

HOW MUCH DID I HURT YOU?

Althea flinched when he touched her. She was still uncomfortable to be touched by anyone, especially man and he seemed to understand that.

"I am sorry."

"Uhm, it's okay," Althea said groggily. She looked around her, it seemed at some point, this man had carried her to her bed and because her bed was not enough for two people, he slept on the floor instead. "I- I will make a breakfast..."

Althea immediately got off the bed and scurried away to the kitchen, only then she remembered that she didn't have anything to eat.

"You don't have any food in your kitchen."

The man followed her to the kitchen and voiced out what was in Althea's mind, he tilted his head at her little face that looked embarrassed.

"You are pregnant, but why you don't stock up enough food to eat?"

Althea played with her hair awkwardly. She felt embarrassed and at the same time annoyed. "Not all people could afford food."

There was this awkward silence that fell between them and Althea cleared her throat to get his attention.

"You can go home now."

The man stared at her for a while before he answered in somber tone. "I don't have home. My home has gone."

"What do you mean?"

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Killian drank to the point he passed out and Sean had to ask two warriors to carry him to his bed. She felt so bad to see Killian like this.

He had been neglecting his duty as the alpha of the pack because of how distraught he was. If he kept going on like this, Sean was afraid there was no going back for him.

Yes, he was very wrong for the way he treated Althea, Sean wouldn't find any justification for him, but she had been there for the alpha since he was little and to see him in so much agony, hurt her too.

"Sean."

Sean halted her step and went back to the alpha's side. "Yes, alpha? Do you need something?"

Killian seemed to have regain some clarity, but his eyes looked empty, as he stared at the ceiling. "Tell me, how bad I have treated her."

Sean sighed deeply. "Very bad, alpha," she said honestly, because she knew Killian was not stupid, he would be able to tell if she lied to him and it wouldn't do any good. He needed to know that he had crossed the line too far by being very cruel to Althea.

"How bad?" Killian asked again, he trusted Sean to tell him the truth.

Sean looked hesitated, she didn't want to hurt him more than this, because what she was going to tell him would be hard to hear.

She saw Killian as her own son and the alpha used to be a happy child, a wise leader and a great lover for Willow. But the man before her eyes was completely different person. She was so mad at Willow to change Killian into the person he was right now.

"She wished you kill her instead of keeping her by your side. She was afraid that you would kill the baby because of how much you hated her and she felt relief when you rejected her and banned her from the pack, because with that, she could leave everything behind."

Killian put his arm over his face. The silence was deafening. He shouldn't have asked if he couldn't handle the answer, but then he needed to hear this.

"What do you think I should do?"

"I think you should let her go, alpha. You have hurt her too much, taking her back here will only hurt her."

Killian pulled down his arm and got off the bed. His eyes filled with fire, a new determination. "No. I am going to find her. She is with my child. I am not going to let her raise our child alone."

Sean knew this would be Killian's reply. Things wouldn't be this complicated if Killian didn't know about Althea's pregnancy, but since he already knew, there was no way he would give up on her and his firstborn, his own flesh and blood.

"I am going to find her and take her back home, where she belonged."

Seeing there was no other option, Sean finally caved in. "Alpha, actually there is a way to find her."

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"I can't afford to buy so many food," Althea said in panic when she watched how this strange man put everything he laid his eyes on inside the basket.

"I don't ask you to pay. I am going to pay them all. I owed you for taking care of me."

"You don't have to!" Althea felt worry.

"You are pregnant, how could you not eat something healthy?"

"I need to go to work."

"Fine. Go. I will cook something delicious for you when you returned."

Althea argued with him, but this strange man didn't budge. He insisted to repay her 'kindness' for not leaving him alone in that dark alley.


In the end, Althea couldn't win the argumentation with him and dropped it. She let him to enter her rented room, after all, there was nothing that he could steal from there. She had nothing valuable in her possession.

With that thought, Althea went to work and that day was a very weird day, because someone bought all the flowers, which allowed them to close the shop early.

"It's so great!" Daisy was happy. She gave Althea bonus too. "Buy something nice, okay?"

"Thank you!" Althea was happy to have extra money and when she was about to leave the shop and return home, she found the strange man had been waiting for her. He looked more sober and clean than

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 15 bonus

the last time she saw him. He changed his clothes too.

And for Althea, this was the first time she saw him clearly. He looked warm and kind.

"I will take you back home," he said, opening a carriage door for her. "Get in."



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