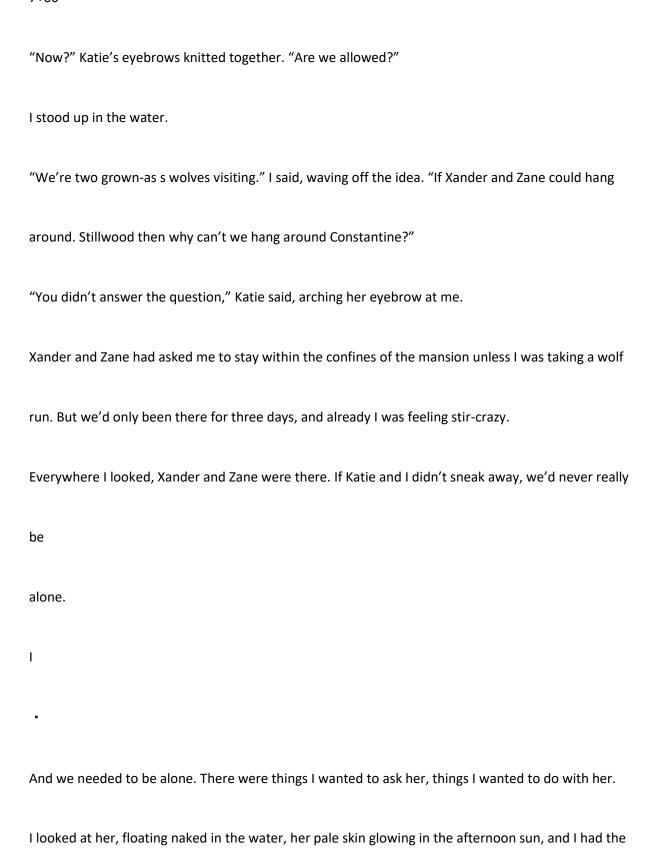
His Beta 119 Chapter 119 Mason I carried Katie to the plunge pool, and we both drifted into the water slowly, wrung dry but satisfied. Or at least I was. This time with Katie, it was hard to tell. She'd seemed to enjoy it if the sounds she was making were any indication, but when I pulled back to look at her, her face was strained. And when her eyes were open, they were blank and distant. I wondered again if bringing her here to the Constantine pack lands was a mistake. The jealousy I'd felt when Xander and Zane shifted in front of her was so intense it was hard to think straight. And yet if she wasn't here, I'd never have had her like had today. Or like I had last night.

When Katie and I f ucked, it was all-consuming and uncomplicated. She was mine, and I was hers.

It had never been like that with Alice.

Maybe I was overthinking it. Maybe all the sh it from my past was making me paranoid.

"We should go into town together," I said as we floated in the water.





Maybe being farther away from the mansion-and farther away from the memory of Xander's and Zane's
perfect bodies-would give me more clarity on where we stood.
"Hell yeah," Mason said, a wide, mischievous grin spreading over his face. "We can even sneak Stella
out with us." +
"No, Stella should say with Gabriela," I said. "Let's just be quick. Coffee or something."
I'd never left Stella alone for so long, but after hearing the word "vampire," I was hesitant to take her
away. from the protection of the mansion.
I didn't know what it meant that a vampire had left their scent in Constantine and Lily was somehow
drawn to it, but what I did know is that I didn't need some undead stalker sna tching my baby outside
the local cafe.
I'd figure out why the hell all these men knew about vampires before me eventually, but first I needed to
•
see if my feelings for Mason had really changed, or if being cooped up in the mansion was just driving
me

crazy
"Coffee sounds great," Mason said. "I'll have you back in time to put Stella to bed."
A little while later, Mason had snuck into the mansion and grabbed our clothes so we could hop in his
truck and head into town.
a whole town
Constantine really wasn't all that different from Stillwood, just a bit fancier. There was a w
square surrounded by old, beautiful buildings, and the whole thing was perfectly landscaped.
Mason walked me into a cafe on a cobblestone street. It was later in the afternoon, so it was basically
empty aside from us.
We sat down in a seat by the window, and Mason studied me carefully like there was something he
wanted to ask me.

"This reminds me of going to the cafe in Stillwood," I said before Mason could speak. "Except no Quinn

My palms went sweaty. Why was I suddenly so nervous?

inn or

Asher."

My heart panged. It seemed like I'd been gone a lifetime, and I missed them and my old life already.
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"We don't have to be here forever," Mason said, grabbing my hand. 1 promise. My priority is you and
Stella and your happiness."
I nodded. The smile he gave me was sad, and I could tell he missed them, too.
But then his expression turned serious. "You know how I told Xander and Zane that you're my mate?"
he asked carefully.
"Yes" I said, my heart rate picking up speed.
Mason continued. "Have you thought about maybe-
"Can I get you anything?" A woman walked up to our table and cut him off.
I looked up at her, and when our eyes met, hers went wide and her mouth dropped open.
"Oh my go d, it's you."