Claimed And Marked By Her Stepbrother Mates

Chapter 361-Back To The Academy

Chapter 361: 361-Back To The Academy

Helanie:

It was the most horrifying sight for me.

I ran back to the mansion like my tail was on fire. Now I understood why things didn't go as planned between us as we wanted them to.

My promise was kept without me knowing. As I returned to the mansion, I noticed Emmet in the hallway, getting ready for whatever he does out there in the woods.

In that moment, it became clear to me that the brothers go out either to take care of Maximus and also make sure he doesn't go into the population to cause chaos.

It all made sense now.

I'm not the only one who is keeping secrets. So I was no longer ashamed of holding things in and not telling the brothers. I ran to my room and locked myself in until morning. I would avoid the brothers at any cost now.

Before anyone could wake up, I had already packed my stuff and left the mansion.

I didn't care about saying goodbye to anyone either.

"Look who's here," Lamar commented, extending his hand for me to shake, which I did with a weak smile on my lips. He was standing next to Gavin, Jenny, and Penn.

"Give me a hug," he stole my bags, tossing them at Penn and Gavin to carry, and pulled me into a brotherly hug.

"Hey, you okay, right?" he whispered in my ear. I bet he noticed I looked a little down.

"I will be now," I replied as he broke the hug.

"You look very pale. Did you not eat anything?" he asked quietly while examining my face.

"I ate too much last night. It was a great occasion, and there was so much food--" I kept talking when he hushed me for a moment.

"What occasion, Helanie?" Of course, he understood something had deeply upset me for talking so much about a supposed occasion that turned me pale.

"Remember Charlotte?" I watched him nod. "Well, she is a close friend of Maximus."

I watched him gasp and cover his mouth. "Which is crazy because--" I shut up as I bit my tongue.

"What? Tell me what is it?" he insisted, but Jenny and the others had grown tired of waiting for him to step aside so they could come and greet me.

"Groups within groups, not accepted," Jenny pushed him away and hugged me. Her arms tightly wrapped around me, and she patted my back.

"I love you, sister. I hope you know that," her tone was slightly different and odd. She broke the hug and stepped aside as Gavin gave me a side hug.

"Hey," Penn waved from behind Jenny, a strange hesitation clear in his body. It was so weird to be back at the academy now.

"How are you all?" I asked absentmindedly as I had to physically stop myself from telling Lamar that Maximus is a lycan.

And also, how could Charlotte be his mate when I felt the mate bond with him too? Or has he got two mates?

One for his human form and the other for his lycan form?

I just didn't get it.

But I wasn't ready to explore anything either. Maximus did it to hurt my feelings. He chose Charlotte at a time when he was 'dying' to be with me. But I knew his truth. Hence, his mother arriving with Charlotte was another game they were trying to play, probably to push me into blurting out that Maximus cannot be with my 'cousin.'

"We're good. And we would love a hug too, but I guess–we're not that lucky," Penn said, shrugging dramatically while his hands stayed in his pockets.

"You mean to say lucky?" I corrected him with a laugh, but he gestured for me to look behind me. I slowly turned around to see Lucy standing in the crowd, probably having arrived while I was greeting everyone. Maybe that's why she didn't come closer.

"I'll move away," Gavin said, walking off, and as he did, Lucy started walking our way.

"Hey," she suddenly had a bright smile on her face as she waved her hands and hugged me tightly.

Her scent took me back to the time when we first met. Although now she was wearing makeup, acrylics, and a mini skirt, the rest was the same. Her behavior was cheerful, just like it used to be before she got caught up in the mess with her mate.

"Hello, all of you," she then broke the hug to greet the others but particularly avoided Jenny when she tried to hug her.

"We're good. We wanted to come and see you but--" Penn took the chance to speak and divert attention to himself.

"Oh, I'm glad you didn't come because if you had, you would have brought her with you," she boldly eyed Jenny, who looked around and then instantly looked down in embarrassment.

"Come on, let's go, Jenny," Penn definitely couldn't handle the truth. I didn't hate Jenny, but she did hurt Lucy pretty bad. All that time when Lucy was losing her mind trying to tell everyone she wasn't just imagining things, Jenny stepping forward would've saved Lucy so much stress.

Penn walked away with his sister, and now it was just the three of us.

"Are you going to be okay?" I asked Lucy, wondering if the sight of the fall would affect her, and I could tell it already was. She had big tears in her eyes but kept a smile on her lips.

"YuP!" she popped the letter 'p.'

"Let's go back inside and see our room, shall we?" Lamar suggested, and we all walked in. Other students were already heading to their rooms. The wallpaper had been replaced, and some new decor had been added.

"Are you not going to take the elevator?" Lucy asked, confused when I started to walk on foot with her, taking the stairs.

"I'm not so weak anymore," I joked and watched her eyes grow bigger before she held my hand and squeezed it to show how happy she was.

That's when I received a text from someone I didn't expect to get.

Trainer Norman: Not even a thank you and you left already?

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 362-Chaos Between Her Friends

Chapter 362: 362-Chaos Between Her Friends

Helanie:

Me: I didn't want to see anyone. Thank you for the hospitality, but I also learned that this place is not for me anymore.

I hit the send button and raised my head to stare at Lucy, who had been standing next to the window, looking outside for a while now.

"Who found me first?" Lucy asked, making Lamar look up from his phone.

"The nurse!" he said, making both Lucy and I frown at him in confusion.

"That is basically who holds you when you're born. Why? Did you expect a dragon to deliver you?" His joke landed flat, and he understood because he immediately looked down and started playing a game on his phone.

"I don't know. I was too traumatized to ask those questions. But why?" I inquired.

I could tell she was suddenly remembering more, and it seemed important to her.

"There was something that entity wanted me to do--I mean--she said that's what will free her," Lucy bit her tongue as Lamar put his phone down to stare at her almost in disbelief.

"And you're telling us that now?" Of course, he didn't hesitate to voice what was on his mind.

"I'm just remembering," she rolled her eyes at him before adding, "The entity needs a new body to survive once it gets out. And the person who finds my body would have been the one to get caught in the mix," she replied.

"I did," I pointed at my chest as I recalled the details of that night.

"We watched her fall but we didn't find her body," Lamar snapped his fingers from afar to wake me up.

"That means we can't sit silently," I sighed, but my eyes moved to Lamar when he started pointing at his phone. He wasn't very discreet because even Lucy saw him, and she folded her arms over her chest to show him she was onto him.

"What's going on?" she tapped her foot on the ground, warning Lamar not to hide anything from her.

"Gavin messaged me," Lamar explained.

"Oh, what did he say?" she asked, her tone dripping with attitude when talking about him.

"He wants us to join him for lunch at Benita's Café. All the friends together to start fresh," Lamar sounded meek because of Lucy's hard glare.

"And you two are going to join those two snakes?" she mentioned Gavin and Jenny, her tone hissing.

"Depends on you," I quickly added. She had just woken up a few days ago, and I wanted her to feel at ease.

"Alright," she nodded her head, licking her bottom lip before she replied, "Sure! Let's do it."

Both Lamar and I shared a shocked glance before looking at her.

"Oh, come on, I'm not that heartless. I was hurt, but it's time to grow up. I want to do better and enjoy my life, as lying in that hospital bed for a month and being in a coma taught me a lot." Her tone shifted back to normal, sounding like an overly excited person.

We all began to unpack and do whatever work was pending for the next day, while I headed out to grab some fresh air.

My mind was filled with so much conflict and questions.

But I let them rest and kept staring into the distance until I had to go back to see Lamar.

"Ready for lunch?" Lamar asked, putting on his black jacket and getting ready.

"Yeah, where is Lucy?" I asked, noticing that the bathroom was empty too.

"I don't know. She said she was heading downstairs to meet you. You didn't see her?" Lamar turned to me, frowning and narrowing his eyes.

"I wouldn't be asking you if I did," I growled in annoyance. It felt like before, and it got me all freaked out.

"Okay, let's not panic, she must be caught up--oh, look!" he stopped talking as his phone rang. "That's Lucy."

He answered the call while I realized I needed to take my phone off silent mode. The two only spoke for a minute before Lamar hung up on her.

"What did she say?" I asked, almost in panic.

"Calm down. She's fine. She said she needed to get some stuff and will meet us at the cafe," he finished, giving me a reason to sigh in relief.

I got in the back of Lamar's bike, while Jenny and Penn took their car, and Gavin was going to walk. Penn suggested we go in his car, but I knew that when coming back to the academy, Lucy wouldn't want to be in the same car as Jenny and Gavin. So, she would ride with Lamar, and I would be in the car with the others, including Gavin. That was the plan, unless Lucy made it clear she didn't want me associating with them.

We arrived on time and entered the cafe, where, except for Lucy, everyone else was already there. We took our seats but didn't order, wanting to wait for her to arrive.

"I hope she won't be upset--" Jenny meekly uttered, but her brother's grunt silenced her.

"She made her own decision to come here. Nobody forced her, so she better watch her mouth when passing any unnecessary comments about my sister," he made us all stare at him in shock.

"You do realize Lucy has a reason--she's hurt--" Gavin attempted to defend Lucy when Penn scoffed at him and silenced him.

"And yet, she wanted to join, so she better behave. My sister isn't going to be hearing her brutal remarks about her life. It was a drunken mistake, and then it was up to you to tell your mate what happened. My sister got--" he was yammering aggressively when he shifted in his seat, stretched his neck out, and narrowed his eyes at someone.

"Is that Lucy with Sydney?" he finished, making us all turn our heads to see what he meant.

And yep, indeed, it was Lucy coming in with Sydney and Salem by her side.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 363-Lesson Of The Day

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Helanie:

I felt so uncomfortable when I saw Lucy coming over to join us with Sydney and Salem. She even had her arm wrapped around Sydney's as if they were best friends.

"This is crazy," Lamar muttered before they reached us.

"And now we know who the real toxic one is," Penn grumbled, shaking his head with a sly grin on his lips.

"Hey everyone, I hope you don't mind me bringing my friends too," Lucy giggled as she reached us. Sydney scanned the crowd for me, and when her eyes landed on me, she smirked and winked.

I slammed my hands on the table and stood up. "I have some assignments pending. I'm heading back to my room."

I wasn't going to stick around and deal with Sydney's remarks, which she instantly started making the minute she heard me say I wanted to leave.

"Come on, Helanie, don't be a baby. I came here in peace." Sydney rolled her eyes, while Salem looked down after getting a glare from Gavin.

"I don't want to sit at the same table as you," I snapped at Sydney, who rolled her eyes again.

It was as if she wasn't even trying to make anyone believe she had changed.

"Really? But you're sharing a table with Lamar, Gavin, and—Jenny. Oh! So just because you decide you want to make amends, that's when people are allowed to sit next to you?" Sydney clicked her tongue, trying to call me out on my hypocrisy—when there was none.

"All these people know they've messed up, and they're trying to be better," I shot back at her, noticing Lamar and Jenny had stood up to back me up.

"And you—" I hadn't even finished speaking when Jenny cut in.

"Lucy had a choice, but you were brought here without Helanie's permission. And as for Lamar—he's been with her through thick and thin, so don't compare yourself to him." Her confidence was on a whole different level as she defended us this time.

"Hush, snake!" Sydney held her hand up to stop Jenny.

The whole time, my eyes were on Lucy, who kept her head down with an annoyed look on her face, as if we were the ones in the wrong.

"You two thought you'd come here to make Helanie uncomfortable? Well, guess what, we won't be sitting here either." Gavin slammed his hands on the table as he spoke to Salem and Sydney.

"I didn't do anything—" Salem said softly but went quiet when Gavin shot her an angry glare.

"Then we'll sit and eat with Penn," Sydney said as she sat down, but that's when Penn stood up.

"I'll show you another place, Helanie," he said to me, avoiding her.

"Seriously? You're going to leave with Jenny and Gavin?" Lucy asked, folding her arms over her chest.

"How can you hate Jenny and Gavin but not Salem?" I didn't want to drag Salem into this mess, but since Lucy had been giving me a hard time for talking to those two while she herself went ahead and befriended Salem, I just couldn't hold it in.

"Because I get to choose who I want to forgive. Isn't that what you did too? You wanted to forgive Lamar, so you did. You didn't want to forgive Sydney, so you didn't," she shrugged, making me stare at her in disbelief.

It was a painful moment for me. You can't make someone understand you if they don't want to.

"You expect me to fight your battles while you're making friends with your own enemies? And what part of someone apologizing do you not understand? Lamar has proven to me that he deserves my forgiveness. But Sydney—" As I snapped at Sydney, I realized there was no point in arguing.

What hurt the most was that Lucy made it all about me. Out of all the people who hurt her, she chose to take it out on me.

"Let's go," I said to Lamar, walking ahead of him. I heard the others follow me while Lucy stayed behind.

Once we were out of the café, someone called out to Gavin.

"I didn't do anything." It was Salem, hurrying after Gavin. He turned around and squared up to her.

"Then why are you here?" Gavin yelled in her face, taking his anger out on the wrong sister.

"I thought if you all got along—I'd get to be—I mean, sit next to you," she said, sounding genuine. When that didn't satisfy Gavin, she added, "I even texted you that Lucy was bringing Sydney with her to warn you so you wouldn't be caught off guard."

She quickly searched for her phone in her purse, but Gavin had already turned away and signaled us to leave.

We left her behind and got into Penn's car, while Lamar and Gavin rode together on the bike.

I noticed a slight change in Lamar's attitude toward Gavin compared to earlier. After Lucy showed up with Sydney and Salem, Lamar took it as a chance to openly declare his friendship with Gavin. After living together for a while, I had seen a strong bond form between the two.

"So, Helanie, what lesson did you learn from today's incident?" Penn adjusted the mirror to look at me, while his sister side-eyed him from the passenger seat. I sat in the back, feeling pretty emotional.

"If you can't say it out loud, I will. The lesson is: don't put all your faith in one person. Don't be too careful with everything you do. You can't always be right, and you definitely can't do justice to every relationship. That doesn't make you a bad person. You have many people who want your attention and need your friendship, but you can't fulfill all their wishes," he spoke in a calming tone. But I guess Jenny noticed my teary eyes. I didn't want things to go south between me and Lucy.

"Penn, hush!" she grunted at her brother.

"I think I'm also Helanie's friend, and honestly, I don't like it when someone tries to push her down," Penn shot back at his sister, making her comment,

"Is that why you refuse to sit and eat meals with our parents anymore?"

I was shocked to hear he had taken a stand against his parents.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 364-She Thinks I Am Evil

Chapter 364: 364-She Thinks I Am Evil

Helanie:

We didn't go anywhere for lunch after that. I asked Penn to take us back to the academy, and he did. Once we arrived, I rushed straight to my floor and into my room. Lamar was already there with bags of food, and so was Gavin. He was leaning against the wall, watching me as I walked in.

"Let's eat something," Lamar insisted, giving me a look that said I should sit down and not overthink things. But how could I not?

Instead of things getting resolved in my life, they were only getting messier and messier. And now Lucy! I couldn't understand what her deal was. Every day, one of these people made me appreciate keeping my secrets to myself even more.

"Please?" Gavin insisted, squinting his eyes a little. I nodded and sat on Lamar's bed while they started unwrapping the food.

"I hope Lucy doesn't freak out when she sees me here," Gavin muttered, taking a big bite of his burger.

"I told you, dude—don't worry about it. She lost her credibility when she not only showed up with Sydney but stood there and let her question Helanie. It was as if she brought Sydney along just to say the things Lucy couldn't say herself," Lamar said with his mouth full, immediately biting his tongue when he spat his food everywhere.

"I think she's in a really vulnerable state right now. She needs proper guidance. We shouldn't hold it against her," Gavin sounded genuinely concerned. I guess he really wanted to fix what had gone wrong.

I, however, didn't add anything to the conversation. I wanted to talk to Lucy alone and then decide what needed to be done.

"Just because you messed up once doesn't mean you need to bow down all the time. Not to mention, I agree with us being harsh on you, but not on her when she was cheating on you. She just got lucky that she ended up being the victim. Otherwise, she would've been in your place right now," Lamar said, brutally honest as always. He wouldn't shut up until he had said whatever was on his mind. And I didn't stop him either.

After we finished our meals, the door finally opened, and Lucy walked in. Before she arrived, we had been wondering how we would react or how she would react to seeing us here.

But the moment she stepped in, we realized that wasn't going to happen.

She was completely drunk.

Gavin quickly stood up, and so did I, ready to support her. But she rushed past us, pushing us out of her way to get to Lamar.

"Hey!" She flopped onto his bed, and Lamar jumped like a startled cat. He quickly got up and turned away from her.

"Come on, what's the matter? You don't want to fuck me now? You did before," Lucy smirked, licking her bottom lip and making all of us uncomfortable.

"I feel very violated," Lamar whispered in my ear from behind, his arms dramatically wrapped around himself as if he were naked.

"Lucy! You're drunk. Let's get you to your bed," Gavin said, his eyes darting to us to see how we'd react.

"Shut up, Gavin. Go screw someone like you always do and let me enjoy the best dick I've ever had," Lucy shouted at him before turning to Lamar with a flirtatious look.

"I don't think mine is better than Gavin's," Lamar tried to defuse the situation, maybe to make Gavin feel better or to avoid ruining their friendship. But his comment backfired when Lucy caught on.

"Ohhh! Don't tell me you've slept with Gavin too. I mean, I wouldn't be surprised. Gavin is such a bottom, and you—well, you love cheering people up with your dick," she rambled, clearly out of her mind.

"Okay, that's enough. You're going to bed." I grabbed Lucy's arm, pulling her up while Gavin stormed out of the room.

"I'm not liking this new version of hers," Lamar complained, rushing after Gavin. Wow, they really were getting closer.

"Ah, they're gonna hook up," Lucy muttered with a pout. But the minute I managed to get her on her feet, she turned to me and yanked her arm free.

"You're not so innocent either," her comment stunned me. I knew she was drunk, but sometimes drunk people say the truth.

"Lucy, you're drunk," I said, trying to get her to bed before she said something even more hurtful.

"No! Let me talk. Stop controlling me all the time. As if you're better than me," she rolled her eyes.

"I've never said I'm better than you," I tried to explain, but she wagged her finger and moved it side to side in front of my face.

"You always steal the attention. The way everyone listens to you and waits for Queen Helanie to make a decision—it drives me crazy. You're the reason Gavin hurt me. If you had worked hard and found out the truth, I could have been spared all this pain. But instead, you let it happen because you wanted a sad, depressed Lucy by your side—someone you could pity," her harsh tone cut deep, making me feel instantly attacked.

Tears started to well up in my eyes, but I held them back.

"No, that's not true, Lucy. I care about you. I don't know why you think I'd do that to you," I began, but she walked away, threw herself onto her bed, and rolled under the covers.

"Go cry in front of the boys. Your miserable act usually works on them," I couldn't believe I had hurt her so much that she was saying all this to me.

The Lucy I knew before her rejection would never have said such things. But this new Lucy, broken by rejection, seemed to think all her friends had betrayed her.

"Now go! You have no idea how I felt when I was in a coma. I wish the entity had taken my body instead—at least then, I'd have been powerful. But of course, even a monster wouldn't want me. So you better watch out—who knows, maybe the entity will choose you like everyone else does," she kept muttering until she finally passed out.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 365-They Want Revenge?

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Helanie:

She had fallen asleep, and I had gotten under my blanket to pretend to be sleeping when Lamar arrived.

He called my name in whispered a few times to check on me, but I pretended to be asleep too.

We had our first day at the academy in the morning, and we got the notification that it was going to be a running record. It's a kind of class where the trainers make groups and then hold these matches where they want their team members to cover more miles before the others.

I wanted to have good energy for the first class. The combat classes were coming up, and these were now physical exercises. I really wanted to do well and focus on my revenge now.

I woke up still upset because I couldn't get over Lucy's words.

"Morning!" Lamar said as he got ready in the red tracksuit. By the time I had come out of the bathroom, Lucy had already left for class.

"Morning," I gave him a faint smile, trying to keep the energy positive.

"Don't be upset. She will come around. Let her go mess around with Sydney and find out for herself. She's in that phase where after a breakup, someone tries hard to be in a cool gang. But she's not made for that gang, and I'm sure she'll realize it sooner." Lamar didn't know the extent of the disappointment Lucy had shown toward me last night, so he wouldn't understand for now. However, I gave him a head nod as if I agreed with him and decided to get ready instead.

We all had our red tracksuits on as we walked out of the academy to meet the brothers. It felt so odd to be back attending classes. Honestly, I loved this academy now.

Jenny and Penn stood together. Gavin wanted to stand separately, but Lamar pulled him closer to us. He kept checking our faces to see if we were allowing him to stand next to us. I had no problem with him standing with us, but I had a problem with Lucy standing next to Sydney and snickering just like how the mean girls used to do before.

In fact, Lucy had replaced Salem. And that shocked me. Sydney was avoiding her own sister, but she would also make sure her sister didn't go away from her and befriend someone else.

I was worried for Lucy. Sydney was not a good influence.

"Morning, everyone!" Maximus arrived in a stunning black shirt, causing my heart to skip a beat. I now knew why my emotions had been so strong toward him. We were mates, and although it could change everything for Kaye—claiming I used his brother to get back at him—it also didn't change much. Maximus played me.

He avoided looking my way, just like he had never known me, and stood before the students.

Since Sydney and I were the class monitors, we were standing right in the front. Yet Maximus was looking at Sydney but not at me.

"Hello, everyone, welcome back!" Out came Kaye from his black Mercedes, wearing black just like his brother.

Kaye and Maximus passed each other a smile, looking happy and in good moods.

"I'm sure you all got our message and know what today's lesson is about. My brothers will arrive shortly, so how about we warm up a little before they get here?" Kaye stood tall, clapping his hands once in front of his body and then behind, continuing to do that excitedly.

"So! Monitors, step forward," Maximus yelled for me and Sydney, again avoiding looking my way.

"Stand before your lines and give us a handstand."

I was taken aback when they mentioned that out of the blue. I don't know if I have ever tried it, but it felt so random.

In the syllabus, they had mentioned push-ups, chin-ups, squats, and miles—but not a handstand.

But Sydney was on a roll. She quickly got to action, flipping her body up, standing on her hands while maintaining good balance.

I looked through the students, making eye contact with Lamar, who looked so concerned.

"Sir! It's easy for Sydney since she used to be a cheerleader. As for Helanie, this is new for her," Penn took a stand like the alpha he was, always voicing his opinions whenever he could.

"Not talking to you, Penn," Kaye almost hissed, pointing at Penn.

"Come on, Helanie. What's the matter?" Maximus said my name, but he chewed on it between his teeth. I don't know if others noticed it, but I did.

"I cannot do it," I excused myself, my hands tied behind my back, feeling so low.

"Huh?" Maximus walked closer, leaning down to bring his ear next to my face. "Say it again."

It felt so strange to catch his scent now.

"I have never done that before," I replied meekly, keeping my voice soft and my tone under control. This wasn't his mansion where I would argue with him.

And they had made it clear that they didn't come unprepared.

"You can at least try. It's not like you're so fragile you'll break if you fall," Kaye scoffed, fixing his watch while keeping his head down and staring at me through his eyebrows.

I felt so weird being watched by everyone. Sydney stood next to me, a triumphant smile on her lips.

I nodded and tried to get down, attempting to carry my body on my hands, but I fell every time I tried. It got to the point where I just couldn't stop attempting, as the laughter from the students grew louder.

I noticed Jenny closing her eyes, Penn clenching his jaw, Lamar scoffing, and Gavin shaking his head. But what stuck with me was Lucy's reaction.

She had her hand on her waist, her weight settled on one leg, and her face tilted. There was such a cocky grin on her lips that I felt like I was watching someone who looked exactly like Sydney—not Lucy.

"That is enough. You have made enough of a joke out of this class. Now go take a round of the mountains and come back in one hour," Kaye yelled, shocking me back to reality as he punished me harshly.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 366-He Is Different!

Chapter 366: 366-He Is Different!

Helanie:

"Ugh!" I groaned in pain, coming to a halt after half an hour. Sure, I had some strength from my wolf, but it was nowhere near enough to cover the mountains in one hour.

No one could—unless it was obviously the brothers. They were strangely powerful, and I could understand why Maximus was, but the others were no ordinary ones either.

I bent down with my hands on my knees, struggling for breath.

I deserved this treatment. How the fuck did I let two brothers fool me?

I should have stayed focused on my mission, but deep down inside, I was still that dumb, hopelessly romantic idiot.

I sighed and straightened my back, taking one more step and grimacing in pain.

"Take a rest and go back to your dorm room," I heard a voice from behind me, and I didn't have to turn around to see who it was.

"No, thank you, Trainer Maximus. I was asked to finish my round, and I won't stop until I've achieved that target," I groaned arrogantly, turning around to head back to the starting point.

"This is the fifth time I've told you that your punishment is over. You're free, and you're just being stubborn," Maximus said, his hands on his waist, looking angry.

He had actually asked me to stop the first time I tried to reach my goal in one hour. Every time I realized I couldn't, I would return to my starting point and start over.

I would quit running midway once I realized I had wasted too much time and covered very little ground. So, keeping on going wasn't benefiting me. I would return and restart.

"If you want to be a bad guy, be a bad guy. I don't want your sympathy," I hissed at him, stretching my arms a bit.

"Huh? You think I'm the one in the wrong? You betrayed me and left me in the middle— " As he began to hiss and come at me, I yelled back at him.

"Why? Mommy wasn't helping you? How were you alone?"

My words struck him—I could tell because he stepped back and raised his brow at me.

"What the fuck? Why are you dragging my mother into this mess?" He didn't sound too pleased.

I guess it was time I told him the truth.

His truth.

I wouldn't let him act like a victim of my poisonous claws.

But I must say, I was shocked that his mother agreed to him accepting Charlotte. What was she planning now? She would have never accepted anyone related to my mother, so why Charlotte?

"I heard you!" I hissed.

"I never said you were deaf," he kept the same confused look on his face.

"Maximus, I heard you speak with your mother," I muttered, and the minute I did, tears started to form in my eyes. I hated acting like he had succeeded in hurting me.

"About what? What did you hear?" The look on his face told me he was beginning to understand. He tried to approach me, but I stepped back.

"I heard you talk about trapping me and using me against my mother. I fucking heard you say you thought of me as a dumb tool, something you were going to use to stop the engagement before you kicked me out too," I screamed, then covered my face with my hands, hiding the tears that had escaped my eyes.

He looked shocked that I had found out about his plan.

"Fuck!" he cussed, his hands flying to his head. "That was just to play my mother!"

I stepped back and rolled my eyes. His audacity was something else. I couldn't believe he was twisting the story so outrageously.

"Of course, you're not going to admit it. I am such a fool," I shook my head, waving my hands to dismiss the topic. I didn't have a reason to keep talking to him.

"No, wait!" As I tried to get past him, he stepped in my way and spread his arms to block my path. "I swear I'm not lying. My mom asked me to fool you and all that, but I figured if I made her believe I was being honest, she would let me have you. And when it was time for me to kick you out of my life, I would backstab her and make you my queen," he explained, trying his best to sound genuine.

But I didn't care anymore. I wasn't that much of a fool to believe his ridiculously unbelievable story.

"Sure!" I scoffed and attempted to get away when something he said stopped me dead in my tracks.

"You're the one who played me, though," he continued flipping the script on me.

"Sure!" I clicked my tongue. It was obvious he was grasping at straws to accuse me of something and make himself look innocent. But what he said next shook me to my core, and I turned to look at his face in shock.

"You never told me that whatever I felt with you was because of your pheromones."

"What? You're not going to say anything?" He had genuine tears in his eyes.

I stared at his face, my breath quickening, but before I could respond, someone else had it out for me.

"Why the fuck are you not running?" Kaye screamed from afar, and I visibly startled at his sudden arrival. The anger in his tone jolted me out of my own thoughts.

"It's okay, Kaye. She's off the punishment," Maximus said in a very grumpy and angry tone.

Kaye, who was walking toward us like he was about to kill an enemy, ignored his brother completely. He walked right past him and stopped face to face with me. I even had to step back to create some distance between us.

"Get going. You are not getting spared until you're done," he hissed, his eyes glaring daggers at me.

I just felt a dark vibe from Kaye, almost like I didn't recognize him.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 367-He Said In Every Position.

Chapter 367: 367-He Said In Every Position.

Helanie:

"You stay out of it, Maximus. This is our academy, and every student must do their best to be a part of it. She has been getting way too many favors. It's time she realizes it's not easy to be part of RVS," he never looked away from me. But the clenching of his jaw made me scared of him. And before I knew it, I was so scared that I turned to run and continue with the punishment, but I accidentally tripped on something, and the next thing I knew, I tasted blood in my mouth.

"Dude!" Maximus grunted at his brother, rushing to help me. I got up but held my hand near my mouth. I might have a busted lip where I was bleeding from.

"Every student goes through that. Stop acting like it's something unusual," Kaye surprised me with his reaction.

Even when I had so many conflicts with Maximus, even when I doubted his overly sweet behavior toward me, I appreciated how quickly his expression changed to concern when he saw me in pain. But Kaye! He was so indifferent.

He was acting as if I had killed him in a past life. Even his eyes seemed completely empty when he looked at me.

"Keep going," Kaye yelled again.

"Wait a minute," Maximus used the same harsh tone when stopping me.

"I said she is good to go. No need to make it about your ego, brother," he still managed to calm his tone when speaking to Kaye, but Kaye! He just looked so cold and distant.

"Don't come between us. She is not just my student but my—mate too, and I can do whatever I want with her—" he stopped real close to his brother, their noses almost touching as Kaye muttered, "and wherever I want, in whatever position."

I swear, when I say my heart dropped, it dropped like never before.

Maximus instantly stepped back and grunted at his brother, showing his displeasure at the comment.

"Do it," a voice came from behind Kaye. It was Norman, who had just arrived.

"What are you saying—" Maximus complained to Norman, who held up a finger to stop him.

"Do it, Kaye. Let me see how you plan to do it." It wasn't Norman encouraging Kaye, but there was a threat in his voice.

"I didn't mean to threaten her. It was just a way of letting Maximus know—" Kaye no longer carried the same aggression now that he was being confronted by his older brother.

"To let him know what? That you own her? You don't. She is her own person," Norman walked closer, now standing face to face with his brother while keeping me behind him.

"Isn't the mate bond supposed to be like that?" Kaye finally gave his brother a deep stare.

"Sure! When both people agree. You can't get engaged to someone else while forcing your mate to stay alone," Norman retorted harshly.

"Didn't she reject Maximus as well? So suddenly, it's okay for everyone to play us, brother?" There was a moment of saddness in Kaye's voice now that Norman was standing against her and not blindly siding with him.

"You know it's never okay for anyone to mess with my brothers. But I know her side, and without a shadow of a doubt, you two screwed her over. Sure, it could be argued that she shouldn't have dated Maximus, your brother, but who knows? What if he's also her mate—" The way Norman said that sent chills down my spine.

Both brothers grimaced in confusion, staring at Norman, waiting for him to explain his comment.

"She already found me as her mate," Kaye rolled his eyes, not believing for a second that someone could have a second fated mate. Or at least, that I could have another mate.

"Kaye! Maximus! You both have mates now, so stop talking about this and leave her alone. I will not accept anyone disturbing my academy's peace. I won't remind you two again that we need to keep things professional," Norman patted Kaye's shoulder, but Kaye only tilted his head to glare at me from behind his brother.

"Now! If I've made myself clear, let's head back. She already missed half her class, Kaye!" Norman's voice was full of disappointment, but Kaye's eyes told me he wasn't happy about his brother showing concern for me.

Where Kaye looked furious, at least Maximus showed a little concern.

"Helanie, go back to the grounds and continue your warm-up," this time, Maximus spoke to me.

I nodded and walked past them, leaving them behind as I rushed back to the academy's training grounds. I rejoined the others in silence, and while waiting for the brothers to return, I had a word with Lamar and Gavin.

"What is their problem? That was so unfair," Gavin kept grumbling under his breath, shaking his head.

"Gavin got a lot of heat from Kaye after he objected when you left," Lamar filled me in on what happened after I was gone.

"Wait, what happened?" I turned to Gavin, who gave me a look, telling me it was nothing.

"He protested against your punishment, so Kaye asked everyone to vote on whether the punishment was unfair," Lamar explained.

I could tell Gavin was constantly eyeing him, trying to stop him from saying more, but Lamar had to be honest with me. He knew I'd want to know who was on my side.

"And who in our group voted against me?" I asked curiously. He could tell I wanted to know who had supported me.

"Our group favored you, and so did Salem!" Lamar added, making me turn to Gavin, who stared at Salem in the distance. She stood alone, her hands in her pockets, with a very stern expression on her face.

She did stand right next to her sister, but her face clearly showed she wanted to be somewhere else.

"What about Lucy?" I turned back to Lamar and asked.

"She thinks... the punishment was justified," Lamar pointed out, giving me the news I dreaded to hear.

So that's how it is now.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 368-A Great Offer

Chapter 368: 368-A Great Offer

Helanie:

After a few minutes, the class was over, and the brothers had gathered in a corner.

"Hey, Helanie," I heard Rudy call out to me, jogging toward me in his tracksuit. Their training session started after ours finished. We were preparing to head back to the academy when Rudy spotted me.

I slowed down to fall behind the crowd and have a word with him. All the while, I was aware of the eyes on me—the brothers, standing together and talking, had turned their attention toward us when they heard Rudy yell.

"Hi," I replied meekly, feeling awkward after everything that happened today.

"Don't be too sad. Not everyone can do everything. Besides, you know yourself—once you get into something, you come out victorious," Rudy stopped near me, smiling and speaking in an encouraging tone. I realized he was referring to the earlier incident.

"Yeah, but combat is the one thing everyone has told me I can't do," I muttered. Even though I had learned a lot with Norman, and he had done a great job waking my wolf, it was still difficult for me to ace every exercise—especially when they were outside the syllabus.

"You know what? How about I train you?" Rudy's sudden offer brought a small, broken smile to my lips. "Don't worry, I'll get my fee. You'll have to join me for dinner every night and listen to me ramble about nonsense."

He spoke so charmingly that I felt like his training might actually help me.

"Thank you so much. I'll owe you big time," I said. I wanted to train, so whatever help I could get, I took it.

"Good, see you then." He looked down and blushed. "I'll, umm, head back to my own class now." There was a subtle, flirtatious look in his eyes that he kept casting at me after I accepted his offer.

As he walked away, I noticed the brothers silently glaring at me. I didn't care what they thought of me now. Kaye had proven he had it out for me, so I needed to learn how to defend myself against his attacks—whether verbal or... I just hoped they wouldn't sink to a new low where the strikes became physical.

"Wait up!" I was on my way to the academy when Maximus caught up with me. I should have known the brothers weren't the type to let things go easily.

"What was he saying?" Maximus stepped in my way, his hands on his waist.

"Max! Come back," Norman yelled from afar, but Maximus ignored him, holding up a hand to signal him to wait.

"He wants to train you?" Maximus repeated Rudy's words. So they had heard him.

"Yeah," I replied, sidestepping to get past him, but he moved right back in my way.

"Why? You've already been trained by Norman. Why Rudy now?" His tone was so aggressive that I felt the need to remind him he wasn't my mate and had no right to question me.

"Sir, you should focus on your own fiancée, not me. I will spend time with whoever I want. Please understand that every training session and class will only strengthen my abilities," I spoke respectfully but in the coldest tone possible.

He kept watching my face as if he couldn't believe how distant I was toward him.

"Then let me—" Before he could finish, I shook my head. He already knew I wasn't ready to accept his help.

"No, thank you. I will stick with my friend and fellow," I finished, noticing the harsh look forming on his face.

"Are you not guilty about hiding your pheromones from me and leading me on like a fool? You have no guilt at all?" He shocked me with his ignorance.

"Hmm, don't we all have secrets, Maximus?" I gave him a smile, and from the way his own smile faded, I knew he remembered he had secrets too.

I proceeded to walk away and head back to the hostel. Everyone had gone for lunch, but thankfully, Lamar had brought food to my room, with Gavin beside him. Lucy didn't come to check on me—not even once. It hurt, but I tried to stop thinking about it.

By the time I came out of the shower, Lamar and Gavin had already settled on my bed. We sat down to eat, focusing on our goal of training.

"I will come with you," Lamar suggested, keeping his head down while talking about me training with Rudy.

"I'll be fine," I reassured him, but he shook his head again.

"With the brothers targeting you, I just don't want to leave you alone with anyone," he added, and Gavin pouted.

"Is it because they didn't want your mother to marry their father?" Of course, Gavin was still in the dark.

"A lot of things," I replied, avoiding the main truth.

"Anyway, I was so upset today. I'll come with you," Gavin added, offering to join.

"Guys! I will be fine," I continued to reassure them, but they were stubborn, so I didn't have much choice.

"Well then, we better finish our lunch, take an hour's nap, and then be on our way," Lamar told Gavin, not even letting me object. And since they also wanted to train, I thought it was a good idea for all of us to go together. I wasn't sure how Rudy would react to it, though.

"Penn wouldn't be very happy," Gavin said under his breath, and I cocked my head at him in confusion.

"Why not? He can join too if he wants training," I suggested, but the way Lamar and Gavin shared a laugh made me believe there was more to Gavin's comment.

"I'm sure an Alpha being trained by a fellow Alpha wouldn't be a good idea. But that's not what I meant when I said he wouldn't be happy. Helanie, umm, Penn wouldn't like knowing you're spending time with, umm—" Lamar shut up when I narrowed my eyes at him.

"Umm, umm, what? Stop saying ummm so much," I frowned, urging him to finish his sentence.

"Penn has confessed to us that he has feelings for you, and—a little bird told me Rudy is interested in you," Lamar explained, making my mouth drop open in shock.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 369-The Rise Of The Organization

Chapter 369: 369-The Rise Of The Organization

Norman:

"Emmet, calm down. I took care of everything," I told my brother, watching him anxiously pace around. It wasn't like Emmet to behave so nervously. He would usually take a sip of his wine and relax whenever he was stressed out. But this time, he refused to calm down.

"Maximus filled me in on what happened in class today. Why the heck did Kaye make that comment?" Emmet faced me again, asking me the same question.

I knew—I was disgusted too. My brother shouldn't have gone that far.

"I'm sure he didn't mean it. He was just so angry that---"

"Norman, it must have hurt her so much. You don't know her—the trauma—Goddess!" Emmet cut me off.

"I know the words were harsh, but no real harm was done," I tried to reason.

"How do you know? Those words weren't just nothing to her. They must have struck her hard." I didn't get what Emmet was implying.

"Brother, is there anything I need to know?" I asked.

Emmet scoffed and took small steps around me. "Forget it. It's not my story to tell." There was a subtle unease in his voice when he said the word 'story.'

"What story?" I inquired, narrowing my eyes at him, but he refused to look back at me.

He was hiding something. He must have known more about Helanie and why she was so secretive all the time. I knew it too. I mean, I learned from her body language that she was hiding some trauma, but what it was—I didn't know.

I didn't explore because I realized she wasn't comfortable with it. But I knew Emmet he was the curious one. He liked knowing everyone's story, and somehow, she might have confessed something to him.

I watched him look so worried for her.

'And she never shared anything with us,' my wolf howled weakly. It was odd how he almost never communicated but suddenly had something to say when it was about Helanie.

"I don't want to talk about it. I just hope she's feeling okay now," Emmet showed so much care and concern for Helanie. But then he paused and turned to me. "Are those two fools okay?"

I was waiting for him to ask about his brothers.

"It's Kaye!" I watched him narrow his eyes at my response. "He's acting odd. I stared into his eyes today, and I found emptiness. Emmet—" I cleared my throat as I gently placed my hand on my chest. "One heartbeat is struggling way more than the others."

Emmet almost yelped but then walked closer to me, placing his hand on my chest.

"What are you feeling, brother?" he asked in a concerned tone.

"That's the problem. There are times when I don't even feel his heartbeat in me anymore. That is concerning to me. I stood face to face with him, and even when he showed disappointment toward me, the heartbeat disagreed with his visible concern. It was almost like he was pretending to be upset and worried," I relayed my concern to him, anxiously rubbing my hands over my face. He pulled his hand back and frowned in confusion himself.

"I didn't want to say it before, but—I noticed it before you. I just thought it was a reaction to heartbreak, but hearing you say there's a confirmed change in the beat, I'm certain something is going on," Emmet rushed to his table while speaking anxiously. His tone was heavy, his words coming out with a mix of stress and anger.

"Look at this." He showed me his recordings of weather changes and scents in the air. "Things have changed recently. It's almost like—old times," he mentioned as he opened an old book about the organization.

"When the organization was on the rise, such toxins in the air used to be very common. And sudden weather changes, along with the appearance of so many monsters, suggest only one thing." Emmet looked me in the eye with extreme tension before I completed the words for him.

"The Evil Organization is back in action?" I didn't even want to imagine it, but as Emmet lowered his head and sighed, I knew his answer.

"You better start training our students hard now. If it's true, then more monsters are going to come out of the woodwork, and we'll need all the students, packs, and every single person who is sane to start defending their land against them," Emmet continued, his nervousness visible in his body language.

I had so many questions and concerns, but I decided to give him a break for now.

"I'll make a new schedule and also keep my eye on Kaye. I'm worried something is seriously wrong with him too." Even the thought of Kaye losing his mind was driving me crazy.

If the organization was forming, that would mean Kaye was in a very sensitive situation. He would need a lot of attention to make sure he held onto his sanity.

"I'm afraid there might be only one person who can help him if he truly starts to lose himself," Emmet said out loud just as I was walking toward the door.

My body flinched because I already knew who he was referring to. I turned to him and shook my head.

"I don't want that either. She shouldn't be tangled in this mess. She has her own to deal with." Thankfully, Emmet seemed to be on the same page as me. But what did he mean by her own mess?

"Emmet—" I started, but he seemed to already know what I was going to ask, so he raised his palm.

"Please don't ask any questions. Just tell me—will you be on her side if she comes forward with a huge claim, pointing fingers at some of the biggest alphas?" His question sent a chill down my spine.

I wasn't afraid of any packs or their alphas, but what scared me was what could be so terrible that trauma and alphas were being mentioned in the same sentence when it came to Helanie's story.

With a confident look on my face, I nodded. "I know her. I will believe her."

It was crazy how my opinion of her had changed. But I wasn't some fool with poor judgment. Her character was crystal clear, and whenever she lied, it was only under extreme conditions—when she had something big to hide.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 370-The Sweet Apple And The Alpha

Chapter 370: 370-The Sweet Apple And The Alpha

Helanie:

"I am glad you came," Rudy was in the woods, finishing up when I showed up. He only gave me a smile when he noticed my two friends behind me, and his smile started to fade a little.

"Hey guys, I didn't know I was getting lucky with so many students today," he managed to smile, despite looking visibly unhappy.

"I hope it's okay," I confirmed with him, and he gave me a nod. His sudden shift back to a good mood was helpful because I was seeing this practice as just a way to train and not for other reasons.

In the next few minutes, he helped us warm up and then began to reminisce about his own first classes. He brought out his old registers, which shocked me. He used to give himself daily tasks—exercises he had to do, including very hard ones like taking rounds of mountains without much help from his wolf.

He got us on our feet for a few rounds. Since they were also using a little strength, I didn't fall too far behind. In fact, there were times when I was running ahead of Rudy.

I thought he was just slowing down on purpose to make me feel better about myself. But the others were also behind me. We finally arrived at our starting point after three hours of running and noticed how the boys were able to catch their breath.

I guess I needed my wolf fully awake to be able to do that.

"That was impressive," Rudy said, clapping his hands. Since it was just my friends, no one was shy about celebrating my strength.

I shyly looked down and then squared up for the next lesson. It was going great. Everything was going just like I expected when I'm with my friends. Lamar and Gavin were pretty goofy during the breaks.

The two seemed to have bonded well during their time together.

"Okay now, we will rest," Rudy raised his hand to stop the exercises. Lamar and Gavin threw their bodies on the ground to rest.

"I saw some apples on the trees, Helanie, do you mind coming with me to pick some?" Well, I guess I knew what Rudy was up to.

He wanted to spend time with me, and he was going to do it, whether my friends were around or not.

I turned to look at my friends and found them giggling and laughing about something they were whispering about in secrecy.

"They'll be fine," Rudy laughed, noticing my concern. "Besides, we'll be getting them apples."

He added, extending his hand to me. I didn't take his hand but quickly followed him to let him know I was joining him.

"So, how do you feel being back at the academy?" he started talking softly, walking beside me and leading me into the deeper woods.

"It's good. What helped the most is that Lucy has woken up," I wasn't lying about that part. Even though she had proven to me that our friendship didn't mean anything to her anymore, I was still glad she woke up.

"Yeah, that was crazy. We got a month of holidays for her, and then she woke up to join us," he joked, making me smile at his little attempt to cheer me up.

"What's going on? What's upsetting you? You've been so silent and sad ever since you returned to the academy," he said, very talkative, unlike Penn.

That was the difference between them. Other than that, both of them were very respectful towards me.

"It's just—the stress of combat classes approaching," I lied, but hearing him laugh made me raise my eyebrow at him.

"Yeah, it's because Lucy is hanging out with those twins, isn't it?" he sighed, making me remember that the top seniors always had their eyes on us.

"What do the seniors talk about us?" I asked out of curiosity.

"They have a strong opinion of you. They don't really talk about the others," Rudy explained. "They talk about how you were a wolfless one, yet you're the most talked about now. They also think I'm hitting on you because no top seniors hang around a junior like I do with you," he smoothly shifted the topic to his feelings.

But I knew what my friends had told me about him and his confession about hitting on me.

"That's a good thing. I hope I give them more to talk about me," I joked, attempting to move the topic away from the romantic side of it.

I wasn't ready to talk about or move on from what happened between me and my two mates. It was also better for me to stay away from Rudy at the academy, or else Kaye would lose his mind. He most certainly did today.

"Here we are," Rudy jumped ahead and quickly pushed the branches away to reveal the area he wanted me to see.

It was a beautiful small river with so many fireflies that the whole place seemed to be lit up. I gasped at the beautiful sight, my hands flying over to my mouth.

"It's a beautiful sight, isn't it?" he asked from behind me, whispering right into my ear.

"It is," I replied shyly, but quickly took some steps ahead and then turned to him to create some distance between us without making a fuss about it.

"So, the apples, huh," I nodded my head, admiring the view. The tall tree had such red apples, as if someone had painted them red.

"Yeah! I love apples," he commented, grabbing one and taking a huge bite from it. He wasn't lying when he closed his eyes and enjoyed the taste.

The apples looked so tasty. He then grabbed one for me with a smirk on his lips. I accepted it and took a bite, and when I said I was stunned, I was really stunned.

The flavor exploded in my mouth. It was such a tasty apple that I couldn't even comprehend what I was eating at the moment. It tasted as sweet as candy.

"Let's grab some for them," I added, reaching for another when he did the same, and our hands touched in the air.

He didn't pull his hand back but pulled his body closer to mine, staring at me with his head down.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 371-Calm Before A Storm

Chapter 371: 371-Calm Before A Storm

Helanie:

I knew at that moment if I didn't back down, he would get the wrong idea. And I could not start another journey right away, especially when all I was feeling was just a fleeting sensation in my body and not deep feelings for him or Penn.

"Oi! Why did you two leave us behind?" Thankfully, Lamar's loud voice and complaining tone gave me a reason to jump away from Rudy, who didn't look very happy at the interruption but formed a smile on his lips when welcoming Gavin and Lamar.

"We came here to get you food," I said, pointing at the apple tree.

"Where's the food?" Gavin complained.

"Is the food in the room with us?" Lamar continued, making me roll my eyes at him.

"They're tasty, trust me," I told them, giving them a look to not act like kids.

"Helanie, when somebody says food, I imagine pizza, burgers, and burritos," Lamar hissed, but then reluctantly reached the tree and grabbed an apple. As soon as he bit into it, his eyes widened, and a shocked look took over his face. Before I could tell him, 'I told you so,' his expression went back to normal, and he added, "But it's definitely an apple."

That guy!

"You're so rude," I elbowed him gently in his ribs, and he laughed. Gavin grabbed apples too—actually, way too many—and I knew what he was doing. He was getting them for our friends. Gavin was really a nice guy. He just made mistakes in the past and got everyone to look at him like he was forever a bad person.

"Now, shall we go home? I can't work out another hour," Lamar complained, gesturing for me to look at his phone screen. He had ordered a huge meal.

I knew he wanted to get outside the academy to grab the food before the warden saw it.

"Yeah, I think that will be it for today. We'll continue from tomorrow, okay?" Rudy said, his hands on his waist.

Now I understood why an alpha wouldn't want to be trained by another alpha almost his age. Penn wouldn't like Rudy's tone when he's in trainer mode.

The alpha had such a big ego that it sometimes made me laugh at them.

"Alright, goodnight," Gavin yelled, with Lamar's arm wrapped around his shoulder.

"Thank you, Rudy!" Before leaving, I wanted to genuinely express my gratitude to him. It was truly amazing that while he could have spent that time resting or having fun, he decided to train us.

"It's nothing, not for you. I can do much more," he bent down, his hands on his knees while flirtatiously staring at my lips.

"Oh, okay! Thank you!" Nervously, I stepped back, laughing awkwardly.

"You look so cute when you laugh, you know that, right?" he complimented again, making my cheeks turn red. I noticed Lamar and Gavin stop and turn to look at us.

"Are you two coming or not?" Lamar was really not okay with Rudy and me being alone. And I appreciated it. It wasn't like I wanted something to happen, but Rudy was so charming that I feared my clumsy and nervous shying away might give him the wrong idea.

"Yeah, we're coming," I said, speeding up and gesturing for Rudy to come along. Once again, Rudy didn't look too happy, but he silently followed us.

This time, Lamar made sure he had me by his side so that Rudy wouldn't slow me down and walk beside me.

Now, that might be too much, but I wouldn't judge Lamar until he told me what was going on. We arrived at the hostel, and Rudy stopped inside while we grabbed the food and decided to sit in our room.

The minute we opened the door and got inside, my mood soured at the sight of Lucy, Sydney, and Salem sitting on her bed and having a meal.

Lucy knew this is what me and my friends liked to do, so she brought them here to ruin the moment for us.

Lucy gave me a very upsetting look when noticing Gavin behind me.

Sydney turned briefly and smirked, "This is so yummy. We should do this every day," she said while still looking at me.

Lamar gently nudged my arm and led us to the balcony instead. It was cold outside, but it was peaceful. But knowing Sydney now had open access to our room, thanks to Lucy, I wasn't very comfortable.

"What's going on with her? I thought it was a one-time thing," Lamar complained, taking huge bites of his pizza.

"Yeah, maybe don't take your anger out on the food. You already ate two slices, while Helanie and I are still on our first," Gavin pointed at the pizza slices, complaining.

"Yeah, well, I'm angry. And—it's a match. Whoever eats fast gets a good deal," Lamar argued back. They were such kids.

"I'm amazed by Lucy myself. What's going on with her? What's her plan, and why is Sydney being friends with her?" I gave my input since it wasn't that shocking that Lucy wanted to be part of the cool group, but Sydney didn't even like people who were lower in rank than her.

"She's pissing you off," Lamar explained, but that's when Gavin gently shook his head.

"She's pissing off her sister," he finished, and our eyes landed on his face in shock.

"She wants to create a wedge between me and Salem by causing distance between our group. Sydney knows the more she annoys you, the more I'll ignore Salem," he explained, finally giving us the insight, and I'm sure he got it from Salem.

We couldn't talk about the topic anymore, mainly because I had seen the urge in Gavin's eyes to go and talk with Salem, but I guess he was afraid of the mess it would cause with Lucy and Sydney.

After we were done, we returned to our room, and Gavin left for his own. Sydney and Salem had left by then, so it was really just the three of us.

Right before I was lying in my bed, I heard Lucy's whisper, "You surely chose him over me."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 372-A Blast From My Past

Chapter 372: 372-A Blast From My Past

Helanie:

I wanted to tell her and remind her it was she who brought this upon herself when she befriended Sydney, but I didn't. I just gave her a simple reply that I thought would help her realize our friendship now had a huge dent.

"I deserved the punishment, didn't I?" I lied down, but she bolted upright in a jolt.

"Gavin told you that, didn't he? Don't you see he's doing that so our friendship gets ruined?" she spoke hastily, using a bitter tone and not caring about the volume to the point that she got the attention of Lamar.

"No! I did, and let me tell you some breaking news: you're responsible for this mess. You wanted to befriend Sydney and then taunt and mock Helanie to stay on Sydney's good side. Dude, you are so done. So why not shut the heck up and sleep?" Lamar didn't play this time—he actually yelled at her.

That was shocking. Lamar usually doesn't raise his voice at women, so for her to piss him off this much explained how wrong she was heading and how oblivious she was for putting the blame on me instead.

Lucy went silent and then slowly crawled under her blanket. I heard her whimper, but I noticed Lamar sit up in his bed and make a huge cross with his arms, signaling me not to check on her. I agreed with him and went to sleep.

Although I knew she was dealing with a lot after coming back from that coma, I had to give her a nudge to wake up and get back on the right path.

We woke up early and joined the brothers on the training ground. They all avoided me like I didn't exist.

"Let's pick our teams, shall we?" Norman clapped his hands, stepping forward to face the students.

Emmet had his hair in a loose man bun, strands of his hair dancing around his face.

"Helanie," before others could even agree that they were ready to pick, Emmet went ahead and said my name. I was taken aback by the sudden name call.

Not just me, but everyone turned their heads toward me. It wasn't common for the trainers to pick someone right away like that.

"Wait, we have to first decide who will go first," Norman smiled, almost like he was laughing uncomfortably when reminding his brother to follow the rules.

"We can do it now, but I already had a pick. So you guys can go ahead and decide who will go next," Emmet disagreed with him, making Maximus shake his head.

"I think we should go from the start," he said.

"Why? I only picked one person. Unless you want her on your team, I think it's okay for us to just move forward," Emmet sounded so aggressive as he refused to restart.

"Okay!" That was the first time I watched Norman look so unhappy.

I could tell it wasn't because his brother picked me. I mean, one of them would have picked me eventually, right?

The others then started to do rock-paper-scissors, and in that moment, I watched them genuinely laugh and push each other back when they all selected paper.

They were so close to each other, so it was going to be hard for me if one of them turned against me. Thankfully, Kaye hadn't bothered me today. But it could be because Norman and Emmet were at the ground today.

"Okay, I'll go next," Norman said, but before he could continue, he turned to his brothers and gave them one look before saying, "Sydney."

Wow!

Why did he choose her? I had to shake my head to stop acting like he shouldn't when he had every right to. Why was I getting upset?

"Lamar," Kaye stepped ahead and picked Lamar, and my face instantly lost its color.

"I think we should pick friends in one team so they're more at ease with each other," Norman said to Kaye, making me believe he was actually showing concern.

"Gavin!" And then Maximus called out to Gavin, almost like dismissing Norman's request and agreeing with Kaye.

They were picking my friends only, so they were targeting me.

I was so bothered that I instantly looked down.

"Jenny," and the way Emmet also picked my friend confirmed the brothers' line was all about me at that moment.

"Salem," Norman said, keeping the "bitchy" ones, or he thought they were, in his group.

"Penn!" Kaye yelled, and I grimaced.

"Lucy!" Maximus certainly didn't know she was no longer my friend, so he picked her.

At this point, it was a shitshow, and I could tell Norman and Emmet were not happy about it. But the younger ones were on a mission to bother me.

In the end, I was left with the strangers, except for Jenny and Hans Willerk. He was the one in Sydney and Salem's team back when we were doing the frogster cage task. I remembered him from there. He was a messy one. So messy that even Sydney and Salem had distanced themselves from him.

After the whole team-up was done and we had already done some exercises, our classes were finished.

I was seriously left with a sour taste in my mouth for the day. But as I was heading back to the academy with my friends catching up with me, I noticed a number pop up on my screen.

Then I received a text from the unknown caller.

Unknown: Pick up my call. You know me.

I frowned, staring at my screen that kept lighting up with the call.

"Hey, are you okay?" Lamar arrived, his hand on my shoulder.

"Yeah, I'm getting a call. But the unknown caller says I know them," I showed him my screen.

"Then attend the call. Maybe it's someone from old school or someone you've met before," Gavin didn't realize it wouldn't be that easy for me to attend a call from someone I had known before coming to the academy.

If it was indeed someone from my past, then I'm freaking screwed.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 373-The Final Call

Chapter 373: 373-The Final Call

Helanie:

As the caller kept blowing up my phone, I was left with no option. I agreed with Gavin and answered the call. As soon as I put the phone to my ear, I was stunned to hear his voice.

"So, it seems like I can't just let you live happily. I'm going to tell your pack and father that you're alive. I'm coming for you."

It was Rayden, making a final threat.

My eyes widened at Lamar, who got the hint from the look on my face that it was someone who meant harm. I got so scared from his tone that I hung up on him.

"What happened? Who was it?" Gavin asked, walking beside me on my left while Lamar walked beside me on my right. Jenny and Penn were behind us. But I guess Jenny wasn't sure if we would invite her for outings because of Lucy.

"It was a wrong number," I laughed nervously, but Lamar got the hint. He knew it was not nothing, but he also knew he shouldn't bring attention to it.

"Jenny, why don't you come have lunch with us?" Gavin suddenly turned to her, and both Lamar and I stopped. We weren't upset with her over anything, at least I wasn't. I was just uncomfortable since her mate was actively threatening me. But I must say, she looked abused by him. Verbal and mental abuse must've made her dependent on him.

Back when she used to try so hard to tell her parents and brother Rayden was in the wrong, they didn't believe her. And from what I've been hearing, his parents still praised him. It was Penn who had cut ties with Rayden.

I still had to figure out what to make of Penn. His close association with Rayden and his rendezvous wearing his jacket had left a mark on me.

"I'm not sure if they'd want me..." Jenny mumbled.

"You can come," I jumped in and offered her. I wasn't trying to get back at Lucy by inviting Jenny, but I realized Jenny shouldn't be held back when she was trying so hard to make herself a part of our group.

"If—if it's okay with you," I turned to Lamar and whispered.

"It's fine," he replied. "I'm really over her, so it's okay." His comment really hurt because Jenny heard it, and her face fell.

However, nothing could be done about it since she was still dating Rayden.
We still went to our rooms and freshened up to join the hall for lunch. While I was in the room and showering, I couldn't forget Rayden's threat. My eyes kept moving to my phone, and I wondered if someone would just call me to tell me the council had found out I faked my death and that I needed to come back to be punished.

It was the most stressful shower I'd ever had to take. Once out and dressed, I watched Lamar stand by his bed. He had taken a shower before me.

But he stayed behind in the room to have a word with me about the call before we headed out for lunch.

"Who was it?" he asked, rubbing his palms anxiously.

"It was Rayden. He was making a threat that he would tell my old pack's alpha and the council that I'm alive." I sighed, steadily crouching down and sitting on his bed. He sat beside me, his hand on my shoulder, his body turned toward me.

"You should have told him that if he did, you would tell everyone about that night," he made a good point. I should have made that threat. "And also remind him that his reputation is ruined. His credibility is in the mud, so nobody would really believe him anymore." I wished there hadn't been others around when Rayden called. I would have asked Lamar for help.

"I s—," I stopped when my phone rang again, and my eyes widened. "That's him."

I pointed at the phone's screen in urgency, shaking at what he might be calling for. What if it was just to tell me that he'd already informed my pack and the council?

Lamar gestured for me to pick up the call and put it on speaker, so I did.

"Hello!" I answered the call and put it on speaker.

"You got some nerve cutting the call on my face, pretty face," he laughed on the other side, making me clench my jaw and close my eyes in anger. He was such a bastard.

There wasn't a single bone of guilt in his body. In fact, I could tell he was enraged that I was still alive and thriving while he got kicked out of the academy.

"Go ahead, tell the council if that's what you're calling for. But remember, the minute they pursue me, I'll fight back. I'll let them know all about that night and your connection to another murder of a redhead girl. Isn't that who the hair belonged to?" I heard him go silent for a moment, but then he started laughing out of nowhere.

"And you think anyone would believe you either? Your credibility is lost as well. Guess what I heard the other day when I left you on the road?" My body shuddered at the reminder of that day.

He called me a monster and sped away—so what else happened?

"I came back for you when I found the two brothers confronting you about playing with them," my heart dropped in my chest, and I rose from my spot, gulping, as I looked at Lamar with teary eyes.

"You bad, bad girl. You played them both. You got one of them to accept you, then ditched him for his brother, and then ditched the brother for Rudy. What the f*ck! You turned out to be such a player. Now I wonder if you enjoyed all those d*cks in all your holes that night..." His every word pierced through my skin like a needle.

That kind of accusation would ruin my credibility now.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 374-Face Off

Chapter 374: 374-Face Off

Helanie:

"Cut the call," Lamar mouthed to me because he could tell I was having a panic attack. The way he mimicked my condition from that night made me clench my fists and close my eyes to try and breathe properly. But I couldn't. I was enraged. I wanted to kill him. It had to happen now. He had no way to be guilty and get punished. His punishment would be death.

"And I realized, hmm, it'll be much more believable if I say you tried to seduce two Alphas to pit them against each other, and when they caught on to your bullshit, you accused them of rape and ran away when you couldn't prove the evidence." His words made it harder for me to breathe.

All this would definitely make them believe I'm in the wrong.

"But-" I gasped, "I am not that heartless."

He suddenly changed his tone back to normal, no longer mocking me.

"Oh, come on, don't cry," I bet he heard me sniffle. "Here's what should be done. You just come meet me alone in the deep woods, and we'll settle this out," he finished.

I opened my eyes and saw Lamar shake his head at me. "Tell him no," Lamar mouthed.

I kept watching Lamar's face before I closed my eyes again and replied, "Okay."

I hung up the phone, and he texted me exactly where we were going to meet.

"Helanie, what the heck did you do? Just wait a minute and think before you just go into the woods—" Lamar started to follow after me as I grabbed my boots.

"I don't care anymore. I need to see him. If you really want to help, get me a silver dagger." I was breathing heavily, trying to stay calm while there was fire burning inside me. How dare Rayden mock that night?

"Helanie, let's think—" Lamar insisted, but I stepped back from him.

"Okay, I'll go alone then. You don't need to find me anything," I told him. He grabbed my hand to stop me.

"I know you're angry, and I guess you're right. But you're not going alone. He killed my sister too, so I'm coming with you," he said, grabbing his bag from under the bed. "Don't worry, we have enough daggers in my bag for the both of us."

With that, we held hands and started heading down the stairs to the ground floor. Our plan to have lunch with our friends seemed pretty unrealistic. Given the circumstances and our mission, we shouldn't even be sitting on our asses and doing nothing.

We walked out of the academy and were on the road when we started to hear calls from Jenny, Penn, and even Gavin. We avoided them all and continued on our journey. I was feeling very emotional because today I was going to confront him, and I could tell Lamar was in his feelings too.

Although we couldn't get Rayden to lead us to his friends, we were still going to be upfront with him, and I would fight till my last breath.

We arrived at the designated location, and sure enough, Rayden was leaning against the tree, waiting for us. But his mood soured when he saw Lamar with me.

"Already breaking the rules," he hissed, narrowing his eyes at Lamar.

"What did she tell you?" he asked Lamar, who narrowed his eyes in return, then stretched his neck, getting ready to hit him with the truth.

"That you are a bastard. You can't keep it in your pants," Lamar finished, and somehow, Rayden found it hilarious because he broke out in laughter.

"That's cute," Rayden finished. "I told you to come alone. But you broke the rules. Now I'll have to go tell the council everything about you. Everything about how you tricked the Alphas and fooled them," he quieted down when he saw Lamar square up to him.

"You fucking wouldn't dare," Lamar yelled.

Rayden squeezed his eyes shut for a moment, furrowing his eyebrows and pouting. "What's up with you? Why are you acting like I did something to you?"

Of course, he didn't think Lamar's anger toward him was justifiable—just because it didn't happen to Lamar, but to me.

Rayden was a cold man, an ignorant, heartless man.

"You shouldn't believe her entirely, you know. Do you know she's been having an affair with her stepbrothers?" Rayden said it in a tone that he was certain would shock Lamar. He was expecting Lamar to turn to me in disbelief about why I hadn't told him about my affairs.

"I know," Lamar replied, and it visibly bothered Rayden.

"Huh! So you're on her side because you think the trainers will help you with the academy score? Let me tell you a funny story—she played them so the trainers are against her now. I heard what happened at the training ground today as well, so you might want to reconsider the whole thing and whose side you want to believe in," Rayden spoke bitterly but kept a grin on his lips. "Hey, trust me, dude. She's lying about everything. She faked her death and left her pack. Do you know she was the one who caught me in that hooker lie?" Rayden was trying to turn Lamar against me, but he didn't know Lamar had already figured him out long ago.

"She didn't," Lamar said confidently. "And you know why I'm so certain she didn't? Because it was I who did it."

That surely struck Rayden hard. He seemed taken aback before he shook his head. "Why—why would you do that?" It was almost like Rayden didn't want anyone on my side. Even my own friends taking my side was hurting his ego.

He wanted to corner me and win from me one last time after losing so many times.

"Because," Lamar walked closer to him and uttered, "remember that redhead you and your friend raped and murdered? She was my sister, you fucking prick." With that, Lamar headbutted him so hard that Rayden fell on his butt, his eyes growing unnaturally wide in shock.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 375-The Warriors Came To Arrest Me

Chapter 375: 375-The Warriors Came To Arrest Me

Helanie:

The look on Rayden's face said it all. He was bleeding from his nose from Lamar's attack. He stumbled before getting back on his feet, but this time, I was already close by and gave him a closed fist punch. He landed again, grunting under his breath.

This time, he didn't even get up but started chuckling. He had his head down and eyes on the ground as if he was deep in thought. Once he was done, he lifted his head to look Lamar straight in the eye.

"So that bitch was your sister? Ah! I should've guessed it, but how could I have? I didn't see her face properly, but I sure did see and explore every inch of her—"

Lamar growled and hit him with his knee, knocking him back.

I was revolted with disgust—this man was a total scumbag.

"So you couldn't do it yourself, so you brought in your bodyguard?" Rayden spat out blood, hissing, and before we knew it, he was back on his feet again.

"But you two assholes forgot I am an Alpha."

With that, he let his claws grow, spread his arms, and clawed us both to the ground at once.

His force and strength were honestly too much for us. I grimaced as his claws struck me hard in the stomach, leaving a trail of blood down my body.

I turned to crawl away while he got on top of Lamar and started clawing at him. My eyes widened, and I quickly rolled over, getting up and onto Rayden's back to pull him off Lamar.

"Ahhhh!" I screamed, wrapping my arms around his neck and throwing my body back. I held onto my bicep tightly while my elbow pressed under his chin. My legs wrapped around his body to keep him still.

However, he quickly ripped my arms apart, broke out of my hold, pushed me down, and got on top of me. The weight of his body pinned me in place while he wrapped his fingers around my neck.

"I should have made sure we did it right the first time," he muttered through heavy breaths, squeezing my neck too hard.

I started running out of breath when Lamar got up and punched him from behind. However, Rayden didn't let me go.

He was so enraged that he kept taking hit after hit but wouldn't release me. Just when I thought I was going to pass out, something flipped inside me, and I started staring deep into his eyes. As we locked in an intense stare, I began to hum. The sound came from deep within me.

Within seconds, Rayden's grip loosened around my neck.

I didn't know what I was humming or why I was humming, but it worked. Rayden stepped back and fell to the ground.

He covered his ears, closed his eyes, and his nose started bleeding.

"No! No, no!" he screamed while I got up on my feet again.

"What the heck happened?" Lamar yelled from the side, making me turn my head to look at him. He was on the ground, on his knees, with his nose bleeding and his eyes bloodshot red.

I got concerned and snapped out of whatever evil had grasped onto me. The next thing I did was kick Rayden in the chest and throw him back.

"Ughh!" he let out a cry, but I got on top of him and punched him repeatedly.

"You fucking asshole—you're a piece of shit," I hissed, not stopping. He attempted to get me off, but my power overtook him.

It was as if I couldn't hear anything around me—just water bubbling and waves. My legs felt a little numb, but I kept going at him until I felt someone's arms wrap around my stomach.

Lamar pulled me off Rayden, keeping me steady and in check.

"We don't want him to die," Lamar yelled, and I started to stop fighting. My body went limp in Lamar's grasp. My knees felt weak and shaky, as if they could give out at any moment.

"Ughh!" Rayden twisted and turned on the ground, crying hysterically. "How could you be more powerful than me?"

He was crying like a child, his entire face a mess.

"Listen, you pimp," I struggled free from Lamar's grasp and made my way to Rayden, crouching down to have a word with him. "Now go ahead and tell the council and my pack that I'm alive. I am prepared. I don't care if I can take down your friends or not—your defeat will be enough for now."

His face showed just how scared he was of me.

I watched him gulp and try to crawl away from me. "All I need is your DNA to match with the DNA found on Lamar's sister. And with the help of Norman, Emmet, or Rudy, I'm sure I'll be able to do it easily." I put too much faith in the people in my life.

I knew the brothers were upset with me, but I could tell they would take such a huge accusation seriously.

Besides, confidence is key. The way I spoke to Rayden made him believe I wasn't afraid to go public with my information.

"You have the hair," he muttered, like he had doubted me when we spoke on the phone.

"Aha! Do your part, and I'll do mine," I hissed, spitting at him.

He remained on the ground, crying into his hands, while Lamar and I got to our feet.

We were ready to be summoned by the council now. The DNA on Lamar's sister could help us a lot in throwing Rayden and his friend behind bars, and who knows—I might even find out that his friend was one of the assailants in my case as well.

Lamar and I returned to our room in silence. It was late, and we knew that the next day, we would be bombarded with questions by our friends whom we had ditched today.

Lucy was already sleeping, so we both went to bed as well. The silence between us was a sign that we had been through a lot the whole time.

We were so shocked by what happened in the woods today that we couldn't muster the courage to recall it and have a talk about it.

I fell asleep peacefully after remembering the crying face of Rayden. The fact that I had overpowered an Alpha made me wonder what my wolf actually was.

I woke up late to the sound of heavy knocking in our dorm room.

Getting out of bed, I noticed Lucy had already left, as her shoes were gone, while Lamar was in the bathroom.

"What is it—" I opened the door and instantly went silent upon seeing some warriors in uniform.

"Miss Helanie! You are under arrest!"

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 376-He Is Dead

Chapter 376: 376-He Is Dead

Helanie:

"What is going on?" My heart was pounding hard as the warriors from some pack grabbed my arms to drag me out of my dorm room. I had no clue if this was a nightmare or really happening.

"Maybe you should wait for the trainers to come," Lamar yelled and jumped in the way, spreading his arms to stop the warriors from taking me away. They had me in handcuffs, and the minute we were off our floor, I was sure everyone would see and start gossiping.

"Step aside, young lad. We are the warriors of the pack. We are here to arrest her for the murder of Rayden."

The words didn't do me any favors. The way they said it, I felt my heart stop in my chest.

"You must have a misunderstanding. He must be lying just to get her in trouble," Lamar realized. Rayden had hit another low—faking his death just to frame me.

The warriors shared a glance and then looked back at us.

"His dead body was found in the woods where you met him," one warrior turned to me, glaring at me and making my blood run hot.

"What? He is—he is dead?" I gasped, trying to get away from them because now I could tell this was real.

"I didn't do anything, I swear!" I began to beg and plead for them to let me go. But that's when Rudy rushed upstairs and came into view.

"Get your hands off her!" he yelled. Behind him stood Sage, a frown on her forehead.

"How dare you come here and attack one of us without any warrant?" She folded her arms over her chest and steadily approached them, making them back down.

"We were ordered by the council to bring her in for questioning," the warrior explained to Sage. They could tell the two in front of them were Alphas, which is why they weren't being completely ignorant like they had been with Lamar and me.

"Questioning? But you have her in handcuffs," Sage hissed at him, pointing at my restraints. I was shaking so miserably that I thought I would pass out.

I just didn't understand how Rayden ended up dead. Sure, I had injured him badly, but when I left, he seemed fine—just regretful.

"We thought she would resist," the warrior stepped back, eyeing the other warrior to unlock my handcuffs. But it was decided that they would drag me to the council no matter what.

"What is going on over here?"

And then he came. Norman gracefully walked upstairs and yelled, filling the air with tension. But somehow, I felt relieved. Even though I knew Norman didn't like me, I felt a strange sense of comfort wash over me when he came into view.

"Sir, she has been accused of the murder of Rayden----"

As the warrior started talking, Norman raised his palm to silence him.

"I spoke with the council, and I told them I would bring her in myself for questioning. Who the fuck told you that you could come here and handcuff my student?" Norman yelled, towering over the warrior. He looked so massive and intimidating.

"And exactly on what basis are you arresting her?" he then proceeded to question, his frown growing deeper and more intense.

"She is the last person he met. In fact, his phone records show that the two were meeting at the same spot where he was found dead," the warrior mentioned, referring to the texts Rayden and I had exchanged. My heart sank in my chest.

This wouldn't look good for me. How the heck would I get these accusations off me now?

Of course, once they started researching my past with Rayden, they would confirm that I was indeed the one who killed him.

All these thoughts started to cage me when Norman walked over to me. The other warrior had now opened the handcuffs, but I couldn't move or notice anything else.

"Is it true? Did you meet him in the woods?" Norman asked in a much more understanding and gentle voice.

"He asked me to come," I uttered, gulping hard.

"And? Did you go?" Norman continued, his eyes suggesting he wanted me to deny it so that I could be spared. But I was sure he wanted my denial to be the truth.

As I lowered my head and closed my eyes, a helpless sniffle left my lips. I didn't know Rayden would die and then get me into trouble.

That man was a problem, whether alive or dead.

"Tell me, Helanie, did you meet him?"

Norman probably wanted to know because he would investigate and try to find the truth about our meeting or who else could have a motive. But I knew the minute I said yes, I was done.

"I was—" Before I could finish, I heard someone else jump in.

"She was busy doing her assignment, so she couldn't read his text, but I did," Lamar voiced, shocking everyone and turning all attention to himself. My eyes bugged out in shock while Emmet rushed upstairs and looked between us all.

"I heard," he answered his brother's silent query about why he was here.

"It was me who went to meet Rayden in the woods."

Now that Lamar had taken the blame, the warriors let me go and instantly reached for him.

"That is not—," I attempted to protest when Emmet got in my way, grabbing my arm and pulling me away from Lamar.

"Wait! That is not true. I was also there—," I told Emmet, but he hushed me, narrowing his eyes at me.

"Let us deal with one of you first. If his name gets cleared, we will be in the good," Emmet muttered at me, making sure I didn't get to leave the room while the warriors took Lamar away.

"Wait!" I screamed to get their attention. Emmet had locked the door after me until the warriors had left. Norman told the warriors I would cause issues and become a hindrance, so they had to lock me in while Lamar was taken away.

Once the warriors had left, both brothers opened the door and came in. They didn't allow anyone else to come to my floor or eavesdrop, but I was pretty sure the news of Rayden's death had already spread.

"What the fuck!" I yelled at them when Norman punched the wall, and I went radio silent.

"Exactly, what the fuck!" he scoffed, and I realized I had some explaining to do.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 377-Arrested And Presented

Chapter 377: 377-Arrested And Presented

Helanie:

"Why the heck did you go meet him in the woods?" Norman was grumbling, and although I could tell he wanted to yell at me, he was keeping his voice down for privacy. He had asked his own men to stand outside my room to make sure nobody got onto the floor. Even those with rooms there had been told to go take classes.

Emmet had put Kaye and Max in charge of senior and junior classes to keep them busy and away from this matter.

"He was—blackmailing me," I muttered, my throat scratchy from crying so much.

"For what?" Norman yelled, quickly walking toward Lamar's bed, where I was sitting.

"Norman!" Emmet rushed between us to block me from Norman's gaze and gently patted his brother's shoulder.

"Let me talk to her. This is important. I need to know everything to be able to defend Lamar."

Norman was right—I had to come clean with him. Emmet slowly stepped aside after hearing Norman's reason for wanting the truth.

However, once again, we were interrupted when Emmet's phone started ringing.

"Wait a minute," he told us and stepped even farther away.

Norman was anxiously running his hands through his hair when I had another breakdown.

"I didn't mean to be loud with you. But this situation is frustrating and scary for Lamar," Norman cleared his throat and spoke to me much more gently this time.

"You're right. I don't blame you," I replied, pulling my sleeves forward to wipe my cheeks when Norman handed me his handkerchief.

I stared at his hand for a second before accepting it, gently dabbing it over my cheek. His cologne was all over it.

Emmet spoke on the call for a while before returning with an exhausted, drained look on his face.

"Lamar said Rayden had been blackmailing Helanie and Lamar," Emmet explained, making my heart pound in my chest.

"Over what? Did he say why Rayden was doing that?" Norman asked anxiously, his frustration clear.

I guess Lamar had told the warriors, and I was glad he did. He shouldn't be in jail, taking the blame all by himself.

"Rayden found out that Helanie had been helping Lamar find his sister's rapist and killer."

My jaw hit the floor at the shortened version of the truth.

Lamar had completely left me out of any accusations. He was taking all the blame himself while keeping my secrets safe.

"What?" Norman turned to me before looking back at his brother.

"A few months ago—Rayden raped and—murdered his sister."

Emmet had barely finished that sentence when I saw Norman lose his balance.

"What?" His voice turned hoarse, almost raspy and deep.

"He killed someone, and then we gave him admission?"

The way he tilted his head was terrifying. I couldn't believe he would react like this. His fists clenched so hard that I heard his bones crack.

"Lamar says that happened. Now they are in The Polar Red Pack, and I think we should go there too. I got a call from someone who says they can prove Helanie and Lamar's innocence, but we need to let this person do their thing first," Emmet shocked me when he spoke about someone who might have seen the last moments of Rayden.

"Whatever that means," Emmet added.

"Let's go. We shouldn't leave Lamar alone there," Norman gestured at Emmet to hurry up.

"Oh, he's not alone. Kaye and Maximus had already asked the seniors to train the juniors and had headed to the pack to be with Lamar and make sure no one forced him into a confession." Now that was helpful. I was slightly relieved that Lamar wasn't alone in Penn's pack. His father could be very meticulous and cunning when manipulating someone out of a confession.

Not to mention, the person who claims we are innocent might get us out of this mess.

We left in Norman's car for the pack. I was so anxious and worried that I kept rubbing my hands together until they turned red.

Emmet was in the passenger seat when he stretched his arm back, his muscular hand reaching mine and gently unfolding my hands from each other.

"You'll give yourself a rash," he commented without even turning around, then pulled his arm back.

I suddenly felt so looked after. Then Norman did something unthinkable—he opened the dashboard and pulled out a small juice bottle. He opened the cork with one hand and handed it to me.

"Drink something. You woke up to this mess and didn't have a chance to eat or drink anything," he sounded so polite and focused in the moment.

"Thank you," I accepted the bottle and gulped it down my itchy throat in one go. I guess they both acknowledged it because they shared a glance.

"Don't be anxious. When Emmet says he will take care of things, he does," Norman tried to joke, but I could tell he was putting a lot of faith in Emmet.

And I wanted to do the same because Emmet had been very helpful every time, but I was still scared of what we would face once we got to the pack.

The hour-long ride exhausted me even more. I just wanted to be with Lamar and help him with this matter, where he was innocent.

Once we arrived at the pack and at the mansion, we were greeted by angry warriors. However, when I got out of the car and the brothers stood beside me, no one dared to come closer.

They both led me inside where the whole issue was being discussed. They hadn't called the council yet, but they had Lamar standing behind the couch with handcuffs on.

I instantly ran to stand beside him, quickly checking if he was okay, and thankfully, they hadn't laid a finger on him.

Maximus and Kaye were to be thanked for that.

The two briefly looked my way, and I quickly looked down. I didn't want my gaze to change their minds about helping Lamar.

Lord Mores and Lord Dewitt were sitting on the couch across from Lamar, staring at him. Penn, Jenny, and the others were standing across from them while Kaye and Maximus were by Lamar's side.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 378-Another Victim

Chapter 378: 378-Another Victim

Helanie:

"There is no data of such a crime," Alpha Mores declared, his eyes swollen from crying a lot over his son's death. Of course, losing a child is painful. But he had no clue that his son was a monster. So he didn't lose a child, we were spared from a monster. We have told them about Rayden and Lamar's sister.

Rayden's mother had a heart attack after hearing about their son. They were a mess.

I stared at Jenny, who hadn't raised her eyes the whole time.

"How is that possible? There is a record of that girl passing away," Norman argued, the two sitting facing each other with their men filling them in on the details of the crimes.

"Yeah, but there's no record of the DNA found on her," something told me Mores knew about that crime and DNA. The way he looked so ignorant made me certain that when the news first got out and the council found a match to his son's DNA, he had done something to get rid of the records. Otherwise, how could Rayden be cleared?

As for Lord Dewitt, he had been glaring at me as if I was the reason behind all this.

"I'm telling you, these two had it out for my son-in-law," Dewitt broke his silence, slamming his hand on the table.

"Dad, do you not hear what they're saying? Rayden was accused of rape and murder, what the hell is so hard to digest about that?" Penn stepped up to yell at his father, but Jenny held his arm to pull him back.

It made Lamar look down. Maybe it was still painful to watch her defend Rayden.

"There's no record of that rape," Dewitt scoffed.

"Besides, even if he had slept with her, it must have been consensual. That girl must have found him attractive, had a one-night thing with him, and then decided to go around and get killed by someone else." Mores shook his head when talking about Lamar's sister.

"My sister was at no fault. She didn't go around sleeping with Alphas. She didn't care about your stupid son!" Lamar's outburst was full of justice but could be scrutinized by the two Alphas and their guards.

"Just one girl came forward and they think—" As Lord Dewitt was going to dismiss her story once again, I closed my eyes and hissed.

"Rayden raped me," I finished, keeping my eyes closed.

As the silence filled the air, I felt my body tighten. I wanted to take my words back, go back in time, and open my eyes to when I was a child.

I wanted to relive my life, but this time with people who loved me and could take care of me.

"Helanie!" As I heard Maximus' whisper, I realized it couldn't happen.

There was no miracle that would take it all back and give me my sanity, and Lamar's sister her life back.

So I slowly opened my eyes and big tears wet my lashes. Thankfully, the blur from the tears helped me not see their reactions.

"You heard me. I was raped by Rayden. He planned to kill me but—he underestimated my will to live, so I survived." It was so hard for me to speak and be in the same room as people who were going to defend Rayden.

"What are you saying?" I heard Norman's voice and quickly turned my face to the other side, closing my eyes to avoid looking at him.

I hated looking so weak before them.

"There you go, another one woke up to accuse my son," Lord Dewitt tried to scoff at me, but I heard him getting choked. I opened my eyes to see Maximus with his fingers wrapped around his neck.

"You f**ing dare not say another word," he threatened him. Chaos ensued. Penn came forward to free his son, but it was Norman who managed to set him free.

"Am I wrong? These girls are all Omegas or worthless ones. Why are such low-rank girls the only ones accusing him? They wanted to get his attention, and when he didn't give it to them, they accused him of rape. This is what these women are good at," Dewitt yelled. Now that Dewitt felt insulted in his own home, he was loudly calling me a liar.

I turned around to hide somewhere when Lamar raised his hand and pulled me into them, putting them behind my back with the cuffs on. But it was the most protective hug ever.

"Mister, you should think twice before running your mouth. She is not nobody, she is a prestigious student at my academy and my stepsister," I heard a growl from Emmet.

"Your son got off easy, Mores!" Kaye finally added, "Because, oh, I would have had fun chopping off his dick." His words caused a shiver in my body. He even cursed upon his words as he threatened Mores.

"You all have lost your minds," Dewitt complained.

"Have we? You don't know what I'll do when I lose my mind. Kaye is right, Rayden was lucky he died before we found out," Norman hissed, making his stance clear.

"All that without evidence? Girls always lie. Especially girls from lower ranks—tell me one girl from a good family who would accuse him of abuse?" Dewitt was trying so hard to defend his dead son-in-law that it hurt my soul.

He was a father himself, but he had no compassion for others. But then a little laughter silenced us all. I had to steadily turn around to see who was laughing.

It was Jenny.

She came forward and raised her hand, staring at her father while giving him a closed-lip smile.

"What are you doing?" her mother hissed at her, but Jenny clicked her tongue to dismiss her.

"Dad asked a question and I am responding," she smiled again, but the pain behind her smile hit hard that time. At least her family noticed.

"Just curious though, I am a higher rank yet, for my words to be believed?" She made us keep watching her face with no clue until she explained, "They are not his only victims, Dad. I am too."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 379-I Did It, Blame Me

Chapter 379: 379-I Did It, Blame Me

Jenny:

Flashback:

"Rayden, I don't feel right. I feel like I was forced into giving you my virginity," I said as I dressed and sat on his bed. He had called me to his pack yesterday to spend Valentine's Day with him. But then he started making advances that I didn't appreciate.

I wasn't feeling it and told him over and over to stop, but he kept saying he knew I wanted it and that I was just being shy.

"What?" Rayden growled, turning around while pulling up his pants. "You're still complaining about that?"

The look of disbelief on his face made me question my own concerns about the night.

"We had fun. We both enjoyed it, so how about you stop freaking complaining now? You ruined the moment for us," he started yelling almost instantly, and I felt the urge to calm him down before he exploded.

"I'm not saying you raped me or anything—" the moment I said that word, it was like I had stabbed him.

"Are you dead in your head?" He lunged at me, pressing his finger so hard against my temple that I winced and crawled back on his bed. But before I knew it, he was coming onto me.

He pushed me down, wrapped his fingers around my neck, and tightened them. "You better start behaving now, or else—" the threat in his eyes scared me. "I didn't even use a condom, so you better behave because if you get pregnant, I won't be there for you. So change your attitude if you want your baby's father around."

The threat terrified me.

I didn't want to end up pregnant yet. But if I said that out loud, he would get even angrier, and his fingers would tighten around my neck even more.

His anger and behavior caused tears to form in my eyes, and I bet he saw them because, suddenly, he started laughing and loosened his grip on my neck before leaning down to kiss me.

I wanted so badly to push him off me, but deep down, I was relieved he was smiling. I didn't want him to be angry again.

So I let him kiss me, even though I didn't move a single muscle. I just wanted to get out of here and go home.

"You know I love you, right? And when a man has sex with a girl, it means he loves her and craves her. You should be happy that I crave you enough to make it happen even when you were hesitant," his words sounded like a rabid dog barking, but out of fear, I acted like they made sense.

But this was just the beginning of his abuse and manipulation.

End of Flashback:

"No! He—did that to my daughter?" Dad was struggling to find the right reaction.

"It was the first time, but definitely not the last. I was too scared to speak up because I knew nobody would believe me," my voice was shaky, and my eyes spilled tears.

"I would have believed you and fucking cut his dick off myself! Why didn't you tell me?" My dad got up to hug me, but I pulled away.

If he couldn't show the same empathy for my friend, he had no right to show it for me.

"Would you? Did you believe Helanie or Lamar when they spoke up? I get that you wanted evidence, but when there was proof of him cheating on me, you all told me I was being dramatic. So no! Don't use the evidence excuse on me. You all defended him

outright. A girl died—it wasn't just someone saying he harassed her. You all took his side!" I started yelling, hugging myself.

"But—ahhh!" My dad screamed, dropping to his knees and crying.

I could tell Penn was struggling too. But there was nothing they could do since I had already taken care of Rayden myself.

"So I had to do whatever I could to stop that man." I watched my mom tear up, and then everyone stared at me in shock as I revealed the next part.

"Yesterday, when Helanie beat his ass—and he cried like a little bitch—I arrived at the location," I started, unable to make eye contact with Helanie anymore.

"He was, umm, talking to someone." I had to wait and see if Helanie would tell her side. Since she did, I decided to come clean about Rayden's actions and my involvement in his own downfall.

"He was talking to his father about the murder of Evaline Baker. He was specifically telling him to get rid of the records and plant some dead pack members' DNA at the scene and in the files so that when Helanie told her side, she would seem like a liar." I finished, watching gasps fill the air as I put Mores on the stand.

"Huh?" The man had gone completely silent at my accusations against his son. He knew his best friend wouldn't stand by him now, and with his son dead, all the heat would be on him alone.

"Jenny, why are you lying, daughter? Did Helanie and Lamar put you up to this? Because I know you used to be so happy with him. If you weren't, wouldn't you have left?" Mores hit me with the same toxic nonsense they always throw at victims when they come forward.

But this wasn't about Rayden looking at me weird or making rude remarks now and then. He put his hands on me, manipulated me into thinking I wanted it, cheated on me, and hurt me in so many ways. Even if they tried to cover up his crimes with lies, I would still know the truth.

They couldn't manipulate me—I was one of his victims.

"Really? So happy that I killed him?" I watched his jaw hit the floor as I confessed. Their eyes started to grow wider and I knew at that moment that I had said the right thing.

"I killed him. I did. And I should have done it a long time ago."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 380-A Serial Offender

Chapter 380: 380-A Serial Offender

Helanie:

I stepped away from Lamar so he could be uncuffed. Jenny's confession had made my heart drop into my stomach. I felt Lamar's body heating up too. It wouldn't be easy for him to hear what Rayden had done to her.

And it showed in his eyes.

"Huh?" Mores had the nerve to get up and try to reach her when Penn stepped in his way and slapped him.

That slap was so satisfying.

"Your son escaped, but I won't let you put your hands on my sister," Penn yelled, his rage coming from many reasons.

I hadn't been able to look at anyone because I didn't want to see the pity in their eyes.

But I was grateful they were standing up for me.

"Why? Did I do something wrong?" Jenny smiled, but there was so much pain hidden behind her teary eyes. "I got rid of the biggest disease ever. The disease was spreading—and I feel responsible for it. If I had stopped him earlier, my friend and Evaline wouldn't have become his victims. But I was such a coward—" she was breathing with difficulty, so I rushed through the crowd and hugged her tight.

It was as if her breath returned when my arms wrapped around her. I didn't know she wasn't expecting me to come for her like that.

"I killed him so he couldn't hurt you anymore," she whispered, hugging me back.

That truly meant so much to me.

I broke the hug because she was still talking to Mores, and strangely enough, he had more to say.

"Well—I will make sure you rot in prison for your crime of murder because there is no proof against my son, but there is your confession against him." At this point, he was the only one on his side. I noticed the brothers had gone silent, almost like their energy had drained. But I was afraid of the silent storm brewing in them. Their veins were constantly popping, and the way Norman was cracking his knuckles was terrifying.

"Oh! I forgot the evidence. I have a gift for you," Jenny shocked me even more when she made it clear that she had more to use against him.

She began to play a video. And right off the bat, the video started with a terrifying sight. It was Rayden crying on the ground while I walked away. Jenny was hiding behind a tree and recording it.

"Dad?" Rayden called his father, sniffling like a little brat. "Dad, she beat me up—she doesn't even have a wolf—and she actually beat up an Alpha—" his cries were so ignorant.

He sounded like a spoiled child. After a few hits, his inner brat came to the surface, and he had no shame in showing it anymore.

"It was Helanie and Lamar. Dad, they have the hair that was found on my coat. That stupid bitch mate of mine left it with her boy toy. Dad! You have to remove the data and records. Erase my DNA from the site and plant someone else's instead. Just use some dead guy who can't defend himself. As for these two, I'll take care of them myself," he got up from the ground, wiping tears from his cheeks.

"Thank you, Dad," he started thanking his father, so whatever his father was saying must have been in his favor.

"I'll fucking impregnate Jenny, don't worry about that slut. She's scared of me." Jenny's family glared at Mores at the way he spoke about her. "Don't stress. They're stupid. They'll believe us. Her father would rather have her dead than without a mate."

Those words hit hard. They made Dewitt break down, hiding his face in his hands as he cried louder before suddenly lunging at Mores. Both he and Penn started kicking and punching the shocked man, who now knew he was going down and would take all the blame for his son—who was already dead.

The video ended with Rayden noticing something and spotting Jenny behind the tree. He lunged at her with a knife in his hand when a gunshot rang out.

I guess that's when he died because the video cut off, probably from Jenny panicking.

As Emmet took Jenny's phone to preserve the evidence, the others focused on Mores, making sure he didn't die too. He needed to be punished for letting his son do all these things and covering for him.

But by then, Jenny had turned to me while Lamar was still frozen in place.

"That night when Lucy fell, I couldn't sleep either. I decided to get some fresh air when I saw you heading toward the library. I followed you and heard everything. I was so shattered and angry at myself that I decided to be a part of it without involving you two. I knew you'd both get detained and abuse, but—huh! My father—he would only show up if it was me on the receiving end of some punishment. I never chose Rayden because I loved him. I had to stay close to him to keep an eye on him and also... to avoid getting abused—" she quickly lowered her head, but it all made sense to me.

"I am so sorry. I could have stopped it sooner," she broke down, but I quickly pulled her into a hug.

She wasn't at fault. She was a victim, and he had been blackmailing and threatening her the whole time.

As we hugged, she whispered in my ear, "We'll find those other assholes together. You're not alone anymore."

It made me feel so much better to have another friend who knew the truth and was on my side.

"Jenny." Lamar stepped forward, finally snapping out of his frozen state. Without saying a word, he pulled her into a hug, holding her like he was shielding her from any harm.

I stood beside them with a broken smile on my face until I raised my head and saw the brothers watching me, their eyes full of

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.