

# He's My Alpha

## Chapter 31-35

He's My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

### Chapter 31

#### JAKE

I don't want to meet my f\*uc\*king mate!

With Clair in my head, my wolf bared his teeth at me. He was on the edge as well. Echo was torn between wanting to meet our mate or coming back to Clair. He let out a snarl before returning to the back of my mind, letting me decide on this moment. "Alpha!" I heard my Gamma behind me. "Is everything okay?"

I took a hitched breath before speaking. "My mate is here. We need to go. Back in the car! Now!"

I gathered all my strength and turned around, only to be held by Aaron, holding my wrist in his hand. "What the f\*uc\*k, man! We're going inside to meet your mate. If you don't want her, then reject her. You can't just run away like that!" He tried to pull me inside, but I swatted his hand. I snarled at him, my claws coming out.

"I said NO!" I looked him straight in the eyes before heading back to my car and sitting in the passenger seat.

Aaron looked at Matteo, nodding at him before heading inside the diner.

Matteo hurriedly slid inside the car, sitting behind me. "Alpha, the Gamma wanted to check inside to see if anyone was there. The diner looks deserted. Are you sure you don't want to at least have a glimpse of her?"

I leaned back on my headrest and placed my fingers on my temples, ma\*s\*saging them with my eyes close. "No. I just want to go home."

It took a few more minutes before Aaron hopped in the car.

"Nothing. There are no she-wolves in the diner. Just two guys having a late breakfast. The servers are two old females as well." He voluntarily shared the information he gathered.

“Maybe in the toilet?” Matteo leaned his arm on my headrest, his gaze shifting from me and Aaron. I remained quiet all along.

“I checked as well. Although she said there were a bunch of teenagers and a lone traveler that had breakfast earlier, they left a few minutes before we came in.”

“And the server said all those girls were exceptionally good-looking.” He added, a coy smile plastered on her face.

“Either one of those girls, or one of the old women serving there.” He joked before putting the engine back to life.

I let out a sigh and fixed my gaze on the view outside my window as the car sped up. I would not deny a part of me wanted to see my mate just out of curiosity, but I had already made up my mind. I wanted Clair.

“And now I’m hungry. Can we just go to a drive- thru? I’m pretty sure no one’s mate will show up at the automated machine.” Aaron gave me a sidelong glance before landing a soft punch on my shoulder. “Hey, man, are you already regretting? I can still turn around and we can find her.”

I scowled at him. “Find some drive-thru and let’s go home.”

We arrived at the pack territory a little over an hour past noon, and I would not deny that the almost encounter with my mate shook me. I told Beta Gavin that I would turn myself in early today and I would do all the impending work tomorrow.

I just wanted to be alone. Refusing to see my mate felt both wrong and right, and I needed to get over my confusion. Part of me wanted to see her, but a bigger part of me was annoyed that she had already gotten a stronghold on me even without actually meeting her.

That’s why I believed the mate bond thing was f\*uc\*ked up. It makes you want someone you’ve never met, and then they eventually become your weakness. We should have the right to choose who we want as opposed to having someone a\*s\*signed to us.

I closed all the windows as soon as I stepped inside my room, cursing the cleaners for leaving my window open the whole day. They should know better that I take my privacy seriously.

They would surely hear about this.

I looked at the bed and remembered Clair. A smile crept up on my lips despite the heaviness in my chest as I walked toward the bathroom.

I stripped off my clothes and stayed in the shower for more than twenty minutes, void of any emotions or any rational thinking. I just stood there and blocked off my mind.

I dried off myself and looked for my favorite sweatshirt, only to find it gone. I scowled, thinking I knew it was there before I left because I was contemplating bringing it with me but decided against it at the last minute.

I gave up on my search and grabbed another sweatshirt and pulled it over me before putting on my sweats.

I initially wanted to go to the stream to have a moment of silence, but the shower made me feel sleepy. I didn't have enough sleep for the last four nights – an Alpha should never sleep peacefully in another pack's territory for security reasons. I laid down on my bed, just to rest my body for a while, but I didn't realize that I would eventually fall into a slumber.

There were rogues everywhere, and then I saw her, my mate. She was faceless, but I knew it was her. And she needed my help.

My wolf sprinted to where she was to protect her from the rogues trying to attack her. Echo sank his teeth into the rogues until he snapped the lives out of them. But as soon as our mate was safe, I heard an excruciating scream, and I felt my whole body shiver in fear.

I knew that voice even in my sleep!

I turned around and saw Clair being dragged and

ravished by rogues, her hands reaching out to me, begging for me to save her. But she was too far. Her head rolled to the side as life left her eyes.

They f\*uc\*king killed her!

I let them kill her!

My wolf growled his loudest and leaped to where she was. But no matter how fast my wolf ran, we couldn't reach her. They kept dragging her body away. But Echo and I weren't giving up. We kept running, but she kept slipping away until she vanished into the thin air.

My body jerked awake from the bad dream, and I stayed frozen, laying down on my back, staring at the ceiling. I didn't notice there were tears in my eyes.

Nightmare.

I chose to save my mate over Clair, and it didn't feel right. I should have saved her. But instead, she was dead.

My wolf snarled at me, baring his teeth, and right now I was not in my right mind. I had no idea if my wolf was angry that I regretted saving our mate or because I didn't save Clair.

It didn't matter if it was just a nightmare. One thing I was sure of now was that I wanted Clair like I never wanted anyone before.

I got up from my bed and glanced at my clock. It's eight in the evening. I still have time.

I went to freshen myself and walked out of the room and out of the pack house in an instant.

I found myself standing outside Clair's house. I debated whether I would go by the front door formally or whether I should sneak by her window. But before I could make any decision, the front door opened, revealing a disheveled Aaron.

"Alpha!" His voice was stressed. "Guess you heard what happened with Clair? Come in."

My forehead creased in confusion. I followed him inside to find Jenny and Chloe sitting next to each other and David standing, leaning against the wall. "What happened to Clair? Is she okay?" I looked at Aaron as uneasiness crept in.

Aaron combed his hair and pulled it in frustration before crossing his arms over his chest. My gaze shifted from him to David.

"She left." David handed me a letter as my heart began thudding loudly.

I took a deep breath before I slowly opened it.

Dear Dad, and Aaron,

I know I said I'd stay for two weeks more, and I'm sorry I can't keep that promise. Please don't worry about me. I'm okay, and I'll be okay.

I found my mate. That's all you need to know for now. I will call soon, I promise!

I love you and please take care of each other!

dairy

I didn't know how I made it back to the pack house after the incident at Clair's home. I didn't even know how I was able to hold myself together in front of her family.

She found her mate. And she just left just like that. She didn't even think about me.

I lifted the glass of whisky to my lips, drowning in it before throwing the glass on the wall adjacent to my desk and watched as it shattered into pieces. I had no idea how many glasses were already broken inside the office.

All I knew was that she had left me. She chose her mate over me. And the pain was unbearable. I didn't know pain such as this existed. I couldn't think. I couldn't breathe.

A growl reverberated from my chest as I f\*orc\*ed the office window open and jumped out of it. I stripped off my clothes and ran n\*ake\*d towards the forest line before leaping and shifting in midair to let my wolf take over and run free.

I lost her.

I ran with no direction and just let myself grieve, letting my wolf howl in agony under the moonless night sky.

Tonight, a part of me died.

## He's My Alpha Chapter 32

He's My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

### Chapter 32

#### JAKE

Two weeks had gone by in a flash, but the pain remained as if she had just left.

I had no idea how I was able to function, but somehow I did.

My Beta, Gavin, had my back on most days. I would not be able to run the pack if it were not for him. He took all the blows on my behalf and made sure no one from the pack had any idea that their Alpha was suffering, not even my Gamma.

Now I know how it feels to be alive but dead inside.

Some days were a little better, but most days were worse. And I didn't think it could get worse than it is right now. I've just learned to live with it. Day by day. Night after night.

But the nights were unbearable.

Nights were filled with dreams of her turning into a nightmare. If she did not end up dead in my arms, she would run off with some faceless guy, mocking me for falling in love with her. The cycle seemed endless, crushing me more and more every day.

“Enough! We can’t have you destroy all the bags around here, man! There is nothing left for the warriors to use, and the new ones are not coming until the end of the week!” My Beta reprimanded me as he held the punching bag out of my way.

I growled and snapped at him to let it go. “Who’s the Alpha here?”

“Come on, Jake! This is not right anymore! You’re turning exactly the way you don’t want to be! And she’s not even your f\*uc\*king mate!” I could sense frustration rolling off him, not that I care.

“f\*uc\*k off!” I shouted at him before grabbing my shirt off the bench and storming off the gym, slamming the door on my way out.

I wanted to blow up some steam and my f\*uc\*king Beta couldn’t understand that!

He opened the door and shouted after me. “Stop losing yourself to someone who was never yours to begin with!”

That hit me hard. It f\*uc\*king hurts because he was right. She was never mine.

I wanted to curse her for leaving me, but a part of me couldn’t even think of hating her. Even if I wanted to deny it, she still had me wrapped around her fingers, and I knew the moment she came back, I would welcome her back into my life in an instant.

I’m a f\*uc\*king loser!

“Alpha.” I stopped in my tracks and turned to face my Gamma.

“What?” I snapped at him, annoyed.

“Can we talk?” He asked, looking around to see if anyone could hear us.

“Talk now. I don’t have much time.”

“I need to go for a few days. I need to see Clair.” He added in a low voice, sweat running down his forehead.

My wolf suddenly perked up at the mention of her name as my shoulders tensed.

“What’s wrong? Is she okay?” I didn’t care anymore if he could read the desperation in my eyes. I wanted to know how she was.

“Uncle Theodore called me. She’s there and she’s not okay. Her f\*uc\*king mate rejected her and she hasn’t been okay ever since.” He slumped down on the floor and leaned his back on the wall, his head hanging low. “And here I thought she didn’t call because she was having the time of her life. I need to see her. I can’t focus on my duty here unless I know she’s okay.” His voice was so low, that I could barely hear him if not for my Alpha hearing.

He tilted his head to look at me. “You would understand, right? You will let me go to her?” His eyes were seeking understanding.

I was out of words. I felt my voice constricted in my throat. It took me a while before I was able to answer him.

I nodded and reached my arm to pull him up. “Go there, man. Make sure she’s okay. Take as much time as you both need, and bring her home. I’ll take care of the rest here.”

He nodded and throw me a hug as I patted his back before letting him go.

“You will not banish me if I ended up killing this guy? Would you?”

“No. I’ll stand beside you.” Or I would be the one to kill that bastard.

He smiled weakly before turning his body around and walking away while I stood frozen in my spot. I let our conversation run through my mind again, making sure I heard everything correctly.

It took a while before everything sank in and a small smile formed on my lips. My cheeks ached slightly, and I couldn’t remember the last time I smiled like this.

All I knew was she took my smile and my happiness with her the day she left.

I should be hurt and sad knowing she was suffering, but the wicked part of me rejoiced. As selfish as it appeared, I never felt more alive since she left.

She’s coming back. Mateless.

No one stands in our way now. No f\*uc\*king mates to mess with us. It might take some time before she gets over him. But I have time, I can wait.

My princess would always be worth the wait. And then I could finally have Chosen Luna I wanted. I would do everything in my power to make her mine. Everything.

**AARON**

Instead of driving for twelve hours, I decided to take the plane to Atlanta. Within two hours, I landed and didn't waste any more time as I hurried down from the plane. My sister needed me.

I got out of the airport and saw Uncle Theodore waving at me, a hopeful smile written on his face. I gave him a quick hug before we moved to his parked car. Silence brooded over us.

We continued to drive in silence until I couldn't hold it anymore.

"What happened? How is she?" I asked.

"I honestly don't know how to explain. She came to us a week ago. She said she was staying in some inn for some time and just couldn't stomach transferring from time to time, so she moved back here. We thought nothing was unusual until we noticed she wouldn't eat as much as she used to and was just holed up in her room." He let out a breath. I remained silent, wanting to hear the rest of his story.

"Her eyes were always puffy and she would say she had allergies. That girl spent almost five years with us and was never sick nor had any allergies. She's a wolf, for Goddess' sake, but I didn't ask more. Until Laura got into her the other day and she confessed. She said her mate didn't want her and she was just doing her best to get over it so she could move on."

I coiled my hands into fists and tried to get hold of my wolf, Ark. He wanted to come out and create havoc. He wanted to avenge Clair.

"Our little girl is trying to be tough. But I can't see her like this anymore. It broke my heart, so I called you. Don't ever think I want to throw her out. She's like a daughter to me, but I think she'll do better when she has people around her who can understand the mate bond. And the pain of rejection from it."

I nodded, my hands still coiled into fists. I would have punched the window if this was my car. My respect for my uncle was the only thing holding my anger right now. I wanted to blow up and snap the life out of her f\*uc\*king mate.

"I appreciate that you called, uncle. We thought she was happy and busy, on a high with this mate bond. We didn't know." I admitted it painfully.

As soon as we arrived, I jumped out of the car and went inside the house. I gave Aunt Laura a quick hug as she pointed to Clair's room. She was inside and had no idea that I was coming.

I didn't waste time and made my way to her door, knocking once before I heard her voice.



“I’m not hungry. I’ll eat later before I sleep. I just want to finish this book,” she replied, her voice having no life at all.

I closed my eyes and breathed deeply, lost for words when I felt a hand on my forearm. I looked down and saw Aunt Laura with a key in her hand. I mouthed a thank you and took it. She walked away before I was able to slide the key into the keyhole.

Click.

I opened the door, and the warm temperature inside her room came rushing out.

“Clair?” I called softly as my eyes searched for her. I found her sitting in a chair staring blankly at the view of the forest at the back of their house through the window.

She snapped her head back in my direction and stood up from her chair, her palm leaning on the window sill. “What are you doing here?” Her eyes widened in surprise.

I looked at her and noticed how thin she had become.

Two weeks. It only took two f\*uc\*king weeks for her to look like this, like the life was sucked out of her. Her eyes were hollowed, her bags under them, and her cheekbones were protruding as her face sank in, making it way smaller than it already was. There was no color to it. She looked like a walking dead.

In a few strides, I pulled my sister into my arms and hugged her tightly, letting the tears I had been holding trickle down my face. “What did you do to yourself, dairy? Why?”

She wrapped her arms around me and rested her face on my chest, her hands clutching my shirt tightly. “Why are you here? I’m okay. You don’t need to worry about me. I got this!”

I shook my head and pulled her away from my chest, my eyes begging her to look at mine. “No! You’re not okay! We’ll sort this out together. I’m here and I won’t leave you, not again.”

She pursed her lips and nodded before leaning her head back into my chest. Her shoulders started to shake as soft sobs escaped her throat. The sound of her cries was killing me. I wondered how long she had been trying to be strong on her own. I scooped her off the floor and sat on the single sofa in her room, cuddling her like I used to do when she was just a toddler. I let my little sister cry in my arms tonight until she had it all out and sleep took over.

## He’s My Alpha Chapter 33

He’s My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

## Chapter 33

### CLAIR

I got up from my bed and headed for the bathroom. I think last night was the first night I was able to sleep peacefully without waking up in the middle of the night since I left Jake's territory. And even though I still have pain in my chest, at least I was able to rest for hours.

I rested my hands on the sink counter and looked at the mirror. I saw the same face I've been seeing for the past few weeks – hollowed eyes, too high cheekbones, and thin cheeks. My small face became smaller. I bit my lips hard to bring color to them, but it didn't help. I still looked like I'd been driven over by a big truck. I looked dead.

I splashed my face with water to wake me up when a memory from last night came flooding in.

Aaron was here. Shit! Did he find out? What did Jake say?

I grabbed my toothbrush and brushed my teeth in a hurry before putting my day clothes on and rushing out of my bathroom, only to stop in my tracks at the sight of my bedroom.

It was a total mess. My clothes were everywhere. Piles of plates and cups on one side from all the food Aunt Laura had brought in for me. I couldn't remember ever cleaning or tidying up since I arrived last week. I needed to step up and start to move again, or soon they might kick me out of here.

I decided I would clean up later, but I grabbed a handful of plates and opened my door, slipping out and making my way to the kitchen. Everyone was already sitting around the dining table, including my brother.

"Good morning..." I greeted them as I walked toward the sink and put down the stack of plates in my hand before turning around to look at them. "I still have a load of dirty dishes in my room, but I will clean them up after breakfast." I smiled, but I could feel my cheeks burning in embarrassment.

In the five years that I stayed with them, Uncle Theodore was strict in making me clean up after my own mess, and he would always check if my room was orderly. So it came as a surprise that since I arrived a week ago, he had never once reprimanded me for my mess.

"Good morning, sweetheart!" My uncle stood up and drew one chair for me to sit in, while Aunt Laura stood up to pick up a plate with pancakes and place it in front of me.

“Glad you can join us for breakfast.” She whispered in my ears and left a kiss on my head. “Don’t worry about the dirty dishes. Just leave your door open and I can pick them up later.”

I bit my lower lip and didn’t say anything more as I watched her go back to her seat. But I knew I would rather be the one to bring them down here.

I took my gaze off Aunt Laura and reached for the fork. I started slicing pancakes when Aaron reached out and put syrup on them. “You forgot your syrup.”

I threw him a quick glance and smiled weakly. “Thank you.”

He offered me his usual cocky smile. “Want to show me around the area? I don’t think I’ve seen this place yet.”

I tilted my head and looked at him, my brow raised. “Are you staying? How long?”

“As long as it takes. I’m not leaving here without you.”

“I’m not coming back there, Aaron.” I sighed and dropped my gaze to my food.

“Why not?”

“I don’t have anything there for me?”

“You have friends who can understand you. I’m sure Jenny and Chloe will be happy to see you. Even the Alpha, he wants you to come home.”

I swallowed hard when he mentioned his name. “I don’t know. I’ll think about it.”

He nodded and continued eating his pancakes, glancing at my uncle from time to time, who pretended to be busy reading his morning paper while drinking coffee, but I knew he was listening. “Don’t think about it. We’ll take it one day at a time. Today, I want you to show me around. Fair enough?” He added while pushing a mouthful of pancake into his mouth.

I smiled at his action. Typical Aaron. But I was thankful that he was here.

I couldn’t thank my brother enough for staying longer than he should have. I knew he had responsibilities within the pack, but he refused to leave my side at the moment.

And I was not ready to head back yet. Until now, nobody had a clue who my mate was, and I wanted it to remain that way.

Aaron has been doing a great job of forcing me to eat on time and hit the gym so we can both work out. I had shown him around, and by the look of it, he had gotten familiar with

the city and the human girls around here to manage his own hookups without my help. Not that I care. He could do what he wanted as long as he didn't bother me about my so-called mate.

Today was the tenth day since Aaron came, and we were hanging out on the porch outside the house, beer cans and chips all over us.

Aunt Laura and Uncle Theodore were with us earlier, but they went ahead and called it a night, leaving me and Aaron alone.

"Dairy, you know I have to go back soon, right? I've been here more than I should."

"I know. And that's okay. You don't really need to babysit me now. I'm better and I'll keep getting better and better."

He let out a sigh. "If I had a say in this matter, I would take you home, but I won't f\*orc\*e you. And I would stay if there's nothing important to do there."

I nodded as I pulled my knees into my chest, hugging my legs. I c\*oc\*ked my head and glanced at him. "Is everything okay there? I mean, you need to go home because you've been here so long, or did something important come up?"

"The Alpha's birthday is coming, and we sent out invitations for a gala. With many Alphas' daughters invited, we need to hike up the security, and that's my job. The Alpha has been covering for me, but I owed it to him to be back for the event itself." He explained, but I failed to hear the rest of his words after it sank in that many Alpha females were invited.

"What's with the Alpha females being invited?" I couldn't hold my tongue, so I asked.

"He needs to have a Luna soon. Beta and I thought it's better if he could interact with them before the Claiming Ball."

My nose started to flare as my heart was slowly being crushed. To hide my emotions, I rested my chin on my knees and gazed down. Rain whimpered before she retreated herself from the back of my mind. She left me again to suffer on my own, which she has been doing since I left the territory.

"So, he's picking a Luna? What's a Claiming Ball?" I asked in a low voice.

Aaron took a swig of his beer before answering. "He needed a Luna. He delayed it for so long and the elders are not happy. And since he's not doing anything or not searching for his mate or chosen, Beta Gavin arranged for this ball."

"What's a Claiming Ball?" I asked again. My brow was raised, my face void of emotions.

“It’s a ball for Alpha females, daughters, and descendants of Alpha lineage. If an Alpha or a Beta wants to take an Alpha Female for a chosen mate, he needs to fight for her in the Claiming, unless, of course, nobody wants that female, then she’s free to be taken by the interested Alpha.”

“Those females, they’re that special?” My heart thudded and I felt my hatred for all alpha females grow.

“You would say that. If they’re not fated to an Alpha, most fathers would rather have their daughter claimed by another Alpha. Many of those females rejected their mates or have never found them.”

“Pathetic!” I huffed in annoyance.

“I know. But it works for most. Especially those who want to build alliances with those Alpha females’ pack. They do everything to win those females, and voila, alliances are built.”

“And Jake would go there to claim a mate?”

“He needs to. He’s losing time.”

There was silence between us. I wanted to ask

more, but I kept mum, fearing that Aaron would catch me with my own tongue.

But one thing was for sure, my broken heart just kept breaking. I didn’t know that a shattered heart could be shattered more.

I honestly had no idea what I was thinking.

Sometimes I felt like something was wrong with my head. I ran away from him so he wouldn’t have to be burdened by this fated mate thing, and yet here I was, sitting in my pick-up while Aaron drove us back to the territory just because I was devastated at the idea that Jake would claim another female for his mate.

Pathetic, right? I know.

I didn’t have a game plan. I had no idea what I would say to him. I didn’t know what I would do if he picked someone else. I didn’t want to see that day, and yet, here I was, heading back to witness exactly when that day arrived.

Really pathetic. I am pathetic.

“I’m still shocked you’re coming with me. But I’m not complaining. So what’s the deal?” Aaron threw a quick glance at me before moving back to the

road. We just crossed another state and were just four hours away from the territory.

I scrunched up my nose and fixed my sunglasses before answering. "What do you mean, what's the deal?"

"What made you change your mind? Jake? Right?" He continued without looking at me this time. His voice sounded calm and welcoming, which was never the case whenever we talked about me and Jake in the past. "You still like him?"

I let out a sigh and slumped my head into my seat's headrest. "You can say that, but more so, I just want to see who he will choose," I admitted. I'd rather he knew that I like Jake, or he might suspect something if I started to act strange around him or his Luna.

He nodded. "Fair enough. If you want, I can sneak you into the gala." A coy smile formed on his lip. "What?" I looked at him. His eyes widened in surprise. "Why would you do that? What happened to, not my sister? Back off!" I asked while mimicking his voice for the last part.

He chuckled and shook his head before turning serious. "I think he likes you, dairy. You should have seen how devastated he was when I told him you left because you found your mate. He tried not to show it, but he wasn't the same after you left."

For a while, I felt my lungs stop working as air constricted in my throat. My eyes sting with tears, but I fight them off from falling. I was lost for words.

A certain emotion started to grow within me, something I haven't felt since I found out he was my mate.

Hope.

Maybe he liked me enough to overcome his hatred for the mate bond. I closed my eyes and scolded myself. I couldn't be hopeful. That would be the death of me.

"And maybe, he'll be good for you. So, you'll forget that idiot mate of yours. But I'm not saying that Jake will be off the hook, If he'll just play you around then... you know what's coming next." He smiled warmly before pulling my head close to him, giving my hair a soft k\*iss before letting me go.

I smiled in return, trying to hide my real emotions. I cursed my life and every decision I made. Why did I run away in the first place, just to come back? Now things are getting more complicated.

"So? Are you on it? I'll sneak you in at the Gala." He winked at me.

I nodded my head too eagerly before I let out one more concern. "Do you think we can stop by somewhere where I can buy a dress? I don't have anything perfect for a gala."

# He's My Alpha Chapter 34

He's My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

## Chapter 34

JAKE

If this party wasn't held on my behalf, I would be sitting in my office, alone. I hated parties like this, and that was the reason I never attended one, unless I was obligated.

I didn't see the need for this, knowing that I would pursue Clair once she came back. I had already made up my mind. I wanted Clair and no one else. But since the invitation went out weeks ago, there was no way this gala could be canceled.

I raised the glass in my hand to my lips, taking a slow sip of whisky as my gaze swept the ballroom, oblivious to the female who clung greedily into my arms as if I would flee.

I might soon. She was boring me to death with her complaints about the other she-wolves around us. She probably thought that by degrading the others, she was putting herself in a higher spot in my list.

But there was no list. I only have one spot, and it was already reserved for Clair.

My thoughts drifted to my Gamma, while the female continued to chatter beside me. I still haven't seen Aaron, but Beta Gavin told me he had already arrived.

Aaron informed us beforehand that Clair would not be coming back with him. And that alone pissed me off. Now, I needed to find a way to see her. Maybe I could convince her. Maybe what we had before she left still meant something to her.

'Gamma, are you here?' I opened my mindlink just to check on Aaron. I wanted to know more.

"Alpha," someone acknowledged from my back, but the voice didn't register in my head because, all of a sudden, an intoxicating smell of wild berries and jasmine swirled around me.

I wanted to find the source of the smell and just sink my nose into her skin. Only then did I realize what I was smelling.

f\*uc\*k!

I let go of the hand clinging to my forearm a little too harshly as my hands coiled into fists. My jaws tightened as anger started to surge from my aura. What the f\*uc\*k was she doing here? Who the f\*uc\*k invited her?

As much as I hated to find out who my mate was, I didn't have a choice right now. I needed to be in control. I just needed to meet her, reject her, and move on.

Echo went into a total rage at my decision.

I took a deep breath and pushed Echo to the back of my mind, earning a snarl from him. He wanted to be in control and claim our mate, but that would be the last thing I would do. It was already hard for me to control myself. Her f\*uc\*king scent was already captivating us, and I couldn't let her do more.

I cleared my throat and composed myself before I slowly turned my body around, ready to face the owner of the scent. I just needed to reject her – I kept repeating in my head.

I knew I was ready to meet her and give her my rejection, only to be met by the most beautiful eyes I have ever laid my gaze upon.

The moment our eyes locked, I felt the mate bond snap into life and everyone else vanished around me as I got lost in those mesmerizing blue sapphire eyes.

Once again, my mate caught me by surprise.

## **CLAIR**

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His eyes softened as he acknowledged the bond, and for a moment, I felt hope. Maybe he would still want me. He would want us.

It felt wonderful, exhilarating, until it lasted.

My heart panicked as the soft gaze turned into anger. His eyes swirled into a deep black with flashes of red. I had never seen anger surging from his eyes before, and I didn't want to see more. I dropped my gaze to the floor while allowing his scent to calm my nerves.

'Please don't reject me, not now. Not in front of my brother.' I sent him a mindlink and hoped that he would not deny my request.



I felt my brother's hand reach for my back as he spoke to the Alpha. "Alpha. I'm sorry I was late. We got caught up in some accidents on the highway, and there was no alternative route." He smiled before adding. "I hope you don't mind that I slipped in Clair with me since I didn't want her..." "It's okay. Enjoy the party. We can talk more later. I'll see you around." He cut off Aaron before he was able to finish his explanation and turned around abruptly, walking to the other side of the room, the female beside him following him like a dog.

"That was strange," Aaron whispered in my ear, chuckling while shaking his head. After that, he just shrugged his shoulder and guided me to sit on the empty table nearby. "Will you be okay here? I need to check with Timothy, my second in command, first. Pack duties."

I nodded and offered him a wide smile. "I'll be fine. Go and do what you need to do." I shooed him away. My gaze followed my brother as he took one more look at me before striding to where Timothy was.

My eyes wandered around the ballroom, stopping at the figure leaning by the window on the other side directly in front of where I sat. He had his dark blue eyes fixated on me while sipping from his whisky glass as he scrutinized me.

In a second, another beautiful female with blonde hair went up to him, engaging him in a conversation. He started talking with her but his gaze never left mine, earning a scowl from the female as she followed his gaze.

I was the first one to tear my eyes away from him. My wolf, Rain, kept whimpering in my head at the sight of our mate in proximity to another woman. Rain wanted to stake her claim on our mate, as much as I did.

When I couldn't take it anymore, I rose from my seat and walked towards the refreshment area, picking up a tall glass of iced tea.

"So many amazing drinks are available and yet, you picked up that one? Scared of getting drunk?" I heard a voice behind me, and I spun around to check if the question was meant for me.

My eyes widened while my lips were still around the straw of the drink I was sipping when I realized the man was indeed talking to me.

"My name is Alpha Aeon, and may I know the name of the lovely lady who would rather drink this not- so-tasty iced tea?" He introduced himself and waited for my response, a friendly smile growing on his face.

I placed the glass on the table beside me and offered him an awkward smile. But before I was able to introduce myself, I smelled him.

My mate. He was nearby now.

And just then, a female voice came from behind me, forcing me to turn my body around. “Come on, Alpha Aeon, you hit on every female you see around. ” The female chuckled as she shifted her gaze to me, smiling, but I could sense her resentment at my presence despite her smile.

I found myself in the middle of Alpha Aeon, Jake and the female clinging to his arm. My eyes stayed longer than they should on their entwined arms, with Rain threatening to let her claws out before I was able to take hold of myself.

All the while, my heart fluttered and my knees started to buckle as his scent enveloped my whole senses. My heart was crushed but at the same time healed at the sight and scent of him.

I raised a brow before turning my gaze at Jake. My head bobbed to acknowledge him while my heart kept thudding in my chest. “Alpha.”

He nodded his head, his eyes fixed on mine. I tore my eyes off him and focused on Alpha Aeon just as he spoke.

“Should I be offended? You acknowledged Jacob before answering my question. You know, I’m an Alpha as well.” He placed a hand on his chest, a coy grin plastered on his face, telling me that he wasn’t offended at all.

I looked down at my heels and smiled shyly. “My name is Clair, Alpha Aeon.”

“And who’s daughter are you? I mean you’re an Alpha female right? Because the females invited here are all Alpha females and you don’t look familiar. I haven’t seen you in other gatherings such as this.” The female beside Jake spoke, her tone laced with sarcasm.

I felt a lump form in my throat as all attention shifted to me. I took a deep breath before meeting her eyes. “My father is not an Alpha if that’s what you wanted to ask.”

The female raised her brow, unimpressed. I opened my mouth to say some nasty comeback, but Alpha Aeon beat me to it. “Then you must be something special to be here. Am I right, Jacob?”

And my heart sank. For a moment, I contemplated mind-linking Aaron to save me, but then I saw Jake shift from his position. He let go of the female’s hand gently and slid beside me. His palm touched my lower back, which immediately sparked sparks all over my body.

The sparks were explosive. The tingles I felt at his touch before the mate bond was nothing compared to how it feels right now.

I didn't know the mate bond could do this to my body. The sparks were sending pleasure direct to my core. The sensations were comforting and wild at the same time. If I wasn't able to control myself, I would definitely wet myself just by his touch.

I tilted my head up and looked at him, his gaze shifting from the female to Alpha Aeon as he began to speak while his palm brushed my back softly. "Clair's father is not an Alpha but her grandfather was."

My eyes widened in surprise. And had no idea if anyone noticed how shocked I was. What the f\*uc\*k was that?

"She's the late Alpha Thaddeus' granddaughter." He added.

I didn't know he would lie to save my face, but I just swallowed my pride and let him talk. My gaze was still fixed on him as my eyes traveled to his chiseled jaws and his slightly stubbled chin. Oh, Goddess! I wanted to touch him!

"Hmmm... I didn't know Alpha Thaddeus' son, Alpha Noah, had a daughter. I've only known sons." Alpha Aeon stated.

I saw Jake smirking before shifting his gaze to me. His eyes captured mine, and for a moment, his eyes softened before they shifted to his normal stance, the one with no emotions. "I agree, Alpha Thaddeus' sons, do not have a daughter. But Alpha Thaddeus' daughter has one."

I tore my eyes off him and dropped my gaze to the floor. I am totally confused now. Why would he lie, and how far would he go before they realized it was a hoax?

"Aha! I remember Alpha Thaddeus had a daughter, but I didn't know she had a daughter. Isn't Lady Camilla married to an ordinary warrior?" Alpha Aeon continued to ask.

At the mention of my mother's name, my head automatically jerked up and I looked back at Jake. Confusion was written all over my face, but he refused to look at me this time as he further explained.

"I would say she was married to one of the best warriors in our pack, and together they had Clair here." He looked at me for a quick second before turning his gaze towards my brother, who was standing on the other side of the ballroom with Beta Gavin and pointing a finger in his direction.

"And her brother, my best warrior. My Gamma, Aaron."

It took a while for me to understand everything, it's harder to think when his hand at my back distracts me and makes Rain whimper contently at the back of my mind.

He wasn't lying then. My mother was from an Alpha lineage?

“Interesting! But nevertheless, I still find this young lady worth my attention regardless of whether she’s an Alpha female or not.” Alpha Aeon shifted his full attention to me, which had me blushing in a second, earning a frown both from Jake and the female beside him.

Alpha Aeon then extended his hand and smirked as he asked for my approval. “Would you dance with me, Lady Clair?” Ignoring the other two beside us.

Before I could decline, since I didn’t fancy slow dancing, Jake cleared his throat and reached out for my hand instead.

“She’s my guest, Aeon. It is appropriate that I’ll have her first dance.” He spoke with authority as he led me to the middle of the ballroom without giving a second glance to the others.

As soon as we reached the middle of the dance floor, he guided both my hands to his shoulders and slipped his into my waist, pulling my body closer to him.

I closed my eyes and breathed him in before I spoke in a soft tone. “Thank you for taking me away there.” I opened my eyes to see him staring at me deeply.

“So I did you a favor? I thought you were dying to dance with him.” If he was jealous or not, I couldn’t tell. He was so good at putting on that stoic expression, which I found frustrating.

“So you think I will jump on any guy that shows interest in me?”

“I don’t know. I thought I knew you, but apparently, I was wrong. I don’t know what’s going on in that head of yours.”

“Cut the crap, Jake. Stop taking riddles. Say what you want to say.”

“Shouldn’t you be the one explaining?”

“What should I explain?”

“So we’re mates.” He said it as if he was just talking about the weather, and I had to refrain from

showing a disappointed expression. “Now tell me, why did you leave? And why did you come back?”

The last question hit me hard. Now that he knew I was his mate, it’s clear that he didn’t want me around. It hurts, and I didn’t know if I could live with that.

I slid my hands from his shoulders to his chest and gently pushed him off me while my heart was thudding erratically. “I came back to take what’s mine! But apparently, it would take a lot more to get to him.”

## He’s My Alpha Chapter 35

He’s My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

### Chapter 35

#### JAKE

I have never felt more conflicted in my life than I feel right now. The turn of events kept flashing at the back of my mind, and I had been sitting in my office for the last three hours after the gala ended.

Before the gala, I was sure that I would not have my fated mate for my Luna. But I didn’t know what I wanted anymore the moment I saw her tonight.

I thought I had everything planned out, but the Goddess kept messing with my plans. I thought I was in control until she walked in tonight, looking like a goddess of her own in that blue-silhouetted midnight gown that did nothing to hide her curves.

She looked perfect. Everything about her was mesmerizing. And her sweet smell, her smell, had always enticed me but this new scent she carried around had me addicted in a second.

I had to control myself and my wolf from jumping on her and taking her to my room so I could have her just for myself. I wanted to dig my nose into her skin and take all I could from her.

Not to mention the desire in me to end the lives of every male who threw a lusty gaze at her, especially Aeon. I was already on the verge of throwing him out of the ballroom and snapping his neck if he ever tried to stop me from dancing with her.

Goddess! Why the f\*uc\*k? You knew I wanted her, but you made sure she turned out to be everything I wanted and didn’t want.

\*\*\*FLASHBACK\*\*\*

I was ten years old and sitting uncomfortably in my grandfather’s office, Alpha Thelon. I had just come out of my morning training when the Alpha requested me.

I saw the anger and hatred in his eyes the moment I stepped inside his office. I feared no one except my Alpha. He knew how to put me into place.

“What did I do wrong this time, Alpha?” I asked him, my gaze fixed on him, waiting for him to lock his eyes with mine. He had taught me to look people in the eye when speaking to them. They should know and feel the power my gaze held.

I was trained to be an Alpha and, despite the fear I felt inside, I was good at hiding it now.

He shook his head and combed his hair with his hand before looking at me. “It’s not you, son. It’s your hell of a man, father. He still keeps declining his rightful place just to be with that disgusting female.” He spat those words out in anger.

“I am so close to the point of banishing your father from this pack, Jacob. This close!” He punched his desk, leaving a dent in it. My grandfather, the Alpha, was close to fifty years old, but he didn’t look a day over thirty. But his eyes say otherwise. His eyes were tired and full of disappointment.

Three years ago, my father went to another territory to sign a treaty on behalf of my grandfather. There he met his fated mate and decided she was worth abandoning his family for. I was seven when he left, leaving me behind and my mother — his chosen mate, to be with his fated mate. My grandfather tried to talk him back and offered to make his fated mate his second wife. But the female refused. She wanted my father just for herself.

And just like that, I lost my father, and soon after, my mother took her own life.

After my mother died, we tried to reach out one more time. Still, he refused to come back.

“Then banish him, Alpha. I will take the Alpha seat once you think I am ready. I will not disappoint you.”

My heart was full of hatred, not just for my father but for the female who took everything away from me. My father’s mate, she didn’t just take my father away from me. She also dragged the life out of my mother and took my childhood away from me.

From that day forward, I promised my grandfather and myself that no female could take hold of me the same way it had my father and my forefathers before me.

\*\*\*END FLASHBACK\*\*\*

A knock on my office door woke me up from my slumber. I didn’t have any grasp of time, but it couldn’t be that long since I drifted off to sleep.

‘Are you decent, Alpha? Can I come in?’ Aaron opened a mindlink, a teasing tone to his inquiry.

“Come in,” I called out, ignoring his mindlink.

Aaron eased in and sat directly on the chair in front of my table, but not before his gaze took a fast sweep of my office, a playful grin escaping his mouth.

I raised an eyebrow, a frown etched on my face. ” What’s that for? Are you expecting to see something?”

“Or someone?” He teased. “Well, we have tons of beautiful females from last night. I was expecting at least one of them to end up here.”

“When did I ever f\*uc\*k anyone inside the pack house? And did you forget that your sister was there at the gala as well? Were you expecting that she might be the one in here?” A smug smirk formed on my face as I stood up from my chair, swiping two empty scotch glasses from the counter and heading for my whisky cabinet as I waited for his response. “Nah. I saw her go home. She said she got bored, and I made sure she was safely tucked in her bed before I went to sleep.” He mirrored the smug smirk on my face.

“You don’t trust that she won’t be able to resist my charms?” I let out a low chuckle, trying not to show the real emotions I had. I had no idea if Aaron knew that his sister was my mate.

“Well, you can’t trust the big bad wolf. And that’s why I’m here, Alpha. ” His tone changed from playful to serious.

I walked back to my table and slid him a glass of whisky.

Aaron caught it perfectly. “Isn’t it too early for this? For goddess’ sake, Jake, it’s only six in the morning?”

I slumped back on my chair, not minding his question and more eager to hear what he had to say about Clair. “Spill it. What do you want to say?”

I brought the glass to my lips, sipping my drink slowly.

“I’ve said it before, but I want to say it differently this time. About Clair. You’re free to get to know my sister if you want. But please, as soon as you realize that you don’t intend to make her your Luna, you need to stop and let her know where she stands.

You are fully aware that her mate rejected her, and the last thing I want is for you to play with her and dump her like trash when you get tired of her. She deserves better.”

A lump formed in my throat. I wanted to say something, but nothing came out. He took my silence as his cue to continue talking.

“I saw the way she looked at you last night. For a fleeting second, I almost believed that she was looking at you as if you were her mate if I didn’t remember that her f\*uc\*king mate rejected her.”

I put my emotions in check so as to not crush the glass in my hand, but the reality hit me again. I could never run away from it. She still wanted me, despite and in spite of my refusal to acknowledge our bond.

He shook his head, pursing his lips before adding more. “But then maybe it’s natural. She always had a crush on you. I thought she got over it. Evidently not yet.”

We stayed silent for a long time. I have no idea what to say. A part of me wanted to confess to my Gamma, her brother, but a part of me was conflicted.

It should have been an easy choice. I made my decision years ago, but now I wasn’t sure anymore.

Aaron let out a sigh before standing up. “I guess that’s all.”

He leaned his hands on my desk and looked me straight in the eyes. “I will always support you, Alpha. I always did, but I will not hesitate to denounce my position and challenge you if you ever play with Clair’s heart. Let her know where she stands so as to not let her hopes rise just to be crushed again.”

He turned on his heel and walked towards the door. “I will be at the training ground with our warriors. Just call me if you need me anywhere today. And in case Beta Gavin forgot to remind you, you have breakfast scheduled with Dahlia at eight today and lunch with Serena. Better go up to your room and fix yourself. You look like a mess, not a man pursuing his future Luna.” He c\*oc\*ked his head, smiling teasingly at me before giving me a salute as he opened the door of my office and walked out.