

## Chapter 95

"I thought we were past this," Amanda says in a clearly irritated tone, scowling at the way Carmela has her arm wrapped around Tatum's elbow and the two are beaming with smiles.

An important part of the werewolf games is the charity donation day. An initiative that was developed to help the less privileged and needy of the various packs. Every pack and their Alpha were to pick another pack and donate to that pack's less privileged and needy.

While Leila is busy handing out supplies and supervising the affairs of things, carrying out her duty as Luna, Carmela is perched at Tatum's side and he lets her.

Leila smiles bitterly at them before she replies to Amanda. "They share a bond my love cannot compete with, I cannot stop Tatum from being with her."

"Don't give me that crap," Amanda sneers at Leila. "Even if Tatum's hands are tied because of some prophecy or bond or whatever, you of all people know Carmela is an evil psychotic bitch who should not be allowed anywhere near the Alpha."

"But the alpha wants her near him. What do you want me to do about that?" Leila says in a pained and bitter tone, glancing in their direction and her eyes lock with Tatum's but he smoothly looks away, handing Carmela a bag of supplies to hand to someone.

Leila feels a sour taste in her mouth and her heart lurches with a subtle pain.

She hates Carmela, she really does but at the end of the day, Adaline is

right, she is Tatum's fated mate, the only one who can give him true peace and happiness and she sees how naturally happy and comfortable Tatum always is around Carmela.

She wants to trust Tatum, hold on to his promise that he will never let her go but with every passing day, it is becoming hard to do so, Tatum is like a moth, drawn to Carmela's flame and it is the fear that she may harm him as she grows more desperate that makes Leila want to stay and fight.

But what if she is Carmela's only problem? She has been thinking a lot lately, Carmela's attack has been mostly directed towards her except for that day at Aragine hill where Adaline was forced to protect her and got hurt in the process.

What if she just leaves? Does that guarantee the safety of everyone else?

Tatum may have feelings for her, enough to keep her with him with a promise to never let her go but isn't she just standing between him and true happiness?

If she leaves, maybe she can experience that happiness too, she can devote the time to finding her mate and getting his mark, she too can enjoy the peace and happiness that comes with having a fated mate.

"He's coming," Amanda says, nudging her out of her troubled mind.

Tatum shines beautifully under the sunlight as he gallantly strides towards her, his majestic face flushed with a pleasant smile as he waves left and right to the people who greet him.

Leila's heart thuds with pain.

It hurts her so much that she is even thinking of leaving him. Is she really

going to give up now after everything she has endured?

What about their child?

If she leaves, won't she be depriving a father of a son and a son of a father?

She remembers how happy Tatum was the day she told him about the baby, the shock and surprise on his face that quickly turned into joy and delight, the way he grabbed and twirled her, his hearty laughter and his promise to never leave them.

Her heart sears with her self inflicted pain and she looks away.

"I think you've done enough for today, you should rest," Tatum says in a concerned voice, holding her hand against the bag she is about to give out and just like always, his touch soothes her, comforts and soaks the wearing in her chest away.

She looks up into his calm eyes and for a moment, she is lost in a daze.

Does she really have to leave him because of the mate bond? No one does it for her like him.

"I'm fine," she replies, hesitantly moving her hand away. "Take these boxes here, you and Carmela's supplies are almost finished."

Tatum looks at her, barely able to hide his shock. He came over because he saw the way Leila looked at him and Carmela.

Despite his own pain, he knows Leila hates Carmela around him too much and he doesn't want her to feel bad but she sounds like it is not even an issue.

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She is even sending him back with more boxes to Carmela when he is trying to get away from Carmela to spend some time with her.

Has Kelvin told her something?

Even if Leila doesn't love him, the one thing she is jealous of is Carmela's presence around him, that used to give him some respite that she somehow desires him but even that is gone too?

"Sure," he replies monotonously, grabbing two boxes and Leila stares sullenly at his back as he leaves.

A tiny part of her wishes he insisted for her to rest, that he spent a little more time with her but he just took the boxes and hurried back to Carmela.

This thing between them, this mate bond that he and Carmela share, she can never really compete against it.

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