

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire Chapter 53

53. These Choices of Ours

AZURA.

I gasped when we hit the water with a huge splash, drenching us both. Leo's arm snake d around my waist. He even had the damn audacity to place his hand on my ass for a fleeting

moment.

A moment that made my entire body tingle with pleasure. I hated that.

I tried to yank away, clawing at his chest. These nails are sure coming in use!

But I didn't get far. He grabbed my wrists, twisting them behind my back and against my waist, holding them there with one hand as he pressed me against himself. His white shirt was practically see-through, sticking to his skin and making my core clench at how damn good he looked soaking wet.

"Behave." He commanded, his steel blue eyes boring into mine. 6

My heart was thumping as I continued to struggle, but it did nothing but make my core t hrob. I could feel his dick rubbing against me, and despite how my entire body felt hot, o r the way our hearts were pounding, I refused to calm down.

"Fuck, let me go!" I hissed, my own eyes flashing.

"Not unless you calm the fuck down. I seriously won't let go. Fuck, just listen." He growl ed, his free hand taking hold of my chin.

My heart thumped loudly, my anger only rising.

Where have the others gone?

I scanned the area. Weren't they just here?

"If you're looking for Winona or Jackie... they left on my command. It's just the two of us ." He said huskily, forcing my chin up, making me look at him.

Strands of his wet, brown locks tickled my forehead as his words sank in.

“Shame. Now, how about I excuse myself, so you and your bitch of an ex can take a swim in here?” I hissed, twisting my hand until I felt his wrist, and dug my nails into his skin.

He frowned and I wasn't sure if it was because of my words or the pain, but frankly, I didn't give a shit.

“Do you have to resort to violence and anger every fucking time?” He growled.

“And if I do? What's it to you?” I snapped, wriggling in his hold.

His nose brushed mine, and my breath hitched, making me tense. We were too close...

I could see behind his anger and cold exterior, the carnal hunger he was trying to hide... I could feel him hardening against me, and I prayed that my own arousal didn't reach his nose...

“Fine. Struggle as much as you want, I just won't let go until you're done.” He said, running his tongue along his lips.

That piercing...

I swallowed hard, glaring at him.

I needed him to let me go.

For more reasons than just my anger...

“I think I broke your girlfriend's nose, why don't you go check up on her?”

He frowned. “She isn't my girlfriend.”

“Oh, but you just had to protect her when she deserved that fucking slap.” I growled, whipping my head to the side, trying to get my hair off my face. He ran his fingers through my hair and brushed it all back slowly almost as if enjoying it. I hated the way my body wanted to relax into him, the way I relished in the sparks...

I could feel his hard dick against my lower stomach, and that same intense heat seemed to settle between us.

“Yeah, she did, but that's not how Lunas behave.”

My eyes flashed, and my chest squeezed.

"I'm no Luna, remember? So I'll behave however the fuck I want. Let go of me, or I swear, claw your eyes out." I hissed.

He suddenly let go of my wrists, but just when I was about to pull away, his arm snaked around my waist firmly.

"Go ahead, even if you do, I won't let you go until you have fucking listened to me." He growled, his voice low and husky.

I'll

My heart thundered as I massaged my wrists, wanting to attack him. But when he was letting me, it didn't seem so tempting anymore...

Instead, I reached up, running my fingers through the long hair on top of his head and twisted my fingers in it painfully, yanking his head back. He didn't even flinch, simply looking down at me, that chiselled jaw set in an arrogant pout.

"I don't mind pain, carry the fuck on." He remarked, looking down at me with those gorgeous eyes.

Fuck, stop looking so good...

"What do you want to say? Hurry up before I mess up that pretty face of yours."

He smirked. "If you wanted to, you would have already done it, right beautiful?"

"Don't play me." I said, his words stung...

Don't call me that when I'm nothing to you. 2

His smirk faded, his eyes looking into mine almost as if searching for something.

"I didn't mean to." He replied quietly, his gaze dipping down to my boobs.

My dress was soaking, and it was clinging to me even more than before. That's all it was to him

the pull of the mate bond.

"I've decided... after we go to Alejandro's pack... I won't come back here." I told him quietly,

looking up into his eyes, our faces only inches apart.

Surprise flashed in his eyes as he searched mine. His heart thudded, and I wished I could read his mind, but his walls were up.

His scent was like a dream... It made me giddy, and I felt safe and free...

"The day after tomorrow then. Alejandro's set up the meeting between Rayhan and me."
He said quietly.

So soon...

I swallowed and nodded slowly.

Maybe it was for the best...

"Cool, the sooner the better..."

Won't

you stop me? Did you want me in your life or not Leo?

"Yeah... I guess..."

Guess not...

"What did you want to tell me Leo?"

He seemed to hesitate, and I realised his grip on me had eased.

Pull away Azura...

I didn't. I couldn't.

Was this the last time he'd hold me?

I let go of his gorgeous chocolate locks, slowly running my hand down the back of his head, paying attention to the sparks that ran through my finger tips.

This feeling... it was magical...

For a moment his eyes closed, almost as if he was enjoying my touch, but I doubted that.

He sighed, opening his eyes, a few strands of his hair flopped sexily in front of his face.

"Nikki, she means nothing to me... What she said was a lie. After I met you and rejected you, it was hard, trying to act like everything was normal. We did get intimate a few times."

es, but once you taste something so fucking incredible... Nothing else feels good enough. You keep saying that you aren't good enough for me, but you actually caught my eye at that club before the mate bond even snapped into place. It's not every day you see a woman just saunter into a strip club alone, looking so fucking fine. Anyway... the only reason I rejected you was because of my anger at the Elite... even though Elijah and Scarlett Westwood have never done anything wrong, they were still related to the Rossis through Kiara... I just... it wasn't you, I marked you because despite it all, I fucking wanted that... But yeah..." 4

"1

My heart was thundering, a storm of emotions inside of me, but I didn't get it. Why now, when I was brave enough to leave? He couldn't keep playing me again and again...

"Why tell me this now?" I asked quietly.

Why? Why confuse me when it's obvious you hate me...

He frowned, looking down, only for his gaze to dip to my breasts.

"My face is up here, you old perve." I growled, trying not to let the pain of his constant rejection hurt.

A ghost of a smirk lingered on his face as he looked at me arrogantly.

"You can't stop me from looking wherever I want... I just told you because I don't want you to fucking misunderstand because of Nikki." He became serious once more. "So... since you're leaving... want to tell Corrado tomorrow about the baby?"

You really won't stop me from leaving...

"Sure." I replied, trying to ignore the pain inside and keep my walls up. "What do you want to do about this baby? Do you want to like visit? I mean, I wanted him or her to know their father. Weekly, monthly, or holidays even?"

Why was this so painful?

Even with his arms around me, holding me firmly as if he never wanted to let go, we were talking about splitting up...

He looked down before looking back into my eyes, but this time the look in his eyes was regret.

"It doesn't really matter."

Wow.

I nodded, trying to fight my emotions as I slowly pulled away.

His words hurt... He didn't even want to be a part of this baby's life...

"Ok, whatever." I said, wading through the water to the edge of the pool.

I was about to pull myself out, when his arm snaked around me from behind, and his hand rested on my stomach.

"Even if I'm not around, I'll make sure you and our baby are taken care of." He said quietly, caressing my stomach gently. 4

These emotions... these tingles...

I tensed when his lips brushed my shoulder, his hand slipping my strap that had slid down, back up.

I scoffed, glad he couldn't see my tear-filled eyes.

"Yeah, I'm sure you will. But don't bother, the Westwoods don't need your charity. No one needs a father who isn't there for them. Maybe it'll be easier just to tell my baby that you're dead." I said coldly, pushing his hands away from me. 8

His heart was thudding, but I didn't care if my words fucking hurt him. I wanted them to hurt him, just the way he hurt me.

He didn't reply, and I placed my hands on the edge. I was ready to pull myself out, when his hands gripped my waist, lifting me out. I didn't look back as I got to my feet, walking away with whatever confidence I could muster, not once looking back ...

Goodbye Leo.

Just tomorrow night, and we will be going our separate ways...

I returned to the party, feeling so many eyes on me. Well I couldn't blame them, I was dripping wet.

Song ran over the moment she saw me.

"Zu!"

She stopped, whispering a spell, and I felt an intense cold surround me, and then a tingle before I looked down. My dress was completely dry. But my hair was still soaking and completely straight once more.

“Come on, I can quickly fix your make-up before dinner is served, and we can get your hair dried... I wish I had some of my crystals...” She said, smiling gently, almost as if she knew what I was feeling.

Only the strongest of witches could do many spells without crystals, herbs, and engravings. Those at the level of Dels anra Diana Rossi, Raihana Somers, and the high witches of the coven. I nodded, not arguing as I allowed her to lead me away...

She had simply begun working on my hair, and I didn't speak. I didn't say anything. Just her silent comfort was enough... After she had fixed my make-up, we returned to the garden. Nikki was nowhere in sight, and I really didn't want to see her anyway.

Marcel had called me over to sit with him, but I refused to be anywhere near Leo for any longer than necessary. I was relieved that Marcel didn't push it when I declined. I forced myself to eat, and I did my best not to even look at Leo. He had changed out of his wet clothes and was now in a pair of jeans and a grey shirt. Corrado was sitting at Leo's table, and I could hear him asking why I wasn't there.

I'd miss him too... Would he never get a chance to play with his sibling?

Eric, Jackie, and a few other pack members were at our table, but I could barely focus on anything, whilst Song kept them occupied enough for no one to bother with me.

What I did learn from Song was that Jax had left shortly after Nikki, and she wasn't sure about anything else. Well, I sure hope that Marcel did something about it because I wasn't so sure Leo would. Ok maybe he would since he did put his best friend into prison, but still, I would make sure Winona got justice. No one should have to suffer at the hands of another like that. I planned to fill him in on what happened after the evening was over.

Raj the beta came over to congratulate me on the baby just as dinner was finished. He had his mate Kesha and his seven-year-old daughter Kareena with him.

“I really was pleasantly surprised to learn who you were, so once again I would like to welcome you to the pack.” He said.

I shook hands with both him and his mate whilst smiling at their daughter, who seemed to be an innocent soul.

Then again, never trust kids...

She shied away, hiding behind her mama.

I gave her a wave before turning back to Raj.

“Thank you, you were polite and welcoming even then.” I replied simply, it wasn’t like I was here for long anyway.

J

Once they moved away, Song gave me a small smile.

“You ok? Wait, dumb question.” She murmured, shaking her head.

“I’m fine.” I replied, my eyes looking around the garden, at the pack members.

Somehow, I had felt comfortable here, I had gotten used to all of them. A life that wasn’t meant for me.

I exhaled slowly, placing my hand on my stomach.

Give me the strength to remain strong...

I was a fighter, not someone who succumbed to another.

“Zu...”

I turned to her, my eyes flashing silver with a surge of strength and confidence.

“I’m fine Song, stop stressing. I may not have a crown, but I’m a fucking queen, and I sure as hell can handle anything that comes my way.” I replied frowning deeply, my eyes blazing.

I was, and I was not going to let anyone break me.

She smiled. “That’s the Westwood Devil I know.”

I gave her a smirk just as Marcel stood up. Winona hurried over to him, passing him a box before Marcel took it and turned to everyone.

“Azura.” I turned my attention to him as his eyes found me, and he smiled. “I just want to say thank you for being here with us tonight, and gracing us with your presence-”

“Yes, thank you Azura!” Corrado added. “We love having you here!” 1

Several people chuckled as Marcel lifted his grandson into his arms.

“I loved being here too.” I replied, trying not to get emotional.

I would have to break his heart too... I could see Leo sitting there like the arrogant jerk he was from the corner of my eyes.

“Then stay forever ok, you won’t even have to cook.” Corrado offered, smiling brightly.

Sorry baby, I can’t promise that...

Marcel’s smile faltered, almost as if he could read my expression. I forced a smile, but the moment he returned it with a sad one of his own, I knew he knew. Knew that I wasn’t going to stay...

“Thank you for everything.” He said quietly, our eyes met, and I didn’t reply, breaking eye

contact.

He

looked down at the box Winona had brought and opened it with one hand, placing Corrado down as the little boy peered into the box.

“Ooo.” He said dramatically, only piquing everyone’s curiosity.

“I know everyone probably doesn’t want to hear me rambling on and on, but there is one final thing I want to share with you all. Something important. My real reign as Alpha started roughly nineteen years ago... When we were freed from the reign of terror inflicted upon us, by one who’s name I won’t mention tonight... Nineteen years later this pack has thrived.

Despite everything we went through, we are now a normal pack with everything we could have hoped for. I’m sixty now, damn I’m getting old.”

“Not that old Alpha! You still look amazing!” One of the middle-aged she-wolves said, whilst everyone agreed, making Marcel smirk slightly.

“Thank you.”

Yeah, like I said, fine wine...

“He is so handsome.” Song whispered, making me smile slightly as I nodded in agreement. “Well, I still think I want to just sit back and just spend time with my grandchildren now... and so, tonight, I will pass that title to my son, Leo-”

He stopped, his gaze turning to Leo, who was looking at him sharply.

They were conversing through the link.

“Daddy will be Alpha!” Corrado said excitedly.

Yet I didn’t feel good. Despite the excitement that was rippling through the garden, something between the look of coldness in Leo’s eyes and the confusion in Marcel’s, told me things weren’t going as planned.

“Now I know why there’s a special knife.” Corrado added.

My heart thumped as Leo stood up.

“Leo...” Marcel began, unable to hide the sadness and hurt in his voice.

“I don’t need the title to be Alpha. I no longer fucking want it, keep it.” He said coldly, before he turned and walked away leaving a shocked silence in his wake... 22

54. A Disappointing Failure

MARCEL.

The evening that I had hoped would go well, had gone downhill. Both Leo and Azura had returned soaked from what was obviously a dip in the pool, but with it, their moods had gone down. Not once did they even talk after that, obviously avoiding one another.

I was now ready to make the announcement to pass Leo the position of Alpha, a title he deserved, and one I wished I had given him years ago.

“Well, I still think I want to just sit back and just spend time with my grandchildren now... and so, tonight, I will pass that title to my son, Leo—”

‘Stop, what the fuck do you think you’re doing?’ Leo’s voice was harsh as he spoke through the link, his eyes flashing when our eyes met.

‘Giving you something I should have years ago.’ I replied through the link. ‘It’s too fucking late to fix that shit. I told you I fucking forgive you, but I don’t want it. Don’t do this. “Daddy will be Alpha!” Corrado’s voice came, but Leo’s words had shaken me. “Now I know why there’s a special knife.” ‘Leo, you deserve this.’

‘I said I fucking don’t want it.’ He replied venomously, and I was taken aback.

Leo stood up, his demeanour was cold and hostile.

“Leo...” I didn’t know what to say. This wasn’t how tonight was meant to end...

“I don’t need the title to be Alpha. I no longer fucking want it, keep it.” He said coldly, staring me dead in the eyes before he turned and walked away, leaving complete silence behind... I didn’t know what to say, unable to ignore the pain I felt. I could feel all those pairs of eyes on me as I slowly sat down again. 2

The hope I had felt that maybe things could be better... had just come to an abrupt end. Raj was making conversation, and he soon managed to replace the shocked silence with the hum of chatter.

“Grandad... why did Daddy say no?” Corrado asked, “I’m not sure son.” I replied, patting his back as Winona came over. “Come on Corrado, do you want to go to the dessert table?” She asked him. I glanced at her, grateful that she had come over, and she gave me a small smile. ‘He’ll come around, Alpha.’ She said through the link as she helped Corrado down from his seat.

‘I hope so.’ I replied before they both walked away...

The night had ended in disappointment, and the plan that had sounded great this morning,

ended up a total failure. Everyone had slowly retreated, and I didn’t miss the sympathy in the eyes of many. After all, Leo had rejected the title outright... I sighed heavily, running my hand through my hair.

I had gone wrong... somewhere... The silence felt loud... just like it always did in this huge house.

Even though I knew Corrado was now fast asleep in Leo’s old room upstairs, he had been upset and confused after Leo walked out. Although Azura, Winona, and Song had tried to cheer him up, it was obvious Azura herself wasn’t completely there. In the end, Winona had taken him away to turn in for the night. Song and Azura would be staying the night here too. Neither refused when I suggested the idea.

The sound of someone walking in the hallway came occasionally, as the staff were clearing the garden and house up. I was now in the kitchen, making myself a cup of coffee. I felt far more tired than I should have, it felt like I was losing it all.

Hope. I had let myself hope and even that had been ripped away from me... I truly felt like I had only ever had a few years with Leo. Under Endora’s reign, it was all a blank or what I remembered was a hazy blur. The snippets I remember were tense, and I just remembered a child who always held a fire in his eyes. As he got older, from the age of six, he began pulling his weight and acting far older than he was... When I first created this pack, we had become closer... an

d I hoped he got the childhood he had been deprived of, but that all changed once Rayhan had come here.

Now when I thought I'd get him back... I lost the chance. Even if he said he had forgiven me, I wonder if it was just because he really just didn't care anymore.

I tried to reach him several times through the link after he left, but he had his block up.

I frowned, realising the coffee machine wasn't working.

Great.

The sound of footsteps and Winona's light, citrus scent reached my nose. She always smells refreshing. 1

I didn't turn as she entered; I had asked her to come to see me when she was finished putting Corrado to bed. Azura's words before she had retreated to bed weren't forgotten.

'I know it's not my place, but a member of your pack was disrespecting Winona today. And although I think I broke her damn nose, I don't think Leo will be holding her accountable for her actions... So I hope you do. Winona's shoulder had scratches too...

I frowned as I pushed the button a few more times. Why wasn't this stupid thing working?

I shook it, cursing internally, before a pale, slender arm reached out and switched the socket

1. on.

Right...

"It was switched off Alpha." Winona said, smiling politely. "You asked for me?" I looked down at her. She was still in that black dress, and it was easy to forget that she was the same Winona I knew. I looked away smoothly, watching the coffee machine for a second,

before turning back to her and nodding.

Crossing my arms, I leaned against the worktop.

"Yes, I did. Azura mentioned something that happened earlier, regarding someone disrespecting you." I began. Instantly, she rubbed her arm, looking away for a second

"It's sorted Alpha, Azura defended me, and it really wasn't much."

“I will be the judge of that. Tell me exactly what happened.” I commanded lightly.

My gaze fell to her bare shoulder, and reaching over I brushed her hair back, feeling her tense at my touch, My eyes taking in the faint marks of nails, left behind...

She healed slowly after all.

Winona was one of Leo's additions to the pack. He had found her when he was twenty. He had come home, visiting England due to setting up some business or other, and he had found her being bullied at a human orphanage. She had come of age and was being forced to leave, although she had nowhere to go. Along with having nowhere to go, she couldn't shift. She hadn't been a rogue, but she also had no idea what pack she was from.

With nowhere to go and living in fear, Leo had dropped her here with the pack before leaving once again.

Although one would think she was an Omega, I wasn't so sure. Due to the fact she couldn't shift, I think people simply assumed that. Besides that, the rank system was long abolished.

“It was my fault, I asked Nikki why she wore red when I made it clear the Lu-Azura was going to wear red.” She said, tugging on the sleeve of her dress, avoiding looking me square in the eye.

“Nikki.” I frowned.

I had been surprised to see her show up, but it was obvious she had been there to cause problems. I felt disappointed in her.

“Will you explain exactly what happened earlier?” I asked, taking the coffee mug and passing it to her. “Take a seat.”

She looked down at the mug, her eyes full of worry, but when she saw me making myself a second mug, I was sure she understood that I was not going to take no for an answer...

“...and then Alpha Leo told us to clear the area...” She finished, after spending the last fifteen minutes telling me exactly what had happened. I sat back frowning, as I looked at her. She looked almost disappointed in herself.

I shook my head exhaling.

“That is... I wasn’t expecting that from Nikki. I will make sure she is confronted about this myself.”

She nodded and sipped her coffee. Watching her, I realised she was forcing herself to drink it.

“You don’t like coffee.” I stated.

She froze, looking up at me sharply.

“I uh...”

“You could have refused, Winona.”

I said, reaching over I took the cup from her, placing it aside.

Her heart was racing.

“I’m sorry, I just, I’m a tea person...”

I raised an eyebrow. “Well, I’ll remember for next time.”

“Next time?” She asked startled

I smirked. “Am I that bad company?” “Not at all Alpha! I just... I’m sure you have many others you can have coffee with.” She said quickly. “Yeah, I guess... but then, not even my son wishes to be around me it seems.” I said quietly, looking down at my hands.

The faint scars that ran up my hands and arms caught my attention for a second. They were mere lines now. Scars that left no memory. .. Yet the internal scars were the ones that Leo was suffering from.

“I’m sorry Alpha... I’m sure one day he will come around. Please don’t blame yourself.” She said quietly, giving me a small smile that lit up her pretty face.

It was weird... tonight it was almost as if I was seeing her for the first time... Those large brown eyes, her angelic features, it was strange how I have looked at her countless times, but never really seen...

She blushed under my gaze, and I hid a smirk, rather amused.

“It’s late. Stay the night.”

She froze, her eyes widening, her face flushing, and if that wasn’t enough, her heart started thundering loudly, and I almost chuckled.

As much as I wanted to tease her, it wasn’t really appropriate.

"I'm sure Corrado would be happy to have you here when he wakes up, especially since his father just left. He was clearly upset over it all."

"Yes... did we make a mistake tonight?" She asked, the flash of guilt in her eyes making me feel disappointed for her too.

"I honestly don't think we did anything wrong, but both are far too stubborn. Leo isn't helping matters either... We did what we could, even if it didn't work out the way we wanted. We did it with good intentions, and that's the important thing. Thank you, Winona, for all your help." I said with a small smile.

Yeah, I did think

I had messed up, but I was not going to allow her to blame herself. I just hoped that Leo really did realise what he was doing before it was too late...

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My gaze fell to her bare shoulder, and reaching over I brushed her hair back, feeling her tense at my touch, My eyes taking in the faint marks of nails, left behind...

She healed slowly after all.

Winona was one of Leo's additions to the pack. He had found her when he was twenty. He had come home, visiting England due to setting up some business or other, and he had found her being bullied at a human orphanage. She had come of age and was being forced to leave, although she had nowhere to go. Along with having nowhere to go, she couldn't shift. She hadn't been a rogue, but she also had no idea what pack she was from.

With nowhere to go and living in fear, Leo had dropped her here with the pack before leaving once again.

Although one would think she was an Omega, I wasn't so sure. Due to the fact she couldn't shift, I think people simply assumed that. Besides that, the rank system was long abolished.

“It was my fault, I asked Nikki why she wore red when I made it clear the Lu-Azura was going to wear red.” She said, tugging on the sleeve of her dress, avoiding looking me square in the eye.

“Nikki.” I frowned.

I had been surprised to see her show up, but it was obvious she had been there to cause problems. I felt disappointed in her.

“Will you explain exactly what happened earlier?” I asked, taking the coffee mug and passing it to her. “Take a seat.”

She looked down at the mug, her eyes full of worry, but when she saw me making myself a second mug, I was sure she understood that I was not going to take no for an answer...

“...and then Alpha Leo told us to clear the area...” She finished, after spending the last fifteen minutes telling me exactly what had happened. I sat back frowning, as I looked at her. She looked almost disappointed in herself.

I shook my head exhaling.

“That is... I wasn’t expecting that from Nikki. I will make sure she is confronted about this myself.”

She nodded and sipped her coffee. Watching her, I realised she was forcing herself to drink it.

“You don’t like coffee.” I stated.

She froze, looking up at me sharply.

“I uh...”

“You could have refused, Winona.”

I said, reaching over I took the cup from her, placing it aside.

Her heart was racing.

“I’m sorry, I just, I’m a tea person...”

I raised an eyebrow. “Well, I’ll remember for next time.”

“Next time?” She asked startled

I smirked. “Am I that bad company?” “Not at all Alpha! I just... I’m sure you have many others you can have coffee with.” She said quickly. “Yeah, I guess... but then, not even my son wishes to be around me it seems.” I said quietly, looking down at my hands.

The faint scars that ran up my hands and arms caught my attention for a second. They were mere lines now. Scars that left no memory. .. Yet the internal scars were the ones that Leo was suffering from.

“I’m sorry Alpha... I’m sure one day he will come around. Please don’t blame yourself.” She said quietly, giving me a small smile that lit up her pretty face.

It was weird... tonight it was almost as if I was seeing her for the first time... Those large brown eyes, her angelic features, it was strange how I have looked at her countless times, but never really seen...

She blushed under my gaze, and I hid a smirk, rather amused.

“It’s late. Stay the night.”

She froze, her eyes widening, her face flushing, and if that wasn’t enough, her heart started thundering loudly, and I almost chuckled.

As much as I wanted to tease her, it wasn’t really appropriate.

"I'm sure Corrado would be happy to have you here when he wakes up, especially since his father just left. He was clearly upset over it all."

"Yes... did we make a mistake tonight?" She asked, the flash of guilt in her eyes making me feel disappointed for her too.

"I honestly don't think we did anything wrong, but both are far too stubborn. Leo isn't helping matters either... We did what we could, even if it didn't work out the way we wanted. We did it with good intentions, and that's the important thing. Thank you, Winona, for all your help." I said with a small smile.

Yeah, I did think

I had messed up, but I was not going to allow her to blame herself. I just hoped that Leo really did realise what he was doing before it was too late...

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire Chapter 55

55. A Mama

AZURA.

It was the following day and after a restless night, I had gotten dressed in blue jeggings and an oversized white top. Leo had just popped over, saying it was time to talk to Corrado. There was something different about him, but I couldn't pinpoint what it was. He was wearing a white tank top and grey sweats. His hair was a sexy mess and it was obvious he had been running his hand through it a lot, and he looked a bit pale. But there was something else...

Did he even get any sleep? He had first taken Corrado to the garden, and I had seen him crouching in front of him and, from what I could make out, apologising for last night. Corrado had stood with his arms crossed, looking displeased, before hugging him and smiling.

Children really were so innocent...

They came in soon after, and Leo looked at me.

"Shall we?"

"Sure." I said, turning away from him and allowing him to lead the way.

"It's so fucking hot." Leo muttered as the three of us headed to the lounge. 4

'Have you even planned what we'll say?' I asked him through the link. I really didn't want to do this, but I knew for Corrado I would. At least he was letting Corrado know that he would be a big brother, despite not really seeming to care about seeing this baby again.

No.

I frowned slightly but said nothing, not knowing how this was going to play out. I shut the door behind us, the airy room making the sounds of our heartbeats sound even louder.

I didn't respond as I crossed my arms and Leo sat down, making Corrado stand in front of him.

"Daddy, why are you so serious?" He asked worriedly.

"There's something that I need to tell you." 'You or we?' Leo looked at me and I stared back emotionlessly. If he wanted help, he would have to ask for it.

'We'

It felt like an eternity, the pain and intensity of his gaze made me look away first.

"There's something that the both of us want to share... but I need you to understand ok.."

"Ok Daddy." He said, looking up at me. "Did you and Azura make up?"

"Make-up?" Leo raised an eyebrow. "Because last night you argued." He stated.

I felt awful, so even this kid picked up on the fact something was wrong. 2

Nice going.' I said icily.

Leo didn't respond.

"This is about something else." "Oh..." He was clearly disappointed, and I couldn't help but go and sit next to Leo for Corrado, but I made sure there was a gap between us.

"Azura is having a baby." Leo said hesitantly, for once Mr smartass obviously didn't know how to go about this. "000." Corrado said, turning and staring at my stomach. "But Azura, your belly isn't big... Where is the baby?"

"It's still little yet." I replied with an amused smile, he really was such a cutey.

I saw Leo massaging his neck as Corrado's face fell. "Where's the baby's Daddy?" He said before looking at L

leo worriedly. He stepped closer to him. "Can we still keep her? Please Daddy, you can be Azura's baby's Daddy and I will be a good big brother! We will take care of her!" He whispered. 2 This was going to hurt him... Did we need to do this?

"Corrado, it's....No, we can't." Leo placed his hands on his shoulders.

Corrado's face fell, and he looked absolutely devastated. Leo glanced at me. A silent request to help.... If it didn't involve this cherub, he could have gone to hell.

"Come here."

I said, smiling gently at the child, forcing myself not to let my emotions show. I reached for him, and Corrado shuffled towards me looking confused. 'You really don't know how to do this shit.' I shot through the link.

Heck, even I don't know what

to do. "Corrado, this baby is your Daddy's... which means you ARE going to be a big brother." I began, realising no matter what angle we did this from, it was going to hurt him.

"I'm going to be a big brother!" He gasped, his eyes widening before they sparkled with excitement. "Daddy! I'm going to have a baby brother or sister!" He exclaimed, looking at his dad excitedly.

"Yes, you are kid." Leo replied, smiling faintly at him as he ruffled his hair. "So Azura and the baby can come live with us. The baby can share my room!"

Yeah, explain shit to him now. Our eyes met before he looked at Corrado, but when I thought he'd be able to explain it he simply looked away frowning.

"Corrado." I reached for him once more, and he looked up at me with even more adoration than before.

"Yes, Azura?"

"I won't be staying here; I'll be returning to my own pack... but I promise you I will send you lots of videos and pictures? And we can video call and visit. I promise." I explained, my heart breaking as I watched the little boy crumple before me. His excitement dissipating, and it was replaced by sheer sadness, his eyes glistening with tears that now began welling up in his eyes fast.

"Why?" He whispered, raising his fist hands to his eyes as he began crying. "Doesn't Azura want to be my Mommy too? I promise I be good. Does Azura not love me? I won't ask for anything Azura. I promise I'll be a good boy." 120

I couldn't stop my own tears from streaming down my cheeks as I dropped to my knees in front of him and hugged him.

"No baby it's not you... I promise I love you so so much." I whispered, *my* voice breaking.

"Then why won't you be my mommy, Azura?" He sobbed.

"Corrado... enough. Come on." Leo's voice came, thick with emotion as he pulled Corrado from my arms even when I didn't want to let go of him.

"But Daddy..." "That's an adult decision, Corrado. Azura is leaving tomorrow." He said quietly, before he stood up lifting his son into his arms and walking away. He paused at the door and glanced back at me; the look of regret was clear in his eyes.

I could hear Corrado's sobs as he asked what he did wrong.

"We have to go to Azura, please Daddy... Don't let Azura go. Don't let our baby go away. I be a good big brother Daddy. I promise..." Corrado's words broke my heart, and they were the only thing that I could focus on as I knelt there, silently crying my heart out.

'Doesn't Azura want to be my mommy too?' I clamped my hands over my mouth to stifle my sobs. I couldn't breathe properly... The pain was almost suffocating me. Of course, I wanted to be your Mommy, I would have been the happiest person in the world, as would this baby to have you in our lives...

Then why don't you fight for what you want, Azura?

I froze, staring at the floor in front of me, suddenly feeling cold at my own question.

Why don't I fight?

Because it just hurt too much...

Maybe I wasn't as strong as I always thought I was...

Since when do I cry over something?

Fight for what you want.

I ran my hand through my hair, my mind a whirlwind of thoughts. Leo was giving me a high five... but... When I stormed off last night, he came after me. Maybe he

just needed some time. It was like at the same time he was telling me that he wanted me, only for him to then push me away. Why?

Maybe there was more to it, but it was hard for me to think past my anger

Look harder...

Not everything is as it appears...

Dante's words returned to me, and I knew that whatever he said, always meant something.

Look harder...

Was I missing something?

Was there a reason for Leo's hot and cold attitude?

Goddess!

What should I do? "Corrado!" Leo's voice came and I heard the front door slam shut. I stood up rushing to the window, only to see Corrado running down the lawn as fast as he could and I frowned, my heart breaking for his little soul.

Even when Leo picked him up and his little fists pummeling his shoulder, I was still unable to let it slide.

Fuck this, for Corrado and this little one. I suddenly felt as if I had been hit with a clarity.
3

I knew what I needed to do... Even if it wasn't going to be the easiest. I ran from the room, and out into the front garden.

"Corrado!" I shouted, running over to them. 1

He turned, looking at me with his tear-stained face.

"Azura..." I held my arms out to him, ignoring the spark that rushed through me when my arm brushed Leo as he held his arms out to me.

"It's ok kiddo... you can keep me... I will be your mama if you want me to, because I really do want to be your mama too." I whispered, hugging him tightly. 11 I heard Leo's heart race and sensed his intense gaze upon me, but I ignored him as Corrado hugged me tightly. His tears soaking my shoulder. 1 "Promise Azura?"

"I promise."

I promise on everything I have. I don't care what Leo thinks or what I feel...

I didn't know how, but if it meant making a child happy... a child who I was lucky enough
, to want me to be
their Mama, then I would sacrifice my own ego for him... Because no child should feel u
nwanted, especially by those they love. 22