

Chapter 0096

After a few more minutes, the two rogues who were circling me announced to the others that they were going to have private time with me. I knew exactly what that meant.”

My heart started racing as I continued to re-live the memory in my mind. I felt James begin to rub circles on my back. I reached back and brushed his hand away, but I continued to sit on his lap and lean into his chest.

“I had a switchblade in my pocket. I pulled it out and opened it. I showed the weapon to the men and warned them to stay back and leave me alone.

Sheila and Stephanie came walking over to me. Sheila rolled her eyes and grabbed the knife from me. She started making fun of me, saying it was silly for me to think any of them would be afraid of a stupid little knife. Sheila asked Stephanie if Stephanie was afraid of the knife, and Stephanie rolled her eyes and said ‘of course not.’

Sheila then told me to go on and have fun with the boys. She said I could consider the experience a present for me as well.

I told her to f&&k off. That made her angry. She got an evil look in her eyes, and then held the knife loosely against Stephanie’s neck. Stephanie laughed and brushed the knife away, but Sheila moved it immediately back to Stephanie’s

neck.

Stephanie got annoyed with Sheila and they started to bicker. Sheila said that she would keep doing it until I accepted their birthday present. Stephanie eventually yelled at me to just go already.

I was scared.

But I went.

The rogues took me to a grassy area about 50 yards away. They told me to lay down, which I did. They began to remove their pants at the same time. I was close enough to them that I could kick them both in the groin, so I did. As hard as I possibly could.

I then got up and I ran. As soon as I got close enough that I thought other wolves might hear me, I began screaming for help. And I kept screaming until the guards came.”

I wiped several tears from my eyes.

“I have no idea what happened after I ran. If I had known what they would do to Stephanie when I left, I...”

I let the sentence trail off. The truth of the matter is that I do not know what I would have done. Nor do I know what I could have done. I would like to think that I could have done something, but what, I am not sure.

(James POV)

No. This is not real. None of this is real.

Stephanie would never hurt anyone, much less her own sister. Stephanie may not have been my true mate, but I still spent years with her. I knew her, and I knew her character. I spent years loving her! And not just me, but also my parents and the entire pack. It is not possible that we all got it wrong.

It is not possible that any of that night played out the way that Lily claims.

It just did not happen. None of it is true.

It is not true.

I refuse to believe that it is true. It simply cannot be true.

Lily is clearly lying. 2

"James, you can continue to tell yourself that it is a lie, but Lily is telling the truth," Luke links me.

"I know," I link back.

And I do.

I just don't want to know. I want to go to sleep and have this conversation be nothing but a bad dream. A really bad, horrible dream.

How much more can I take? How many more bombs are

waiting to go off in my life?

I do not know what Lily was thinking when I touched her shoulder and pulled her onto my lap. I honestly do not know what I was thinking either. I just knew that, at that point in the story, I needed to touch her. I needed to share her burden. And I needed something, someone to hold onto.

Of course, I do not know why I was feeling that way.

Because, after all, it is not true. Stephanie did not set up her little sister to get raped. Sheila did not hold a knife to Stephanie's throat, even in jest. Sheila did not tell Lily that getting raped should be considered a birthday gift. Stephanie did not associate with rogues.

None of it is true.

None of it happened.

Lily has an amazing imagination. Lily is a great actress. Lily misunderstood what happened.

None of it is true. None of it.

I knew Stephanie. I trusted Sheila.

All of this is a lie. Lily broke the game rule about being honest. 2

Except.....

..... Except.....

.....Except..... 1

Except that I know in my gut that it is all true. Every. Last. Word. No one is a good enough actress to pull off the pain and despair that I heard in Lily's voice as she recounted what happened that night.

No one would be patient enough to have intense physical reactions to simply hearing Sheila's name, just so that years later she could make up a story in which the intensity of those reactions make sense.

Stephanie and Sheila set Lily up to get raped the night before her birthday. Stephanie and Sheila associated with rogues. Sheila held a knife to Stephanie's throat the night that Stephanie died. 1

Goddess help me.

It is true.

Lily is telling the truth.