

Chapter 181

Moana

Once I saw Olivia leave through the coffee shop window, I waited five minutes before leaving myself and walking in the opposite direction. We had planned to leave separately like this just in case anyone was waiting for me outside; at the very least, I could make up a convincing story that Olivia and I didn't recognize each other at all, and it was likely that no one would ask too many questions.

As I walked, I couldn't stop thinking about everything she had just told me. It felt as though the entire world that I had come to know over the past few months had been completely turned upside down, and I didn't know what to do. If it was true that I was the Golden Wolf, then that meant that I was already in enough danger of being hunted as it was. Not only that, but if Edrick already knew that I was the Golden Wolf, then he was deliberately keeping it from me. And, judging from everything that I had learned recently, I knew why he was keeping it from me.

However, I still had no way of knowing for sure. I hardly knew Olivia, and although she seemed genuine, I still didn't know for sure if I could completely trust her. I decided that before I would jump to any rash conclusions, I would have to do some digging of my own. Until I did that, though, at least my wolf had regained some of her energy and I could talk to her now.

“What did you think about all of that?” I asked my wolf as I walked down the sunny street toward the penthouse. “What about the part where she said that he might be lying about being my mate?”

“I’m not sure yet,” Mina replied. She still sounded a little sleepy, but she was lucid at least. “I think I’m still a little too foggy from the potions to be able to think clearly. I need a little more time.”

I bit my lip as I walked, thinking that there was a good possibility that we didn’t even have time. However, if Edrick really was planning on producing a child of the Golden Wolf, then at least there was a good chance that I would be somewhat safe until the baby was born. But then again, I still had no way of knowing. I couldn’t read Edrick’s mind, or anyone else’s, for that matter. And although part of me felt silly for thinking that Edrick would ever want to hurt me, I couldn’t help but wonder if the kind, sweet part of Edrick was just an act. Maybe he really was just like his father after all.

Suddenly, as I turned a corner, I saw a familiar car speeding up to me. My eyes widened as I saw it come to a screeching halt in front of me, blocking me from crossing the street. The window rolled down and Edrick was sitting in the driver’s seat.

“Get in,” he said, sounding stern and aggravated.

Swallowing, I hesitantly got into the car. Did he know that I met up with Olivia? What was he going to do if that was the case?

However, as he pulled the car around and began to drive again in the direction of the penthouse, it seemed as though he was angry for a different reason.

“You didn’t bring the driver or a bodyguard,” he said. His voice was low, so low it almost sounded like a growl. “You know how dangerous it is, don’t you? Why didn’t you listen to me, Moana?”

“It’s just a few blocks away,” I said, feeling my face getting hot with a combination of fear and embarrassment. “I don’t see the issue.”

Edrick scoffed. “You really don’t see the issue? You put yourself and our baby’s safety at risk, Moana! Why couldn’t you just have the driver take you?”

“Because I just wanted to feel normal,” I lied, folding my arms across my chest. “I was only meeting up with a friend for coffee, and besides; I wore the surgical mask like you told me to, I dressed discreetly, and I wore my hat to cover my hair. No one recognized me and it was fine. You worry about me too much.”

With a shake of his head, Edrick came to a hard stop at a red light. When I looked over, I could see that his hands were wrapped so tightly around the steering wheel that his knuckles were white, and he was clenching and unclenching his jaw repeatedly.

“You don’t understand how dangerous the city is,” he muttered as he waited for the light to turn green again.

Now, I was the one who scoffed incredulously. “Seriously?” I asked with a bit of a wry chuckle. “I’m the one who doesn’t understand how dangerous the city is? I grew up here, Edrick. I didn’t live in a fancy palace outside of the city like you did, without a real care in the world. I’m the one who has spent her whole life living here, so I think I know the city a little bit better than someone who was raised in the lap of luxury like you.”

Edrick opened his mouth to speak, but nothing came out. I instantly felt a little guilty for the nasty things that I said, and as the light turned green and Edrick began driving again, I wondered if I should apologize. But then again, I reminded myself that Edrick was up to something, and aside from that, he still hadn’t even properly apologized for the nasty things that he said when we argued the other night.

When we pulled up to the penthouse, I immediately unclicked my seatbelt and went to open the door. But when I pulled on the handle, it was locked, and I froze.

“I need you to listen to me from now on,” Edrick said, his voice low and quiet as he spoke through his teeth. “And furthermore, I’m not letting you go anywhere without me anymore. I’m tired of having to be scared half to death that you’ll get yourself hurt or killed whenever you go out for coffee.”

I ground my teeth together, unsure of how to respond. But it didn’t matter anyway, because the lock clicked open. I swung the door open and climbed out, slamming it behind me before I stormed inside.

I didn’t even wait for Edrick to park the car before I got onto the elevator and headed upstairs. And the entire way up, I couldn’t help but wonder if I should take Olivia’s advice after all.

What Edrick said was just more proof, in my eyes, that he saw me as an expensive object that needed to be tucked away neatly into a glass cabinet where no one else could get to me. I didn’t feel as though I was a person to him, but rather a commodity; and when our baby was born, would he discard me once he had what he wanted? Would he send me away like he did with Olivia? Would he sell me to bounty hunters who wanted the Golden Wolf? Or would he kill me, just like his father killed Ethan’s mother?

The more I thought about this, the more appealing the idea of running away and returning little Ella to her real mother became.

Chapter 182 Mood Swings

Edrick

When Moana told me that she was going out to have coffee with a friend, I was happy for her. In fact, so long as she stayed safe, I encouraged it. I knew how much stress she had been under over the past few months, so it would have been good for her to see a friend for a couple of hours.

However, when my driver called me and asked what was taking Moana so long to come down, I started to feel confused.

“What do you mean?” I asked. “She left half an hour ago.”

“I haven’t seen her,” the driver replied. “I’ve been sitting right out front the whole time.”

I furrowed my brow and stood. Before I jumped to any conclusions, I decided to check both bedrooms to see if she wasn’t feeling well and decided not to leave, and maybe I just didn’t notice her coming back in. However, she wasn’t there.

By then, I was pretty certain that I knew what she had done. She had gone without the driver.

Cursing under my breath, I grabbed my keys and ran downstairs. Since the driver hadn’t seen her at all due to her hiding herself for some reason, I had no way of knowing which direction she even went in. But if she had left on foot, then I was certain that she couldn’t have gone too far. So,

climbing into my car, I sped off to check all of the nearby coffee shops for her.

I searched for her for about an hour, running into all of the local coffee shops to see if she was there; unfortunately, she wasn't in any of them. By now, I was starting to feel panicked. This was too soon after what Kelly had done to her by having her get kidnapped by Rogues, and I became worried that something else had happened to her. As I drove, I eventually pulled out my phone and debated calling the police to look for her. But thankfully, I spotted a head of red hair walking down the street before I made the phone call.

I came to a screeching halt and told her to get in the car. Moana seemed to be in a bit of a mood, and almost immediately snapped at me when I told her that she had done something very dangerous by going out by herself with no protection, especially on foot. Why couldn't she understand that it wasn't safe for her to be walking around by herself when she had only just gotten over the incident with Kelly, and the paparazzi were still on the lookout for her? Part of me almost wanted to tell her that she was the Golden Wolf, and that she needed to be kept safe or else there was a chance that she could be kidnapped or hunted. But I couldn't bring myself to do it; if she knew too soon, then it could speed up her progress with her wolf emerging, and I needed her to wait to shift until the baby was born for a multitude of reasons. Although, I couldn't help but wonder how much longer I could let this go on without telling her. Especially when she climbed out of the car and slammed the door behind her, I thought to myself that she would grow more and more impatient with me over time.

With a sigh, I watched Moana disappear into the building before I parked the car and headed inside. She didn't wait for me, not that I expected her to, and by the time I made my way back up to the penthouse she was nowhere to be seen.

“Did Moana come through here?” I asked Selina, who was baking a pie while the two maids were deep cleaning the kitchen.

“She ran past just a minute ago,” Amy blurted out as she scrubbed the inside of a cupboard. “She seemed mad.”

“Yeah,” Lily chimed in before I could respond. “She slammed her bedroom door. Did you two have a fight?”

“Lily!” Selina hissed. “It’s none of your business.”

I sighed and shook my head, then walked over to one of the stools at the counter island and sat down. “It’s alright,” I said, passing my hand over my face. “I think she’s just dealing with some hormones.”

The maids fell silent. I realized then that I had revealed more than I really meant to; lately, I had been becoming noticeably more open with the servants. I had always been a bit closer with Selina since I had known her for a long time, but I rarely chatted with Amy and Lily. However, ever since Moana moved in, I had found myself talking with them more often. It was a stark enough difference that even I noticed, and sometimes surprised myself with my candidness. Even just thinking about it made me smirk; Moana had had such a positive impact on me that I was even beginning to change my opinions on how servants should be treated. I just wished that she could see that, instead of always getting so aggravated with me. Although, after the way that I snapped at her the other night, I supposed that I deserved it.

Selina pushed a fresh, steaming cup of tea across the counter toward me and gave me a knowing look. I could tell that she didn’t believe that it was hormones one bit, and she was right.

“I’ll talk to her later,” she said, returning to decorating the top of the pie. “Just give her some space today. Not just today, but every day. She is an adult, and she’s capable of taking care of herself.”

I felt myself tense up a bit at Selina's words. Of course she was right, but at the same time, I just felt too protective over Moana. Maybe that protectiveness would only push her away, though.

I did wind up leaving Moana alone for the rest of the day. She didn't come out of her room very much except to check on Ella, and didn't even look at me when I passed by. Even though I wanted to ask her what her problem was, and part of me even wanted to grill her on who she had coffee with as though something about whoever she saw would explain her secretiveness and poor attitude, I decided to take Selina's advice and just gave Moana her space.

However, Moana didn't wind up coming to my room that night. I waited for a few hours, but she never came. Finally, unable to sleep without her, I decided to go over to her room and see if she was still awake; but when I went to open the door to climb into bed with her, the door was firmly locked and she didn't answer my knocks. With a sigh, I resigned myself to staying up all night in my study. I wouldn't be able to sleep without my pills, and I had already made a personal decision to not fall back into the pit of drinking copious amounts of alcohol to make myself sleep.

After all, sleep wouldn't come for me without Moana by my side.

Chapter 183 Video Evidence

Moana

I went to work the next morning with my meeting with Olivia still plaguing my mind. Between all of the evidence I had gathered so far, what Olivia said, and how Edrick reacted when he discovered that I hadn't taken the driver, I was seriously beginning to doubt my own safety at home.

That morning, I sneakily dumped my morning coffee again. By the time I got to work, my wolf's energy was back to normal and she was able to offer me some insight on the situation.

"I am almost entirely certain that Edrick is indeed our mate," Mina said during my lunch break, while I paced back and forth in my empty classroom and chewed nervously on my fingernails.

"But that doesn't mean that his intentions are entirely pure, does it?" I asked.

Mina was silent for a few moments before responding. "No. It doesn't."

I cursed under my breath, thinking hard. I didn't know much about the inner world of werewolves, but I had always been under the impression that fated mates would never want to betray each other. Then again, however, I couldn't help but think back to the story of how Ethan was born. Michael and Verona were supposed to be fated mates, but Michael

cheated on her anyway and betrayed her trust. It sounded as though there was more emotional abuse going on as well, but I didn't know for sure. Either way, Michael had betrayed Verona despite the fact that they were mates. Was it possible that something ran in that family that made the men untrustworthy? I hated to believe it, especially after how kind Edrick had been...

But then again, he had just told me that he would never marry me. And although he seemed to have tried to make up for it the next day by spending the day with me, he had still not apologized, which made me think now that his nasty side was his true nature. Not only that, but the way that he had locked me in the car and told me that he wouldn't let me out of his sight anymore made me nervous, as though I was his prisoner in some way.

As I paced back and forth in my classroom, I thought back to the first night that I had spent in the penthouse. After I realized that Edrick was the one who hired me, I had tried to go home; but he had sent frightening men after me. Maybe I should have taken that alone as the first red flag. Even before my true nature as a werewolf was known, he wouldn't let me leave. Did he know that I was the Golden Wolf then, somehow, or did he only find out later and that just solidified his desire to keep me tucked away on a shelf?

All day, I couldn't get my worries out of my mind. When I went home that evening, however, I had an idea as to how I could potentially ease my worries and find out for sure if I really was being poisoned, if I was simply being paranoid.

The next morning, I woke up earlier than normal. I woke up before everyone else and snuck over to the kitchen, where I placed my phone on video mode in a cupboard. I made sure to angle it in such a way that it couldn't be seen normally, but so that the video would show a perfect shot of the coffee machine.

After that, I hit record and snuck back to my room.

Later, I came out of my room dressed for work as though I had just woken up. And just as I suspected, my coffee and breakfast were waiting for me on the kitchen counter.

“Good morning,” Selina said from where she stood by the kitchen sink. “Sleep well?”

I nodded, trying to act nonchalant as I sat down and began to eat my breakfast. I made sure to only pretend to sip my coffee, and waited for a moment when Selina had walked out of the room. Then, I quickly dumped my coffee down the sink and ran over to the cupboard to retrieve my phone. Selina came back in just as I was sitting back down at the kitchen counter, oblivious to everything I had just done.

My heart pounded as I finished eating my breakfast and got ready for work. Edrick walked with Ella and I to school and we said our goodbyes, and the entire time I felt as though I was going to explode,

When I got to my classroom that morning, the very first thing I did was sit down at my desk and pull my phone out of my purse. With shaking hands, I opened it up and clicked on the video that I had taken.

I scrolled through the video. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary at first; Selina came in and ground up the coffee beans, then filled the pot with water and put the coffee grounds into the filter. She turned on the coffee machine and walked away to start cooking on the stove with her back turned to the camera.

A little while later, however, Edrick came in. I watched with wide eyes as he took two mugs out of the cupboard and poured coffee and creamer into them; one for himself, and one for me.

Then, while Selina’s back was still turned, Edrick placed my coffee cup down at my seat.

My heart started to pound so hard that I felt as though it would pound straight out of my chest as I watched in horror. Edrick glanced nervously over his shoulder at Selina, as though checking to make sure she wasn't looking, and then...

He reached into his pocket and pulled out a small vial of liquid. He put two drops of the mystery liquid into my coffee, quickly concealing the vial back in his pocket just moments before Selina turned around with the pan of scrambled eggs in her hand.

And then, he just walked away.

I stopped the video, my hands shaking more than ever before. I clamped my hand over my mouth, feeling vomit beginning to bubble up, and suddenly stood and bolted out the classroom door. Across the hall there was a bathroom, and I ran inside and burst into one of the stalls, ignoring strange looks from two high school girls.

The entire contents of my stomach came out into the toilet.

When I was finished vomiting, I staggered back out to the sinks. The two high school girls were gone by now. I leaned over the sink, sobbing quietly as I splashed cold water onto my face.

Now, I had all of the proof that I needed.

Edrick Morgan, the Alpha billionaire who I thought that I had been falling genuinely in love with, and whose baby I was carrying in my belly, was poisoning me.

I needed to not only get myself and my baby to safety... But I also needed to get little Ella to safety, too.

That night, I would have to return her to her mother. And then, I needed to disappear.

Chapter 184 Escape Plan

Moana

After I saw the video of Edrick putting something in my coffee, I knew that I needed to get out.

It both broke my heart and made me sick to think about leaving. I had been falling deeply in love with Edrick, and yet this entire time it turned out that he was secretly plotting something against me; I didn't know what it was exactly that he was planning, but whatever it was certainly wasn't good.

I needed to get myself and my baby out of there, and I planned on returning Ella to her rightful mother, too. Even though I knew that taking Ella and returning her to her mother could land me in prison, I was willing to take that risk for the sake of getting little Ella out of a household with a father who was dangerous and up to no good.

That afternoon, during my lunch break, I made my escape plan. I called Olivia as soon as I could and explained everything.

“Okay,” she said, taking a deep breath after I had told her all about the video evidence I had. “We'll get you out of there.”

“And Ella, too,” I said.

Olivia fell silent. I thought I heard her sniff, and it made me wonder if she was crying. When she responded, she didn't mention anything but her voice was shaking.

“Okay... Okay.” She was repeating herself, like she was thinking deeply. Then, after a few more moments of silence, she seemed to have come up with something. “Here’s what we’ll do...”

After work, Edrick picked Ella and I up again as usual. It pained me to see his smiling face as Ella ran up to him. He picked her up and put her on his shoulders, and as we began to walk home he slipped his arm around me. I felt myself instantly become tense under his touch.

“Are you sure we should do this?” my wolf asked, sounding unsure. “He is our mate, after all...”

I almost responded out loud on accident, but caught myself just in time. “Yes,” I replied. “It’s for the best. I’d rather be alone forever than put my baby in danger.”

“Alright.”

I could tell that Mina was horribly upset, but she was understanding of the situation. It was indeed for the best.

When we got home, I feigned sickness and went straight to my room. I locked my door and then spent the remainder of the afternoon planning, preparing, and packing.

Olivia had told me that she booked a hotel room for me and Ella all the way across town. Once Ella and I would get there late that night, the plan was to change our clothes, wait for a couple of hours, and then leave. After we left, there would be a black car with tinted windows waiting for us that would have Olivia inside. Together, the three of us would drive to the airport.

Olivia purchased three plane tickets to Europe. Apparently, when Olivia was first kicked out by Edrick she kept getting death threats and was being stalked by people who Edrick hired; she told me that she had changed her identity, purchased a fake ID, and that the “original” Olivia had essentially

dropped off the face of the earth. She still called Edrick to check on her daughter, but she always called from different phones that would hide her number so she couldn't be tracked.

Apparently, that was what was going to happen that night. I would withdraw all of my money, dump my phone and my wallet in the river on our way to the airport, and Olivia would give me a new ID. Once we were in Europe, I could convert all of my money and open a new bank account there under my new name.

Of course, I was putting a lot of trust in Olivia by planning all of this. My wolf kept reminding me of that. But I felt as though I had no other choice, and it was the only way to protect myself, my baby, and Ella. Edrick and his family were far too powerful and dangerous, and I was more willing to put my trust in a woman who I hardly knew at this point than to trust that Edrick's intentions were good.

All day, I stayed in my room. Selina tried knocking on the door a few times, but each time I either pretended to be asleep or I said that I was too sick to come out. Finally, it seemed as though they had given up.

Eventually, I heard Edrick putting Ella to bed in her room next door. I stayed quiet, listening through the wall.

It pained me greatly to hear how sweet Ella was with Edrick, knowing that this was their last time that they would see each other. I listened tearfully as he read her a bedtime story.

"Goodnight, daddy," Ella's tiny voice said. "I love you."

"I love you too, Princess."

I heard the sound of Edrick's footsteps leaving the room, followed by the sound of Ella's bedroom door closing. There was a pause, and then his footsteps came over to my door.

I practically held my breath as I heard him walk up to my door and pause there. He didn't move for a long time, but he didn't knock or try the door.

Something about it was almost terrifying, as though he was watching me through the door. But finally, he walked away and I didn't hear anything after that.

It was hours that I waited in my room. I watched in silence as the hours ticked by; first ten o'clock, then eleven, then midnight. When one o'clock struck, I knew that it was time.

My bag was already packed. I didn't pack much other than a few changes of clothes and some sentimental things. When I opened the door, I slowly looked around to see that the penthouse was completely dark before I quietly tiptoed over to Ella's room.

While she slept, I quietly packed a bag for her; once again, just some changes of clothes and sentimental things. My eyes were filled with tears the entire time, especially as I picked up pictures of Ella and Edrick that were placed in picture frames around the room. There was one picture of all three of us, taken by Selina one day while we were all playing in the living room. I had framed it a while back, thinking that I would be here forever; but now, I knew that the smiling Edrick in that photograph was nothing but a facade. However, I didn't want Ella to forget her father regardless of what he had done, so I tucked the photo away into her bag.

Once I was finished, I gently shook Ella to wake her up. I placed my finger over my lips as soon as her eyes opened, indicating for her to stay quiet.

"Moana?" she whispered, yawning sleepily. "Did you have a bad dream?"

"No, love," I responded. I gently pulled the covers off of her, blinking my own tears away. "You and I have to go somewhere."

Ella sat up, looking confused. "Where are we going?"

I sighed and tucked a strand of hair behind her little ear. "I'm going to take you to meet your real mommy," I whispered.

Ella's eyes widened. I held out my hand for her, and she took it.

Chapter 185 The Cab Driver

Moana

Ella took my outstretched hand. As I helped her get up, she rubbed her eyes sleepily and looked up at me with more confusion written across her face.

“You’re taking me to meet my real mommy?” she murmured. “What do you mean? My mommy is dead.”

“Ella...” I crouched down to her level and held her by both shoulders, looking at her intensely. “I’ll explain later, okay? For now, I just need you to trust me. Do you trust me?”

Ella stared at me for a few moments, looking skeptical, before she finally nodded and didn’t ask any more questions. I helped her get dressed quickly, then put her shoes on and grabbed both of our bags. Opening the door just a crack, I checked once more to make sure that the apartment was still quiet. It seemed as though everyone was asleep. Of course, there was still a chance that Edrick was awake, so we would have to move quickly. I took Ella’s hand and quickly led her across the living room and over to the foyer.

Since the elevator would ding and make noise, I decided to take us downstairs through the fire exit stairs. I quietly opened the fire exit door next to the elevator and brought Ella into the dimly lit concrete stairwell with me.

“Moana,” she said, pausing at the top of the stairs, “why are we going down this way? I never go down this way, and it’s scary in here.”

“I know, love,” I said gently, still holding her hand. “But I’m right here with you. See?” I walked down the first couple of steps and then turned to look back up at her. She stared at me, still with that skeptical look on her face, before she shakily took the first step.

It took us longer than I would have liked, but eventually we made it down to the bottom floor. I couldn’t walk us through the lobby where people would see us — although I was certain that someone would eventually see us on the cameras later, and I hoped that we would be long gone by then — so I took us instead through the back door that led to the alleyway.

Once again, Ella paused reluctantly and looked up at me with confusion. But she didn’t ask anything this time, and bit her lip and followed me instead.

Someday, I knew that I would have to explain everything to her. I hoped that she would understand and not resent me for everything that was happening that night, but I wasn’t sure. All I knew for sure was that this was for the best; even if she hated me when she got older and never wanted to see me again, I could at least rest easy knowing that I had gotten her away from a dangerous living situation.

I led Ella down the dark alleyway, checking over my shoulder the entire time, before we eventually came out onto the street behind the penthouse.

And, just as Olivia said there would be, there was a cab waiting for us a little ways down the street.

“Come on, Ella,” I said quietly. She seemed to hesitate again, but freedom was so close, and so I picked her up and rushed down the street with her in one arm, my bag in my other hand, and Ella’s new school backpack slung over my shoulder.

“Moana, I’m scared,” Ella whimpered as we ran closer to the waiting cab.

As she spoke, I felt tears poking at the backs of my eyes. Involuntarily, I froze for a moment and took one last look up at the penthouse.

Inside, Edrick was likely laying in bed and trying to sleep, completely oblivious to the fact that I was running away and stealing his daughter. The longer I looked up at the penthouse, imagining the lonely Alpha billionaire tossing and turning, the more I remembered how it felt to sleep in his arms. How it felt to wake up with him and feel the warm sun shining in through his open window. How it felt to see his smiling face when I finished the school day with Ella.

But none of that mattered now, because he was going to hurt me and my baby. And no matter how much I had grown to love him over the last few months, I had to cut myself loose.

My eyes began to well up with tears, but I managed to tear my gaze away from the penthouse and make my way over to the waiting cab. I opened the door and ushered the sleepy and scared Ella into the cab, then climbed in behind her and shut the door.

“Um... Here,” I said, handing the silent cab driver the address for the hotel that I had written down. But the cab driver didn’t take it, and as she pulled away from the curb, it seemed as though she knew where we were going. It did make sense, after all; Olivia probably knew this cab driver personally. I doubted that she would have allowed any regular cab driver to take us to the hotel, as an untrusted person could have easily given mine and Ella’s whereabouts to the police.

The cab driver appeared to be a woman. She was thin, wearing a beanie that covered most of her hair and a blue surgical mask. As she drove, the radio played staticky music in the background that filled the silence.

Behind me, Ella sniffled. She leaned into me and I wrapped my arm around her, rubbing her gently. Soon, this would be all over and she wouldn’t need to be afraid anymore. At least, that was what I hoped. I could only hope that I was making the right decision.

But as the cab driver took us through the glowing city, I began to get a bad feeling in my stomach. A pit of dread slowly opened as my sixth sense kicked in.

Something was wrong. I didn't know what it was, but something was definitely not right.

"I-I think we're supposed to be going north," I said quietly, pointing out the window. But the cab driver wasn't taking us north; she was taking us south, in the opposite direction.

The cab driver didn't answer, though.

"H-Hello?" I said, feeling my heart beginning to quicken its pace. "I think you're going in the wrong direction."

Once again, the cab driver didn't speak. We came to a stop at a red light; we were still only a few blocks away from the penthouse, and I began to wonder if I should get out here with Ella and run back home. Every fiber in my body was screaming at me to do just that.

Swallowing, I reached for the door handle...

But the car doors were locked.

"P-Please let us out," I said, my voice shaking as I tried the handle over and over again. Beside me, Ella was beginning to catch on as well, and I could feel her get tense. "I want to get out now," I pleaded.

Suddenly, the cab driver began to chuckle... And she pulled down her mask.

It wasn't just any cab driver; it was Kelly.

"Don't worry, you two," she said, turning in her seat to look at us with a twisted grin on her gaunt face. "I'm going to take you far, far away. And I'll make sure that Edrick never finds you."