

## CHAPTER 75

Kai POV

I can't believe that Winter gave me the most precious gift she had to give me last night. She was so willing, so perfect and the trust she showed in me is absolutely humbling. She was so tight, my cock twitched just thinking about it. If she hadn't been a virgin, I might have tried to persuade her to do it more than once. As it was, I was worried that she might have nightmares or bad memories because of that son of a bitch, Thomas, but she slept soundly next to me, snuggled right beside me as I watched her, fascinated and just in awe of this mate of mine. It's like I've done a complete turnaround, but it's one that's for the better. There's no way I can bring myself to hurt Winter. I don't want to see sadness or grief on her face anymore, only happiness. I don't want to be the one who makes her cry, not anymore.

I'm careful when climbing out of bed. She's still sleeping and I don't want to disturb her after last night. I showered quickly, deciding that going downstairs to the summit would be the best thing while Winter gets a much-needed rest. However, I scribble her a quick note, not wanting her to think I have abandoned her. I hesitated, wondering if maybe she would prefer to be woken up, but she had so little sleep last night that, in the end, I left her be and headed out the door and downstairs to the meeting room where, no doubt, other Alphas and Lunas are milling about. Who knows how long it will be until she wakes up? She really needed her rest after what we did last night. She could meet me later.

My Beautiful Winter/mate

Last night was wonderful and I'm honored by the precious gift you bestowed on me. I will never take it for granted.

I didn't want to disturb you while you were sleeping. I figured you needed your rest.

I will be in the meeting room when you are ready to join me. Take your time, there's no rush

Love your mate, Kai.

However, I'd no sooner gotten into the meeting room, my stomach growling with hunger, the buffet table directly in my sights when Candice stops me in my tracks. I look for Alpha Liam, rather hoping he would put a stop to this, but there's no sign of him to my disgust. The last thing I want to do is force myself to talk to this bitch. My hands clench into fists. Storm wants to rip her into shreds, no matter how many witnesses there are. I have to force my wolf and myself to calm down.

She bats her eyelashes at me. As usual, she's dressed in a skin-tight dress that molds to her curves and shows off her assets. Her makeup is perfect and her heels clack loudly on the floor. To me, she resembles a Barbie doll and I don't find her appearance attractive at all. Winter very rarely puts makeup on and I find I much prefer her natural beauty instead. She's beautiful without it, perfect in fact. I stand still, resigned, wondering what the hell Candice wants now, of all things. Wasn't she dating Alpha Liam? Shouldn't he be glued to her side? Couldn't she just stay with that bastard and leave me the fuck alone?

She puts a hand on my arm and I flinch, carefully removing it as she pouts at me, her eyes feigning hurt. I almost want to scoff at her pathetic acting. What on earth is she thinking? She knows how much I despise her, so what is she playing at?

"Kai" she breathes, "there's really no need for you to act this way towards me. We were boyfriend and girlfriend for a long time. Don't you think you could at least be civil towards me? I didn't mean what I said to you, I was just hurt by your rejection of me", she added as I stared at her incredulously. She's lying. I can tell. Besides, screw her. The last thing I want to be is civil to the bitch.

Is she for real? Does she really want me to pretend that the insults she threw at me were just because I was breaking up with her? Because there had been an element of truth in them. What on earth is she playing at? What's with all this false pretense of hers?

She moves closer and I have to fight the urge to back away. After all, there is a crowd milling around us and the last thing I want to do is cause a scene. The bitch knows it too. Storm, on the other hand, would be more than delighted to create a scene, regardless of all the witnesses. I'm really tempted to let him. But I have to be polite at a summit unless I want to be ostracised by other packs.

"Can't you see that I was in love with you, Kai" she exclaims dramatically, "you were my whole world, and then all of a sudden you're breaking up with me as though I meant nothing to you" she says, hurt. Like she can talk, considering the insults she threw my way when we broke up.

I shift uncomfortably, noting that there are several Lunas and Alphas openly staring at the both of us, disapproval in their eyes. You don't have the full story, I want to shout out in my defense, but instead, I grit my teeth and take a deep breath.

"You know that I found my mate, Candice. I couldn't fight the mate bond anymore. I'm sorry if that hurt you, but I'm with my mate now and I'm happy" I said grimly. God, let her just walk away now. Now I wish I'd waited for Winter to wake up, then I could have avoided this awkward conversation. Next time, I will wake her up.

She began to sob. Damn, she's a good actress, sounding slightly hysterical. "We were together over a year and in that time you could have made me your chosen mate. Why didn't you?" she cried.

I shifted on my feet, sighing deeply. "I didn't want a mate," I told her honestly, "and you knew that."

"But you chose to be with Winter" she wails. "You chose your mate, even when you didn't want one. So you're lying."

"Yes," I said tightly. "I changed my mind." Thank god I had. Looking at Candice now, I can't believe I ever dated her. She's so shallow, so vain. She never loved me, that I'm certain of. The Luna title was all she was after and now it's slipped through her fingers. Bad luck. I never would have given her the title anyway, so she wasted over a year of her life for nothing.

"We could go back to those happier times" she tries to whisper, and I step back and shake my head firmly, absolutely repulsed by her suggestion. I fight back the urge to vomit.

"My mate and I are marked," I said with a growl, watching her eyes widen in disbelief. How on earth had she not noticed the marks? I look at her neck and sure enough, she's still unmarked, her neck absolutely bare of any tattoos. So Liam hadn't made her his chosen mate yet. Interesting. Her moves speak of desperation. Was Liam getting sick of her crap now as well? Or was he just being sensible?

There's the sound of footprints and Candice's eyes widen before she visibly relaxes. Alpha Liam joins our small group, his eyes narrowed in displeasure. Is he annoyed to find the two of us together? Because I sure as hell didn't start this conversation and I would be delighted to finish it and get some damn breakfast. My stomach growls in hunger.

"Alpha Kai," Liam says, greeting me with a small nod, his eyes icy cold.

"Alpha Liam" I returned, acknowledging him with tight lips and a grim expression on my face. I've never liked this man but honestly couldn't say why. It was just an instant feeling of dislike and the feeling was mutual, judging by the way he spoke to me.

"Candice, my dear" Alpha Liam said with a smile that Candice instantly returned. "I went looking for you when you disappeared from the bedroom. Is something the matter?" he asked smoothly.

Candice shook her head and stared at me with hard eyes, "I was just having a delightful conversation with Alpha Kai" she said tightly, and Alpha Liam took hold of her hand and kissed it. Yuck.

'Well, if you're finished" Alpha Liam said quietly, "then perhaps we could get some breakfast and sit down together?" he suggested.

She nodded and shot me a look so full of hatred that I couldn't quite believe her audacity. Then she flipped her long hair over her shoulder and gave Alpha Liam a brilliant smile.

"I would be delighted" she purred, flouncing off as Liam stared at her. He turned to me, his jaw clenched, and his eyes narrowed.

"Stay the hell away from my girl" he growls, "she's mine now."

Good riddance, I think to myself.

"You can have her", I growl back and he gives a huff and walks over to her as I watch in relief. Finally, some peace and quiet. I can finally feed my hungry stomach which is growling profusely in its desperate need to be fed,

I happily fill my plate with all sorts of scrumptious treats, making my way to an empty table. I'm not in the mood for conversation right now. But I'd no sooner bitten into a piece of bacon when there was a sudden commotion in the room. I place the bacon down with a sigh and see

security bustling toward someone who's shrieking hysterically. Thank god it's not Candice.

"There's a girl in the elevator" the girl was screaming. "She's been attacked and she's bleeding everywhere."

My stomach churns. I get up and push through the crowd, not caring if it's an Alpha, in my determination to get towards the elevator. I'm praying that I'm wrong, that my instincts are incorrect for once, but as I reach the elevator, I see her. My god. I'm sick to my stomach. Who would have the guts to do something like this, at a summit full of werewolves for goodness sake? Fuck. I've failed her, yet again.

She's so pale but it's the amount of blood everywhere that gets me as I get inside, security shooting me wary looks as I kneel beside her. There's so much blood. I don't know what to do and I feel absolutely helpless.

"She's my mate" I yelled and turned to them, my eyes pitch black now, my fury visible for everyone to see "find out whoever attacked her and do it now."

Someone squeezes into the elevator with me and I turn, ready to attack anyone who dares to attack my mate. "I'm a doctor," he says, hands up in surrender "let me deal with her. Please" he added softly, and I grudgingly let him kneel beside her, checking her vitals. My eyes scan the crowds. Whoever has done this to my mate, would be answering to me, whether the security team liked it or not. They would be dying a slow painful death for their treachery and for daring to even lay a finger on my mate, who's now lying there still as a statue.

"She's still breathing", the doctor announces, and I close my eyes, thanking god she's not dead. Without a word, the crowd disperses to leave me and the doctor alone, the security team swarming away on a desperate manhunt. They had better get to the attacker first, because if I got my hands on them, he would be screaming for mercy and to let him die.

