

Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 36 -

5 minutes read

Dimitri's POV

I had a huge smile on my face.

I was holding the envelope that proved Savannah's pup wasn't mine and I felt like I was going to explode with happiness.

I was right all along! The pup wasn't mine!

"I can't believe that you had to wait almost three months for the results to come," Will sighed, shaking his head.

"I don't give a crap, Will," I said, placing the envelope on the desk. "The results are here and that's all that matters. The pup isn't mine. I can finally tell her to f**k off."

Will chuckled and shook his head.

"You told her that multiple times already," he said, making me roll my eyes.

"Yes, but now she can't hurt me no matter what she does," I said, smiling again. "Even if she goes against my command and tells someone, her lie can't hurt me. I have proof that pup isn't mine."

I opened the envelope and looked at the results again. I smiled brightly.

"Will you go sleep with Maddie again tonight?" Will asked me.

I looked up at him and nodded.

"I need to," I said. "I miss her too much."

I wasn't sleeping in her room for the last few nights because we had a rogue problem on our borders. I practically never even left my office. I hadn't even seen Maddie in a few days and I was losing it a little. My heart wouldn't be able to go through another night without her.

I gulped and clenched my fists. I pictured myself laying next to her. I pictured her turning toward me and leaning her head on my shoulder. I pictured placing

a small kiss on her forehead. I pictured myself breathing in her intoxicating scent.

I missed all of that so f*****g much and I couldn't wait to go to her tonight.

"It's a peaceful night at the border," Will said, making me look back up at him. "You definitely need to go to her. You almost bit Peter's head off earlier today."

I sighed and gave him a small nod.

Peter was the head of my patrol and I was furious at him because none of my wolves managed to capture the rogues that were causing issues at my border. They kept attacking my wolves and pulling back. They never tried to cross the border, but they were always present there. I wanted to capture one of them and t*****e the answers out of them.

But most of my frustration came from not seeing my mate for a few days. I missed her like crazy and I needed to spend some time with her before I really bit someone's head off.

"Is Savannah coming?" Will asked, smirking a little.

"Yes," I nodded. "My mother is coming too. I wanted to tell them as soon as possible."

I couldn't wait to see the look on Savannah's face when I showed her the paper. I was a bit sad because I knew that my mother would be disappointed, but I would give her a grandchild as soon as Maddie wanted to have children.

I could hear them approaching my office and I couldn't help but grin widely.

"I can't wait to see the look on Savannah's face," Will mumbled quietly.

I looked at him and smirked.

"It will be priceless," I said just as the door opened and my mother and Savannah walked inside.

Savannah's belly was huge. She was only about a month away from giving birth.

"I have wonderful news!" I exclaimed as soon as they walked inside.

Savannah smiled brightly. My mother narrowed her eyes at me.

“Did the test results arrive?” Savannah asked excitedly. “Did you finally see that I am telling the truth?”

I grinned and my heart skipped a beat. I was so f*****g happy.

“The results arrived,” I confirmed. “And they proved that I was telling the truth the whole time. The pup isn’t mine.”

Savannah’s eyes widened. My mother growled quietly.

I opened the desk drawer and handed the copy of the results to Savannah.

“I am sorry that your pup will be fatherless,” I said. “But maybe you could still talk to the real father and ask him if he would like to be involved.”

I hated Savannah, but her pup was innocent. He or she deserved at least one decent parent. I didn’t know who the father was, but I hoped it was someone who would take good care of his child.

Savannah sobbed and looked down at the paper I gave her.

I looked at my mother and expected to see the sadness on her face. The anger I saw surprised me. What surprised me more was that she wasn’t angry at Savannah. She was angry at me.

“Did you fake the test results because of your mate?” my mom asked angrily. “Why would you do this to Savannah, Dimitri? I raised you better than that.”

My eyes widened and anger exploded inside me. What the f**k was she talking about?!

Does she know about Maddie? Will mind-linked me and I could hear worry in his voice.

I didn’t answer him. I couldn’t.

“What the f**k are you talking about, mother?” I growled. “What mate?”

“You found your fated mate, didn’t you?” Savannah sobbed. “I knew you did when that doctor took the sample a few months ago and you talked about her like you already knew who she was. You found her and you faked the results.”

My heart stopped beating. I f****d up.

“I haven’t found her,” I said, trying to remain calm. “I spoke about her like that because I was pissed that you tried to take me away from her. I didn’t even get a chance to find my mate and you thought that you could trick me into making you my Luna.”

Will growled quietly. I clenched my fists. I wanted to punch her so f*****g bad.

“Get the f**k out of my office,” I growled. “As soon as you give birth, you will be exiled from the pack. I won’t tolerate this kind of behavior.”

Savannah’s eyes widened.

“Dimitri!” my mother scolded me. “You can do that! This is the mother of yo...”

“Do not finish that sentence!” I shouted as I slammed my fists on the desk. “Get the f**k out both of you!”

I was enraged. I had to try so f*****g hard to keep Skol from coming to the surface and ripping them both to pieces.

My mother took Savannah’s hand in hers and started pulling her out of my office. Savannah was sobbing uncontrollably.

“You really need to go see Maddie,” Will said quietly as soon as my mother closed the door. “You are losing it.”

He was right. I needed my princess and I needed her right the f**k now.

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4 minutes read

Madeline’s POV

Seth dragged me to one of the patrol cabins in the middle of the forest.

I could feel the anger rolling off him in waves.

“Seth, I...,” I spoke, but he interrupted me.

“Don’t even start, Madeline,” he growled as he slammed the door shut.

He crossed his arms over his chest and narrowed his eyes at me.

“Do you have any idea what couldn’t have happened?” he asked, gritting his teeth. “You don’t have your wolf yet. You wouldn’t be able to defend yourself. You would be dead the second you stepped one foot over the border. Why would you try to leave, Madeline? Why?”

His voice was trembling by the time he finished speaking. His face was a mixture of anger and fear.

I gulped and guilt washed over me.

“Why, Madeline?” Seth asked again after I didn’t respond.

I tried to take a deep breath, but the lump in my throat was preventing me from doing so. I couldn’t think of an answer. I didn’t know what to tell him. I couldn’t tell him the truth.

“Madeline…” Seth spoke but stopped abruptly.

His eyes widened and his breath got stuck in his throat. I furrowed my eyebrows in confusion. What the hell happened?

He approached me so abruptly that I didn’t even see him move. He grabbed my chin gently and lifted my head a little.

Oh, shit. He saw it.

“What the hell happened?!” he shouted as he bent down to take a better look at my split lip. “Who did that to you?”

I gulped and tried to force my brain to work. It felt completely useless, though. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn’t come up with an answer.

“I fell,” I mumbled, knowing immediately that it was the lamest excuse possible.

Seth looked up and growled.

“Don’t lie to me, Madeline,” he said sternly. “Someone did this. Who was it? Was it Mike?”

My eyes widened and I shook my head as best as I could because he was still holding my chin between his fingers.

“No,” I said and my heart raced. “It wasn’t Mike. No one hurt me. I fell.”

Seth growled again. He let me go and stood up straighter.

“Is that why you tried to leave?” he asked sternly. “Is someone hurting you? You tried to escape them, didn’t you, Madeline?”

Shit.

He was right about everything and I hated it. I couldn’t tell him the truth. I couldn’t tell him that his Luna and his future Luna were hurting me for months now.

So I just shook my head.

Seth groaned in annoyance. He ran his fingers through his hair and started pacing around, keeping his eyes on me.

“Goddess, Madeline, you didn’t want to leave because everything is great,” he said angrily. “You tried to leave because something happened.”

He looked at my lip and gulped.

“Someone hurt you, Madeline, and I want you to tell me who it was,” he continued. “I want you to tell me who it was so I can rip their head off their body.”

A shiver went down my spine. He would be punished if Alpha Dimitri heard him talk about his mother and his mate like that. I couldn’t let him do that. I couldn’t let him get hurt because of me.

“No one...,” I spoke, but Seth interrupted me again.

“Don’t, Madeline!” he exclaimed, pointing a finger at me. “Don’t lie to me!”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“I fell and I bit my lip, Seth,” I mumbled.

His eyes widened and he stopped pacing around. He clenched his fists and furrowed his eyebrows.

“Why are you lying to me?” he asked. “I can protect you, Maddie. I want to protect you. I need to protect you.”

My heart skipped a beat. The softness in his voice made me shiver. No one in this pack cared about me as much as he did and I couldn't let him get hurt. I couldn't let anything happen to him. I had to protect him too.

I looked down at my feet and closed my eyes.

“I fell,” I repeated quietly. “I fell and I bit my lip. No one hurt me. I want to leave this pack because I don't belong here. I want to go back to my old pack.”

He didn't respond, but I heard him approaching me slowly. He wrapped his arms around me and placed a kiss on the top of my head.

“I can't let you do that, Mads,” he mumbled. “I can't let you leave. I would die if something happened to you, Madeline.”

He placed a finger under my chin and lifted my head slowly. I opened my eyes and saw him looking at me with so much love in his eyes that I almost teared up.

“I will protect you, Maddie,” he whispered. “I will always protect you.”

He glanced at my lips and a wave of heat washed over me. His arm around my waist tightened. His jaw clenched and he gulped.

“You don't have to tell me who did it,” Seth said quietly, making me furrow my eyebrows. “But you have to let me protect you, Maddie. You have to stay with me and let me protect you.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly. Seth lifted his hand and caressed my cheek gently. He looked at the cut on my lip and frowned.

He let me go and approached one of the cupboards in the small living room.

“What are you doing?” I asked.

“Taking care of your lip,” he mumbled and turned around.

I saw a small medical kit in his hands.

“You don’t have to do that, Seth,” I protested. “I am fine.”

Seth rolled his eyes at me, grabbed my hand, and pulled me toward the couch. He sat down and made me sit next to him. I watched as he opened the kit, and took out a clean gauze and alcohol. He put a little bit of alcohol on the gauze and turned toward me.

“You can stay with me, Maddie,” he said as he started dabbing the gauze on my lip, making me flinch a little.

I furrowed my eyebrows at him.

“You can come live with me,” he explained. “It will be easier for me to protect you if I can keep my eye on you at all times.”

I was just about to tell him that he didn’t need to do that when the cabin door burst open and a very pissed-off Alpha Dimitri barged inside.

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5 minutes read

Dimitri’s POV

I thought that I was going to lose it when I saw her empty room. I thought that I was going to lose it and go on a rampage. I was already on edge and walking into her empty room had me seething with anger.

But that was nothing compared to barging into the patrol cabin and seeing her there with Seth. That was nothing compared to seeing him take care of her split lip.

My heart stopped beating and I almost passed out.

She was hurt. My princess was hurt.

I was staring at her wide-eyed, unable to move. I couldn’t look away from the wound on her lips. It wasn’t big, but to me, it looked huge. It was a symbol of my failing as a mate. I didn’t protect her. She was hurt and I wasn’t there to stop it.

“What the f**k happened?!” I forced myself to speak.

I looked at Seth and saw red. One of his hands was on her knee. He was touching her. He was touching what belonged to me! I could feel my heartbeat in my eyes. Anger was flowing through my veins, making it impossible for me to feel anything else.

Skol was screaming and thrashing inside me. I tried to ignore him, but it was so f*****g hard.

“She...,” Seth spoke, but Maddie interrupted him.

“Fell,” she said, making me flinch. “I went out for a walk and I fell. Seth is helping me.”

I gritted my teeth and tried to take a deep breath. It was impossible, though. I was full-blown panicking. I forced my body to move and I slammed the door shut. I approached her and grabbed the gauze from Seth’s hand.

Both of them were staring at me wide-eyed.

“Move,” I growled at Seth, making him narrow his eyes slightly.

“It’s okay, Alpha,” he said. “I can take care of her. You don’t have to...”

“Move,” I growled again, interrupting whatever he was going to say next.

I was angry and jealous as f**k. I wanted to rip his head off, but I couldn’t do that to Maddie.

Seth glanced at her again and did as I said. I sat down next to my princess and lifted her head so I could look at her lip.

“How the hell did you manage to hurt your lip like that?” I asked, trying to hold back a growl.

I lifted the gauze and patted her lip gently. She flinched a little, making me grab her waist tightly. She relaxed under my touch and a wave of relief washed over me. Her body knew who I was.

“I fell and bit it,” Maddie mumbled, glancing at Seth.

I frowned and remembered what she had said earlier. I didn't register it before because I was so f*****g angry and scared that I didn't listen properly.

She went on a walk.

We had a rogue problem and she went on a walk in the woods.

The fear exploded inside me and I almost threw up. If something had happened to her... If they somehow got inside my territory and hurt her...

My vision blackened and I growled loudly. She flinched and I tightened my hold on her.

"Did you say that you went out for a walk?" I asked, blinking hard so I would get my vision back.

She gave me a small nod and I almost screamed in terror. I threw the gauze on the coffee table and cupped her cheeks. I was breathing heavily and I was sure that my heart was going to jump out of my chest. She was staring at me wide-eyed.

"Don't you ever do that again!" I exclaimed, trying to control the fear I felt.

I took a deep breath and clenched my jaw.

"Listen to me, Madeline," I said sternly. "I forbid you to go for a walk without me present. I forbid you to leave the house unless it is to go to work. If you want to go somewhere, I go with you. Is that clear?"

My heart was racing so fast that my ribs started to hurt. Skol's panic wasn't helping one bit. He was even more scared than I was.

Maddie's eyes widened even more. Her eyebrows furrowed.

"That's not fair, Alpha," Seth spoke, making the anger inside me rise. "She isn't a prisoner. She can go wherever she likes."

I growled loudly and looked at Seth. He was just starting on my patrol so he didn't know about the rogues yet. That still didn't give him the right to question my decisions. I was his Alpha and Maddie was my mate. Mine!

"We have a rogue issue," I said, keeping my eyes on Seth. "They could have breached our borders. She could have been attacked. She could have

been hurt. I'm not forbidding her from leaving the house because I want to make her a prisoner, I am forbidding it because I want to keep her alive."

Seth's eyes widened. He looked at Maddie and I saw pure terror on his face.

I ignored him and looked back at my princess. I was still holding her face in my arms. I caressed her cheeks with my thumbs and looked at her lip. My heart clenched painfully. I wanted it to heal. I wanted to kiss it and make it go away.

"I am sorry if I scared you, Maddie," I said, looking back into her beautiful green eyes. "I can't let anything happen to you. Please just do as I say, okay? I can't let you get hurt."

"She will do it, Alpha," Seth spoke instead of her. "I will make sure that she obeys the rules."

He was looking at her with a stern expression on his face. His arms were crossed over his chest and his jaw kept twitching.

"I was thinking that she could come live with me," Seth said, making me freeze. "I would keep an eye on her and make sure that something like this never happened again."

F**k no. Over my dead f*****g body.

"No," I growled at him. "I can keep her safe."

I was going to move into my mother's house. I had enough. I couldn't let her get hurt and I couldn't let Seth take her away from me.

I looked back at my princess and gave her a small smile.

"Come on, Maddie," I said softly as I moved my hands from her beautiful face and took her hand in mine. "I will take you home."

I stood up and pulled Maddie behind me.

"Thank you for helping her," I told Seth. "I will take it from here."

He wasn't happy, but there was nothing he could have done. I was his Alpha and my word was final. Seth gave me a small nod and looked at Maddie.

“I will see you tomorrow at work, okay?” he said and Maddie gave him a small nod.

Seth approached the door and bent down to grab a backpack from the floor. He turned around and handed it to Maddie.

“Are you staying here?” Maddie asked, making him nod.

“I’m on patrol tonight,” Seth confirmed.

“Be careful,” Maddie said with a hint of worry in her voice.

Seth gave her a small smile and pulled her into a hug. I tightened my hold on her hand, wishing that I could just pull her away from him.

“I will, Mads,” Seth said softly.

He finally let her go and I pulled her out of the cabin. I had to get her as far away from the forest as possible. I had to get her as far away from Seth as possible.

Only five more months and I would never have to go through something like that again.

Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 39 -

5 minutes read

Madeline’s POV

I let Alpha Dimitri drag me away from the cabin. I couldn’t escape his hold even if I wanted to.

“You can’t put yourself in danger like that ever again, Madeline,” he said sternly. “Do you know what that would do to...”

He stopped talking and took a deep breath. He looked at me and tightened his jaw.

“Do you know what that would do to Mike?” he finished his question, but I had an impression that wasn’t what he really wanted to say.

His jaw twitched.

“It would kill him, Maddie,” he said. “He would be so hurt if something happened to you.”

I looked away and gulped. Mike never cared if I was safe before so why start now? He didn't even realize that his own mate was abusing me for months now. Every room in the house was soundproof, but that wasn't an excuse. If he cared, he would have noticed me flinch every time she approached me.

He simply didn't care.

I wondered what Alpha Dimitri would say if he knew that I wasn't just going on a walk. I was going to leave his pack for good.

“Promise me that you will never leave the house without me, Maddie,” he said, making me look back at him.

I furrowed my eyebrows. How would that even work? Would I have to call him to let him know that I wanted to leave the house? Would I have to wait for him to come and get me? He had work. He couldn't be my personal bodyguard.

“I can't promise you that,” I said, making him turn his head toward me abruptly. “You have work to do. You don't even live there. Are you just going to abandon everything and everyone just because I want to go on a walk?”

His mate wouldn't like that and it would give her another reason to hurt me.

“Oh, I am moving in until the threat is over,” he said, making me gasp loudly. “I am not letting this happen again. I will be there most of the time, and you won't be allowed to go anywhere if I'm not there to take you.”

Was he insane? He was, wasn't he?

“You can't do that, Alpha!” I exclaimed and stopped walking. “What about your mate? You are about to have a child. You can't...”

He growled loudly, interrupting what I was going to say next.

“She isn't my mate and her child isn't mine,” he said, making me gasp in shock.

What?

Alpha Dimitri sighed and ran his fingers through his hair. He tightened his hold on my hand and looked at me with a sad expression on his face.

“She lied and tried to trap me,” he said. “She wanted to become Luna and Queen by trying to convince me that she was pregnant with my child. I knew that she was lying as soon as she came to tell me that she was pregnant.”

My heart clenched painfully. He must have been so hurt.

“How did you know that she was lying?” I asked quietly.

“I am a Lycan and my wolf would have known if she was carrying his pup,” Alpha Dimitri explained. “Also, the time didn’t match. She got pregnant after we had...”

He stopped talking and took a deep breath. I furrowed my eyebrows. He looked like he was a bit embarrassed. Why?

“I slept with her only a few times,” he mumbled, looking down at his feet. “It didn’t mean anything and I regret it now.”

He looked up at me and gulped.

“I regret everything about her,” he said. “She tried to take me from my mate and I...”

He stopped talking and my heart skipped a beat. His mate? So he did find her?

“You found your mate?” I asked quietly and an unknown feeling stirred inside me.

I didn’t recognize it, but it was uncomfortable. I decided to ignore it. It didn’t matter. The fact that he found his mate shouldn’t have made me uncomfortable.

He tightened his jaw and gulped.

“No,” he mumbled. “But I already love her with my entire heart and soul. I fought for her, Maddie. I did everything that I could to prove to everyone that that pup isn’t mine and I did it all for my princess. I can’t lose her before I even got her so I fought as hard as I could.”

My heart skipped a beat. The intensity of his glare sent shivers down my spine.

“I fought and I won,” he continued softly. “I will never let anything or anyone stand between me and her. She is the single most important thing in my universe and I am going to show her that until my last breath.”

His voice was trembling by the time he finished speaking. I was completely frozen. My heart was racing and it was the only thing I could feel. I was glad that we stopped walking a while ago because I couldn't feel my legs anymore.

The way he talked about her made me want to...

No.

I couldn't even let myself finish that thought. I wasn't her. I would never be her. I didn't want to be her. I wanted to leave this pack and never come back.

I cleared my throat and forced myself to speak because the silence was getting uncomfortable.

“She is a lucky girl,” I mumbled quietly.

Alpha Dimitri smiled, making my knees buckle.

“I am glad you think so,” he said as he lifted his hand and caressed my cheek. “And I hope that she will forgive me for the mistakes I made.”

I smiled back and gave him a small nod.

“I am sure that she will,” I said softly.

His smile grew and I felt something weird in my stomach. It was a ticklish feeling that I had never felt before.

“I am so happy that you came to my pack, Maddie,” Alpha Dimitri said. “I am so happy that I got to know you.”

I didn't know what to tell him. I was glad that I got to know him too, but I wasn't happy to be here. I wanted to leave and I would leave the first chance I got.

I forced a small smile on my face and decided to tell him just one small part of the whole truth.

“I am glad that I got to meet you too,” I said, forcing a small smile on my face. “Thank you for taking care of me.”

Alpha Dimitri smiled and pulled me into an unexpected hug.

“Always, Maddie,” he said as he placed a small kiss on the top of my head. “I will always take care of you.”

I shivered and gulped the lump in my throat.

Five more months and that would no longer be possible.

Rejecting My Lycan Mate Chapter 40 -

5 minutes read

Dimitri's POV

I was pacing around my office, trying to figure out what the f**k to do.

“The packs are reporting multiple attacks, Alpha Dimitri,” Peter said quietly. “Something serious is going on.”

“Maybe we should call a meeting,” Will suggested. “We need to figure out what the f**k they want.”

I clenched my fists and continued pacing back and forth. I was pissed and I wanted to go face those fuckers alone. I wanted to capture them all and t*****e the answers out of them. Why were they attacking the packs? Why were they attacking my Kingdom? What the f**k did they want?

Every rogue we captured so far let us t*****e him to death. None of them spoke. None of them told us the truth. None of them told us who was behind it and what their ultimate goal was. I could only guess, and my only idea was that they were after my throne.

“Do it,” I said, trying to hold back a growl. “Call every Alpha here. We need to strike back. I can't let them kill our people. I can't let them hurt anyone else.”

Will nodded and left my office.

“Do you need anything else, Alpha?” Peter asked, making me look at him.

I stopped pacing around and shook my head.

“No,” I said. “Keep the borders safe and capture as many as you can. Let’s hope that at least one of them will talk.”

Peter gave me a small nod and left my office.

I ran my fingers through my hair and closed my eyes. I was so f*****g angry lately. I wanted to wreak havoc on the rogues attacking my packs and my Kingdom. I wanted to show them what happened when you messed with one of the strongest Lycans in existence.

I clenched my fists and opened my eyes.

I wasn’t going to let them win. I wasn’t going to let them destroy what my father fought so hard to build. I was going to protect my Kingdom. I was going to protect my people. I was going to protect my father’s legacy.

I took a deep breath and pictured my princess’ face in front of me. Knowing that her birthday was only two weeks away was the only thing that was keeping me sane. Only two more weeks and she would be mine. Only two more weeks and I would sink my canines into her perfect neck. I would finally get to kiss her and I would finally get to run my fingers up and down her body.

Living with her for the last 4 and a half months was t*****e. She was so f*****g close, but so f*****g far away. I got to see her every day, but I never got to touch her. Well except at night. I slept with her as often as I could. I couldn’t miss the opportunity to hold my princess in my arms.

My mother wasn’t very happy that I moved in. She suspected it was because of Maddie and she didn’t like it. I ignored her and never confirmed it or denied it. Mike was thrilled that I was living with them. He kept saying how wonderful it was that Maddie and I got along. He kept repeating that we were step-siblings and I wanted to tear my ears off every time he said it. She wasn’t my step-sister. She was my mate.

My beautiful, kind, perfect little mate who I hadn’t seen all day and who I missed terribly.

Two weeks.

Only two more weeks and she would be mine. Only two more weeks and I wouldn't have to spend a second without her. She would be next to me at all times. I would make sure that she was always close and that I could always see her. I had 9 months of frustration to cure and I knew it would take a lot.

I had to go home and see her. I was so f*****g angry at everything that was going on and she was the only one who could calm me down.

I also needed to go home to make sure that she was safe. Ever since the rogue attacks began, I was constantly terrified that they would break into my territory and hurt her. I knew that I would know the second they breached the border and they would never be able to get to her, but my fear wasn't rational. It was completely paranoid and guided by nothing but my overprotectiveness and over-possessiveness. She was mine and just thinking about someone hurting her had me ready to kill.

'Let's go home,' Skol said. 'You are making me nervous when you think about these things, Dimitri.'

I already knew that. I could feel his nervousness grow. He was stirring and quiet growls were escaping him.

He was right, though. It was time to go home to my princess.

I am going home. I mind-linked my Beta. Keep me posted about the meeting.

Say hi to Maddie. Will said. I already started sending out messages. I will let you know when I hear back from someone.

Thank you. I said and cut our mind-link.

Thankfully, my mother's house wasn't far from the packhouse and I was walking through the front door only 5 minutes later.

"Dimitri?" I heard Mike's voice coming from the kitchen.

I glanced upstairs and groaned. I knew that my princess was upstairs. She never spent time with my mother and Mike. I wanted to go to her, but I knew that my mother would give me shit for not saying hi to them.

I clenched my fists and walked toward the kitchen.

My mother and Mike were sitting at the table, eating dinner. My eyebrows furrowed. Where was Maddie? Why wasn't she eating with them?

"Where is Maddie?" I asked before either of them could speak.

"She said that she isn't hungry," Mike said, pointing at the chair at the head of the table. "Come eat with us."

She wasn't hungry? Oh, she was in for a lecture. She had to eat.

"I will eat a little bit later," I said. "I'm going to go get Maddie. She has to eat."

Mike smiled and gave me a small nod. "I couldn't convince her. Maybe she will listen to you."

Of course, she would listen. She had to listen. I wasn't going to let her get sick. She wasn't eating enough anyway. I wasn't going to let her skip meals.

I turned around and rushed toward her bedroom.

"Maddie?" I called her as I knocked on her bedroom door. "The dinner is ready. You need to eat."

My heart raced when she didn't respond. Was she asleep?

"Maddie?" I called her as I opened the door.

My eyes fell on the open window I knew she used to get out of the house without Mike or my mother seeing her.

She wasn't here. She left. She left without me.

My heart stopped beating.