my mate, Sheperdwell. After all that we have been thro ugh together, you have to reject her. Prove to me that I matter to you, and let her go. I will support and carry you. I have b een by your side for a long time, Sheperd,” I said, not knowing what to say ag ain.

I was out of words.

“But I have touched her. I didn't want to, but Echo didn't give me a chance,” he said, and Jada gro wled in my head, feeling betrayed by Echo

I wept, and soon he came to sit with me on the floor.

He **touched my** hand and asked me to look into his eyes.

“I accepted her, Kara,” he said, and my heart broke.

“She **is** moving in **today**,” he said, and **my** hand began to shake seriously,

40.63%

10.01

Chapter 166

288 Vouchers

my heart racing and beating against my chest. I was sweating, and my stomach churned. I wanted to throw up.

“I have claimed her, and she is coming. I had no choice. Echo sank his teeth in before I could stop...” he said, and I slapped him. I hit him with all my might. He did not do anything, and I hit him repeatedly until I began to cry.

He held me without saying a word, but I felt alone in those moments. I knew my life was over.

“Set me free,” I said, looking at him, and he shook his head.

“Set me free!!!” I yelled and moved away from him. I was enraged.

“Let me go, Sheperd! I did not care for the weakness; I want to go and find another mate!” I yelled at him.

“Snap out of it!” he yelled, and I looked at him. He had fear in his eyes. That was the first time he would yell at me.

“You were hysterical. I needed you to calm down,” he said, pulling me into his arms.

“I am sorry, my love. I am so sorry, but I can’t set you free. I can’t bear losing you. Fate has fucked our union up but let us try to make it work Please,” he said, but he also knew I had no choice.

If he did not set me free, I couldn’t leave. No one would take me in The ball was actually in his court, and he had stylishly told me he wouldn’t let

me go.

Max held me, and I wept in his arms.

“You are my Luna, Kara; **you** will always be Luna, and Gabriella Shieldse has no choice but to respect and serve **you**. I have told her, and she is **okay** with it. I know **this** will work,” he said, and I could not believe how

64.62%

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Chapter 166

288 (Vouchers

delusional he was. What made him think a woman he was fucking would be subservient to me?

Gabriella Shieldse moved into our home. She **was** nice at first, and Sheperd could not leave her bed.

I listened to them most of the time.

Max gradually stopped caring and showed a lot of affection to her in public.

It got to me, and I showed it. I would get angry and throw things. I broke a lot of things in the house. I wanted out, but I was his prisoner.

Everything got to me, especially the disrespectful pack members who gossiped behind my back or tried to be disrespectful towards me.

Content

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90.01%

Chapter 167

788 Vouchers

Chapter **167**

~Kara~

What added to my misfortune was that I did not grow up in Hill valley, so they already had issues with me because I wasn't from there.

Gabriella Shieldse's grandfather happened to be from Hill valley, so they were nicer to her.

One day I got home, and Gabriella Shieldse had made a mess of the kitchen. The Omega had gone home, and I needed to cook because they had dinner and did not include me.

I went to the living room, where she was watching the television.

"Gabriella Shieldse, come clean your mess; I need to cook," I said to her nicely, and she looked at me.

She was always disrespectful when Sheperd wasn't around.

"If you can't wait till morning when the omegas would do it, then clean it yourself," she said, and I got angry.

She wasn't only a bitch; she was lazy too. I had a bad day that day and could not take her shit anymore.

"You better come and clean your kitchen mess, Gabriella Shieldse," I said with a low growl, and she looked at me.

I knew she could see my intent, and she knew she would not last on a one-on-one with me.

Max wasn't around. I would have beaten the shit out of her before he returned. I **did** not plan to touch her, but I knew **that** was what she was

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Chapter 167

thinking.

288 Vouchers

She **was** reluctant at first, then she smiled and got up to clean the mess, but she was so slow that I decided I would eat at the pack house. There may be some leftovers in the fridge there.

I went to the pack house and ate, then hung around a bit so I would just sleep when I got home.

I returned home only to find Sheperd on the couch, fuming angrily.

I wanted to walk past him and go to my room, but he didn't let me.

"What did you do to Gabriella Shieldse?" he asked, and I frowned.

I did not understand.

"I came home and found my men helping her. She had bruises on her, and they found this on her wrist," he said, showing a thin silver bracelet used for torture. It was one of the ones I kept in the house for protection. Usually, it was best to clamp it around your attacker's wolf's hind leg, forcing them to shift back to their human form and allowing me to beat the shit out of them. How did Gabriella Shieldse get her hands on it?

"When did you become so wicked, Kara? I get your tantrums, but this? You clamped silver on her wrist and beat the shit out of her simply because you were hungry and the dinner was finished. I know you are jealous and do not want to share, but this is extreme, Kara. Did you think I wouldn't find out? Unfortunately for you, she passed out on the floor, so she could not free herself like you ordered her to. I am glad my men helped her because if she had freed herself, her wounds would heal, and it would be your word against hers," he said, and I was in shock. I was so shocked I could not speak.

"All I asked her to do was clean her mess in the kitchen because **I** wanted to cook. She was **rude** about it, and I insisted. She went to clean it eventually without **me** touching her. She **was** too slow about it, so I went

18 94%

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Chapter 167

to the pack house to **eat** the leftovers; where **is** all **this** coming from?" I asked him, and he shook his head, livid.

"Liar!" he yelled **at** me with command, and I shook and stepped back out of fear.

"Fucking Liar. She told me she was cleaning the kitchen and you got angry that there was no meal for you. I know you, Kara. I know you are quick-tempered and impatient," he said, and I was shocked.

"I might be quick-tempered, but that is too silly for me to beat her like this." I said, and he shook his head.

"She said you got angry and told her you wished she could disappear and that she is not wanted in this house. She tried to reason with you, and you got mad and slapped her. She threatened to tell me. You went to the room while she continued the cleaning, only for you to return and clamp the silver around her wrist and beat her with the kitchen utensils. Then you threw the bracelet key at her to release the cuffs by herself, you also told her to make sure the mess is clean before you return, and if she tells me, you will do worse to her..." he said.

I looked in the direction of the kitchen, trying to figure out how she would make up such a story.

"The kitchen is a mess. It has your scent, and her blood is everywhere, Kara," he said, and I went to the kitchen and lo and behold, he wasn't lying. There was a terrible mess of broken things, dented pots and pans with blood on them.

"I did not do this, Sheperd. You have to believe me," I said, and he shook his head.

"How can I? You never wanted her here. You asked me to reject her. You have been cold towards her. I also learned you do this often. You bully and sometimes beat her when I am not home. My men confirmed it," and I realised there **was** a ganging up against me. The sinister look in Sheperd's

10.01

Chapter 167

eyes made me know that I would not win.

He dragged me out of the house to the back.

288 Vouchers

He was fuming with rage, and I wondered where he was taking me to.

“She is pregnant. Kara, she is fucking pregnant!” he said, dragging me with him, and I tried to defend myself, but he used his authority on me, forcing me to comply.

Tears streamed down my eyes.

“Please, Sheperd, please. I did not do it. She is lying.” I said in tears.

“She has no reason to lie. I treat her well. You, on the other hand, feel you have been wronged. I wouldn't have believed her if my men did not corroborate her story.” He said: he pushed me into the garage and locked the door, then I watched him wear thick rubber gloves and wound a silver chain around his hand. I wanted to run, but he commanded me to remain He was livid.

“You beat a defenceless woman and used silver to make sure she feels the pain and does not heal quickly. I also learned this isn't the first time. If she had not passed out, I wouldn't have known. Gabriella Shieldse had told me you hated her. I did not realise it was this bad,” he said, and tears began to stream down my cheeks.

“Better pray she does not lose the baby, Kara, or it will worsen. Now shift!” he commanded me.

He beat Jada with the chain until we passed out...

The **garage** became my discipline room, and soon it became a norm.

He would lock me up there for a **day** or two without food.

Sometimes he would be **sweet** and loving towards me, and then Gabriella

73.98%

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288 Vouchers

Chapter 167

Shieldse would lie against me with the **help** of his men guarding our house, **and** then he would relapse and take me to the **garage**.

That became my life until he **gave** me to the northern soldiers...

Content

10.01

96.92%

Chapter 168

288 Vouchers

Chapter 168

~Kara~

I woke up panting, relieved that the beating was a dream. I had a nightmare of that garage and silver chain, which still had the same effect on me. Marcel woke up and held me while I cried.

"It's okay, darling, it was just a bad dream," he said, gently rubbing my back and kissing my neck.

"He can never hurt you again. I promise," he said, and I cried and held him.

It had been a while since I dreamt about Sheperd; why did I dream about him that night?

Marcel held me, and I kissed him.

He returned the kiss with passion and started taking off my nightgown to make love to me. I wanted it.

“Let me bring you back to the present,” he whispered, burying himself into me, and the pleasure shock went straight to my head.

The dream was a distant memory as Marcel took me to great heights, reassuring me of his love.

We went to the sports arena early the next day, and our men went to handle state matters leaving Zora, Neva, Nellie, Eloise and me in the booth.

Nellie, Neva and Zora went to watch the croquet game, leaving Eloise and **me in the booth.**

Eloise excused me to get a sandwich, and I **sat** alone, only for Sheperd to

0.00%

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Chapter 168

approach the booth, looking at me with pleading eyes.

I looked at Sheperd with his pleading **eyes.**

What was he doing in my booth? Was he crazy?

288 Vouchers

He walked to where I was, and I stood up and punched him right between the eyes.

Now I see why I dreamt of him last night.

Everything he did to me came rushing back to me, and I slapped him.

He did not say anything; he just stared at me with tears rolling down his cheeks.

“What do you want, Sheperd? You are trespassing,” I told him, and he went on his knees.

“Kara, I am sorry,” He said, and I wondered what had gotten into him. Why was he telling me sorry? There was no word to describe what he did to me, so there shouldn't be a word to take it away.

“What do you want?” I asked him, and he bowed his head.

“I want you to come back to me, Kara,” he said, and I could not believe this guy.

“Are you sick or something? How the fuck do you think I will come back to you after all you did to me because of Gabriella Shieldse?” I said, and he stood up.

“I am sorry, Kara. I later found out that she was lying. She wasn't pregnant, and you were not beating her. Doctor Alice said Gabriella Shieldse had never been pregnant in her **life**. All the miscarriages she claimed to have because you beat her were lies. I am sorry,” he said, and I **was** shocked.

15.96%

10:01

Chapter 168

288 (Vouchers

I **wasn't** shocked at what he said, but because he **was** stupid enough to not figure out she **was** lying about her pregnancy.

“I have scars to show for it, Sheperd. Scars that would never heal on Jada's body. My body. How do you think that would make me feel?” I asked him, and he bowed his head in shame!

“I do not know what came over me, Kara. I lost it. I lost my mind,” he said in tears, and I could not believe this psycho.

“You did it so much, Sheperd. You did it every night. Every night you fought with Gabriella Shieldse, you came for me, whenever I refused to agree with your actions, you came for me. Whenever I did something you disagreed with, you came for me. I was your punching bag. Your rag. You maltreated me, anything

g is better than being with you,” I said and looked at him in disbelief. Had he lost his mind?

“How could you even expect that I will leave someone who loves me wholeheartedly and fixed my broken soul? What made you think I would return to you?” I said, and he looked at me.

I knew he never expected it to come to this. He saw me as a commodity, an object. He even saw his fate like that, too. That was the only reason he requested a swap.

He thought it would be easy. He thought all men were like him and saw women as objects.

It was either that, or he had lost his mind completely.

“I am doing all this for you, Kara. I came here to humiliate myself, so I can see you. If you tell him **to** give you back, he will, and I will cherish you for the **rest** of my life. I will let you do whatever you like.” he said and looked **away**.

“I have executed all the men that lied against you and banished their **family** members. That is how desperate I am,” he said, and I laughed. I

10.01

Chapter 168

1288 Vouchers

knew there **was** more to the story. I knew he wasn't telling me the entire truth.

“Not all of them, Sheperd; can't **say** you dealt with all the men **that** hurt me when you are standing in front of me,” I said, looking him straight in the eye, and he bowed his head.

“I will do more if you promise to tell Sidorov to send you back to me. There are many women out there for him, but you are meant for me. My life was better when you were in it. My world is coming apart without you, Kara. You are my lifeline. Please,” he said, and I did not understand why he would want me back. He had his fate.

“You do not need me, Sheperd. You have a mate,” I told him, and he shook his head.

“What about Echo, Sheperd? Does Echo not need his mate badly?” I asked, and he was ashamed of himself.

“Please, Kara,” he said in tears. I knew he had no words to plead his case. So I looked him dead in the eyes to make my demands. Demands I knew he would not be able to deliver.

“Go and lock Gabriella Shieldse up in the garage and repeatedly beat the shit out of her wolf for three years.

Starve her and humiliate her over and over again.

Fuck her out of pity and let her know that is why you are fucking her, let her know you touched her because you can't let a wolf in heat roam about your house.

Degrade her and make her feel like shit.

Then, **make** her a spectacle to your men and pack members.

Go and **do that**, then come **back** in three **years**,” I said with a grin, and he

57.52%

10:01

Chapter 168

bowed his head.

288 (Vouchers

I had told him to do all he did to me **to** Gabriella Shieldse for the time he did it and return.

I knew he couldn't. He did not have that luxury of time, but those were my terms; an impossible task he could not achieve.

I wanted him to hear what being with him sounded like, and he knew.

He needed to hear what he did and how long he did it. He needed to see the extent of his wickedness toward me.

“My pack is in shambles, Kara. I will lose my pack if you do not come back. Gabriella Shieldse can’t do shit.

I do not know how to handle the arsenal and the shelters.

Your food preservation schemes and safety schemes have died.

People are moving to Casey’s pack, where the luna is active. Please.

That pack was left to me by my father. I can’t lose it,” Sheperd confessed, and I realised why he wanted me back. The very reason he did not let me

1. go.

“Let Gabriella Shieldse do it,” I said.

“I will happily draft you a plan for old-time sake so she can have something to follow, but I am not coming back to you. I can have this conversation with you because I have moved on. I have healed My heart is in the right place. I am getting married soon, and Marcel and I plan to start a family. I have too much going on for me here. I can’t return to that hell hole. I will advise you to walk away,” I told him, and he shook his head.

“You were **mine**. You **will always** be **my Kara**,” I **saw** the possessive rage in his **eye**.

77.67%

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Chapter 168

Where **was** it when he maltreated me for three years?

288 (Vouchers

Where **was** it when he repeatedly chose Gabriella Shieldse and his men over me? Where was it when he hurt me to my soul?

Content

1001

97.57%

Chapter 169

\$288 Vouchers

Chapter 169

~Kara-

“You know I didn’t give you up. You told people I gave you up, but we both know what happened that day. You deliberately stopped fighting and let them overpower us. You knew I would have no choice but to let you go... You told everyone that cared to listen that I threw you to them like you didn’t mean anything, yet we both know it was a lie,” he said accusingly.

“I could not die for a pack that maltreated me and a man that destroyed me. I had to get away from the beating. It was a saving opportunity, and I took it.

I knew you wouldn’t give Gabriella Shieldse to them, she claimed to be pregnant, so I knew you would give me up instead.

I was the useless Luna that wasn’t your fated. Your biggest mistake.” I said boldly, and he opened his eyes in shock.

He did not know I heard all the things he said about me.

“Yes, Sheperd, I heard most of your love discussions with Gabriella Shieldse. How you found me repulsive. How you wished you never had to fuck me again. How you only sleep with me when I am in heat out of pity. How you wished you waited for her,” I said and hearing me say those words brought tears to my eyes.

“Where **was** Echo when I met you?” I asked him because we had known each other before we **got** our wolves.

He was **two** years older than me, but it didn’t matter. I had known him since I was fourteen **years** old.

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Chapter 169

We didn't date until I **was** sixteen.

288 Vouchers

Max never touched me until we married when I turned eighteen, and I got **my** wolf. I **was** twenty–**six** now, and he **was** twenty–eight.

“In those passionate nights with Gabriella Shieldse, you made all the time we spent together, all the memories we had and shared into nothing. You made it seem like nothing and claimed to regret it, so should I return it to you? You had used your words to cancel every ounce of affection I had left for you. You took it away every time I heard you say those things to her Sheperd, so I will ask you nicely to leave before my mate returns. He isn't patient, just like me, and he won't take your proximity lightly,” I warned him, and he stared at me, speechless. I guess he did not think things through as always. He had acted on impulse.

“Go home to Gabriella Shieldse and build a life with her.” I told him, and he bowed his head and then looked at me.

Something he always did when he had something difficult to say.

“She is dying, Kara. That was how I found out she had never been pregnant. She has a few months to live,” he said, and I realised Karma had caught up with them. I guess their forever will never be. He threw away a love he had for twelve years for something fleeting.

“Answer me this.Kara,” he said to me.

“If you were not with Marcel, would you have come back to me?” He asked me, and it was only fair that I tell him the truth.

“No, Sheperd.
I would never. I would have remained a **sex** slave or a servant in the north. I w

ould have chosen that life over being with you. I stopped loving you a long time ago, Sheperd. I stopped caring.

I had become numb, so it **was easy** for me to forget you. Go back home and spend time with your woman. There is nothing for you here," I said, and he began to weep.

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Chapter 169

288 V

Max should have Listened to me and left the booth when I had told him to because I saw Marcel advancing towards our booth with rage in his eyes.

"Why didn't you tell me that bastard was here? Someone had to link me that a man was disturbing you in the booth," Marcel Linked me approaching, and I knew Sheperd was in big trouble.

Marcel got into the booth, and Sheperd turned to face him, only for Marcel to knock him to the ground and bash his head with his booth repeatedly. I had never seen Marcel with so much anger before.

"You fucking prick. What do you want with my mate! Haven't you done enough? Why can't you leave her the fuck alone?" He said, kicking Sheperd on the floor.

"Marcel, please stop," I said, close to tears because Sheperd wasnt fighting him. I had a feeling that Sheperd did not mind dying by his hand.

"He is a broken man; leave him alone," I pleaded with my mate, but Jax. his wolf, was in charge.

“Jax, please, leave him alone; his mate is dying. Please,” I said, close to tears. I was afraid, and everyone was looking at our booth.

Jax looked at me and then stopped. Sheperd remained on the ground, coughing.

“You are not fit to be Alpha, you fucking bastard,” Jax roared at him, and the pressure of his command was much. I never knew that Marcel could be this angry.

“Stay **away** from my mate. You had your chance, and you blew it. I know all that happened and all you did, and you are lucky I did not come for **your** pack. Get the fuck out of my booth!” Marcel yelled, and I saw Casey approach us.

58.79%

10.01

Chapter 169

288 (Vouchers

Was he watching all along? But then **again**, the eastern booth **wasn't** far from ours, and they could easily see what **was** happening in our booth **from** across the **field**.

“Please forgive him, Sir Sidorov,” Casey said humbly and helped his friend. Sheperd refused his help and got up himself. I could see that he had given up, not just on me but on everything.

“Watch him, Casey; he isn't in the right frame of mind,” I told Casey, and he nodded at me and walked away **with** Sheperd.

If anyone told me the first day I met Sheperd, this was how our story would end. I would say it was a lie, but fate had dealt us a dark card, and his love was not pure enough to see us through.

Content

10:01

Chapter 170

Chapter 170

~Eloise~

I had to have a sandwich.

There was no way I would sit in the booth until noon before I ate.

A woman was selling delicious turkey sandwiches, and I went to her stall. Besides my cravings, I did not want to sit alone in the booth with Kara. Even though

I chose to be oblivious of it, I noticed she had been acting strangely towards me since my bump started showing.

It had become so bad that I dared not make certain gestures around her. I knew how she felt, but I believed it was unfair for her to act that way around me.

I hoped she got pregnant soon so I could have my friend back.

While I waited for the woman to put my sandwich together, I rubbed my bump and thought of the joy in my life.

Raphael took all my pain away. Bit by bit, he broke down my defences and fixed them with his love.

He loved me through my fears and uncertainties.

After seeing what Darius did for Zora, I knew I had nothing to **worry** about where Theo was concerned, and I **was** grateful for him.

Thanks to his love, I was a different person altogether.

I remember walking around drunk and sleeping with anyone who told me they found me attractive.

10:01

Chapter 170

It wasn't **like** I **cares** for them; I **was just** looking for a way **out**, anyone **that** would challenge that prick Cruz so he could set me free.

Then I met Eric, a delta breed and a warrior. He said he loved me. I could still remember it like yesterday.

I was depressed, and I wanted to visit someone. I wanted to go somewhere, have fun and forget my troubles.

I had a bad headache from the alcohol I had consumed the night before, so I needed to take care of it before figuring out who I would visit.

I wanted to visit Kara that day, but I thought of what she was facing at home and decided against it.

I did not see her at the meeting, so I knew Sheperd had locked her up again. Zora was the lukiest of us. Casey was making an effort, and he still loved her. She was still in charge, and no one dared her.

I wished I were in her shoes.

As much as I wanted to visit Zora, I wasn't as close to her as I was to Kara. So I opted to go to a pharmacy to get painkillers and return to my home, which was also my prison and torture chamber.

I met Eric at the counter, and he was handsome.

One thing led to the other, and I found myself dating him.

It was supposed to be a fling, but we could not stop seeing each other. He made me happy and helped me forget my troubles. I was at peace around him, and he respected my body. He **was** what I thought I needed in a man, and I became infatuated **with** him.

Eric began to plan how he would request to challenge Cruz, and I

d it. But then I **got** pregnant and decided to run **away** with Eric

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and deal with the **mark later**.

I **wasn't** thinking. I was desperate.

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Cruz once told me I could do whatever I liked, but he would kill me if I got caught

Cruz also believed I was barren and good for nothing. He believed it strongly because he had just touched Rebecca once, and she got pregnant.

When I think **of** it. Rebecca's pregnancy was the reason he accepted and claimed her.

He said he had slept with her to figure out if he was the one with the issue, and when she returned to him pregnant, he realised I was the barren piece of shit. What an asshole.

He accused me of many things and said I was only suitable for

entertainment. That was why he treated me the way he did because he thought I was barren.

The painful part was that I believed him until Eric got me pregnant. That was why I chose to elope on impulse.

I knew the pregnancy would make Cruz mad, so I had no choice but to elope with Eric, but Eric was a coward.

He ran **away** and left me to deal with the mess.

I was arrested on the day I planned to run away. Samanta claimed I had tried to poison her and her children, and Cruz believed her, my plans of running with Eric did not help too, coupled with the fact that I was pregnant.

Cruz **beat** the shit out of me **and** locked me up.

He told **me** I would **rot** in the cell, and he **was** right.

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I lost my **baby** and almost lost my mind entirely before I **was** taken out **of** the **cell** and handed to the northern **soldiers**.

The irony of **my** suffering was **I** was made to shower and change my clothes every **day** in that cell, so I looked like someone that had care. It was Cruz's sick joke. I told him I did not try to kill his mate and children, but he did not believe me.

I rubbed my bump, glad that **all** was in my past now.

I was determined to love Theo without reserve.

I refused to be damaged goods or act like one.

I refused to be a broken woman. I will love him as if he was my first, and Cruz never existed. I owed myself that much.

”

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Content