

Pregnant I left him To His First Love

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"It was important to see our mother first, we needed to ascertain the state of her wellbeing," Kelvin replies in a calm tone.

"Luna, you look well," Theo says, fixing his eyes on Leila.

"I'm no Luna of yours," Leila replies coldly, her blue eyes turning into steel.

Luna.....It was what Tatum deceived her with, made her believe that making her Luna was a s act of love, made her think that as long as she held the position in the pack, she stood a chance to hold a place in his heart but in the end it was all a faux, a mirage, a smoke mirror that showed just how foolish she was to fall for him.

Theo makes a face at her and he smirks. "Well the Alpha never divorced you, did he?"

"Mama!" Amara runs back into the living room. "You changed the password to the ipad again, I can't unlock it."

Theo squints at the child, visibly taken back.

She addressed Leila as Mama, Leila was pregnant with Tatum's child when she left the pack but that was five years ago, this child looks barely three years old but she ran in with the speed and has the strength of a much older child in her legs.

Amara halts, noticing the foreign presence in the room and seeing the hostile look on her mother and grandmother's faces. She drops the ipad and bravely walks up to Theo, scowling at him, folding her fists into a punch.

"Are you here to bully gran gran? Leave now or I'll beat you up," she says without any sort of fear to a man way bigger than her and Theo is amused by her confidence.

As a powerful Beta, he cannot sense any fear coming from the little child and she has a rather strong aura for a child who doesn't have a wolf yet.

He crouches in front of her and waves his hand behind her ear, pulling a magic trick and a candy bar appears in his hand and he stretches it towards Amara.

"I come in peace, my lady protector."

Amara's eyes light up in surprise but she doesn't take the candy bar.

"How did you do that bully man?" She asks, looking at his hand curiously.

"Where's your daddy?" Theo asks and Leila sees the glow in his eyes, knowing who he is mindlinking and she rushes towards them, grabs Amara and scowls at Theo. "Take Amara Kev, I'll see the Alpha myself," she says stretching the child towards Kelvin.

Theo stands to his feet and adjusts his shirt. "The Alpha requests to see you all, especially. He clasps his fingers together and points at Amara just as Leila passes her to Kelvin.

Leila's heart immediately pounds in her chest, a subtle fear and worry grating at her nerves, she looks sharply at Kelvin and he doesn't need to look at her twice to read her mind and sense her worry. "The Alpha requests the presence of former members, that is I and Leila, the child is not a member of the pack, she stays behind," Kelvin says in a curt tone, dropping Amara on

the table and standing defensively in front of Leila.

Theo scoffs and shakes his head rather disappointedly before the amusement vanishes from his face and he turns cold.

"Need I remind you both of your status before you left this pack? Do not insult the mercy of the Alpha, his wish is for you all to appear and that is my command. Now, are you going to come in peace or do I get my men to take you there otherwise?"

"My child... is going... nowhere," Leila replies defiantly, staring coldly into Theo's glowing eyes and they turn normal again.

Kelvin turns, blocking her from Theo's direct vision, he takes her hand and puts his forehead against hers, counting his breath until Leila's racing breath calms.

"Relax.....stronger and wiser, remember? And I'm here now, nothing will happen to you or your child, I promise, let's just go and hear what he has to say."

Leila grits her teeth and takes a deep breath before she pulls away from Kelvin and smiles at him.

"I know you will always protect me, no matter what," she holds the side of Kelvin's arms, their shoulders pressed against each other and a fully confident smile radiates her face as she says to Theo. "Tell your Alpha we will all see him." The glow returns to Theo's eyes and Kelvin squints at them as Leila speaks, he pulls away from her and picks up Amara.

Leila stares defiantly at Theo, looking straight into his glowing eyes, knowing who is behind them, knowing he can see her and hear her.

She scoffs coldly and takes a step closer.

"I hate you."

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As their car gets closer to the packhouse, Leila's heart pounds with nervousness, an uneasy feeling grating her nerves.

It's been five years since she last saw Tatum, five years since she last saw the man she loved with all of her only for him to betray her, five years since he looked her in the eye and told her that her penalty was death even with his child growing inside of her, five long years since he took back his promise to never let her go and watched her jump to her uncertain fate.

No matter how strong she appears on the outside, the feeling of seeing him again truly makes her nervous, she doesn't know if she has it in her to hold herself from lashing out at him, from offloading all the bitterness and anger stuffed in her chest on him. Why would that even matter? Tatum means nothing to her, her only mission here is to prove her mother's innocence.

She frowns at the pack house as their car pulls up to it, for the two years that she was Luna, she can number the times she stepped foot into this place.

Despite how much she gave them her undivided loyalty, devotion and affection as a Luna, they firmly rejected her, frequently

humiliated her and eventually cast her away.

She is grateful for all of those experiences, it moulded her into the strong independent woman she is today. Never again will she put her head down for anyone to step on, never again will she put the whims of others above her own good.

She steps out of the car with Amara in her arms and she can see the leering eyes of the pack members around the building rapt on her and her child, whispering amongst themselves and murmuring to each other.

At the entrance to the packhouse, she sees the big congratulatory banner congratulating the Alpha and the phoenix Luna on their

engagement hanging adjacent to the door.

She smiles bitterly at it and akes her head as she walks inside.

It's a pity how Carmela has deceived all of them.

The moment her feet land inside the

building, a strong minty and sandalwood scents blasts her nostrils, Kard, distinguishing itself from every other smell around, her wolf restlessness increases and it

howls in joy, jumping up and down in

Leila's head.

Her heart thuds of its own accord and the closer she gets to Tatum's office, the stronger it gets and the more she wants to turn back but she has to face him, it is inevitable.

She closes her eyes and uses all of her willpower to push her wolf to the back of her mind.

Once she gets the chance, this time around, she will cut the bond between her and Tatum the right way.

Theo knocks twice and pushes the door to Tatum's office open before he steps inside, Kelvin follows with Amara in his arms and Leila steps in behind them, keeping a cold look on her face. "Sit," Tatum says in a straight tone, fiddling with some books on the shelf behind his desk, his back turned to them.

Leila's heart races at the sound of his voice, the thick melody sounding exactly the same as she remembers it.

Kelvin pulls back a chair for her but she doesn't sit, finding herself unable to tear her gaze away from his back, different emotions. coursing through her.

Tatum turns and calm grey eyes meet cold blue ones. For a moment, everyone else blurs out like it's just the two of them in the room.

He looks completely different yet the

same, his beards are now fully grown and he looks even bigger and muscular, his eyes holding a deep mystery to them, like a man who has seen the deep things of life, far from the ordinary gaze she knew him to have.

Suddenly she feels her hands trembling, her entire body pulsating with a feeling she cannot explain, an intense desire burning deep inside her core, stronger than anything she has ever felt in her life, her heart hammers with rage as her wolf tears forth from her mind, breaking the barrier she had put up.

Realising what is about to happen, she clasps her hands over her mouth quickly before the words force their way out.

"Mate," she says into her hands and Tatum squints at her, c**king his head sharply and Kelvin looks at her with a rapt concern in his eyes. "Everything alright?" Tatum asks, seeming completely unaffected by the bond that she is feeling.

"You've seen us, can we leave now?" Leila replies coldly, steadying herself and once more pushing her wolf to the back of her mind.

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Tatum ignores her and turns to Kelvin, his eyes completely calm and confident as he takes his seat.

"You understand this is standard procedure for your return?"

"Yes Alpha," Kelvin replies in a calm voice and Tatum's eyes shift from him to the little girl he is holding, his attention drawn to her distinct eyes.

They look a bit like Leila's father's eyes, only his were a golden brown, not fully golden as hers.

"You have very beautiful eyes, little one," He says to Amara, flashing her a small smile but she frowns at him.

"I may be little but I'm not little one, my name is Amara," she replies in her tiny curt voice, pointing her little index finger at him.

"Are you the bad uncle that sent uncle bully to bring us here? If you give my mama any trouble, I will give it back to you," she issues him a stern warning, glancing at Theo whose eyes are keen on her.

Tatum hides his smile, keeping his face stoic. "And how do you plan to do that? I am the Alpha and you're in my territory."

"Well, listen to me uncle Alpha, I am my mama's daughter and I will fight anyone for her," she clenches her fist, narrowing her eyes at him.

Tatum chuckles softly, raising his hands in surrender and he glances at Leila who still stands, hands crossed against her chest, eyes hard as steel.

"You have my word Amara, I will bring no trouble to your mama."

Amara snorts, mimicking Leila's pose. "I don't trust you, you are not mama's friend."

"Of that you are right, your mama and I are not friends, but I am not her enemy," Tatum replies to Amara but his eyes are fixed on Leila, his voice dropping an octave lower and Leila doesn't want to believe it is remorse she can hear in them.

"Theo, why don't you take our little friend to the playground? I'm sure she'll be excited to make new friends. Costner, go with them and sign the necessary paperworks for your

return while you're at it. Your banishment has been revoked but as for her," his gaze shifts to Leila sharply, "we need to have a talk."

Leila's heart pounds, an uneasy feeling grating at her nerves, hating the way every time he looks at her, something deep inside her wants to yield to him.

"We have nothing to talk about," she says curtly. "If they leave, so do I."

"I admire you thinking you have a choice but sadly, you don't," Tatum smirks at her.

"Theo," he says and Theo leads the way out.

'Stay,' Leila mindlinks Kelvin as he stands up, 'you said you will be my side.'

She doesn't want to be alone with Tatum.

There's something about the calm look in his eyes that unnerves her, she cannot read the emotions behind them and it makes her uneasy. What does he want with her?

Does he want to punish her for the accusations five years ago or does he want to apologise to her for his wrong doings?

He pardoned Kelvin without an appeal, what is he up to?

What are his intentions?

She doesn't want to be caught off guard by him. She wants to be prepared for whatever he wants to throw at her.

He's still my Alpha, I can't disobey him and it's probably best to keep the past away from the kid," Kelvin replies, stepping out of the office

behind Theo.

"The years have been kind to you." Tatum says calmly, gesturing at the chair in front of him for her to sit.

Leila keeps feet rooted to the same spot, her eyes callous and cold.

"I wish I could say the same for you," she replies curtly, but she knows there is no truth behind her words.

Aside from his thoughtful eyes and fuller beard, he looks like has barely aged a day, the radiant handsomeness of his face ever present. Tatum smiles wryly at her. "I guess being an Alpha without a Luna took its toll."

Leila scoffs, almost rolling her eyes at him.

What happened to his phoenix Luna, the one he just engaged?

"What is it you want, Tatum? Why am I even here?"

"The second highest ranking member of the pack returns after five years, a sit down with her alpha is necessary, don't you think?"

"I am no member of your pack and you are not my alpha."

"Is that really your stand?"

"Yes," Leila's voice becomes even colder.

Tatum smirks at her, standing up and walking towards her, Leila backs away slowly, feeling the pace of her heartbeat increase, watching him calculatingly,

Tatum doesn't step to her, rather, he sits on the table, crossing his ankles on the floor, his gaze set ahead, not looking at her.

"Liana Rogers is currently under

investigation for crimes against a deceased member of this pack. As her- Alpha, I forbid you from speaking to her, unless of course, you say the words."

Leila grits her teeth hard, her eyes narrowing dangerously at him, thinning into a murderous scowl.

She either admits he is still her Alpha or he will not let her see her mother.

Does her misery bring him so much pleasure? She will not give him the satisfaction of yielding to his wishes. "Do your worst, you cannot stop me from seeing her and if it's war you want, I'll fight you with everything I have." "Very well my prodigal Luna, I look forward to this....war between us," he replies, a suggestive smirk on his lips.

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Leila sits with a deep frown on her face, watching as Kelvin pushes Amara on the swing from a bench at the playground.

Tatum barely said another word to her, leaving his threat hanging.

If he wasn't going to try and punish her, the least he could have done was apologise to her for a start instead of throwing his stupid Alpha weight around with his stupid ego, threatening her with her mother. She scoffs internally.

How arrogant of him, he even dared to call her a prodigal Luna like she just left and returned on her own accord, like it wasn't his fault she left in the first place.

For a moment, she imagines Tatum as Kelvin pushing Amara on the swing. If he wasn't so gullible to let himself be deceived so easily by Carmela, they could have been a happy family, maybe Amara would even have a sibling by now. She catches herself and immediately shakes the image out of her head, feeling repulsed and disgusted at herself for even having such thoughts.

Kelvin is the perfect father for Amara and any other kid she might have because she is certain that even in the face of death, he

would choose them over himself, rather than condemn them to

death like Tatum did.

"You look like the world is about to end," Kelvin's voice jolts her out of her thought and she hisses. She did not even see him coming. How did it go?" Leila sneers.

"I can't stand him, I just want to dig my fingers in his eyes and poke them out. He has the nerve to call me his Luna and threatens that unless I admit he's my Alpha, he won't let me see mom," she scoffs, "unbelievable."

"And what did you say?" Kelvin asks, watching her calculatingly.

"That he can fucking choke on it."

"Leila...."

"What? I'd rather jump in front of a moving train than call him my Alpha, I fucking hate his guts," Leila replies curtly, seething deep inside.

Kelvin lets out a sharp breath, sitting

beside her. "know how you feel and

it is more than justified but to

achieve our goals here, maybe you should apply more logic and less

emotion. You know, see it as a game

of hiding how you really feel."

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"I'm not playing any stupid games with him," Leila replies sharply, "once we prove mom's innocence, I'm getting straight out of here."

"Hmmm," Kelvin replies with a wry smile that barely reaches his eyes as he looks away from her to Amara who waves at him and he waves back at her.

Leila doesn't miss the quick shift in his demeanour and she asks. "Is there something you are not telling me? You seem too

comfortable with all of this."

"I'm back home after five years away Leila, I miss the place. Would it really be such a bad idea to stay back after the dust settles?"

Leila jerks her head back in shock, her disbelief clear in her squinted eyes, sour feeling gripping her heart..

"Have you forgotten what they did to me?" she asks, "would you rather stay back here than return with me?"

Kelvin meets her anger filled and shocked gaze with a calm one before he smiles at her. "When you put it like that, you give me no choice."

"Yes mister, you have no choice," she replies sharply, "when the," she makes quotation marks in the air, "dust settles, you are going back to bayview with me and we really should have that talk. Amara already-"

She pauses when she shifts her

gaze to Amara and her motherly instincts kick in, an angry growl tears from her throat, rage fills her up, bleeding straight from her wolf into her when she sees Carmela pushing Amara on the swing.

Before Kelvin can hold her back from doing something rash, she is already in front of Carmela.

"Get away from my child," she snarls, steadying the swing and she drops Amara.

"Oh please," Carmela rolls eyes in disgust. "I wasn't going to push the bastard to her death, I only-"

SMACK!

Carmela staggers back in shock, holding her face, her eyes going wide, her face stinging with pain from the hot slap Leila blinds her eyes with.

Leila snarls at Carmela, baring her canines, her wolf's voice blending with hers, making her sound feral and truly dangerous." Don't you ever call my child names."

Carmela's eyes almost fall off their socket and her mouth drops open in utter shock, her heart slams hard against her ribcage, disbelief rocks her mind hard and fear grates deeply on her nerves.

Leila reads Carmela's expression to

the tee, hearing Carmela's thudding

heart and she closes the distance between them, her eyes thinning into a dangerous scowl and Carmela backs away, fear oozing of her i in

insurable volumes at Leila's

powerful aura.

"That's right bitch," Leila whispers coldly, "I got my wolf back."

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Carmela glances around and she can see the eyes starting to peer at them and as Kelvin comes to take Amara away, he smirks slyly at her.

Everyone saw Leila slap her but she is so scared she cannot even dare to throw a tantrum and manipulate the event to her favour but Leila is making her look weak in front of her subjects, she cannot just back down so easily."

She adjusts herself, massaging her cheek as she gives Leila a cold look.

"Getting your wolf back doesn't mean anything, he already thinks I'm his mate and we're engaged," she says, flashing her ringed finger in front of Leila.

Leila scoffs and shakes her head in disappointment, completely unaffected by Carmela's show off.

"You know, it baffles me how it was so easy for you to fool him when you are so dumb. It took him five years to give you that ring and he can't actually marry you, unless I divorce him. Confess your sins and I may grant you that wish, or maybe not," Leila shrugs, a sly smirk curling her lips. "You don't deserve anything from me."

Carmela opens her mouth to challenge Leila and it just hangs open, unable to say anything, realising the truth in Leila's words.

Leila scoffs, enjoying the look of misery on Carmela's face and she decides to compound it.

"You know, when I saw him just now, he called me his Luna, maybe he'll grovel and beg me to take him back, maybe I might."

The words roll off Leila's tongue with such finesse that she herself is shocked by it.

Carmela's frown deepens, her voice breaking, almost to the point of tears. This new Leila seems to be out for her. With her wolf present, Tatum might begin to struggle with the fake bond.

"I'm warning you Leila...stay away from Tatum, he's mine. Remember how desperate I can get when someone stands between me and my desire," Carmela replies coldly.

Her subtle threat hits Leila hard, memories of her painful ordeal at Carmela's hands barrage her mind and heart with bitterness and anger and it almost dismisses the cocky amused look on her face but she doesn't give Carmela the satisfaction of seeing the effect of her words.

"Relax Carmela, nobody wants your pathetic alpha," Leila replies in the same tone. "You can have him all you want. He won't be the first used item of mine that I'm letting you keep."

"I didn't realise that I am yours to give away," Tatum's voice comes from behind them and immediately Leila hears it, she tenses up without wanting to, her heart skipping a beat on its own accord.

She grits her teeth, closes her eyes and takes a quick deep breath to calm herself, hating how his voice does that to her so easily.

"Tatum, she-"

"Alpha....Carmela. And what are you doing here? Shouldn't you be helping with the preparations for the blood moon festival?" Tatum's voice is curt as his gold eyes set on Carmela, his tone finite, leaving no room for a rebuff.

"Alpha," Carmela bows, giving Leila one last dirty look before she storms away.

Leila is quite taken back by the interaction between them but she doesn't show it.

"So....I didn't know I was your used item or that I am pathetic," Tatum shifts his attention back to Leila, his words holding no hostility in them.

"Your words, not mine," Leila replies with a sneer, "what do you want now?"

"I don't know Leila," Tatum replies in a whispery voice, crossing his hands behind his back and he circles her slowly, "maybe I find this new you....irresistible."

Leila turns with him, matching his gaze at every point, his leering eyes feeling like they are peeling the clothes away from her body and it makes her very....hot?

Is he flirting with her? Why would he be flirting with her? Is he out of his mind? He is engaged to another woman but why does she feel so hot under his gaze?

"But that is not the case," Tatum quickly adds as he halts. "I didn't know you would return with a child, the accommodation I had prepared for you would not be quite suitable for her, so I got you a new one." He stretches a key towards her.

Leila shifts her gaze from his face to the key and back to his face." Thanks, but I don't need your help getting an accommodation."

"You've been away for a while and a

lot has changed in that time. The safety of my pack members is very important to me, especially the little children who cannot protect themselves yet," Tatum replies in a calm tone.

Leila snaps. "I didn't realise you cared so much about children, considering what you did to ours."

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No matter how hard she is trying to stick to Kelvin's advice of using logic over emotion, Tatum's hypocrisy is something she cannot stand and the bitter words slip from her tongue in annoyance before she can hold it back. She suddenly realises he hasn't asked about Amara's paternity, does he suspect something? Is that why he is keen on providing safe accommodation for them?

Amara doesn't look her age, she looks way smaller, no thanks to the circumstances surrounding her pregnancy and all. She is a four year old child who looks like she is going to three, Amanda believes her growth deficiency comes from having to heal Leila a lot while she was in the womb.

The mere thought of it makes Leila sad and bitter, her anger towards Tatum filling her heart to a climax but when she looks back at his eyes, the grey orbs hold the same stoic calmness to them, her words seeming like they had no effect on him.

There is neither pain, nor regret or remorse in his eyes and she hates how unreadable he is, like he is the chess master and they are all pawns playing his games.

"I am a man whose sins are grave," Tatum replies in the same gentle voice. "See this as a fruitless act towards redemption."

"Your sins are not mine to redeem, I don't want your accommodation," Leila keeps her tone stern.

"It's an order, Theo will take you," Tatum's Alpha aura bears down on her even if his voice is calm and Leila realises the unhidden truth, she can fight him and deny it all she wants, he still is her alpha. Yet she doesn't yield to his wishes, she won't.

"I don't take orders from you," She replies in a snarky tone, fighting back the pressure from his aura, using all of her willpower to fight her wolf's urge to submit as she walks away from him.

Tatum holds her back and the moment he touches her, electrifying sparks course through every inch of her body, a tingling pleasure shooting straight to her core, the effect of the mate bond. She looks up to his eyes sharply but she can see Tatum doesn't feel the same way, she tries to pull her hands away from him but Tatum's hold is firm, his eyes still.

"Don't make this any harder than it should be, hate me all you want, I deserve it but I am still your Alpha and you will listen to me," His voice is colder but there is no anger in his eyes. "Fine," Leila grits her teeth as his powerful aura bears down on her again. "Alpha," she bows, eyeing him with contempt. "I'll live in the house."

"Good," Tatum whispers with a serene smile and lets her go.

'Welcome back,' his voice barrages into Leila's head and she frowns.

'I didn't ask you to add me back to the mindlink web,' she replies.

'It's your pack as much as it is mine,' Tatum replies and cuts the mindlink, walking away from her.

As he walks away, his composure breaks, the reality of Leila's heavy words sink a dead painful weight on his heart and his eyes coat with

tears that he tries hard to keep from falling.

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"Uncle Alpha!"

He hears Amara's shrill voice behind him and he halts, quickly wiping his eyes as he turns to face her and crouches to match her height.

"Do you like my playground?" He asks, a thought coming to his mind but he pushes it away.

"I love it," Amara replies in a cheerful tone, "Can I come here often to play? Please? She clasps her hands together against her chest and puts a sad pout on her lips, giving him the cutest puppy eyes.

Tatum smirks at her. "Well that depends, do you still think I'm a bad man?"

"No, no, no, no, no," Amara gestures with her hands as she denounces her earlier claims. "You are a good man."

"Then you can come here as often as you like," he replies, smiling at her.

"Thank you!"

Amara hugs him unexpectedly and warmth fills his cold heart, taken back by her sweetness.

"She seems quite taken to him," Kelvin steps up to Leila whose eyes are filled with displeasure watching the interaction between Amara and Tatum. "Do you think he knows?"

"What does it matter?" Leila replies sharply, her cold and callous eyes unmoved from the duo ahead, grinding her teeth. "That child belongs to me and me alone." "We are ready to leave, Luna," Theo appears as Amara runs back towards them.

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"You would do well to stop calling me that," Leila sneers at him.

Theo was one of Carmela's staunch supporters. She doesn't know if he calls her Luna out of mockery or out of respect but either way, she doesn't want to be labelled as what she is not. "The truth is bitter, doesn't mean we shouldn't say it," Theo replies in a cold tone.

"You know what, while I'm here, I'll officially divorce and reject your Alpha, that should put this matter to bed," Leila replies as Amara gets to them and she picks her up.

Theo scoffs and says in a voice that Leila barely hears as he leads the way out of the playground.

"You can try."

"I will do more than try and I'm sure you all will be pleased about it," Leila replies.

"I personally have no reservations about the outcome of that event and I will speak no further on it. If it bothers you so much, the Alpha is your neighbour, you can sneak into his house at night and batter your grievances," Theo replies and Leila halts, taken back by his words.

"How is that possible?" Kelvin takes the words right from the shock in her eyes. "The Alpha Mansion is the only residential property on that lane, did they develop more?"

"I am not an encyclopaedia for you to syphon pack information from, you should bring yourself up to speed now that you are back but to answer your question, no, they have not developed more residential properties on the lane, the Alpha sealed off the property. Not a soul has stepped foot in that house since you left," Theo replies, his gaze directed at Leila.

"Great, now I have to see him and that bitch everyday," Leila whispers to Kelvin in annoyance. "You'll be fine," Kelvin replies.

"Again, not my place but the Alpha lives alone, has been since you left," Theo interjects.

Leila squints at him, remembering Tatum's interaction with Carmela, he did not even let her call him by name, is everything not okay between them? So why the engagement? Did the fake bond not hold? Is Tatum's wolf still looking for his real mate?

Why is she even bothered about it? It's none of her business, she's not here for Tatum, she's here for her mom.

"Amara, hurry up and finish your meal, we have to go see grandma soon," Leila says from the open plan kitchen of their new house to Amara at the dinning.

It's been three days since Tatum bullied her into living here and as much as she hates to admit it, the house has everything to meet her needs and Amara's needs.

It has five rooms, all ensuite and lavishly furnished, its own gym, hot and cold sauna, a mini movie theatre and even a game room or playroom since it is stuffed with toys and dolls for Amara.

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"Yes mama," Amara replies but Leila notices the lack of enthusiasm in her voice.

Amara is normally the most excited to visit her mother. She reduces the heat on the burner and takes off her apron, walking over to Amara.

"Is something wrong honey?" Leila asks, noticing Amara has barely even touched her food.

Amara looks up at her with a sullen gaze. "What did you do to Papa Kev?"

Leila is quite taken back and she squints at her daughter, "who says I did anything to him?"

"Then why doesn't he live with us anymore? Does he not want to be my papa anymore?" Amara asks in a sad voice, her eyes coated with tears.

Leila's heart breaks and she bends down to hug her daughter, kissing her hair. Amara loves Kelvin very much and since she understood the concept of parents, he represents a father to her.

Kelvin refused to move into the new house with them and he has been busy trying to prepare himself for the defence of Liana which is why he hasn't even come around since they moved in.

"Honey...Papa Kev loves you, he's just been busy but you know what, he's on his way here, we're all going to see gran gran together."

"Really?" Amara pulls away from her, her eyes lighting up with joy.

Leila smiles and nods at her and Amara smiles back.

"When he comes, I will ask him to stay with us, he can be busy here too," Amara says in a determined voice and Leila chuckles.

"I'll remind you to do that."

The doorbell chimes at this moment and they both snap their eyes in that direction.

"That must be him, go get the door while I get changed," Leila says to Amara and walks up the stairs while Amara bolts to the door, enthusiastic to see Kelvin.

"Papa Kev, I've missed you!" she says in full glee, touching the automated button to open the door but when it opens, she grimaces at the man standing at the door. "Uncle Alpha?"

"Hello Amara," Tatum smiles down at her.

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"Do you like dolls? I bought you a doll house," Tatum says and an omega appears with a box beside him.

Amara squints at him before she carefully observes the box and looks back at him.

"Will you help me build it? Mama doesn't know how to," she replies innocently.

"Well, I live just opposite you," Tatum points to the identical building behind him. "Helping you build it won't be a problem." "Really?!" Amara's excitement shines, "Will you take me to the playground too? Mama has refused to let me go."

Tatum rolls his hand and curtsies to her. "Alpha Tatum at your service, Lady Amara."

Amara holds her gown up and returns his gesture in a cute way. "Thank you Alpha."

"I'm here!" Leila's voice reaches them before she appears and the small smile on her face morphs into a scowl when she sees Tatum, her heart betraying her once again and pounding at the sight of him. "Tatum."

"Hi."

Amara looks between the both of them, squinting her eyes. "Mama, why don't you like Uncle Alpha? You like everybody."

Leila looks down at Amara and then back at Tatum, for the first time noticing the similarities between father and daughter.

They both have the same shiny dark hair, their noses are shaped the same way and when they are curious, their brows furrow and their smiles are identical.

"Honey, as you grow older, you'll learn that not everybody deserves your likeness," Leila replies, eyeing Tatum, hating the way he's looking at her like he wants to devour her, hating even more how unsettling that primal gaze in his eyes makes her feel and how her wolf just makes her want to jump on him.

'Get a grip,' she says to her wolf, pushing her to the back of her mind before turning to the Alpha in front of her.

"But I like Uncle Alpha, he let me play in his playground and he even bought me a doll house," Amara says, grabbing the big and heavy box from the omega with ease and lifts it towards Leila.

Tatum and the omega both look at her in shock and Leila takes the box from her, putting it on the ground.

"What did I say about accepting gifts from strangers?" She asks Amara in a curt tone, keeping her eyes cold.

She doesn't want her developing an affinity for Tatum, she may be his seed but she is not his child. Tatum lost her the day he denounced them and proclaimed death on them.

She can never forgive him for that, never.

"But mama, Uncle Alpha is not a stranger, a stranger is someone we do not know and we-

"I know the definition of a stranger, young woman, now go inside and finish your meal," Leila cuts her off.

"But ma-"

"Now or I won't take you to gran gran's."

Amara pouts sadly. "Bye Uncle Alpha, if you want to be my friend, you have to be mama's friend too," she waves at him and scurries inside.

"At least let her keep the gift, it's harmless," Tatum says, dismissing the omega simultaneously, a small courteous smile on his plump lips.

"I hope somewhere in your deluded mind you don't think she's yours," Leila replies coldly and Tatum's face turns grim.

He looks down defeatedly and

stares at the box for some seconds before he looks back up at Leila and she sees the remorse in his eyes but she couldn't care less.

"Is she....Kelvin's?" Tatum watches her eyes closely as he asks in a heartbreaking tone.

"What do you think?" Leila rolls her eyes at him.

Tatum smiles wryly, pain clear in his sad grey eyes. "You always did prefer him."

Leila grits her teeth, feeling rage twirl in her gut. Tatum must be a fool, she gave him chance after chance, chose him time after time and he

says this to her?

"This conversation is over," she says coldly, takes a step back and swings the door but Tatum blocks it with his hands before it is shut. "Leila, what happened to it? Our-"

"Don't you dare ask about a child

you killed," Leila snarls at him, rage pouring into her, encircling every nerve cell in her body, tears coating her eyes as she remembers how she reminded him on that cliff that she was pregnant with child, their child, hoping it would be enough to change his mind, yet he coldly told her that she deserved to die even if she was carrying his child.

"Leila, I'm s-"

"To hell with you and your apology," she slams the door shut in his face.

Pregnant I left him To His First Love

Four days have passed since Tatum came bearing gifts but everyday for those four days, Leila finds herself staring at the house opposite her whenever she comes out from or goes into her house, wondering when he's going to spring up on her again but fortunately he has never shown up. She really doesn't want to see him again and hopes he will take the hint and stay away from her and their child, no. Her child.

"Mama, why can't I go with you?" Amara asks Leila as Leila touches her face with some light makeup at her dresser.

It's the first day of her mother's case in court and she cannot take Amara with her. Three days ago, her mother was moved from house arrest and placed under custody.

She wants to think Tatum has nothing to do with it but then, it's his pack that has accused an innocent woman of murdering her mate and husband.

"Because....kids are not allowed where we are going," Kelvin answers from behind Leila, sitting on her bed and going through his files.

Amara frowns. "Well, can I go to the playground?"

Leila pauses, dropping her brush on the dresser and she turns to Amara fully. It's the umpteenth time that Amara is mentioning going to the playground, specifically so she can see Tatum and she feels very uncomfortable with the idea. "Your Aunty Amanda is on her way here, you guys can have all the fun you want, you miss her, don't you?" She says with a patronising smile.

"Cool," Amara replies, "Aunty Amanda will take me to the playground. I know Uncle Alpha will be there, the three of us will have fun and I haven't thanked him for my doll house."

Kelvin looks at Leila with curiosity through the mirror, his eyes asking the questions his lips don't. Leila turns and looks at him sullenly, shrugging.

Even though it's been days since Tatum left the dollhouse outside their door, Amara has been asking to see him again, demanding that she be taken to the playground or allowed to visit him next door.

She doesn't know if it is the father-daughter bond between an Alpha and his pup but what she does know is that she doesn't want her child to grow fond of Tatum.

She hates that she has to keep her away from her father but he is not her father and will never be, he already lost that right, besides Tatum is getting married to Carmela, what is the need of allowing Amara to bond with him?

There is no way on earth that she will let her child anywhere near that couple, the thought repulses her as much as it scares her.

"That is left for Auntie Amara to decide," Leila replies calmly, making a mental note to tell Amanda not to agree to take her to the playground.

Tatum probably already suspects that Amara is his daughter and if she allows them to spend time together, it won't be long before he or Amara figures it out.

What if he decides to lay claim to Amara, to take her daughter away from her?

There was a time she would think he cannot be that cruel but she has seen the height of his cruelty and she doesn't want to find out just how high it can actually get. Amara is her life, her hope and her strength and if Tatum tries to take her away from her, she will fight him with everything that she has.

Perhaps she should ask Amanda to

take Amara back with her to her new pack and she can visit them

intermittently until her mother's case that way, this longing that

is over

Amara seems to have for Tatum will stop and she will feel safe about Tatum taking her child.

Yes, that is what she will do.

As they walk down the stairs to the living room, with Amara on Kelvin's shoulder, her phone chimes and she takes it out. [Sorry girl, can't make it, work emergency. My regards to the little munchkin and goodluck with the case. *Three heart emojis*] Leila sighs disappointedly, frowns and slides her phone into her bag. Who else can she contact to help look after Amara?

The doorbell chimes and Leila takes

out her phone to check who it is from the CCTV, Amara stretches her neck from Kelvin's shoulder where he has her and she sees that it is Tatum.

She jumps down before Leila can even say anything, bolts towards the door, opens it and jumps into Tatum's arms.

"Uncle Alpha, I've missed you," she says cheerily and Tatum smiles broadly.

"I missed you too and don't worry, soon, your mama and I will be friends and we can spend a lot of time together." "What are you doing here?" Leila asks coldly, snapping his attention to her.

He has to stop springing up on her unannounced, she doesn't like the apprehension he gives her heart whenever she sees him and her wolf doesn't make it any easier with her constant yearning.

"I thought you might need someone to babysit," Tatum replies, smiling at her.

Pregnant I left him To His First Love

How does he know that? Leila half sneers at him.

"Did you like your doll house and have you built it?" Tatum turns to Amara with a broad smile on his lips.

"Papa Kev has been busy and Mama can't help with it," Amara replies in a somewhat wry tone, her little face holding a look of disappointment.

"Yeah...your mama has always been more brains than brawn, doesn't care for all that physical stuff but tell you what, how about we build it together while I babysit you, like the idea?" Tatum smiles at her.

"Really?!" Amara replies excitedly, "You're awesome!"

She hugs Tatum and he chuckles, softly rubbing down her back.

Something tugs Leila's heart seeing the seamless interaction between the both of them, just so natural and she feels her eyes becoming wet, so she looks away quickly, a stabbing pain she doesn't want to feel striking her heart.

This is what she wanted, this is what she saw, this..... Tatum being a good father to their kids, loving them, doting on them, it's why she held on, why she wouldn't let him go, why no matter how much he made her suffer, she kept fighting for a future with him.

She wanted a future with him so much....so bad that she was willing to endure anything for his sake, Clayton's injustice, Carmela's schemes, Adaline's abuse, the pack members' hate, heck the whole freaking world could have stood in her path and she would have fought them all for the future she wanted with him but in the end, it was Tatum who dropped his big boots on her vision and crushed it along with her heart.

Even now, she can feel her wolf at the forefront of her mind, watching through her eyes, happy to see her mate and her pup bonding, she can feel the joy of her wolf slowly bleeding into her, soothing her pain, urging her to let go of the deep seated hatred and anger in her heart but she will not.

She will never.

They will all pay for what they did to her and her family.

Tatum does not get to walk back into their life with no consequences for his actions, that child in his arms belongs to her and her alone.

If Amara knew the truth about Tatum, about what he did to her in the womb, will this shocking affinity still exist? She may have to tell her one day but now is not the time.

She puts up a wall between her and her wolf, getting a grip on her emotions and her eyes turn soulless.

"You're not babysitting my child," Leila says with enough ice in her tone to freeze over the entire house. "Amara, come here," she flicks her hands at Amara.

For what will be the first time in Amara's young life, she directly disobeys her mother, throwing her hands around Tatum's neck, holding him tighter, looking away from Leila.

"I want him to babysit me," she mutters, a sad whisper.

Leila's mouth almost falls open from the shock, she almost lashes out at her child but she controls herself and keeps her face stoic, glancing to Kelvin for help, hating to her core the small victorious smirk on Tatum's face. "Baby," Kelvin says in a calm voice, "listen to your mother."

"Okay papa Kev," Amara grumbles, letting go of Tatum and as Tatum drops her to the floor, he feels a deep sense of loss within him, jealousy rapt in his eyes as he locks them with Kelvin who has an

unreadable

expression on his face.

Leila picks Amara up. "They have daycares in the pack, I'll take her to one of them," she says to Kelvin who nods in agreement.

"Alpha, if you don't mind, this family has somewhere to be," she says icily, a sneer on her face.

Tatum smiles at them, genuinely, but the smile just cannot reach his eyes. "What a beautiful family, I wouldn't want to interrupt your plans," he says wryly and turns to leave when Kelvin's phone rings.

"Yes your honour, yes, sure, no, yes,

yes, absolutely, yes, alright, I

understand, won't be a problem, I'll

be there, Kelvin says in coherent order, conversing with the person at the other end of the phone before he drops it and turns to Leila, glances at Tatum before looking back to Leila.

"The judge, who's supposed to preside over the case, he has a family emergency and he's pushed the time for the hearing back, if we don't make it in thirty minutes, mom will have to remain in custody for two weeks, that's when he gets back," he whispers to Leila.

Tatum halts, his better hearing picking up Kelvin's whisper and he turns with life returning to his face.

"Just let me look after her for you."