

## Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 31 -

4 minutes read

Madeline's POV

"Let me help you, Maddie," Seth said as he wrapped his arm around my waist and picked me up.

There was a huge rock on our path. It was covered in snow and I couldn't see where I was going. Seth managed to step over it, but I couldn't. I was too short and not coordinated enough to pull it off.

Seth tightened his arm around me and pressed me against his chest. He smiled at me as he pulled me over to him.

"I forgot that you don't have your wolf yet," he chuckled as he put me down.

"I don't think it will get any better after I get my wolf," I mumbled. "I've always been a bit clumsy."

Seth chuckled as he fixed my hat and scarf.

"Are you cold?" he asked, making me shake my head.

"I'm okay," I said, giving him a small smile.

I was cold, but there was no way I would go back to that house any sooner than I had to. I wasn't going to let Janet hurt me again.

Seth smiled and took my hand in his.

"Watch where you step, okay?" he said as he continued walking. "There are a lot of rocks here."

I nodded and looked down at my feet. Seth wasn't wrong. I could see the sharp edges of the rocks beneath my feet. I couldn't really see how big the rocks were or how many were there. The ground was covered in snow and it was very slippery. I was suddenly nervous. I could already picture myself falling and breaking a few bones. I tightened my hold on Seth's hand and gulped.

"I won't let you fall, Mads," he said softly, making me look up at him.

He stopped walking and he looked at me. He gave me a warm smile and I was so thankful to him It helped me relax a little.

“I know,” I said as I smiled back at him.

He grinned and turned around.

“I am so excited to show you the lake,” he said as he started walking again. “It is one of my favorite places on our territory.”

A wave of excitement washed over me and for a moment I forgot about the slippery path I would have to cross to get there.

“It is gorgeous in the spring, but I think that I like it even more in the winter,” Seth continued. “There is something magical about a frozen lake.”

“I agree,” I said as I looked around me.

A small smile spread across my face. The tree branches were frozen and the ice made it look like they were glistening. The green branches of the pine trees around us were creating a beautiful contrast against the whiteness of the snow. The sun made it seem like the snow on the pine tree branches was glowing. The view was beautiful and I couldn't wait to get to the lake. I loved winter and I loved the scenery the snow created.

“Hold on, Mads,” Seth mumbled as he picked me up again.

There was another huge rock on our path. He was just putting me down when I heard someone scream my name.

“Madeline!” the voice shouted.

Seth and I turned around abruptly. Seth's arm around my waist tightened. My eyes widened when I saw Alpha Dimitri rushing toward us.

He looked panicked and terrified. He was running so fast and he wasn't even looking where he was going. I was afraid that he was going to slip and fall.

My heart raced. Did something happen? Did something happen to Mike?

Alpha Dimitri growled loudly when he saw Seth holding me close to him. His eyes blazed with fury, making me furrow my eyebrows.

“Alpha Dimitri,” I mumbled. “Did something happen?”

He didn’t respond. He continued approaching us at a fast pace and ripped me out of Seth’s arms as soon as he was close enough. I gasped and grabbed his shoulders to stop myself from falling backward.

Alpha Dimitri growled loudly. My whole body vibrated with the force of his growl.

“What the f\*\*k were you thinking, Seth?!” Alpha Dimitri shouted. “This trail is dangerous even without the snow! She doesn’t have her wolf yet! She could have fallen! Something could have happened to her! Are you f\*\*\*\*\*g insane?!”

My eyes widened as I glanced back at Seth. I could see a mixture of fear and anger on his face. Alpha Dimitri was holding me tightly. I couldn’t move. I was pressed so close to him that I could feel his heartbeat. His heart was racing.

“It’s okay, Alpha,” I forced myself to speak. “Seth is taking good care of me. Nothing will happen. I will be okay.”

He looked at me and a shiver went up and down my spine. I had no idea why his eyes on me made funny things happen inside my body.

“You will be okay because I am taking you home,” he said, growling quietly.

He looked at Seth and tightened his jaw.

“I am taking both of you home,” he continued. “That is an order, Seth.”

I looked back at Seth and saw him nod. He tightened his jaw and looked at me.

“You can put her down, Alpha,” Seth said. “I can take care of her.”

Alpha Dimitri growled loudly again.

“I am not putting her down,” he said, making the nervousness inside me grow. “I am not risking her getting hurt.”

I gulped and opened my mouth to tell him that I wouldn’t get hurt, but he looked at me before I could even say a word.

“Don’t start, Maddie,” he mumbled quietly. “I am making sure that you are safe.”

But why? Why did he care so much?

Alpha Dimitri turned around and started walking back. I looked at Seth who was following behind us. His fists were clenched and he had a pissed-off look on his face.

“Don’t you ever do something like this again, Madeline,” Alpha Dimitri said sternly, making me look back at him. “You can’t put yourself in danger like that.”

I wanted to ask him why he cared, but the look on his face told me not to.

It was probably because of Mike. I was Mike’s daughter and he didn’t want anything to happen to me.

I sighed and looked back at Seth. I saw him looking at me with a mixture of emotions on his face. I gave him a small smile, but he didn’t smile back.

I felt guilty. I ruined our hike. I would have to find a way to make it up to Seth.

## **Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 32 -**

4 minutes read

Dimitri’s POV

My heart was racing and I had to use so much of my strength to keep Skol from taking over and killing Seth.

‘Will you stop it?!’ I growled at him. ‘I need to focus on her and bring her home safe. You are distracting me.’

Skol growled but stopped pressing to be released.

‘Did you see his arms around her?’ Skol growled. ‘He touched her. He touched what’s ours.’

I tightened my jaw and forced myself to breathe as deeply as I could.

I saw that and I wanted to rip his arms off. He shouldn't have touched her. He wasn't allowed to touch her. No one was allowed to touch her.

I tightened my arms around her and focused on her scent. I knew it would calm me down. And I needed to calm down before I turned around and snapped Seth's neck.

'Mine,' Skol growled quietly.

I focused on my mate in my arms and I noticed her shivering.

A growl escaped me, making Maddie look at me confused.

"You are cold," I said as I stopped walking and put her down.

I started taking my jacket off, but she stopped me.

"I am fine, Alpha," she said, looking up at me.

Staring at her big, green eyes made my knees buckle. Her skin was pale, but her lips, cheeks, and the tip of her nose were red because of the cold. She looked adorable and I wished that I could capture her lips with mine.

"You are cold," I repeated, my voice quiet and raspy.

I took my jacket off, wrapped it around her, and picked her back up again. I could tell that she didn't want me to carry her, but I didn't give a shit. She put herself in danger. While I was running and trying to find her, I kept imagining her hurt. I needed to hold her to remind myself that she was okay.

A small smile spread across my face as I lifted her. She was wearing my jacket and I could smell my scent on her. Other males would be able to do the same. Other males would be able to smell me on her and they would know to back the f\*\*k off. It wouldn't last long, though. Not until I marked her.

After I did, my scent would be on her for the rest of our lives. Everyone would know that she was mine. No one would dare to touch her or take her away from me.

I heard Seth behind us and the anger hit me like a train. I forgot that he was there for a moment.

“What the f\*\*k were you thinking, Seth?” I asked again. “What if something happened? She is cold. She could have fallen. She could have hurt herself.”

“I would never let that happen, Alpha,” Seth mumbled. “I was taking good care of her.”

I saw red. He touched her more than once, didn't he? He helped her more than once, didn't he? What exactly did he do? What exactly did he touch?

“He is right,” my princess added, making me look down at her. “I wasn't in danger, Alpha. Mike shouldn't have sent you after me.”

Oh, my princess.

He didn't send me after her. I went after her because she was my entire life. I went after her because she was the most important person in my life. I went after her because just the thought of losing her made me sick. It made me want to scream and claw at my chest. I couldn't lose her. I couldn't let anything happen to her.

But I couldn't let her know that. I had to let her think that Mike sent me after her.

“Of course he did,” I mumbled. “He was worried that something could happen, Maddie.”

She glanced at Seth and sighed.

“We can go on another hike, Seth,” she said, making jealousy and anger explode inside me. “Maybe there is another trail that isn't as dangerous and Mike won't worry about me.”

I gulped and forced Skol back.

‘NO!’ he screamed. ‘Mine!’

I gritted my teeth and focused on breathing. I couldn't let a growl escape me.

“Sure, Mads,” Seth said softly. “We can go over the weekend.”

No.

No, no, no, no.

The fear and the jealousy would kill me.

“It’s winter, Maddie,” I said, trying to keep my voice from trembling. “It’s not the time to go on hikes.”

I tightened my jaw and kept my eyes on the trail ahead of us. I had to control my anger. I couldn’t let her see how f\*\*\*\*\*g pissed off I was. I didn’t want her to be alone with him. He liked her and I was terrified that she would start to like him too. He was probably hoping that she was his mate. He wasn’t a Lycan wolf and even if she was his mate, he wouldn’t be able to know until she got her wolf.

But she wasn’t his. She was mine.

Maddie didn’t say anything else.

‘We need to tell Seth that she is our mate and order him to stay the f\*\*k away from her,’ Skol growled. ‘I will go f\*\*\*\*\*g insane if she leaves with him again.’

I believed him. I would go insane too.

‘We can’t do that, Skol,’ I mumbled. ‘He could still tell her.’

You could go against Alpha’s command, but it was very painful to do it. Some wolves even died from the consequences of going against it. I couldn’t risk it, though. I couldn’t risk Seth telling her.

‘He won’t do it,’ Skol growled. ‘Tell him and command him not to tell her.’

I resisted the urge to roll my eyes.

‘We should tell everyone,’ Skol continued. ‘Everyone should know that she belongs to us.’

I gulped. There was nothing I wanted more, but I had to think about her. She was my priority, not the jealousy and the fear I felt

‘How would she feel if she found out that everyone knew before she did?’ I asked him. ‘She would be devastated, Skol. Finding your mate is such a special and beautiful thing. I am not taking it away from her. I am not telling anyone. I am not risking it.’

‘Seth wouldn’t go against your command,’ Skol said stubbornly.

I ignored him. I wasn't going to risk it. I didn't even know Seth that well and I couldn't be sure that he wouldn't try to tell her.

I looked down at my princess and I took a deep breath, letting her scent overwhelm me. I couldn't wait until I was lying next to her again. I could wait to hold her and kiss her soft cheek.

## **Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 33 -**

4 minutes read

Dimitri's POV

"How long until we get the results back?" I asked the doctor as I watched him write something down.

I couldn't wait for the six-week mark and I thought that I was going to lose my mind waiting for it. The only thing that kept me sane was Maddie and sleeping next to her every night.

I wanted the results back as soon as possible. I wanted to tell Savannah to f\*\*k off as soon as possible.

"Why are you so eager to get rid of me and your child?" Savannah asked as she wiped her cheeks. "This is your pup, Dimitri. I am your Luna. We should be together, Dimitri."

I saw red. She wasn't my Luna and her pup wasn't mine.

"How long, doctor?" I asked, keeping my eyes on Savannah.

"A couple of weeks, Alpha," the doctor said, making the anger inside me explode.

I wanted it to be done today. I wanted it to be done now.

Savannah sobbed and lowered her head.

"I wish that you believed me," she said, sobbing loudly. "You are going to kick yourself over this. This is your pup, Dimitri."

I gulped and tightened my jaw. I really wanted to punch the shit out of her, but I wasn't going to hurt her pup. I wasn't that cruel.



I approached her and placed my finger under her jaw. I lifted her head and studied her face for a few moments. She took that as a sign that I changed my mind. She smiled and wrapped her arms around my waist. I removed them immediately. I was Maddie's to touch. She had no right to touch me.

Her eyes widened and another fake tear fell on her cheek.

"I will give you some privacy," the doctor said as he gathered his things and left the room.

I kept my eyes on Savannah the entire time. She looked angry, but I didn't give a f\*\*k. I was the only one who had the right to be angry. She lied to me and tried to take me from my mate. She deserved to be punished and she would be as soon as she gave birth to her pup.

Are you here? I mind-linked Will as soon as the doctor closed the door.

I am. He responded. I am escorting him out. Don't worry.

I needed to secure the sample. I was afraid that Savannah or my mother would try to tamper with it. I was afraid that they would fake the results so they could make me take Savannah as my mate. I wasn't going to let it happen. The doctor and the sample he took had better security detail than I did when I traveled to other packs. Nothing was going to happen to the doctor or the sample. No one was going to tamper with the results.

Keep me posted. I told him and focused back on the woman in front of me.

"I know what your plan was, Savannah," I said, making her eyes widen. "You wanted to be Luna all along, didn't you? You thought that you could do it by faking a pregnancy."

She gulped and shook her head. She wanted to talk, but I didn't let her.

"Your first plan failed when I didn't believe you," I continued. "My reaction wasn't what you hoped it would be. You probably thought that I would be happy and take you as my mate immediately. I would mark you, have s\*x with you, and you would become pregnant. I would never know when exactly did it happen and you would achieve what you always wanted."

She shook her head again.

“I didn’t...” she spoke, but I interrupted her.

“So you had to find another way to trick me,” I sighed. “You found some poor man, f\*\*\*\*d him, and got pregnant, thinking that I wouldn’t question anything. How stupid and naive do you think I am?”

Anger washed over me and I had to push Skol back. He was ready to come out and rip her apart.

“I didn’t f\*\*k anyone,” she cried out. “This is your pup.”

I laughed and shook my head.

“We both know that’s not true, Savannah,” I said. “In a couple of weeks, we will have an official confirmation and I wouldn’t have to put up with you or your lies any longer.”

She sobbed and lowered her head.

“I can’t wait to see the expression on my mother’s face once she realizes that you’ve been lying,” I said, making her look back up at me.

Will suggested that my mother was somehow involved in Savannah’s plan, but I didn’t want to believe it. My mother could be unreasonable sometimes, but she was my mother. She would never hurt me like that. She just got excited by the thought of having a grandchild. I knew how hurt she would be once we got the test results back, but I also knew that she would be getting a real grandchild soon. Well, as soon as Maddie agreed to have a pup with me. She was still a little bit young and I wouldn’t be angry if she wanted to wait for a little while longer.

I couldn’t wait to have pups with Maddie, though. I could imagine her pregnant and it made my heart burst with happiness. Maddie and our child would have me wrapped around their little fingers. Maddie already did, but she didn’t know it yet.

“Your mom believes me,” Savannah cried out. “She knows that this is your pup.”

I sighed and shook my head. “I wish that she didn’t. It will hurt her more once the results come back.”

Savannah's eyes widened again. I bent down to look her in the eyes.

"For the record," I said quietly. "The only pups I will ever have will be with my fated mate. She will be the only one who will bare my child and the only one who I will ever call my Luna and my Queen."

Anger flashed in Savannah's eyes and I smirked.

"You are nothing compared to my mate," I continued. "She is everything to me and I won't let you take me away from her."

I didn't wait for her answer.

I turned around abruptly and left the room, slamming the door behind me.

I had to get out of there before I lost control. I had to go find Maddie. She was the only one who could calm me down. I needed her scent to enter my lungs and remind me that she was real and mine.

## **Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 34 -**

4 minutes read

Janet's POV

"He found his mate!" Savannah shouted as she walked into my house.

I looked up at her and furrowed my eyebrows. What the f\*\*k was she talking about?

"Who?" I asked as I placed my mug down on the table.

"Dimitri!" Savannah shouted as she slammed the door shut.

My eyes widened and I gasped loudly. I studied her face carefully, trying to see if she was lying to me.

"What the hell are you talking about?" I asked her, narrowing my eyes. "He didn't find her. He would have told me."

Savannah clenched her jaw and slammed her hand on the kitchen island.

“He f\*\*\*\*\*g found her!” she screamed, her face reddening by the second. “He would never accept me or this f\*\*\*\*\*g pup!”

My eyes widened even more.

Savannah was insane. Not only was she rambling about something that never happened, but she even looked like she was going to explode.

My son never found his mate. I would have known. He would have told me.

“Savannah...,” I spoke, but she interrupted me.

“Stop, Janet,” she growled. “You got me into this f\*\*\*\*\*g mess and now he will never make me the Queen!”

I stood up and approached her. The craziness I saw in her eyes frightened me a little.

I clenched my jaw and kept my calm composure.

“Calm down and tell me what happened,” I said sternly. “There is no way that Dimitri found his mate. I would have known. He would have told me. He would have made her his Luna already. You misunderstood.”

She chuckled darkly and clenched her fists. I saw her nails digging into her skin.

“Not if she is underage,” she said angrily. “He didn’t make her his Luna because he can’t do it yet.”

I furrowed my eyebrows again. But who? Who could it be? Who could it...

And then it dawned on me.

“Madeline,” Savannah said at the same time I realized it.

No!

F\*\*k no!

I would never allow that little b\*\*\*h to become the Luna of this pack! She would never become queen! She would never become my son’s mate!

I growled loudly.

“That’s impossible!” I exclaimed, clenching my fists hard. “She is not his mate!”

Savannah rolled her eyes and approached the table. I turned around to look at her. She sat down, closed her eyes, and took a deep breath.

“Maybe it’s not her, but he found her,” she said quietly. “I am sure of it.”

Anger made my blood boil and my heart race. It wasn’t Madeline. I couldn’t have been Madeline. That little, poor b\*\*\*h couldn’t become the new queen.

She wasn’t good enough to be my son’s mate. She wasn’t good enough to be Luna. She was a desperate little girl who looked too much like her stupid mother.

She would become Luna over my dead body.

“You will be Luna,” I said, making Savannah look up at me. “If he really found her, we will find out who she is and we will get rid of her.”

If it was Madeline, I would kill her. I would find a way to get rid of her forever.

“He will never allow us near her,” Savannah said, rolling her eyes at me. “If he found her, she is protected. We won’t be able to do anything.”

It would be so easy if it was Madeline. She was already terrified of me. I already punished her a couple of times. It would be so f\*\*\*\*\*g easy to control that little b\*\*\*h.

“But it has to be Madeline,” Savannah sighed. “He changed after she came here. You were the one who said that he liked her from the beginning. Who else could it be?”

I tightened my jaw and narrowed my eyes.

I didn’t want it to be her, but Savannah was right. Dimitri was very fond of her from the moment he saw her.

My stomach turned.

“You are right,” I mumbled angrily. “If he found her, it has to be Madeline.”

My vision reddened and I suddenly got the urge to shift and destroy the house.

I didn't want it to be true. I had to find proof that it wasn't true.

Where did Savannah even get the idea that he found his mate? Maybe that was just her jealousy talking.

"Why do you think that he found her?" I asked, gritting my teeth. "Did he tell you that?"

She looked up at me and shook her head.

"No," she said. "But the way he talked to me told me that he found her. The things he said..."

She stopped talking and furrowed her eyebrows.

"What did he say?" I asked as I sat back down.

"He said that the only pups he will ever have will be with his mate," she sighed. "He said that his mate will be the only one who will be his Luna and his Queen."

My vision blackened. She was an idiot! That didn't mean that he found his mate!

"What the f\*\*k is wrong with you?" I growled at her. "That doesn't mean that he found her!"

She looked at me and rolled her eyes. "No, but what he said next does."

My heart raced.

"What did he say next?" I asked.

She clenched her fists and growled quietly.

"He said that I'm nothing compared to his mate," she said quietly. "He said that she is everything to him and that he won't let me take him away from her."

I gulped.

“That still doesn’t mean that he found her,” I mumbled, doubting my own words.

Savannah looked at me and shook her head.

“It doesn’t,” she said. “But it sure sounds like he did.”

It did. It really sounded like he did.

If it was Madeline...

“We have to find out if it’s that little b\*\*\*h,” Savannah said, gritting her teeth. “Dimitri will find out that he is not the father soon. I will lose him. We have to find a way to keep him tied to me. We have to eliminate every threat.”

I chuckled darkly.

“Don’t worry,” I said, smirking. “If it really is Madeline, I will make sure that she never becomes his mate. I will take care of her before she gets her wolf.”

Savannah smiled at me.

“What are we going to do to her?” she asked excitedly.

I kept the smirk on my face and clenched my fists.

“We will break her,” I said. “She will leave the pack even before she gets her wolf. She will die out there and we will be free of that little b\*\*\*h.”

## **Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 35 -**

4 minutes read

Madeline’s POV

I wasn’t going to put up with that for another five months.

I closed my bedroom door and wiped the blood from the corner of my mouth. A lump in my throat was huge and I couldn’t swallow it down no matter how hard I tried.

I wasn’t going to cry, though. I didn’t cry once in the last four months and I wasn’t going to do it now either.

I will leave and I will find a way to survive until I turn 18 and get my wolf. I will hide somewhere. I will be okay.

And even if something happened to me, I wouldn't be missed. I had no one to miss me. I had no family left. No one would even know that I wasn't living and breathing anymore.

I approached my closed, opened it, and took out my backpack. I couldn't take my duffel bag. It was too big and I wouldn't be able to run with it. I needed something small and practical. I wasn't going to take much anyway. I wouldn't need much to hide in the woods for a few months.

I grabbed two pairs of sweatpants, two shirts, a hoodie, and a few pairs of underwear. I had some power bars in my closet so I packed those too. It was all I could fit into my backpack. I reached behind my folded shirts until I felt a small box under my fingertips. I pulled it out and opened it. Tears that I was so successfully holding back were now falling down my cheeks rapidly. It was a medallion with a picture of me and my mom in it. I took it out carefully and placed it around my neck. I didn't want to open it and look at the picture because I would never be able to stop crying if I did.

I missed my mom so much.

I pressed the medallion against my lips and closed my eyes.

"I miss you, Mom," I mumbled quietly. "I miss you so much."

I took a deep breath and opened my eyes. I didn't have time for this. I had to leave.

I grabbed some clean clothes and rushed to my bathroom. I needed to shower and change before I left.

I sighed contently as warm water relaxed my muscles a little. I hissed when it touched my split lip.

Janet f\*\*\*\*d up. She never hit me so hard to leave a mark or to make me bleed before. She was always very careful so no one would find out.

Not that anyone would believe it if they did find out. She was a former Luna and I was nothing and no one. I didn't even have my wolf yet. I wasn't even a member of the pack. No one would believe that their Luna was abusing me.



Well, it wasn't just her anymore. A few weeks ago, Alpha Dimitri's mate joined in too. She was surprisingly strong for a pregnant woman. Both of them hated me for some unknown reason and both of them enjoyed torturing me. They wanted me gone, and I would make their wish come true.

Mike was clueless and he was never home. He would make me breakfast every morning and then he would disappear until late at night. He kept grinning at me, calling me honey, and telling me how happy he was that I was here. Well, that made one of us. I wasn't happy to be here and I was going to run and never come back.

I finished showering, dried my body with a towel, and put on clean clothes. I tied my hair into a ponytail and looked at myself in the mirror. My lip didn't look that bad.

I took a deep breath and left the bathroom. I couldn't waste any more time. I had to leave before Mike came back home.

I grabbed my jacket and my backpack and approached the window I used to sneak out of the house.

I glanced back at the room and gulped. This room was my only safe space in this house. No matter what happened to me, I could always sleep peacefully in here. That changed in the last couple of days and it was another sign that it was time for me to go.

I sighed, opened the window, and threw my backpack and my jacket on the ground. I reached for the nearest tree branch and left my room.

I put my jacket on as soon as I stepped down on the ground. I threw my backpack on my back and started walking toward the forest. I never looked back. I didn't need to. I didn't want to see that house again. Other than my room, nothing in that house held a special place in my heart.

I barely stepped a foot inside the forest when I heard my name being called.

"Maddie?" Seth's voice made me freeze.

What the hell?!

I looked to my left and saw him approaching me in nothing but short sweats. He was sweaty and his hair was a complete mess.

“What are you doing?” he asked, furrowing his eyebrows.

F\*\*k.

I couldn't believe that I was caught so soon. I expected to have some issues at the border maybe, but not barely a few feet away from Mike's house.

“Going on a walk,” I mumbled as I felt the nervousness inside me grow.

It was a lame excuse, but it was the only thing that came to my mind.

Seth narrowed his eyes and crossed his arms over his chest. I gulped, trying to think of something to say. My mind was completely blank.

“With a backpack?” he asked as he reached over to me and took the backpack off my shoulder.

I tried to stop him, but he was stronger. He opened the backpack and growled.

“What the hell, Maddie?!” he exclaimed as he looked back up at me.

I gulped again and tried to take a deep breath.

“You are not leaving, Madeline,” Seth said as he grabbed my arm and started pulling me further into the forest. “Why the hell would you leave?! Are you insane?! You will get killed!”

Where the hell was he taking me?!

“I will be okay, Seth,” I sighed as I tried to pull my arm out of his grip.

He growled and looked back at me.

“I am not letting you leave, Madeline,” he said angrily. “You are my best friend and I am not going to lose you.”

I gulped and let him drag me further into the forest. I couldn't escape his grip no matter how hard I tried.