

STRANGE MAN IN THE EMPTY ALLEY

"How...?" Killian stood there in horror to see Willow standing before his eyes, she was alive. "How can you still be alive?"

Willow started crying when she saw Killian and she apologized for what she had done. "I am sorry, Killian... I am so sorry that I left you without any explanation."

Willow approached Killian, but when she wanted to touch him, he swatted her hands, which made Willow cry even harder. Abigail immediately approached her daughter and hugged her tightly.

"Alpha, please, listen to her explanation first. Please, don't judge her..." Abigail was crying too, she hugged Willow like a treasure.

"Don't judge her?" Killian mocked. "How can I judge a dead woman?"

Willow wailed when she heard that.

Finally, it was Brian, who explained what actually happened to his daughter. As it turned out, Willow found her destined mate and decided to run away with him.

"AND WHY DID YOU RETURN NOW?!" Killian hollered.

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Even though she was heavily pregnant and her body felt miserable, Althea still needed to work. She couldn't be slacking off, since she was the only provider for herself and the baby.

She worked at the flower shop and because of her situation, every penny mattered, which resulted in her deciding to live frugally.

Althea was eating just enough to keep herself from starving, preventing her baby from dying and giving a little bit of strength for her body to go through the day. If only she was not pregnant, she would have skipped a few meals and just drank water to quench her hunger.

However, she couldn't do that while being heavily pregnant, even so, she still couldn't satisfy her craving for every delicacy she desired.

"You can go home now, Althea." Daisy approached Althea. "We will close early because today is the day the queen died a year ago, it's a mourning day."

Althea only arrived on the main island five months ago, thus she didn't know about this new rule.

"Oh, okay. I will clean up."

"Thank you for today, Althea," Daisy said gratefully, she was the owner of the flower shop, a young woman with blue eyes, she looked so beautiful and gorgeous.

"Thank you for the food, Daisy," Althea replied with gratitude, because she could finally eat meat.

Daisy was a little bit upset when she learned how sparingly she ate everyday and said the baby needed her to eat more for them to be able to grow healthily in her womb.

However, Althea was being honest when she said she couldn't afford it.

"Anytime, Althea. You need to come to me if you need anything."

Althea was very thankful for her kindness and after that, she started toward her rented room. She was heavily pregnant right now and the only comfort for her in this cruel

world was her baby.

While she walked in this quiet alley, her baby would give her a kick, as if reminding her that they were there with her, to accompany her.

Althea was not afraid of walking in this empty alley, because it felt peaceful and she could talk to her baby, as if they could understand.

"We will eat nice meat tonight, are you happy?" Althea caressed her stomach and she was very impatient, she wanted to get to her room as soon as possible, so she and her baby could enjoy the meat.

This capital city was dimly lit, because everyone stayed inside their house and put out fire, as they mourned the death of their queen who left this world a year ago.

"I bet you will love our meal tonight..."

Suddenly Althea stopped talking when she heard a groan from her right direction. In this alley, there was no one else, but her. It was a very safe place, therefore Althea was not worried to walk alone in this alley, because it would take her faster to her rented room.

"Who is that?" Althea frowned. She noted a faint scent of blood in the air. "Are you hurt?"

There was no answer, but only another groan from whoever it was.

With a beating heart, Althea followed the sound of his groan and the closer she walked, the thicker the smell of blood was.

"Are you hurt?" Althea could see there was a man, sitting on the concrete. His head hung so low and aside from blood

and dirt, she smelled this strong smell of alcohol from him. Her body turned rigid. She remembered how Killian would come home, reeking of alcohol and then become very aggressive with her.

Althea was scared, she attempted to run away, but suddenly she heard that man started sobbing. It was so loud, but you could hear with the way he was breathing heavily and this halted her in her tracks.

"Are you okay?"

Althea wanted to leave him alone, but she didn't have the heart and instead, against her better judgment, she approached him.

She couldn't see his face, since his head hung so low, she wondered what he had gone through to drink himself to oblivion.

"Where do you live? I will take you back home, okay? Don't stay here, it's cold out here." Althea nudged his shoulder. "Can you hear me?"

The man finally lifted his head and his deep, dark eyes stared back at her, there was this deep sorrow when Althea saw him.

One look and she could tell that he had gone through hell and back. The pain in his expression was very palpable, which made Althea's heart ache for him.

"Come, I will walk you home, where is your home?"

Upon closer look, she could tell that the blood was coming from his hand, it seemed he had hurt his own hand, but the wound had healed, yet there was still this remaining blood.

The man didn't answer her question, but then his sight fell

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on her stomach, his eyes flickered and he suddenly stood up, startling Althea and then hugged her.

“Wait! What are you doing?!” Althea was very scared, because she was being hugged all of sudden.



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