

## Chapter 21 – Locked In With Danger

“Noah, please just leave me alone,” I pleaded. My heart pounded. It was dark in the single bathroom but the light from the moon outside allowed me to get a clear view of Noah’s face. He looked almost, crazed.

“I will leave you alone just as soon as you tell me why you decided to throw yourself at my brother,” Noah said, his mouth settling into a hard line. There was zero emotion on his face and this emotionless look made me even more afraid of him.

His eyes were dark, his pupils dilated. Was he on something? Is that why it felt like he wasn’t hearing a word of what I was saying?

My blood ran cold. I tried reaching for the door handle but Noah slapped my hand away.

“What, Ella, all of a sudden, you’re scared of me? You never used to be scared of me. As a matter of fact, I remember there was a time when you like it when I touched you right here,” Noah grazed the back of his hand over my neck.

I jerked my head back as quickly as I could. My head slammed into the door behind me and started to pulse with pain. I winced. But really, I didn’t care. All I wanted was to just get as far away from Noah’ touch as I could.

“Aw, Ella, don’t do that to me. You’re hurting my feelings,” Noah said, letting gout a grating laugh.

I could smell the smell of something sharp and sickly sweet on his breath. I knew that smell. It was the cheap alcohol that Noah used to pick up from the liquor store that was blocks away from our neighborhood.

“Noah, did you secretly follow us here?” I asked. When Liam and I were driving up, I hadn’t noticed his car trailing us. But then again, I was too caught up in my thoughts about who might have been spending time with Liam when he wasn’t on my.

Why hadn’t I gotten out of my head and paid more attention?!

“I didn’t have to, Liam told me exactly what he was planning to do with you this weekend?” Noah said and laughed.

“What?!” I said.

“Oh, we planned this whole thing together?” Noah said with a shrug.

“What are you talking about?” I asked, my heart starting to pound.

“Liam only asked you about what your favorite date spot was with me because I told him to,” Noah said.

My heart broke into a million pieces. I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. I thought Liam had genuinely wanted to get to know me. He had said so himself.

“Why, why, would he do that?”

“Because I offered to let him sleep with Ava if he let me have you back for one night,” Noah said.

My body recoiled at Noah’s words. “I’m not going anywhere with you, Noah,” I said, trying to let my voice come out strong.

“I just want to have a little fun with you, that’s all. What, are you afraid to have a little fun with me?” Noah said. His lips curled back over his teeth. I don’t know if it was the moon, or a trick of the eye, but his teeth suddenly looked like they had gotten sharper.

“Liam isn’t interested in Ava,” I said, my voice shaky. As soon as I said these words, I knew that they were true. I had never seen Liam even look in Ava’s direction. Not even once. I had noticed all the times that she had tried to throw herself at him. Liam never responded like he even noticed.

“That’s what you think. But trust me, you weren’t there when Ava sweetened the deal and brought an offer your precious little Liam just couldn’t refuse. How do you think he’s able to afford the car and the VIP tickets and everything else I can’t even come close to affording,” Noah said. Anger flashed across his face then.

It was clear to me now. Noah was so jealous of Liam and the fact that not only was he an Alpha and more loved by everyone, somehow even though they were brothers, Liam had managed to live a life with way more money than him.

Thinking about how Liam was willing to pon me off to his brother just so that he could get more money from Ava by doing...only God knows what, made my stomach turn.

“I’m going to go talk to Liam,” I said but Noah didn’t budge. He pinned my shoulders against the bathroom wall. His fingers dug into my shoulder and the pain of it maid my eyes begin to sting.

“Noah, please, you’re hurting me,” I pleaded.

But Noah didn’t hear me. Or if he did, he didn’t care. He pushed his face towards mine. I twisted my head away from his just before his lips were able to reach mine.

Outside in the distance, I could hear the howls of wolves.

I shoved my hands hard into Noah’s chest, trying to push him as far as I could away from me but I was no match for his strength. He wasn’t anywhere as strong as Liam was. But he was so much stronger than me.

I couldn’t believe that this was happening to me. I couldn’t believe that Noah, the boy that I had loved, the boy that I had walked away from because he hurt me, was coming back and trying to hurt me yet again.

Suddenly, the bathroom door swung open. In the doorway was Liam’s hulking body. His eyes were furious as he saw the way Noah had me pinned to the wall.

“You bastard!” Liam growled. He slammed his hand onto Noah’s shoulder and yanked him out of the bathroom and away from me.

Noah noticed the absolute rage in Liam’s eyes and a look of fear flashed across his face. Liam surged towards Noah, cocked his arm back and gave him the hardest punch I had every seen someone give in their life.

Noah went crashing to the ground in a heap.

“Liam, I was just, I was just—” Noah mumbled as blood dribble from the side of his mouth. Noah looked back at Liam, a dazed look on his face.

“You were just trying to take advantage of my mate while Ava tried to distract me,” Liam said.

Liam was ready to give Noah another punch when he glanced over at me and realized that I as shaking. He quickly moved towards me instead.

“Liam, stay away from me. Noah told me how you and he planned to this so that you could sleep with Ava and get paid by her,” I said. The words brought a fresh hurt to my eyes.

Liam’s eyes burned with disgust, “I would never do that to you. You know Noah would say anything to try to break our bond,” Liam said.

And of course this was true. Liam had been nothing but a protector the whole time we’d been maintaining our fake dating situation. The things that Noah had claimed about him coming up with a plan to give me to Noah while he slept with Ava just didn’t seem right.

Just then, Ava rounded the corner, her arms cross on her chest, “Whatever bond you think you have with her, is nothing but a lie, Liam,” Ava said.