

CHAPTER 124

Damien POV

God help me. I know I should feel sorry for my mother, but something inside of me is so angry and resentful that it's overwhelming all of my senses. I'm not like Winter. I can't just forgive and forget. Our mother is lying. She could have come back to get us at any time and we would have gone with her, no questions asked. Especially since it would have been infinitely better than living with our bastard father.

I shouldn't have stormed off. I gather my thoughts and walk back towards the living room, Winter and mother embracing. I swallow hard. "Did she tell you that she killed our miserable son of a bitch father" I spit out, Langdon sucking in a breath as I plonk back down on the chair. "That he was trying to get to us after being locked in a dungeon? It must have been so nice to have been free of all this bullshit" I snarl "hooking up with your so-called mate Lexus. . ." I trail off as I hear a strangled noise from the hallway. All of us turn and look. to see that Johnathon is standing there, looking extremely pale.

"I'm sorry to interrupt" he says quietly "I was just coming down to check on all of you. Did you say that your mate's name was Lexus?" he asks sounding like he's being strangled.

I narrow my eyes. What the hell is going on with him? Why does he sound so damn upset? It's not like his mother abandoned him, is it? Then I

remember that his father left him to go hook up with another woman and never came back. God, I need to stop being such a bastard.

My mother looks at Johnathon timidly. "That's right, my mates name was Lexus" she says quietly, looking a bit uncertain "is something wrong?"

"What was his last name?" Johnathon asks, looking on edge. "Did he tell you?"

She cocks her head and thinks for a moment. "I believe it might have been summer?" she mused "we never really had much reason to remember our last names" she explained thickly. "We just called each other by our first names."

Johnathon was holding onto the doorframe now. His shoulders were shaking. There was a grim expression on his face. Winter was starting to look at him concerned.

"Johnathon are you alright?" she asked.

"What did he look like?" Johnathon said abruptly to our mother.

She gives a large exhale and then looks away for a moment. "When I first met him, he had silky black hair that he kept tied back in a ponytail. His eyes were blue and bright and he was tall and muscled. He looked stern, but he was anything but. He was a sweet and kind man. He loved me fiercely" she continued, her eyes softening as she reminisced "when he told me he couldn't go back to his pack because he'd been banished, I didn't hesitate to go with him anyway. I would have followed him to the ends of the earth."

Winter looked at our mother admiringly. She sounded so girly, when she spoke about him. Women and their romances. Even I felt a little touched. Johnathon looked sick.

"Oh god" he choked out, sounding like he was being strangled.

Winter leapt up and patted him on the back. "What's wrong Johnathon" she exclaimed "you're behaving so weirdly."

His eyes were pitch black. He raised his head and regarded Elena, our mother steadily as she cringed at the expression on his face.

"I'm acting this way because Lexus was my father and he left my mother to be with you" he snapped and all of us stared open mouthed at him.

My mother shook her head. "No, Lexus didn't have any children, I checked. He told me he was single, I believed him."

"Were you actual mates, or chosen mates?" Johnathon yelled.

"Chosen mates" she whispered. "I wish we had been true mates, but I loved him just the same."

Oh boy. Even I didn't see this one coming. Johnathon looks like he's about to explode. His hands are clenched into fists and his eyes have remained a pitch black.

"Oh my god" Winter whispers, her hand to her mouth as she looks at Elena, who is just as horrified.

"How could you have been so stupid?" I cut in derisively "he lied to you. He abandoned his child, just like you abandoned your children and you never even realized it?" I'm incredulous "come on, he must have let something slip at some stage."

Kai's eyeing everyone now, wondering when he's going to be needed to defuse the situation. Johnathon's like a bomb about to go off and explode, everyone subtly backing away from him and staring at him as he paces back and forth.

"I can't believe this" he growls "you're telling me that Lexus, my pathetic excuse of a father is dead?" he prods.

Our mother looks at him apologetically, tears in her eyes "he died going onto some Alpha's territory last year. But I'm not sure he was your father" she says gently.

I roll my eyes. Of course she's still in denial. Doesn't want to admit to her mistakes, and trust me, this is a very big and very bad mistake.

Johnathon comes in and sits on the couch. His eyes are cold as ice. "Lexus was my father. You described him perfectly to a tee" he growls furiously "I have no doubt in my mind that he is the one that died last year. He shacked up with you" he snapped.

A gasp from the doorway has us all swiveling our heads to look at the person, now clutching the doorway for support, her whole-body trembling. I wince. Johnathon's mother has heard every word and right now she looks completely stunned. She's blinking back tears.

"What did you all just say" she whispers, sounding shaken. Her eyes rest on my mothers and narrow as she glares "your father shacked up with this whore?" she screams, spittle flying everywhere. I flinch; Winter cringes and Kai looks nervous as hell. Like he's completely out of his depth.

"He just disappeared one night. Never told me anything. Just left. He left his little son behind, me behind and for what?" she sneers, her tone cold as ice, her arms folded across her chest. Mother looks uncomfortable but stays silent, shooting the woman remorseful looks. As though that's going to accomplish anything.

"I didn't know" mother begins.

"You should have known. You should have questioned" screams Johnathon's mother "you idiot girl. You slut" she accuses "going off with someone else's man. You should have known better" she yells out.

Johnathon leaps up and goes over to her, trying to calm her down. Goodluck with that, I think to myself. It's like watching a car wreck. You know it's inevitable but you can't stop watching.

"Mother, please calm down" Johnathon begs, "Elena couldn't have possibly known. Why are you so angry at her, when it's father you should be angry at?"

The woman gives a huff, glaring around the room, no longer the nice, hospitable host she had been when we first got there.

"You say your father is dead" she storms "this woman is the reason for it. She took your father away from you Johnathon, why aren't you angry?" she screams.

Johnathon's lips tighten. "I am angry" he admits "but I can also see both sides to the story. It's not like she asked him to lie to her. If he was really like that, then weren't we better off without him anyway" he asks her firmly. He grabs hold of her hand "we did alright without him, didn't we? You raised me and I'm forever grateful to you for that. I love you mother" he says.

I've got to give it to him; his voice is dropping with sincerity. I'm a little envious. I didn't have a relationship like that with my own mother or father. I wish things could have worked out differently for Winter and me.

The other woman looks unconvinced.

"Please, I really didn't know" mother says to her, her voice shaking, her face miserable.

"Sure, you didn't" Johnathon's mother spits out. "I will never forgive you for what you did. My son grew up without a father, because of you" she shouts and storms over to Elena.

Before we can even move to stop her, Johnathon's mother raises her hand and slaps mother across the face. There's nothing but stunned silence in the room.

"You will leave tomorrow morning and you will never come back. I don't want to clap eyes on you ever again, hear your voice speak ever again. Do you understand me" she challenges.

My mother nods, a hand raised to her stinging cheek, a red palm now on her face from the slap. "Yes" she whispers.

Johnathon's mother just glares then turns and storms from the room. "Make sure they leave" she shouts to Johnathon who looks at us embarrassed.

"I'm sorry about that" he apologizes, but mother just waves the apology away.

"It's the least that I deserve" she says roughly "I must apologize, I never imagined that Lexus had another life he never told me about."

Johnathon just shrugged. "I've made my piece with it. Mother will come around eventually but I think it best" he hesitates "if you leave tomorrow morning as she suggested."

Mother nods.

"That's fine, we'll all leave tomorrow morning. You don't need us to hang around anymore anyway" Kai cuts in, glancing over at Johnathon meaningfully.

"Everything is under control, thanks to you guys" he answers.

Huh, bet he didn't feel that way when we got here and pretty much took it over. Smooth, Johnathon, real smooth.

"Then it's settled" Kai answers smugly, glancing around and leaning back in the chair "we'll leave early tomorrow."

But there's something I need to do. Something I wasn't even aware of until now. But every fiber in my being is begging me to do it. After all there's nothing to be afraid of anymore is there? Besides, there might be something that will bring back memories, something sentimental to give to Winter. God knows she's the sentimental one out of us both. Right now, she's busy fussing over mother. I clear my throat and look towards Langdon who merely raises an eyebrow.

"I have somewhere I need to go first" I tell them honestly "it's about time I made the trip back to the house anyway."

Winter lets out a startled gasp. "Oh, Damien don't go back to that house" she says in dismay "it ought to be condemned."

I laugh. "It's not in that bad of a condition but I never stepped foot in fathers' room or the basement. There might be something we want to keep. It's worth going through at any rate."

Winter bites her lip. "I just think it's such an evil place" she says forlorn "what if you get hurt or something?"

Langdon clears his throat. "I will be accompanying him" he tells Winter with a slow smile "I promise you that I won't let anything happen to him."

Why does mother look so nervous? "I agree, you shouldn't go back there" she says huskily "best to forget that place ever existed."

I cock my head at her. "Theres nothing you want brought back?" I ask politely. "Some memento perhaps?"

She adamantly shakes her head. "There is nothing in that place I would ever want to set eyes on again" she spits out. Her tone drips with resentment. "The whole place can burn down for all I care. It wouldn't make me cry that's for sure."

"I get it" Kai said calmly, clapping me on the shoulder "when do you want to leave?"

I just look at him "same as you, tomorrow morning. It's not far from here. You I'm assuming will be heading for the castle?"

"You bet your ass, we are" he glances at Elena "we'll drop you off on the way" he adds.

She looks annoyed but gives a slow nod.

I'm looking forward to tomorrow and revisiting the house. There's so much I never looked at, or wanted to look at now. But why is mother so adamant about me going there, and wanting it to burn down? What is she so afraid of?