

He's My Alpha Chapter 71

He's My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

Chapter 71

Clair.

I was cursing him under my breath as I made my way back to my room, and of course, someone was following behind me.

As I reached the hallway to my room, my brow hiked up at the sight in front of my bedroom door. The pack Beta stood there with his back leaning against the wall, and based on his position, he was surely waiting for me.

Now that I had a chance to look at him, I realized he was younger than my uncle — way younger, probably around 25 to 27 years old. He had a tall build of around 6'11 inches, a slender figure, and blonde hair. If he wasn't Alpha Noah's Beta, I would probably say he was good-looking. But then I hated his Alpha, so everyone around him looked unappealing to me.

"Anything you need, Beta?" I asked as soon as I reached the door.

He opened the door of my room and made way for me. But I hesitated. There was no way I'd go into my room with him.

"Step in. We'll talk inside," he said in a low voice, looking at the two men behind me.

"No. We can talk here." I stayed in my place, crossing my arms against my chest.

"Inside, Lady Clair. Or don't let me use force to put you in there." He signaled to the men behind me.

One of them grabbed my arm and was about to pull me inside, but I shrugged his hand away and glared at him before stepping inside the room. The Beta followed and closed the door behind us.

"What do you need?" I faced him, keeping a distance between us.

He smiled at me warmly, flashing his deep dimples, before he started to talk. "I know we didn't start on a good note, so I'm here to introduce myself. I'm Melvin, and I was hoping we could get to know each other better." He stepped closer and tried to hold my hand.

I stepped back and glared at him. “I’m not interested in getting to know you. You can leave.”

He did not attempt to conceal his smirk as he stepped closer again. “I can help you out of here, you know. Just say it, and I will help you.”

“In exchange for what?” My chest was heaving. I knew where this was leading.

“Just one night with me, and as soon as tomorrow, I can drop you outside of the border and order a cab to take you anywhere you want. No one will know, and you’ll be free to go.”

I swallowed hard. The offer was tempting, but there was no way I was going to let this pig touch me. I raised my brow and flashed him a smug grin. “In your dreams. Now, get the f*uc*k away from here. Or I ’ll tell my uncle about your tempting offer.” I warned him.

He laughed, and in a swift motion, he had me pinned to the wall, his hands holding my wrists above my head as his tall figure hovered over me.

Everything else tuned out, and the only thing I could hear was the hard beating of my own heart and the fear coursing through my veins as he leaned his head down to my level.

Rain growled in my head, taunting me to wriggle my way out of his hold.

All of a sudden, he pressed his lips to mine. He was k*issing me brutally hard. It was revolting and repulsing — my mouth and my wolf felt violated.

I took a deep breath before opening my mouth just enough and biting his lip hard until I tasted blood on it while my mind sent a message to Alpha Noah, and hoped that his mind wasn’t blocked off and that he would do something about this.

The Beta winced in pain from my bite and let go of me, wiping the blood on his lips with his arm while his mouth tugged into a c*oc*ky grin.

“You just turned me on more, Clair!” His eyes started to turn obsidian black, with lust flitting from them.

I wiped my mouth with the sleeve of my sweater and shouted at him. “Get out! My uncle was already informed! And I’m sure...”

I was not able to finish my threat because, at that exact moment, the door blew open with Alpha Noah behind it. Both of our heads snapped toward the broken door.

Alpha Noah was glaring at his Beta as low growls vibrated from his chest. But he didn’t say a word.

The Beta dropped his gaze from his Alpha and turned his attention to me. He narrowed his eyes, anger flitting on them before he walked out of my room.

Jake.

I was in my office, still drafting the proposal I needed to present to Noah so he would accept my invitation to visit his territory for pack business when the pain hit my chest and marks started to appear on my wrists.

My world collapsed. I closed my eyes and took all the pain with closed fists. I anticipated the pain would worsen but hoped it would end soon. And it did — it faded after just a few seconds. My chest heaved, and the only thing I could hear was the loud thudding of my own heart and the growl Echo let out in my head.

My feet had a mind of their own and sprang forward, walking out of my office to make their way to the gym in the basement. I needed to hit something. Destroy something. Anything.

The gym was empty since most people had gone home. With a heavy heart, I went to the nearest punching bag and started attacking it relentlessly. Rage filled me as I a*s*saulted the bag.

Someone was pushing himself on my mate, and I couldn't do anything. I couldn't even defend her. I knew she would not k*iss anyone, because if she had wanted to I would have felt more pain. She had resisted him, and for now, she was safe. But for how long?

Until when can she protect herself on her own?

Tears started to trickle down my face as I continued to punch the bag with my bloody knuckles, not minding my own pain. I wanted to feel more.

My heart was bleeding. I would gladly take all the pain in the world if it meant that I could keep her safe. But I f*uc*king couldn't!

Clair.

I woke up with a heavy head and a heavy heart. I don't know what time I fell asleep or if I did fall asleep. Maybe I was awake all along, just numb from everything.

All I knew was that I had cried the whole night.

I don't know if I cried more because the Beta had hara*s*sed me or because of the Claiming, or because my mate was touching another female intimately.

I finally found the strength to force myself up from the bed and make my way to the bathroom. I stood by the sink and just looked at the mirror above it. My eyes were puffy

and swollen, and the bags under them were dark and very visible. This look was very familiar, I'd seen it a few months back when I left after finding out he was my mate.

I looked terrible.

I smiled sarcastically despite myself. I wondered if someone would still claim me if I showed up like this at the Claiming. I shook my head at my own thoughts before the tears started pouring down my face again.

Why me? What did I do wrong? Don't I deserve to be happy?

All I wished for since I was young was to be with my mate and have a family of my own. Have someone who will look at me the same way Dad looked at Mom. I just wanted to have my own love story.

I knew I had gone astray and wished for Jake instead of my mate, but it shouldn't matter, right? Because he ended up being the man I loved and the man I was fated to be with. But why was everything still complicated?

It felt like all my dreams were slipping away.

I laid down the picture I'd stolen from Alpha Noah's office on the sink counter and leaned my palms on it for support. My shoulders started to shake as more tears trickled down my face.

Please, Goddess, help me.

I went inside the shower area and opened the water without taking my clothes off. I leaned my back against the wall, slowly lowered my body to the floor, and just let the water pour over me as I cried my heart out.

I felt alone. Just me and Rain. We didn't have anyone anymore.

For the first time, I felt hopeless.

I didn't hear the bathroom door open, but I saw Luisa come in. Shock registered on her face as she saw my body slumped down with my clothes soaking wet under the shower. She immediately sprang forward toward me but halted when she saw my expression.

I shook my head at her, my eyes pleading for her not to come near me as I wrapped my hands over my body. "Don't. Please. Just let me stay here," I said, almost in a garble because of the water and because I was sobbing pathetically.

She looked at me with understanding in her eyes, and sat on the floor in front of the shower, in front of me. I could see that she was keeping her own tears at bay, but she kept a straight face, giving me her strength. We stayed in the same position for a long time. I

don't know how long. No one talked. Nothing could be heard but the cascading water, the despair of my heart, and the pleading of my cries.

Jake.

Somebody nudged my arm, forcing my eyes to snap open. The brightness of the room caused my eyes to squint as I rose from lying down. Looking around, I realized I was still in the gym, slumped down on the cold floor with my Beta standing in front of me. "I thought you went out for a run and was waiting for you at the office when Castor told me you were asleep here," he said calmly before throwing a glance at the number of broken bags around. "You okay?"

I shook my head and threw my head down, clasp my hands together. "No. Somebody k*issed... or touched Clair last night," I said in a croaked voice.

I heard my Beta hiss.

"It was five to ten seconds and..."

He cut me off and talked, his nose flaring. "Don't you f*uc*king think she did it on purpose!"

I shook my head and raised my face to look at him. "No. Never. That's why it f*uc*king hurt, man." I swallowed hard as the tears welled in my eyes. I thought of my little mate and how vulnerable she was.

"How long can she protect herself, Gavin? How long until someone... someone totally forced himself on her?" My voice cracked, and my body started to shake as I sobbed quietly. "She's my mate, and I can't f*uc*king protect her!"

It finally broke me.

I couldn't suppress the pain anymore, and I just finally let out all the pent-up emotions I had tried to hide.

My Beta stayed silent. He just let me.

When my breathing turned back to normal, I felt his hand on my shoulder.

"Get up and fix yourself. We have things to do. Your mate needs you. We're going to find her and do everything to bring her home." There was a conviction in his voice, and as much as I wanted to believe him it didn't help to ease the pain inside.

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He's My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

Chapter 72

2 days before the Claiming

ALPHA AEON

I was at the training area, sparring with one of the warriors, when my father, Alpha Argon, stormed in with his Beta and halted my training.

"I have some news for you, son." He said in a loud, authoritative voice when he stopped in front of me.

I raised my brow as I accepted the towel handed by Krane, my future Beta, and wiped the sweat from my face. "Can it wait until a later time, father? I'm not done with my sessions today."

He spoke while placing his hands behind his back. "No. It is of importance. I want an answer now. The Claiming is in two days and..."

I cut him off before he could even finish his sentence. My patience was already running out on this topic. "I said I'm not going. It's final. I saw the list last week and I'm not interested."

"Listen to me, Aeon!" His voice was raised, and a scowl was written on his face.

"No, Dad, you listen! I've told you, again and again, that I'm only interested in one female, and I haven't taken any steps yet to court her or at least inform her that I want her. But I promise you I will have her on the next Claiming." I snapped at him, not minding that his eyes began to narrow at my disrespect.

The Alpha shook his head. I knew I was walking on a thin line with him now, but he seemed to be controlling his anger.

"Clair Montrell. She's listed at the Claiming." He said in a calm voice.

My head automatically snapped in his direction. The f*uc*k! Was this a joke?

"Who listed for her? Who will claim her?" I asked in one breath, eager to have an answer.

"I had no idea, and it doesn't matter who listed for her because you're going to intercept her." He pointed a finger at my chest, and a smile tugged into his mouth. "But if nobody shows up, then she's yours."

I chuckled sarcastically. “Who would put an Alpha Female on the list just to abandon her?”

Alpha Females were only listed if they agreed to be claimed by a certain Alpha or Beta. But sometimes, rarely than often, another Alpha or Beta offered a challenge for the female’s hand. If the challenger won, he would be the one to claim the Alpha female.

Father just shrugged his shoulders. “Who knows? The important thing is, she’s there at the Claiming. Claim her and take her as your Luna by Blue Moon. Challenge everyone who wants her. And make sure you win. That’s how the Claiming works.”

My forehead creased while I thought of all the possible ones who would want to claim her. It couldn’t be Alpha Jacob, he was surely flirting with Janet, one of our warriors, yesterday and he mentioned he wouldn’t be attending the Claiming.

Was it his Beta? I saw how he and Clair were so close to each other during my gala. And the Beta was not here last time when they tried to scent off females from our pack. It meant he wasn’t looking for his mate. He was probably the one who wanted to claim Clair.

A smug smirk tugged on my lips as I raised my gaze back to my father. This would be fun. I could definitely overpower a beta.

“I’ll attend the Claiming then. Call the organizer and list me under her name.”

A satisfied grin formed on my father’s mouth as he nodded his head, patting my shoulder before turning around.

“Then it’s settled. Continue with your training. Be prepared to challenge anyone for her. Once you claim her, this Alpha post is yours.” He said it in a calm manner before he left the training ground completely.

Jake

just dropped the call with Noah. He agreed to meet up with me, and I could bring along twelve of my unmated warriors to scent his territory. He agreed to meet me two days from now, at seven in the evening.

I had requested another time of the day or another day, but he refused. He also insisted that I take my Beta with me.

All of these are raising red flags.

Two days from now, on a Friday, is the Claiming.

Having me there and my Beta meant that we would not be able to attend the event since this was entirely for Alphas and Betas.

Aside from that, we have received new information from our trackers and spies that Argon had visited Noah's pack four or five days before Clair was abducted and that the security around Noah's territory had tightened up recently, with Argon sending his own warriors to the Night Howler's Pack.

"When Alpha Thaddeus came here five years ago, Noah was with him. Beta Anthony was my Beta then, so he has not met you yet." My eyes were directed to my Beta. "I will take someone else with me to pose as my Beta, and as originally planned, you will go to the Claiming Ball."

"I suggest you take Matteo with you as your Beta then." Beta Gavin suggested.

"No. Not Matteo, he's mated. I'm sure they are aware that your Beta is unmated and Matteo is marked already. Damien maybe?" My Gamma explained, and I agreed with a nod.

"I'll take Damien then. And you have to stay here, Aaron. I know you want to look for her, but we can't leave the territory without one of us. Others might see it as an opening for an attack."

Aaron let out a deep sigh. I could see the hesitation in his eyes, but he understood the gravity of the situation. "I'll stay. Just find her." He replied.

I nodded while meeting his eyes. "I will do everything to find her."

"The Claiming ball starts at seven o'clock in the evening and will be on for three hours. After that, the rest will move to the arena for the actual

Claiming. Give or take, it will start around 10:15 to 1 030 in the evening."

"Let's say it starts at exactly 10, Noah's territory is 2.5 hours away from the Crescent Moon's Pack, where the Claiming will be held. So I will need information right away if Clair is at the Claiming so I can rush there." I added, shifting my eyes away from David and directing them to my Beta. "Gavin, you only have a limited time to find Clair at the ball. Make sure to let me know right away. If I don't respond, reach out to Damien or to others. They can link me and I will leave Noah's immediately."

I proceeded to give out full instructions and reminders. We couldn't miss out on any details.

"What if she's not there? And not at the Claiming as well?" Aaron asked in a low voice.

I leaned back against my chair and closed my eyes. “Then I have four days left before the Blue Moon to find her. But in case she’s not at the Claiming, I will stay longer in Noah’s pack and make sure to find her there.”

“I know this is a horrible idea, but maybe you need to k*iss someone in there and maybe your wolf can sense Clair when she starts to feel agitated, and, knowing her, she’ll probably scream in anger and curse you. Like what happened at the quadrangle?” Aaron suggested.

I frowned at his idea. Was that a joke? “No. I’m not doing that.”

“It makes sense. If we don’t have many options left, what’s wrong with trying?” My Beta added.

“I know Clair.” I took a deep sigh before I continued. “The last thing she wants is for them to know she has found her mate and has not rejected him yet. She will just keep it to herself if she feels the pain. I will just hurt her. She might think I’m f*uc*king another female while she’s in danger. I will not let her think that and add more to her miseries.” “Sorry, I didn’t think of that,” Aaron replied, taking a sigh as well. “But I hope our plan works this time.

I hope so too. Time was ticking and we were still nowhere near to finding her.

I leaned my elbows on my desk and placed my hands over my face, rubbing my callous palms on it as I pleaded to Selene. “Goddess, please! Let this work. Let me find her.”

He’s My Alpha (Bonus) Chapter

BONUS He’s My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

Chapter: The Claiming – David & Camilla

The Claiming

Alpha Female, when mated to an Alpha Male, they have a 95% chance of having a son as a firstborn. Because most Alpha families had sons, Alpha females were becoming scarce.

Thus, the Claiming was born – all Alpha Females (up to the third degree) must be officially claimed during the Claiming by the most deserving Alpha or Beta.

It was considered a violation if an Alpha Female was claimed outside of The Claiming. Unless the female was claimed by her fated mate.

The punishment for both the Alpha female and her chosen mate will be decided by the council.

CAMILLA'S POV

I let my gaze wander around the ballroom. My eyes feasted on the elegant decorations gracing the whole area. I smiled despite myself, but I didn't know if the smile came from my heart or if I was just used to smiling to appease my father, Alpha Thaddeus.

Tonight, I will be claimed by Argon. I should be happy. There could be no better Alpha for me than him. Through the years, he had shown me respect and had never crossed the boundaries I'd set for our relationship. Although I felt nothing for him, at least I knew I could trust him. And I could finally get away from my father.

I was Alpha Thaddeus' firstborn, a real Alpha Female. However, he would pass the Alpha title to my younger brother, Noah, because in the world we lived in, females were born to breed and not to lead.

So here I was. I have just turned 18 and am about to seal my fate.

But I wasn't complaining. I would rather have Argon than the other arrogant Alphas around.

Only that a part of me hoped to at least know who my fated mate was. Before I turned 18, I was hoping it would be Argon just to avoid any heartbreak. But unfortunately, it wasn't him.

After tonight, I would never have a chance to decide if I wanted my fated or not. Maybe it was the reason my father insisted on sending me and Argon to this Claiming as soon as I came of age. He couldn't risk losing me and the alliance with Argon's pack if I found my mate.

"Lost in your thoughts again?" Argon whispered in my ear. His breath ran on the skin of my neck, which sent goosebumps all over my body. He was really good-looking, and I would not deny that I was attracted to him. But I knew deep inside that something was missing.

I turned my head and offered him a playful smile. "I'm just soaking it all in. After all, this would be the only Claiming Ball I would attend. Unless, of course, if you abandon me in the arena and I have to go back next year?" "Never." He took my hand and k*issed it, but I didn't even notice his action because my attention was drawn to a group of males that entered the ballroom.

My gaze was captivated in an instant.

I saw the greenest eyes I've ever seen, and once his gaze caught mine, everyone else faded out,

including Argon. It felt like it was just him and me.

A wonderful, intoxicating scent of sandalwood and mint swirled around me, and I felt a bond snap into place. The bond felt welcoming and warm, but I had no idea what that was. But I welcomed it wholeheartedly.

I closed my eyes to relish the scent, unaware that I was moaning softly. I was snapped back from my reverie when Argon squeezed my forearm tightly and pulled me into his chest, holding the back of my head to keep me in place.

A low growl reverberated into the air, and before I could understand what was happening, the man with the greenest eyes launched himself forward, only to be held back by the men he came in with.

Soon enough, my father came and stood beside me. "Argon, get Camilla out here." She can stay in the room a*s*signed to us until the Claiming." He ordered him in a low voice, just enough for us to hear.

I looked worriedly at the man a few feet away from us before I bobbed my head at my father's demand. "You're not taking my mate away from me!" The green-eyed man bellowed, and Argon's hand tightened on my arms.

My eyes widened at the realization that he was my mate. With jaws open, I stared at him in awe before a shy smile slowly crept into my lips.

My father threw me a threatening glare, and in an instant, the smile was wiped off my face. My father has sent me a mind link. 'Is it true? Deny it now; otherwise, you will never see your mother again. "You must have too much braveness in you to come and fake claim my daughter. Who are you?" My father, Alpha Thaddeus, asked in a thunderous voice.

"David. David Montrell. What's your name?" He answered my father's question, but his eyes were on mine. His voice sent tingles down my spine like it was caressing mine. And I liked it. I had never felt this with any other man before, not even with Argon.

And he asked for my name, but before I could open my mouth to answer, my father let out a loud, sarcastic laugh that hurt my ears.

"Montrell? Son of Carlos Montrell? Son of the Alpha who couldn't even defend his own pack? And what are you doing now? An ordinary wolf? A rogue? No! You must be dreaming! Tell me, Camilla, is he your mate?" My father's eyes caught mine. His eyes dilated into full obsidian black, sending out a warning, and I felt my cheeks start to burn.

What should I do? I lowered my head in submission and answered in a low voice.

“He’s not.” My voice broke.

I just rejected my mate. My own mate. Tears started to well in my eyes as another growl erupted in the air.

I looked up and met his green eyes. A flash of pain registered on them before he tore his gaze off me and walked away.

“Wait!” I tried to run after him, but Argon grabbed my wrist and pulled me back.

I watched with regret as he walked away, but to my surprise, he grabbed the she-wolf nearby holding a tray of wine, serving some of the guests, and pulled her into his arms, making her drop all the wine glasses on the floor.

As the glasses shattered to pieces, I let out a low growl, jealousy burning inside me. My wolf was in a rage, and so was I.

He threw me a quick glance before he crushed his mouth into hers and k*issed her.

And my world collapsed. I felt my heart was shattering into pieces, but I couldn’t do anything.

Tears started to trickle down my face when a sudden pain hit me right across my chest. I clutched my heart with my hand and dropped to my knees, shrieking in pain.

And then the pain ended abruptly as he let go of the she-wolf. The physical pain subsided, but not the one in my heart. He k*issed someone. It should have been me.

The silence was deafening. There was no more movement, no more noise, just the beat of my broken heart.

“Tell me now, Alpha Thaddeus, that your daughter is not my mate.” He said in a calmer voice, breaking the silence as the whispers around us resurfaced.

My eyes still soiled with tears, were fixed on the floor. I didn’t have the courage to rise up from my knees or to at least tilt my head up – to watch him with another female broke me and I didn’t even know him.

I was snapped out of my thoughts when I heard footsteps approaching until they stopped in front of me. My mate crouched on the floor on my level. A strong finger curled under my chin, tilting my head up to meet his piercing green eyes.

Sparks. Tingles. Warmth. Comfort. Security. Love.

Everything in just one touch.

“I’m sorry. I didn’t want to do that, but he left me with no choice. I needed to prove that you’re mine. I ’m sorry if I hurt you.” His voice was full of emotions I could never explain, but I sensed sincerity in it, and it was more than enough.

He dropped his hand away from my chin and I missed it instantly, only for him to hold my wrist in his hand. He gently trailed the marks that showed up on my wrist with his fingers.

I smiled as the spark and everything else returned to my body.

“I promise you, that would be the last time I would hurt you. Never again.”

My mate. He wanted me.

“What’s your name?” He asked softly, his green eyes fixed on mine, not minding the chaos all around us.

“Camilla. My name is Camilla Furoway.”

I originally wanted to have this as a flashback but went against it because it would be somewhat boring if taken from David or Argon’s POV, so I need to revive Camilla for this.;)

I hope you liked this because I did! I kept it short just enough for the sparks and tingles to linger. Lol! Please leave a comment, review, or suggestions.

THANK YOU for reading and for all the GEMS, lovelies! Please keep them coming! ☺ xoxo, Cassandra M

He’s My Alpha Chapter 73

He’s My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

Chapter 73: The Claiming Ball

Clair

“Tell me again why I’m here inside this room instead of the Ballroom? I thought I was supposed to attend the Ball? Why am I being locked up?” I snapped and glared at the man in front of me, my hands on my hips and my foot tapped at the floor in annoyance.

“Again, Lady Clair I’m only doing what I was told to do.” He answered coldly. He had answered the same thing for the hundredth time and it started to piss me off.

“But what if I say I’m hungry? I want to eat. Don’t you want to eat? Come with me and let’s eat!” I sighed, doing my best to control the anger boiling in me. I wasn’t expecting to be locked up, I thought I could at least mingle with other people at the Ball and maybe bump on someone who knew my Alpha and could reach out to him.

“I will have someone bring you food then. Give me a minute.” He was about to turn around when I called his attention.

“What’s your name?” I asked.

“Arthur.” He answered curtly.

“Arthur, I want to talk with my uncle, Alpha Noah. Call him.”

He let out a loud sigh, I could see he was controlling his nose from flaring. He must’ve been so pissed off at my nagging since we got here, but the hell I cared.

He took his phone from his pocket and sent a message to someone. After a while, it pinged. He read the response and shook his head at me. “No. Your uncle said he’s in a meeting right now and can’t answer your call.”

I looked at the clock overhead and glared back at him. “At 730 in the evening? Who has a meeting at night? Give me your phone or at least call him!” My voice raised, brows hiked up with my arms crossed across my chest as I waited for him to sprang into action.

With another sigh, he dialed my uncle’s number and put the phone on speaker mode. Unfortunately, after 2 rings, my evil uncle rejected the call.

“F*uc*k!” I muttered under my breath and walked away from Arthur and slumped myself on the soft couch at the other end of the room, not minding if my dress was starting to have creased on it from my abrupt movement.

I was taken away from my uncle’s territory 2 nights ago and was placed in a hotel in the nearby city. I didn’t even have enough time to come up with a plan, the only thing I was able to do was to show Luisa the picture I took from my uncle’s office and tell her who was my Alpha.

I was under the impression that Jake’s visit must have happened yesterday and that I would be driven back to the territory before the Claiming but instead, I stayed in that shitty hotel until it was time to head off to this Ball.

All my hopes of being saved were down the drain now.

All I knew was I needed to save myself. And I was going to do it, by hook or by crook.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath, thinking of ways to get away from here.

When I opened my eyes, I scanned the long dress I was wearing.

I had a white long vintage style chiffon dress with a plunging neckline and flowing long sleeves on me. My hazel brown hair was let loose and curled at the bottom, they didn't put any makeup and just let me have a red lipstick to top it up, too red for my comfort.

Not that I cared how I looked, but I looked too beautiful like a pure maiden ready to seduce my Alpha. I snorted at my thought. Ready to kill maybe.

But secretly I wished Jake would come and take me away from here, but being locked up in this room was making it impossible. I only have a couple of hours left before the Ball was over and the Claiming begins.

"Arthur, do you know what happens inside the Arena? I forgot to ask my uncle." I asked in a soft voice, hoping he won't deny my question.

He cleared his throat and angled his body to face me, he was standing by the door since we got here.

"The Alpha Females would enter the Arena first, after the females were in, they would let all the Alphas and the Betas listed to enter the Arena after." He began to explain.

"So if one is not listed, he cannot enter there? Let say this Alpha just saw me tonight at the Ball and took interest, he cannot enter the Arena?"

"He needs to be listed before the Arena opens, that's the reason a Ball was held to give free rein for any challenger."

"But why am I here? I should be mingling with them then." Of course, I knew the answer, my evil uncle would not want another challenger for me or worst, my mate to see me like what happened with Mom and Dad.

"I'm only following orders, Lady Clair." He answered coldly.

"I know. Sorry..." I offered him a warm smile to which he reciprocated just for a mere second before his face turned emotionless again.

"But once inside the arena, how long should I wait? What if no Alpha would come for me, can I just exit? I mean it's embarra*s*sing to just wait there and then someone will come and tell me, hey you need to get out now. Nobody wants you!" I giggled exaggeratedly. "That would be bad right?" I was doing my best to get answers.

“Once the Alpha Female exits the Arena, and walks on the stage, the Claiming ends. If she walked with her Alpha then it means she was claimed, otherwise, if she goes there alone then it meant the opposite.”

I nodded, my cheeks burned from luring him into my lies. “It’s must be embarra*s*sing to walk out there without an Alpha, right? I wished he won’t abandon me.” He might have mistaken me blushed with embarra*s*sment because his eyes turned soft. “I don’t think he will abandon you, Lady Clair. I believed this Alpha has a big interest in you. But even if you walk out alone, don’t feel bad. It means this Alpha doesn’t have balls to claim you.”

“Thank you. That’s sweet of you. But how long should I wait? I mean 30 minutes, 1 hour?”

“You shouldn’t really be worrying about that. But just to explain the logic of the Claiming, once you come in you can get out at the other end right away – alone or with your Alpha or Beta.”

“Oh, so the exit is not the same place as the entrance? I thought I’ll just wait where I entered.” I stifled a laugh and tapped my thigh with my palm for another exaggerated movement.

He laughed lightly. “No. Not like that. You enter the entrance and you’ll be led to a forest, you need to find the exit there. After the forest is the arena, where most of the challenges take place. 200-meter arena, and at the other end is the exit.”

“200-meter arena? 200 meters in between the forest and the stage? Wow!”

He nodded. “If there’s a challenger, they need space for the duel, and most of the time, they need to shift on their wolves form.”

“Wow! All this for an Alpha Female?”

“Yes. That’s how rare you are. So don’t think no one will come for you.”

“Do you know who will claim me?” I asked, my eyes fluttered slowly.

“I’m sorry. I can’t tell.” He avoided my gaze this time.

“You need to help me. Is he bald? Old? No teeth? Can you imagine if he turned out so ugly? Can I run away from him?”

My eyes grew wider as Arthur started laughing. “I suggest if he turned out to be that bad, outrun him to the end of the arena. I’m sure if he’s too old he can’t run after you.¹¹

“Then I’m free from him? I don’t want to be married to an old man...” I gave him a puppy sad eye, sighing deeply for a more emotional outcome. “It rarely happened. But I saw one where the female got tired of waiting for her Alpha, so she walked out there. The Alpha

got lost in the forest and didn't find her. In the end, he didn't claim her because she walked out alone. They need to come back for the next Claiming."

I faked a laugh, putting my palm on my chest. "That 's funny!" But a plan already formulated in my head.

I saw Arthur wanted to add more but there was a knock on the door.

He opened it and took the trolley of food that was given. After he closed the door, he carefully rolled the trolley towards me.

"Is that mine? About time. Need all energy for all the running I'm going to do later if my Alpha ended up bald and toothless." I stifled a laugh but I saw Arthur stiffened in his place. He might have sensed the gravity of what he just revealed to me.

I couldn't care less.

I needed to get out this Claiming. Alone. Mateless. By hook or by crook.

AEON

I've only set foot at the Ball 10 minutes ago and here I was, being summoned by my father at one of the rooms in this Ballroom.

I followed after one of our men and closed the door behind me as soon as I stepped in at the room that was a*s*signed for our pack.

"Where have you been?" My father asked right away. I tilted my head in his direction and caught his eyes, they were dilating into full black.

"I told you to stay here until the Claiming. We can't risk anybody seeing you." He added.

I looked up at the ceiling and blew air out from my mouth to keep me from snapping at him. "I just wanted to see Clair. And why do I need to hide? Do you want it to be a surprise that I'll be challenging whoever it is that wanted to claim her?"

"Just do as I told. You will see her at the Arena."

"Are you even sure she's even here?" My forehead creased as I slumped on the available chair nearby. "She's here. And that's all that matters. Now get your act together and stay here until its time." "You want me to stay here? For what reason? 3 hours Father, and I have to spend 3 f*uc*king hours looking at these dead-colored walls?"

"You wanted to know why? I wanted to retire,

Aeon! And I can't do that when my only heir can't think enough straight to find ways to get his Luna. I have to use my power and my connection to get you that Luna you wanted." He snapped back at me. "What did you do, Father?" My brows furrowed with a confused look written on my face.

"I did what's best for you son. Just do what I ask you to do! If it means staying still for 3 hours in this damn room, then do it!" His voice was cold, his eyes glared at me.

"I want Clair Montrell to be your Luna. If you can't claim her tonight, then say goodbye to your Alpha dream." He placed his hand into my shoulder and pressed it hard, which reminded me that my future was still in his hand.

He's My Alpha Chapter 74

He's My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

Chapter 74: Luisa

Jake

We were sitting in our car by the border at the Night Howler's territory for the last 30 minutes and that f*uc*king Noah still has not allowed us to enter his territory. I decided to come earlier but it looked like he wanted to stick to his plans.

The only thing that kept my temper in check was the fact that I had just spoken with my Beta. Gavin informed me that he was not able to find Clair at the Claiming Ball. Relief washed over me knowing she won't be claimed by any other Alpha, now I just needed to find her here.

My wolf on the other hand could not be appeased. He does not believe that Clair was safe from the Claiming tonight. On this ground, I directed my Beta to stay where he was and wait until all Alpha Females enter the Arena.

My patience was already running thin as more time passed by and if Clair wasn't important, I would have turned around already.

At exactly 7:05, one of his men approached us and allowed us entrance.

We convoyed with his men until we reached his pack house. He was already standing by the steps and ready to welcome us.

I saw a woman beside him and I wondered if she was related to Clair as well. Their faces have different features but her cheekbones and how her body was built were almost the same as my mate

I didn't notice I was staring at her until Noah snapped me out of my thoughts.

"Welcome to my territory, Alpha Jacob." Noah laid out his hand, he offered a smile that doesn't reach his eyes.

I nodded at him and took his hand for a handshake. "Thank you for the warm welcome," I said in a calm voice, hiding the sarcasm in my words.

"And this is Beta Melvin." He turned to his side and my eyes shifted to the man with blonde hair beside him.

I nodded at his Beta upon his acknowledgment of my presence.

"By the way, the lady you were checking out beside me is my niece, Luisa." He c*oc*ked his head to the other side, throwing a quick glance at his niece before turning his attention back at me, a smug grin on his mouth.

"Nice to meet you, Lady Luisa," I said politely, nodding at her. Luisa smiled back at me, her eyes flashed between black and yellow, which made my forehead crease for a while.

Was she sending me a message? I shrugged it off and proceeded to introduce my Beta.

"And here is Beta Gavin." Noah shifted his eyes to Damien who stood a little behind me.

Damien automatically bobbed his head in acknowledgment. "Alpha Noah, good to finally meet you."

Noah just nodded his head at him. If he noticed anything strange, it didn't register on his face.

Instead, he flashed another smile, this time a c*oc*ky one before he spoke. "I apologized for keeping you waiting Alpha Jacob, I was not able to cut my call right away. But we better get inside and let's start with the business."

"No harm done. We could proceed with the meeting but I would like to have the rest of my men scent the area for their females if they're here." I added in a tone void of emotions.

My mind was on another area though. This was getting harder than I expected.

I don't think I could flirt with the woman beside him to get information, now that I know she was Clair's cousin.

“Yes of course. I would have gathered them all in one area but what’s the fun on that?” He chuckled before he continued. “I would rather have your men go around and scent them besides, you were not in a hurry, am I right? The unmated females were notified that your men have arrived, they’re waiting outside their homes or at public places. But I would like a guarantee my females will not be hara*s*sed by your men.”

“You will not have any problem with them, my men are disciplined. They know how to value and respect females. It should be the least of your worries.”

“Very well, they may proceed. My Beta will tell them where they can start. We can go in at my office when you’re ready.”

I turned around and signaled my men to take direction from Noah’s Beta before I returned my attention back to Noah.

Damien and another warrior stayed behind with me.

LUISA

I entered my uncle’s office with a tray in my hand. He requested for teas to be served to his guests and I volunteered to do it instead of the helper. I made 4 cups because I was under the impression that there will be four people in his office, apparently, Alpha Jacob’s Beta and his other man just stayed outside the office door.

My uncle and the Alpha were both silent as I walked my way carefully to the desk where they were sitting, as to not drop the thing in my hand while my mind wandered on what I was going to do next.

I don’t know how I would get the Alpha’s attention without my uncle noticing anything.

“Do you need anything from me, uncle? Should I stay here or...” I asked in a low voice after I had served the teas.

“You may go unless Alpha Jacob would want you to stay?” He said calmly, but I saw him conceal a smirk while his eyes settled on the other Alpha.

What was he trying to play at?

“You may go, Lady Luisa. Thank you for the tea.” The Alpha answered without even glancing at me.

I frowned at his action, I was hoping he would at least glance at me so I could make my move.

“Excuse me. Alphas.” I bobbed my head and head off to the door, my shoulder slumped in defeat. I was not able to get his attention.

When the office door opened, my eyes caught the eyes of the man standing outside, his back leaning at the wall. I remembered him introduced as the Beta.

I swallowed hard as I closed the door, my body angled towards the Beta so that Simon, one of my uncle's men does not have a view of my front body. "Beta, your Alpha said, you wanted to use the toilet, " I told the Beta calmly as I turned my palm to him. I'd written Clair's name in my palm while I prepared their tea after I made sure nobody was looking at me.

I saw his creased forehead turn into a relaxed one after he saw my palm. He nodded. "Do you mind showing me where I can find one?"

"Sure. I'll point you there." I nodded and walked ahead of him and felt him follow me after he left instructions to his comrade.

As soon as we turned to the next hallway where no cameras were placed, I pushed the Beta inside the toilet and closed the door behind us.

"Where is she?" He asked in a hushed voice.

"She's at the Claiming. I had no idea who will claim her but she was not here since 2 nights ago. I guessed Uncle took her away to mask off her scent before your Alpha came here." I answered in a hushed voice as well.

"You're bluffing! We have someone check at the Claiming and he couldn't find her there!" He snapped at me between his gritted teeth.

"I'm not!" I hissed at him, annoyed that he thought I was lying. "She's there! I'm sure they're hiding her until the Claiming. After what happened to

Aunt Camilla, the next ones were always kept in a room away from the Ball. My sister was locked up too in a room last time, Uncle was making sure no mates will get in the way of the Claiming!" I glared at him.

"Why would I trust you?" His brow hiked up, as his arms crossed against his chest which showed off those muscular abs covered by his white shirt.

"Because Clair trusted me!" I snapped back, I tore my gaze off his torso and lifted it to meet his stormy brown eyes.

"I still can't. I'm sorry." He made a move to step away but I grabbed his arm tightly.

"Wait! Look! Look at this! Clair gave me this!" I scrambled and pulled the neckline of my dress, revealing a portion of my breasts over my bra, and stuck my hand inside it, pulling a folded picture out of it.

It didn't escape my eyes that his jaw dropped open from my action and it took a while before he shifted his eyes off my chest and looked at the picture I handed him.

The picture was of him, with his Alpha and Aaron where they seemed to be in a conversation with a girl.

When his eyes shifted to the picture, I started my explanation. "She told me this is Aaron my cousin, her brother which is the Gamma." I pointed at the tall man beside Alpha Jacob.

"And she told me you, you're one of the warriors in your pack, one of the best but she never told me you're the Beta as well. So I don't know why you're saying you are the Beta unless Clair missed that out. Which I don't think so because it would be easier to say you're the Beta than say you're a warrior." I said fast without breathing.

He raised his gaze at me, his jaw tightening. Was he starting to believe me? I needed more proof.

"And... And also..." I stuttered. "... your Alpha. She's Clair's Mate. She told me and no one knows. Only the Alpha and his Beta knows, but I don't know if you're really the Beta. So you see, if you're not the Beta then Clair might kill me because I promised her no one will..."

I started to panic and I realized I couldn't stop myself from talking but before I could finish my explanation, the Beta pulled me into his arms and crushed his lips into mine.

My eyes widened in surprise, but only for a moment because I found myself k*issing him back. He was k*issing me hard I was sure my lips would end up swollen after this. But then it felt nice! I felt sensations I never felt before. Was this how k*iss was supposed to feel? Damn it! It meant I was missing so much!

Before I could indulge more in it, he pulled away from the k*iss and took me out of my trance. He then placed a finger on my parted lips, shutting me from asking him.

In an instant, a knock came at the door.

F*uc*k!

"Bite my lips. Now." He said in a very husky voice.

My eyes widen more but he urged me to do it, he pressed his lips on mine. "Now!" He muttered with his lip-locked on mine and before I totally get lost from the tingles I felt, I bit his lower lip. Hard!

"F*uc*k! That was too much!" He pulled himself away and cursed under his breath.

I felt my face burn, but he smiled at me and ruffled my hair, messing it up. He then moved to the door and ruffled his own hair and shirt before opening the toilet door.

Simon was standing behind it, he was trying to hide his emotion but I could see he was surprised to see me inside.

“I was just checking since it took too long for you to come back.” He was talking to him but his eyes were on mine.

I saw the Beta wipe the blood from his lips and offer a smug smile. “Sorry to keep you waiting, man. Sometimes it’s hard to control when you have a beautiful lady around.”

I felt my cheeks burnt in embarra*s*sment while I brushed my hair, fixing it. I knew he was acting but damn it, it made me smile inside.

“If your uncle finds out what you’re doing, you’ll know what will happen.”¹¹ Simon was now talking to me.

I swallowed the invisible lump in my throat, my eyes darted to the Beta, his face darkened at Simon’s words.

“That’s why you’re not telling him. It won’t change anything, it will just give me a reason to hate you, Simon. And besides, this was nothing. I’ll never see this man again.” I rolled my eyes at Simon before I flipped my hair over my shoulder and passed by the Beta. I didn’t even bother to look at him but I felt a stare boring at my back as I walked away from them.

Damn this guy! I didn’t even get his name.

He’s My Alpha Chapter 75

He’s My Alpha (Jake & Clair)

Chapter 75. Gavin

GAVIN

I’d been here for an hour and there weren’t any signs of her. I was already convinced that she was not here, and from the messages I got from the warriors who went around Alpha Noah’s territory, they were not able to smell her either. None of the females they talked with took notice of a new female around the area.

The only thing was, I have not heard anything from the Alpha since he started the meeting with Alpha Noah. I was hoping something was happening in there and that they found her

in the pack house, although I knew it would be stupid for Alpha Noah to keep her there if he knew Jake was stepping foot in there.

I smiled at the female in front of me. She had been trying to get my attention for the last twenty minutes and kept complaining about the food choices on the buffet. It took me a lot of effort not to tell her to shut her mouth because she was really starting to annoy me.

And then my phone rang. I looked at the screen and saw the Alpha's name. I excused myself from the table and hurried outside to the balcony after I checked that no one was there.

"Any news?" I went straight ahead with my question once I answered the phone.

"She's there at the Claiming. Her cousin told Damien. You need to double-check again. We're on our way." The Alpha said in one breath.

"She's not here. She must be lying."

"Check all the rooms around the ballroom and check the one designated for the Night Howlers Pack or check the list again. Do something!"

"I did that, Jake! No rooms were a*s*s*igned to Night Howlers and I saw the lists personally!"

"Check the f*uc*k again! And trust me on this one! She was listed for the Claiming!"

"Okay. I'll do my best."

"Do it now! We don't have time. I don't even know if I can reach there on time." He took a deep breath before he added. "I'm commanding you to find her!"

I winced as his Alpha command rolled over me. I needed to find her.

I dropped the call and slid the phone into my back pocket as I made my way to the man holding the list of Alpha Females for Claiming. Unlike earlier, he was now all alone in his corner.

With hostile eyes, I strode in his direction and slammed my palms on his desk. His eyes widened in fear as he tilted his head to look at me.

"Now, tell me again that you don't have a Clair Montrell on your lists?" I snapped at him in a cold voice but did my best to maintain a toned-down voice.

His hands were shaking as he handed me the papers in his hand. “You can look for yourself... again, as I said... earlier she was not among the females... here. “ His words stuttered, making me believe he was lying.

“Stop f*uc*king around! Alpha Noah told me himself that his niece is here and that’s why I came here. Do I need to call him and say you were not doing what he told you to do?” I warned him.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about!” He exclaimed but his eyes were shifting around the area as if looking for someone to help him.

I closed my eyes and coiled my hands into fists. F*uc*k this!

I lowered my head and leaned my face closer to his and talked to him in a low voice. “I know that Lady Clair Montrell was listed with another Alpha and she ’s somewhere hidden in one of the rooms here. But my Alpha did pay a good sum of money and land to Alpha Noah to claim Lady Clair tonight by challenging the other Alpha. So take out the list and put my Alpha’s name on it, or I don’t have a choice but to blow out your lies and the bribe you received to the Council.”

I straightened my posture without taking my gaze off of him. His ears were red, and by the looks of it, I did hit something. “I can also call Alpha Noah, but I think the Council would be more thankful if they found out what...”

But before I could finish my words, he opened the drawer on his desk and threw another paper in front of me while he looked around us.

“Here. Put the name of your Alpha there.”

I offered him a c*oc*ky grin before I focused on the paper.

F*uc*king Alpha Aeon! That lying moron! He was the one listed for Clair.

With one and a half hours to go, Jake would not be able to make it and use the Mate Bond advantage before the Claiming.

F*uc*k!

I grabbed the pen on the desk and wrote his name on the list under Clair’s name. He wouldn’t have a choice. He needed to challenge Aeon for his own mate.

I took a picture of the paper before throwing it back to the man’s face, my eyes throwing daggers at him. “Make sure you don’t change anything in there and don’t hide the paperback in the drawer or you’ll never see daylight tomorrow,” I warned him before walking away to call my Alpha.

9:40 in the evening (25 minutes before the CLAIMING starts)

GAVIN

I was on the phone with my Alpha an hour ago and they were still very far from the Crescent Moon's Pack territory where the Claiming was being held.

A few minutes ago, a voice reminder was sent out that the Arena Stage would be opened exactly ten minutes before ten in the evening so that spectators could move on to their seats.

The Alpha Females would enter the Forest Grounds at 10:05, and Jake was nowhere near here.

I dialed his number and he answered right away.

"Where are you?" I asked directly.

"30-40 more minutes."

"F*uc*k! That's too late already! The females are entering the arena in 20 minutes!"

"I'm f*uc*king speeding up! Did you see her?"

"No! I wasn't able to find her. You need to hurry up! I doubt if Aeon will wait longer before he claims

her. I'm sure he's going to pick her up right away and lead her out of the arena in seconds!" I combed my hair as I walked to the balcony to get some fresh air. This was turning bad already.

"You think I don't know that?! I just need more time! Just f*uc*king more time!!!" I heard him slam his palm on the steering wheel. He was starting to lose his temper.

I need to do something — anything to keep Clair from being claimed by Aeon tonight. But I don't even f*uc*king know where they were hiding her.

"I'll buy you time. Just get here and go directly to the forest entrance. If they stop you, f*uc*king tell them you're listed for Clair Montrell. I'll send you the screenshot of the list just in case you need it. They can't stop you from entering and make sure to find where she is. I'll take care of the rest."

"What were you planning to do?" I heard the desperation in the Alpha's voice.

"Trust me on this. Just be here and find her in the arena! See you later, I have things to do."

I didn't wait for him to answer and just dropped the call.

I have things to accomplish before the Claiming starts. I wasn't sure if I'd be successful, but one thing was certain: I would protect my Luna at all costs.

Jake wouldn't be able to make it to the arena on time, and Aeon would have had free rein to claim Clair by then. I needed to do something to stop him.

Just as I was about to go where I was headed, an intoxicating scent hit me.

I stood frozen by the balcony door facing the ballroom. My mind went into a daze as my lungs were filled with the sweetest scent of vanilla and morning dew.

F*uc*k this! Not now! This could not be happening!

My mate was here. Would somebody claim her?

My chest heaved as my breath hitched. Pain crossed my chest at the very idea that she would be claimed by someone else. She's mine!

A low growl vibrated from my chest as my eyes scanned the room for her.

The ballroom was filled with Alpha Females but my eyes captured the sight of the female with green flowing ball dress. She was frozen on her spot, with her back on mine. She must have scented me.

She was standing 30 feet away. No! F*uc*k this!

I watched as my mate slowly turned her head and body around to search for something until she found me.

As our eyes locked, I felt the mate bond snap into place. Her round green eyes beamed with happiness as she stared back at me until she recognized the frown on my face.

My eyes dilated into full black as my wolf, Kurt, forced his way out. But I took hold of him before he was able to do something about the bond.

At that moment, I made the hardest decision of my life.

With my face void of any emotions, I turned around and walked away from the fated mate I had been waiting for all my life.

When I said I would give anything to save my Luna, I did not mean this. Not this.

Goddess, how could you be so cruel?

I knew I would regret this. And I had no idea if I would be able to live after this, knowing I would let somebody claim my mate.

I saw it in her eyes. She wanted me.

She was perfect. F*uc*king perfect!

The way her green eyes danced with happiness when she first saw me, her luscious lips that parted as they glistened under the bright lights, and her perfectly curved body that was supposed to be held just by me. She was made for me.

She was f*uc*king perfect in every sense, but I could never have her. Not anymore.

I had things to do. I made mistakes that needed absolution.

I needed to save Clair. A mate for a mate.

I took full control of myself and my wolf. With hurried steps, I walked towards the same man who held the lists for the Alpha Females. I couldn't bother to look back at her. I knew she felt I was rejecting her, and I knew that if I saw her face one more time, I might not have the strength to finish what I needed to do.

"Give me the list for Clair Montrell." I snapped coldly at the man in front of me. This time, he handed me the paper without any questions. I took the pen off the desk and held it in my hand for a while, gripping it tightly.

Sorry, little lamb. I had to sacrifice you.

Without any more thoughts, I let out a deep sigh and signed my name under Clair Montrell, and threw the paper back in front of the man. A part of me wanted to ask and search for my mate's name and find out who would claim her, but I knew I would just lead myself to greater misery.

So I walked away. I walked away from the only thing that sparked life in my already dead heart.

I walked away without knowing her name, without knowing anything about her.

But I knew from this day forward, she would creep into my mind and into my heart for the rest of my life.