

MEETING WITH HIM

There was time when Althea hated her father because he could only stand on the side line when Killian dragged her to his quarter and essentially locked her there.

She thought, her father would save her. She knew that they were grieving for the death of Willow, but she thought after a few weeks passed, they would come to see her, saved her from Killian's clutch, but her parents had never come, especially her father.

Althea was well aware that her mother preferred the company of Willow, but her father had been fair with them, thus she was closer to him, yet, he let her down.

What he was doing here?

Althea didn't know what to do, whether she had to confront him, or she simply pretended that she didn't see him. There was no way he was here for her, thus he probably wouldn't care even if he saw her, right?

But, her palms became clammy, she was sweating and her baby could feel the anxiety that rolled off her body. It was very uncomfortable and she wanted to bolt out of the tavern, run away from that man.

She prayed.

Yet, she didn't know what she had to wish for. Would she need to wish for her father to ignore her? Or what?

However, whatever pray that she had, it didn't work, because right now their eyes met.

Althea could see the shock in Brian's eyes, as if he didn't believe with own eyes. He was stunned, he was petrified. He didn't know what to do and for a brief second, the commotion from the festivity faded in the background and there was this white noise between them.

Althea felt her heart clenched tightly when Brian finally got back his bearing and walked toward his daughter.

Meanwhile, Althea was trying her best to act calm. She couldn't. She was so bad at acting.

She was trying to comfort her baby, who was being fussy right now and this drew her father's attention to Jasmine.

Heaven!

Althea wanted to disappear. She wanted to go from this tavern, suddenly everything was very suffocating and her knees went weak. She clumsily stood up and tried to leave, but Brian had hastened his steps, while her legs refused to cooperate with her.

What the hell she had to do right now? She wanted to scream for Brian not to approach her, but her voice didn't want to come out.

"Althea?" Brian approached his daughter. His eyes went to the baby in her arms. "Is that... your baby? My grandchild?"

Brian had never cried in his life, probably the moment he cried could be counted by only a hand, but right now, he really wanted to cry so hard upon seeing this little baby. He felt his heart was gripped tightly by invisible hand that refused to let him go.

"Althea... the baby..."

"No!" Althea said, she hugged Jasmine closer to her, as if she was afraid that Brian would snatch her away. "I need to go."

"Althea, please. Let's talk for a while, okay?" Brian pleaded with her. "I am sorry, Althea. I am sorry. I am sorry that I don't believe you. I know that you didn't kill your sister. I know that you must have not done something so horrendous like that. I should know that."

Althea halted in her steps for a while, as she listened to what he was going to say. He believed her?

"How?" She cracked. Tears brimmed in her eyes. "Why do you believe me now?"

"Because Willow is still alive," Brian said.

Althea couldn't feel herself anymore, she felt the world was spinning when she heard what Brian said. "W- what? What did you say?"

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Althea was here. She was indeed in this festival. Killian could feel it, he could feel Althea. He knew that she was here. It was only a matter of time before he finally could find her.

However, why it was so hard for him to even meet with her shadow?

Killian had looked around in this area, but he couldn't see her. He couldn't smell her sweet scent. There were so many people here. There

were so many scents in the air.

Killian had all of his warriors to spread around to look for Althea, but neither of them had returned to inform him about her whereabouts.

Instead of finding Althea, he met with Willow. It made his blood boiled with anger, because Willow was the last person that he wanted to see. He didn't want to see this woman. He didn't want this woman to be in his presence.

However, the moment their eyes met, he knew that Willow would approach him. There was no running away from her.

Or probably, he didn't need to run away from her.

Killian gritted his teeth, he tried to stay in his place when Willow intruded his space. He wanted to push her away when she was too close with him.

It was so funny to think that a year ago, he would do everything for this woman, but a year later, he couldn't even stand her scent. This was how funny the situation was right now.

"Killian!" Willow said. Her face flushed red. She had been looking for him, but she couldn't believe with her luck to actually meet with him among this crowd.

"Have you found Althea?" Killian didn't beat around the bush, he didn't have any intention to sugarcoat his words.

Willow's face dropped, she looked extremely disappointed because the first thing that Killian asked was Althea, but then, she cleared her throat and feigned her happiness.

"I have not yet found her, but I promised to meet with the friends that she would come to." Willow smiled brightly. "Come with me, probably you will see her when I met with her friends."

Killian didn't need to be asked twice, as he followed her.

Willow tried to grab his hand, but he clenched his fist.