

Irresistible 351

[Chapter 351 The Butterfly Effec](#)

Sylvia's POV:

When I finally came to my senses, I found myself already back in school and on my way to the dormitory room.

I shook my head in disbelief. My feet felt numb and my legs moved mechanically.

I just couldn't believe that Rufus announced our mate bond to the public so suddenly. Although I had always known that he wanted to make it public, I never allowed him to do it because of his parents' attitude towards me.

I didn't want to be the reason why their relationship went sour.

Just now, when Rufus announced our mate bond to the public, it caused a great uproar. In the end, Ethan had to take control of the situation by finishing the closing ceremony himself.

Fortunately, Ethan didn't seem too unfazed by Rufus' action. Laura, on the other hand, was obviously unhappy. Her expression was dark throughout the entire closing ceremony. After that, she left without saying a word to Rufus.

I too was shocked. I didn't even know how I made it back to school. My mind was in complete and utter shambles after what had happened just now.

Rufus' behavior was too unexpected.

His love life was always under the limelight. After all, a werewolf of his status required a mate on the same level as him.

Many werewolves had predicted that his mate would be Alina.

But unfortunately, I let them all down. They were likely surprised that I turned out to be the dark horse.

As I walked in a daze, I heard whispers around me. I looked up to find passers-by all looking at me funnily and whispering to each other.

This was nothing new to me. But, this time, they weren't looking at me with disdain. Rather, they looked curious and jealous even.

Feeling everyone's gazes on me, I couldn't stand it anymore and quickened my pace back to my room.

As soon as I entered, Flora pounced on me excitedly. I took a step back to steady myself and caught her

in my arms.

Surprised that she wasn't at the hospital, I asked, "What about Warren? Is he all right?"

Flora stuck out her lower lip. "He's going to be fine and he was transferred to a VIP ward. The doctor said he would wake up soon."

"That's great news!"

Finally, some good news. I wanted to call Harry over to celebrate, but something felt off with Flora. So I pulled her to sit on the sofa next to me and looked her over carefully.

"Is there something bothering you, Flora? I get the feeling that you're unhappy. And why did you come back from the hospital so soon?"

Flora sighed and rested her chin on her hands. Her sweet smile had vanished and was replaced with a dejected frown. "Warren's father was there. I was in no position to stay, so I left."

"What are you even talking about? You're Warren's girlfriend." I frowned, too.

"Well..." Flora scratched her head, at a loss for words. It seemed that she didn't know how to answer.

"Did you leave because of Warren's father?" I guessed.

Warren's father was so stern. It was only natural that Flora felt uneasy in his presence.

"Yes," Flora admitted quickly.

"What're you planning to do? You're going to go back to your pack and meet his parents sooner or later." I looked at my friend with concern, patting her on the shoulder.

Hopefully, Warren's father was only serious on the surface. Perhaps he was easy-going behind in private.

"Oh, enough about me. I don't even know if we'll be together long enough for me to meet his parents." Flora waved her hand dismissively. Her words were heartless. If Warren heard what she said, he would've jumped out of the bed right then and there.

"Why so pessimistic, Flora?" I shook my head helplessly. Flora was so unorthodox, even when it came to relationships.

Flora tugged at my arm and pouted like a spoiled child. "Quit scolding me, Sylvia."

I poked her forehead with my forefinger reproachfully. "Warren's a good man. I really think he's good

for you."

"Whatever," Flora replied perfunctorily.

Then she shifted the spotlight to me.

"So is Prince Rufus going to propose to you yet? I mean, he professed his love for you in public already." Flora wriggled her eyebrows at me mischievously. "I can't wait 'til you two have a child for me to play with."

I looked at her with wide eyes, both amused and annoyed. I pushed her away playfully. "What're you talking about? He just announced our mate bond, nothing else."

I decided not to mention it out loud, but I couldn't help but think about the witch's curse on Rufus and how he might never have children. Well, even if the curse couldn't be lifted, I was ready to spend the rest of my life with Rufus childless.

"Come on, Sylvia. Spill the beans already. I know that Prince Rufus is so bossy. He must have asked you to move in with him, am I right?" Flora looked me up and down knowingly. "Is he good in bed?"

My cheeks immediately burned as the intimate scenes from last night resurfaced in my mind.

"He is, isn't he?! It's written all over your face, Sylvia!" Flora pointed at my red face and laughed so hard.

She was such a gossip and kept pressing me for details.

I couldn't stand it anymore. I shrugged her off and said coolly, "If you're so curious, go and explore with Warren."

At the mention of that boy's name, Flora's confidence faltered. "Okay, okay. I'll behave."

I ignored her and got up to take a shower. It was a hot day today and I had sweated a lot.

"By the way, where is Rufus now? Now that your mate bond has been made public, you should have celebrated together. How could he let you walk back here all by yourself?" Flora followed me to the bathroom and asked in confusion.

I immediately went stiff and complicated feelings surged in my heart. "After the closing ceremony, Rufus was called away by the lycan king."

[Chapter 352 The King's Choice](#)

Rufus' POV:

My father and I retired to his study. Neither of us exchanged a word for a while. He was standing with his back to me. But his angry face was reflected on a row of crystal glass decor pieces on the shelf.

Five minutes of silence later, I couldn't help but break the ice first. "Father."

My father snorted but refused to turn around.

"Then, if there's nothing you need to tell me, I'll get going first," I said nonchalantly. The truth was, I knew exactly why my father was angry, but he had no choice but to accept it.

All of a sudden, my father whirled around and slammed his fist on the desk. "You insolent child! How dare you! It's clear that you don't even take me seriously!"

I looked up at him calmly and said in a flat tone, "Father, did you forget that we have already reached an agreement?"

"Even then, you should have informed me in advance!" My father pointed a trembling finger at me. Eyes wide with rage, he demanded, "Do you have any idea what you've done? You acted without my consent then reported to me afterwards."

"Please, don't be angry." I frowned slightly. "We agreed from the very beginning that I'd announce my mate bond as soon as we proved Sylvia's mother's innocence. I kept my end of the bargain and didn't make it public until now. I think I should be the one who's aggrieved right now."

My father burst into crazed laughter. "You? Aggrieved? There were so many people present today. Couldn't you wait for one second?"

"All the better. What's the point of making it public if there were only a few people present?" My eyes twinkled mischievously and I smiled at my father calmly. In my eyes, there wasn't a problem. The more people knew about it, the better. In fact, if I had it my way, I would've wanted to tell the whole world that Sylvia was mine.

My father's nostrils flared but he couldn't say a word.

"Sylvia's a good girl, but she needs more experience." He finally sighed in defeat.

I nodded in agreement. "When she serves in the army, I will make sure she received special training."

My father glanced at me and shook his head helplessly, signaling that he was ready to compromise. "Anyway, there's something I need you to do. Just leave Sylvia's training to Leonard."

I looked up in surprise. I didn't expect that my father would make such an arrangement. It seemed that he had already expected this to happen and made the necessary arrangements in advance.

Sylvia would be very happy when she found out about this. Leonard used to be the strongest warrior in the empire. He would definitely make a good teacher, and Sylvia could benefit a lot from his guidance.

"Thank you."

My father snorted coldly. After a while, he opened his mouth to say something more, but then stopped on second thought.

Confused, I raised one eyebrow at him questioningly. "Was there anything else you wanted to say to me?"

My father averted his gaze, as though he was embarrassed. In that moment, I realized he was thinking about Richard.

"I'll never forgive him."

"I'm not asking you to forgive Richard..." His tone turned a little anxious. "After everything that happened, I now realize that Richard can never hold such a high position because it's difficult for him to take responsibility."

I didn't say anything but looked at him calmly, waiting for him to say more.

My father heaved a long sigh. "So I brought Lucy to the palace. I will personally take care of the baby when she gives birth. If..."

He paused and looked at me with an embarrassed expression. I couldn't read the emotion in his eyes. "If ever you can't have the curse removed, I hope that you and Sylvia can take care of the child and protect the empire when I'm gone."

My knee-jerk reaction was to sneer coldly. For a moment, I was angry, but I soon calmed down.

The truth was, I didn't care who took over the throne. What I did care about was my father's attitude. He always made plans for my life without bothering to consider how I felt.

"I know it's unfair to you, but I'm old and my days are numbered. I can't just stand by and watch my bloodline die off. So Rufus, please understand me."

Only then did I realize how white his hair was and how wrinkly his face had become. I suddenly didn't know what to say.

My father suddenly stood up and walked up to me. Patting me on the shoulder, he said gruffly, "I know it's unfair that I protect Richard this time, but the future king can't have a convict for a father."

The corners of my mouth twitched. I said stiffly, "Since you have made up your mind, I have nothing else

to say."

"Don't worry. I won't stop looking for a way to remove the curse." His voice was heavy. He looked at me and his gaze softened, as though he was an ordinary father looking at his child dotingly. "I really hope that you'll be the one to lead our empire in the future."

[Chapter 353 Parents](#)

Rufus' POV:

For a split second, my heart softened.

My father had went through great lengths looking for a way to remove my curse. And I also knew that he was worried about me but felt guilty that he couldn't find a way to help me, which eventually caused his own deteriorating condition.

I understood where his sadness and helplessness was coming from, and I knew he was telling me the truth.

But when all was said and done, I knew that I wasn't as important to him as the throne and the continuation of his bloodline.

My father put our bloodline on a pedestal. I wondered how he would react if he found out that the baby Lucy was carrying might not be Richard's...

For a moment, I wanted to tell him.

But the truth was just too cruel. Even I didn't have the heart to break it to him, especially when I looked into his wrinkled, sunken eyes.

"Fine. I promise. If we don't find a way to get rid of the curse, I'll support Lucy's child to inherit the throne."

My father finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, he closed his eyes and winced. "Go and see your mother now. She is very dissatisfied with how you handled things earlier. You need to solve this matter by yourself. There is nothing I can do to help."

His tone was sullen, as if something was weighing him down in his mind. An unnatural expression appeared on his old face.

I shrugged. I was under the impression that my mother had also given him a hard time because of Richard.

I excused myself and stood up to go find my mother.

But before leaving, I turned around to look at my father's lonely figure. A trace of pity surged in my heart. "Dad, take care of yourself."

It felt like the first time in years I had said something this sincere to him.

He looked up in surprise, as if he could not believe it. Even though he had experienced so many ups and downs in his years, at this moment, he couldn't hold back his emotions anymore. Tears welled up in his eyes.

Unsure how to deal with it, I quickly turned around and left in a hurry.

With mixed feelings, I went to my mother's room. As soon as I entered, a cup was smashed on the ground by my feet.

"How dare you show your face here!" My mother sat upright in her chair, her face contorted with anger.

"What's the matter with you, Mother? Anger isn't good for your health." I walked over calmly, unfazed by her rage.

She snorted and turned her face away. "If you really cared about my health, you wouldn't have announced your mate bond with Sylvia earlier."

I shrugged helplessly. "Mother, just accept it. I'm not marrying anyone but Sylvia."

"It's easy for you to say that. Did you ever even think about the consequences? Even if Sylvia isn't a slave anymore, I still don't accept her. She's just the daughter of a small pack's Beta. She doesn't even have parents. She has no one to rely on and is powerless. She is not a good match for you at all." My mother was very dissatisfied and pursed her lips tightly.

I chuckled. "I will take full responsibility for everything. Sylvia might've had no one to rely on before, but now she has me."

Hearing this, my mother grew even angrier. She pressed her fingers against her temple and winced, muttering, "Even my own son's against me. My life's a mess!"

"Mother, you're overreacting." I didn't know whether to burst into laughter or tears. "Look. I don't know what you have against Sylvia, but maybe you just need to get to know each other more. Sylvia's a good girl. Just give her a chance."

My mother raised her head and looked at me wryly. "Can she help you with your career? Marriage won't last on love alone. You need to complement each other and build a mutually beneficial relationship. Love won't be a necessity as time goes by."

"Mother, you're wrong. A marriage without love is just a death sentence. I don't need a powerful mate, for I am already capable enough to get whatever I want on my own," I said, casting her a cold glance. "Without Sylvia, my life will be meaningless."

[Chapter 354 Mother And Son](#)

Rufus' POV:

"Rufus, I've actually thought about what you've just said." My mother's anger suddenly dissipated and she just sighed sadly.

I didn't say anything. I just looked at her wrinkled, fragile face and couldn't help but feel a hint of bitterness in my heart.

Once upon a time, my mother was a soft-hearted, kind woman. But time had hardened her into a sharp, heartless woman who pushed those closest to her away. Our relationship grew more and more strained as the years went by.

I had known that she was dissatisfied with Richard. In the past two years especially, she and Richard were like fire and water, unable to even be in the same room together.

As for her relationship with my father, they were on and off. As soon as they'd get close to each other, one way or another, they'd drift away. They always quarreled. I rarely saw them affectionate with each other, unlike before.

I knew this was taking a toll on her heart, but I also knew that there was no one who could solve this problem but herself.

"Mother, I know you just want what's best for me, but I hope you'll stop interfering. You want Alina to be my wife, but I'm telling you now that it's never going to happen. Sylvia's the one for me. I'll only love her for the rest of my days." I made myself clear once more.

While it would've been great if my mother accepted Sylvia, it didn't matter if she didn't. Worst case scenario, the two could just avoid each other in the future.

Something seemed to occur to my mother. She smiled bitterly and said, "Your father said the same thing when he proposed to me. But look at what happened. He still cheated on me and, not long after you were born, he brought a disgusting bastard child to me."

After saying that, her energy seemed to drain and she let out a long sigh. Her voice was weary and helpless, as if she had lost the thing she held most dear. Her once fiery eyes now only had embers. "Rufus, you're my pride and joy. Every mother wished the best for her child. Love did nothing for me in this life. I can't allow the same thing to happen to you. You have to understand that I'm doing this to secure your future."

Her stubborn words made me sigh helplessly.

I didn't know how to tell my mother that all her planning had been useless. Her lifetime of efforts had become a mere joke since the moment I was cursed.

Seeing her so fragile, I couldn't help but walk over to her and hug her. "I know, Mom."

She was stunned. After a long while, she hugged me back gently. "Rufus, we haven't been this close in a while now. Ever since you were past a certain age, you've rarely visited me here."

My heart sank. When I was young, she used to hug me like this, comforting me gently and loving me with all her heart. Now, we both were no longer young, yet she still carried a heavy burden on her frail shoulders.

"Mom, I promise I won't let Richard take the throne. He will never get what he wants."

I felt my mother's body stiffen, but she didn't say anything.

"So please don't worry, Mom. I'll take care of everything, okay?" I pulled away to look her in the eye seriously. "It's just like you said. I'm your pride and joy. So you should trust me."

She looked back at me with a complicated expression. She seemed to want to say something, but in the end, she couldn't get a word out of her mouth.

Finally, she simply sighed and waved her hand dismissively, wordlessly asking me to leave.

"Get some rest, Mom."

After I left her place, I felt conflicted.

For some reason, it had never occurred to me how old my parents had gotten until this moment. Why would they spend more than half their lives clinging to something so stubbornly?

My father was obsessed with the bloodline, while my mother could never admit defeat.

No matter how stubbornly they clung to their beliefs, they would turn into dust and ashes in the end.

As I pondered over this, I quickened my pace. I wanted to see Sylvia as soon as possible.

Maybe I was no different from them. My parents both held onto their own opinions, while I was also stubborn when it came to Sylvia.

[Chapter 355 An Annoying Man](#)

Sylvia's POV:

Flora and I were chatting happily when the matron knocked on our door. She said that someone was looking for me, and that that someone wasn't a student of the school so he could only wait outside.

I was a bit taken aback, wondering who it could possibly be. It couldn't be Rufus, since he was busy dealing with his parents. Moreover, if it was Rufus, the matron would've recognized him instantly.

But I couldn't think of anyone else other than Rufus who would come and visit me.

Confused, I shrugged and walked downstairs with her. As soon as I reached the door, I saw Shawn waiting for me at the gate.

My expression immediately darkened. I turned around, intending not to deal with him.

Unfortunately, I was too late. Shawn saw me and trotted over hurriedly. "There's something I need to tell you."

I shook him off and pursed my lips unhappily. "We have nothing to talk about."

I tried to walk away again but Shawn was a stubborn man. He grabbed my wrist and hissed, "Please give me a chance. I just need to say something."

"Let me go," I said icily. "Unless you want me to break your hand."

Shawn withdrew his hand sulkily and he lowered his gaze listlessly. "Look. I'm sorry, okay? I've wronged you for years."

I crossed my arms over my chest and said expressionlessly, "If you came here just to apologize, then what's the point? You already apologized last time."

Did this bastard really think that apologizing twice would make up for all the hurt he had caused me these years? If so, then he really was an idiot.

I wanted nothing more than for him to just stay away from me. It'd be best if I never saw him again.

Whenever I saw him, the painful memories of those insults and abuses to my mother would resurface.

Shawn smiled awkwardly and twiddled his thumbs. "That's not the only reason why I came. I want you to come back to the pack."

I looked at him in disbelief and almost burst into laughter. What a joke!

"Shawn, wake up!" I snapped impatiently. "I left the pack and don't intend on coming back."

"What? Why?" Shawn's eyes went as wide as saucers, as though he was surprised that I would refuse him so directly. "Your mother was proven innocent and you're still the daughter of our pack's former Beta. You can come back with me now and become the new Beta."

"Not interested." I rolled my eyes, wanting this to be over as soon as possible. "Give the position to whoever wants it."

It was hard for me to leave the pack; there was no way I could just go back again.

Shawn frowned unhappily. "Won't you at least think about it? The Beta position has been vacant for a while now, and Gamma Mateo was executed. Our pack is severely lacking in talents. I can't manage the whole pack by myself."

I couldn't help but sneer. "So this was your plan? My whole life, your pack treated me like a slave and spat on me and my mother. Now that I'm useful, you've come here to beg for my help?"

Shawn wrung his hands anxiously. "Even if you join the army, you'll be nothing but a soldier. You won't have any power, nor anyone to rely on. But if you come back with me to the pack, it'll be different. Although you'll be under me, you'll be superior to tens of thousands of people."

I rolled my eyes once more. Although we hadn't seen each other for such a long time, Shawn was still as stupid as I remembered.

"'Superior'? Do you seriously think that I'll fall for such bullshit?"

I felt so disgusted by his hypocrisy that my voice reeked of icy disdain. Shawn was infuriated by my provocation. "Do you think you can be complacent just because Prince Rufus announced your mate bond? What if he falls in love with someone else?"

"Whatever happens, it's none of your damn business." I was running out of what little patience I had left.

"Hey, I'm just being honest. Besides, it's obvious that Queen Laura doesn't like you either. She likes Alina more. Alina is the daughter of the Silver Moon Pack's Alpha. She is of noble descent. Only someone like her deserves a prince."

At this point, I was in complete disbelief at how audacious Shawn could be. "Mind your own fucking business!"

[Chapter 356 Scumbag](#)

Shawn's POV:

Sylvia's attitude was such a letdown. How could she change into a completely different person in a matter of months?

I softened my tone, trying to calm her down. "I know you still resent me. Could you at least give me a chance to make things up to you?"

Sylvia said nothing. Instead, she just looked at me as though I was a stranger, which only made me want to conquer her more.

"Look, Sylvia. I regret what I did, okay? I shouldn't have turned away from you at the time." I looked at her affectionately. "Have you forgotten the good old days? We were childhood playmates and everyone thought that we'd become a couple when we grew up. Sure enough, when we were old enough, the Moon Goddess designated us together."

As I spoke, I still reasoned that I was the one Sylvia deserved. Her toughness and power were exactly what I needed. Not to mention her beautiful face. That was a good bonus.

Sylvia's expression darkened. She opened her mouth to say something, but I quickly interrupted her.

"Just hear me out, Sylvia," I said hurriedly. "If it weren't for Mateo and all those misunderstandings, I would never have refused you. Can't you see? We're meant to be together. Prince Rufus won't be able to stand in our way!"

"Enough, Shawn!" Sylvia closed her eyes and took a deep breath to stay calm. "That was a long time ago. Let the past die. As for the Moon Goddess's arrangement, I agree that it was fate at the time."

"It's fate for us to be together!" I hated it whenever Sylvia acted so lofty and indifferent. Trying to win her over, I couldn't help but blurt out the sweet words that bubbled up from my heart. "Sylvia, the truth is, I've liked you for years. But I thought that you were the daughter of the person who murdered my parents, so I hated you at the same time. But now that that's been cleared up, I know I was wrong. Let's start over."

Tingling with excitement, I couldn't help but reach out and place my hand on Sylvia's shoulder. Her eyes flashed dangerously and she immediately shoved me away.

Through gritted teeth, she said with disgust, "Shut up! Oh, God. I'm going to throw up!"

I was about to lose my patience now. What an ungrateful woman! I had been so humble before her, yet she remained so cold!

"As long as you come back with me, you'll be in charge of everything! I'll just be the werewolf behind you, supporting you silently. You can lead the pack while I take care of our family. Everyone will think that we're a perfect match." I somehow managed to swallow my anger and continued to persuade her. "When she was still alive, your mother wished that the pack would become stronger. You're her

daughter, so you should fulfill her last wish. You shouldn't toss your own mother aside for Prince Rufus' sake."

"Shawn, I'm not going with you. End of discussion. If you were really sorry, then just stay away from me. I love Rufus. Stop being so shameless." Sylvia gave me one last cold glance before turning around to leave.

I didn't believe she had no feelings for me, nor could I just let her slip away. "What're you talking about? Can you stop being so stubborn for once? I know I was wrong, okay? But I said I'm sorry already! Just come back with me, Sylvia. I promise I'll never lay my eyes on another she-wolf!"

As I spoke, I grabbed her arm, wanting to hug her. Sylvia tried to shove me away, but my stubbornness gave me unprecedented strength. I held onto her shoulder tightly and forcibly pulled her into my arms.

If I could, I wanted to kiss her lips, too. I imagined it was sweet and soft...

Picturing Sylvia in bed, I couldn't help but get hard down there.

"Sylvia, just stop being so stubborn and come back to the pack with me." I managed to subdue Sylvia and was about to lower my head, intending to kiss her soft lips.

But before I knew what was happening, I felt a hard blow from behind me and was flung forward from the impact.

I rubbed my hurting buttocks in agony and stared blankly at the perpetrator: Prince Rufus. What the hell was he doing here?

His face was as cold as ice, which sent a shiver down my spine and made my dick go limp instantly.

[Chapter 357 Public Display Of Affection](#)

Sylvia's POV:

When Rufus came to my rescue, I couldn't help but feel a little guilty.

I didn't expect Shawn would act so shamelessly, so I was startled and didn't get rid of him soon enough.

I rubbed the wrist he had gripped just now, wondering how I'd explain everything to Rufus. He was probably burning with jealousy now.

Shawn was like a deer caught in headlights, too scared to utter a word. Rufus glared at him murderously and didn't need to say a thing for Shawn to get the message. He staggered off and ran away as fast as he could, like a puppy with its tail between its legs.

When that insufferable Shawn was finally gone, I hurried to hold Rufus's hand. "Thanks for saving me,

Rufus. Shawn is so annoying. I shouldn't have even met with him."

Rufus glanced at me coldly but didn't say anything. Instead, holding my hand, he walked forward, dragging me behind him.

I hurried to keep up with him and looked up at him embarrassedly. "So, when did you arrive?"

Rufus cast me a sidelong glance and smiled wryly. "How come I never knew that you had a childhood playmate who later became your destined mate? It turns out even the Moon Goddess was moved by your love."

Oh, shit! He had heard everything! And it was all that bastard's fault!

"Well, that's... not true," I stammered nervously, quickly lowering my gaze. "Shawn didn't know what he was talking about. We just grew up together. Nothing more."

"What?"

My eyes went wide as saucers and my heart leapt to my throat. Why did I say that? I was just begging for a misunderstanding!

I hurriedly held his arm and gave him a big smile. "Oh, you see, when we were kids, Shawn was the only other child my age, so he was my only playmate. But our friendship only lasted a couple of years. When my mother died, we became enemies. 'Childhood sweethearts'? Bullshit!"

By the time I was done explaining, I was out of breath. But I quickly added, "And when I found out that Shawn was my mate, I didn't hesitate to refuse him! You're the only man I've ever loved, Rufus, and the only man I'll ever love."

When I was met with silence, I was the one who felt stiffed. Frowning sadly, I asked softly, "Do you think I'm lying?"

Rufus didn't say anything but stared at me for a while. I couldn't help but feel nervous and wondered if I had said something wrong.

Unexpectedly, Rufus suddenly leaned forward and tried to kiss me.

My eyes darted around subconsciously, wondering if anyone was watching. But Rufus pulled me into his arms without hesitation. Then, he pressed his lips against mine.

His hands slipped around my waist and he held me as close as he possibly could. His kiss was passionate and almost anxious, his tongue dancing with mine.

I couldn't even breathe. I had to tug at Rufus's sleeve before he finally let go of me.

Although the kiss was brief, all my doubts were banished from my mind instantly.

"We've already made our mate bond public, Sylvia. Why should we hide?" Rufus gave me another peck, smoothed my hair, and continued to walk forward.

"No, I wasn't..." I murmured.

The glances from the passers-by around me made me feel shy and anxious, but happiness seemed to overpower all my other feelings.

Finally! I could tell the whole world that Rufus was my mate!

I looked at the man next to me happily and couldn't help but feel hopeful for the future.

Life was so beautiful after all.

As we walked past the playground, we hugged and kissed like a normal couple.

Whenever we touched, I'd get excited.

But after a while, I realized that there was something off about Rufus.

Although he was still clingy with me...

I could tell he was a little absent-minded. Rufus, who had always been cautious and self-aware, rarely let his guard down like this.

I looked up at his glazed over eyes and felt somewhat upset. Was he still angry about Shawn?

The more I thought about it, the more convinced I was that I was right.

Damn it! Shawn was such a jinx!

[Chapter 358 A Date In The Woods](#)

Rufus' POV:

As Sylvia and I walked along the school path, my mood gradually improved. But I still couldn't get rid of the heavy feeling lingering in my heart.

All of a sudden, Sylvia stopped abruptly in her tracks. I turned to look at her questioningly.

She seemed to want to say something, but decided not to on second thought.

Her expression looked so conflicted, I almost wondered if she had a stomachache.

But when I reached out to touch her face, her body temperature was normal. When I was about to ask her what was wrong, Sylvia suddenly pressed my hand against her lips and kissed it. "Rufus, you are the best. I love you so much."

I raised my eyebrows in pleasant surprise. Before I could respond, she threw her arms around me.

"You're precious to me, Rufus. I never want to leave your side, not even for a second."

The series of sweet talk made my heart feel something inexplicable.

Sure enough, Sylvia kept coaxing me with all kinds of compliments and sweet talk, even throwing in a kiss from time to time. Gradually, my heart softened.

I had a rough idea about what was on Sylvia's mind and why she was doing this, so I quietly enjoyed her flattery.

"Rufus, lighten up, will you?" Sylvia stood on tiptoe and kissed me on the lips again. Her wide eyes looked so innocent yet aggrieved. "Say something—anything! I promise I'll never see Shawn again. He's such an idiot!"

At the mention of Shawn, Sylvia wrinkled her nose with disgust.

I finally burst into laughter. Ruffling her hair, I said gently, "I'm not angry. Shawn doesn't stand a chance. Any sane person would know he's nothing compared to me."

"Huh? You're so annoying!" Sylvia's eyes went wide with indignation. "You're evil, Rufus! This whole time, you weren't angry but quietly made a fool of me! You almost made me cry just now!"

"What're you talking about? My brave Sylvia wouldn't cry so easily. She'll resort to violence first." I couldn't help but poke fun at her, flicking her smooth forehead with my finger lightly.

Aggrieved, Sylvia stuck out her lower lip like a hurt child. "I'd have made sure you couldn't get out of bed ever again."

I chuckled and winked at her meaningfully. "I look forward to it."

When she realized what I actually meant, Sylvia's cheeks turned bright red. She quickly averted her gaze, murmuring, "I'll take you to a place."

Then, she didn't say anything more and mysteriously led me to a small woods. Although it was remote, the scenery was beautiful. Thick trees surrounded a small lake, where egrets were resting on the crystal clear water.

"Flora showed me this place. She said that it's a perfect spot for couples to spend some quality time." Sylvia didn't dare look at me. Her ears were red. Shyly, she twiddled her thumbs and said, "Why don't... Why don't we try it?"

I pressed my lips against the back of her hand and whispered, "Okay."

Sylvia then pounced on me, wrapping her legs around my waist for support. She lowered her head and nibbled on my lips like a shy beast.

I held her in my arms, letting her do to me whatever she wanted.

The atmosphere was intimate. As she kissed me, my breath became heavier and the fabric around my crotch grew tight suddenly.

Sylvia, who was straddling on my waist, felt my cock go hard. She blushed shyly but her hand reached down to stroke my trousers.

I tried to put aside all my messy emotions and concentrated on Sylvia. Just as I was about to lose control of my lust, Sylvia suddenly withdrew her hand. She looked deep into my eyes and said seriously, "Rufus, what's wrong?"

Huh?

I blinked at her blankly. When I came to my senses, I propped her buttocks up and asked, "What made you ask?"

"I can tell that something's bothering you. You look depressed." Sylvia looked at me worriedly.

I didn't expect her to be so sensitive. I had thought I hid my emotions well.

Sylvia pulled away from me and straightened out my clothes. "Let's talk about it."

I scratched my head, falling silent for a while. But seeing how concerned Sylvia looked, I sighed. "I just realized that I'm not a good son to my parents."

[Chapter 359 Enlightened](#)

Rufus' POV:

Reassured by Sylvia's gentle gaze, I began to vent my emotions.

"My father nearly cried just because I called him 'dad'. And my mother said that I had drifted away from her a long time ago. I didn't realize until today that, ever since I was cursed, I had isolated myself and pushed my parents away."

Sylvia tilted her head to the side and mulled over what I said. "When did you start to distance yourself from Queen Laura?"

"Probably around the time after I was cursed," I said after thinking for a while. Smiling bitterly, I continued, "She didn't know about the curse back then. In order to keep it a secret, my father took me in under the guise of training me. He didn't allow me to contact anyone, including my own mother."

That was the darkest period in my life. Not only did I have to endure physical pain, but also mental suffering.

I knew that I had become a monster. I felt like I was drowning in a devastating pool of despair, choking out any ounce of hope left in me. But I wanted to live. And in order to do that, I had to accept the harsh reality. On the one hand, I despised myself, while on the other, I strived to live. It was also thanks to the mental anguish that the curse caused that my temperament changed greatly. I gradually became sensitive and irritable, not wanting to get close to anyone." I forced a smile and laughed at myself bitterly. "After all, who would want to be friends with a monster?"

Sylvia threw her arms around me tightly. "Rufus, that's all in the past. I'm here with you now, and I'm more than willing to help you shoulder the pain and difficulty. You're no longer alone."

I hugged her back and buried my face in her neck. "Thank you, Sylvia," I murmured in a hoarse voice. "I think I should stop pushing myself. I need to stop ignoring those closest to me."

Sylvia ran her fingers through my hair and said gently, "It doesn't matter, Rufus. It's never too late to try fixing the problem. We still have a lot of time to mend your relationship with your parents."

"Sure..." I sighed, although it felt cathartic to finally tell Sylvia what was on my chest.

Sylvia rubbed her nose against the tip of mine. "Well, don't be upset anymore. If you keep scowling like that, I'm afraid you'll get wrinkles early."

A little embarrassed, I muttered, "I'm not upset."

"You are! Your face is so gloomy that it can make a child cry," Sylvia pouted, rubbing my cheek with her thumb.

I chuckled and looked at her affectionately. I didn't move and just let her play with my face.

Finally, Sylvia leaned over and pecked me on the lips. Then she rested her head on my shoulder and murmured, "You know what? My life was a mess before I met you."

Startled by this sudden confession, I didn't say anything but held her in my arms.

"At the time, I felt so helpless, thinking about my mother and my hopeless future," she continued.

My heart ached. I felt sorry for her and I looked at her.

Sylvia seemed to have sensed my gaze. She raised her head and smiled at me warmly. "But things are better now. I have you. I'm no longer sad and I won't let the past ruin me."

As Sylvia talked about her childhood, she sat up and tinkered with my hand.

"My mother was stern, but she was thoughtful and more considerate than anyone else. Every time she needed to scold me, I knew she felt worse than I did. I'd catch her secretly wiping her tears because she felt bad about being so strict with me." Sylvia chuckled softly. It seemed that her warm memories with her mother made her wistful.

Her calmness was infectious, and my restless heart soon became peaceful.

The truth was, I had actually met Sylvia's mother many years ago.

I was only a teenager at the time. We had met at a celebration ceremony of the empire. Sylvia's mother had come to the imperial palace with the Alpha of their pack. While she had a very serious look about her, her smile was very gentle.

Thinking of this, I suddenly thought about Sylvia's mysterious origin.

Sylvia carried a lycan bloodline. Plus, in the forbidden forest, she showed mysterious power that could attract those crows to fight for her, which made me feel a little uneasy. But when I had her background investigated, we found that her mother was just an ordinary she-wolf.

Which meant that Sylvia's power came from her father's side...

Thinking about this, I couldn't help but steal a glance at Sylvia. She was still reminiscing her past.

After a moment's hesitation, I asked, "What about your father? Did you ever meet him?"

[Chapter 360 Clues About Her Father](#)

Sylvia's POV:

At the mention of the word "father", my mind went blank. It was a very strange word to me, and there was nothing my mind could conjure to describe my father.

I lowered my head sadly. "I've never had a father."

"Didn't your mother tell you anything about him?" Rufus cocked his head to the side, confused.

I shook my head and hunched my shoulders. "No. One time, when I was a child, I heard another child gossiping about me right to my face. He said that my mother was a whore who left the pack and then came back pregnant with me, which was why no man wanted us. Hearing this, I taught him a lesson. Since then, no child wanted to play with me—that is, except Shawn."

Recalling this, the pain from the past resurfaced like a throbbing scar. "The truth is, I didn't care so much about being the black sheep. What I cared about was my mother. She was such a good she-wolf and didn't deserve to be treated like that."

Rufus' expression darkened. "What if your father's still alive? Maybe there's a reason why your mother didn't talk about him."

I lowered my head and didn't reply, lost in my own thoughts.

When I was a child, I had sometimes asked my mother about my father, but she always said the same thing: that my father had left for a faraway place.

And whenever I asked, she always looked so sad. I didn't want to make her sad, so I slowly learned to stop asking about my father's whereabouts.

When I was older, I came to believe that either my father had abandoned us or he had died.

Compared with my longing for father's love in my childhood, now I wanted an answer more.

So even if my father had chosen to leave me and my mother, I hoped that he was still alive.

"Before my mother died, she gave me something, saying that I'd find my father with it." I suddenly remembered and raised my head to look at Rufus. "But because I was a slave, I wasn't able to leave my pack for years and was never able to try looking for my father."

"Did you bring it with you here?" Rufus asked.

I nodded. "Yes. Flora has seen it, too. She said that my father might've come from her pack."

"Why? Is it a symbol of the pack?" Rufus frowned slightly, trying to put the pieces together.

I shrugged, not sure of the answer myself. "It's a pattern. Flora said it was a totem that their pack used to use before. I actually had planned to go to her pack after I finished school. Maybe I'd find some clues there."

Although chances of finding my father were slim, I was still hopeful.

But there was a nagging fear in my heart that my father was already dead.

"Can you show it to me? If it's an old pack symbol, maybe I can find a lead." Rufus looked at me, his eyes flashing with determination. "Your mother didn't want to tell you who your father was when she was still alive, which means your identity isn't so simple. Your father probably isn't an ordinary werewolf, so we will have to think out of the box and look for him in an unorthodox way."

"Unorthodox? What do you mean?" I tilted my head to the side, not understanding where he was going with this.

Rufus smiled and ruffled my hair. "Silly girl, you have to show me what your mom left you first before I can figure out how to begin the search for your father."

"Oh, okay. But it's in my dormitory. Let's go back and get it."

It was getting dark and night was about to fall. Perhaps I could have dinner with Rufus after fetching the thing from my dorm.

Rufus got on his feet. Then he helped me up and patted the dry grass off my clothes.

But before we could turn to leave, we suddenly heard ambiguous sounds around us—it was a mix of she-wolves gasps and moans and the rustling of clothes. Obviously, some werewolves were having sex.

And judging from the sounds, there were more than one couple.

My body went stiff. We couldn't leave, lest we get caught in an awkward situation. Rufus and I exchanged knowing glances and quickly squatted down again.