

## Chapter 17: Fleur de Lis

-Liam-

"This is getting really stupid, Liam!" Fernando is annoyed. I knew it. I caused it. Still, it was endearing to see him like this. He makes the cutest face ever when he is irritated like this.

"I do not know what you are talking about..." I whined. "Mmm... Come back to bed!" I exclaimed and rolled in bed, letting him see a little more of my body.

Fernando spent the night with me, our rst night together. I wanted him to stay a little longer since it was early... Ten more minutes or an hour would not hurt anyone.

"You are not tempting me, Liam Junior!" Of course, I do!

Since I got him back in my life, I found my way with him. He enjoyed my body. That is why I got back to the gym to recover every muscle faster. And Maddox was helping like never before.

My mate was not supercial or just into my body. It is just that he has a thirsty wolf. Not complaining because mine is thirsty too.

"Okey, if you want to leave so early... then you can wear one of my shirts. Just grab one..." I smirked at him, resting on one arm facing him from the bed.

I knew he was eyeing me with lust. He looks more delicious to me to the minute, standing there while blushing, without a shirt. My heart pounded faster in my chest when his gaze met mine, and a smile appeared on my lips.

My plan was working... I outsmarted you, man.

"Liam, you know your shirts are too big for me!"

I began to laugh out loud. Fernando is shorter than me and thinner. It feels amazing spooning him considering his size, hold him against my chest, but we cannot share clothes because they will not fit him.

He tried to sniff the location of his shirt in my room. It was cute... omegas cannot track smells. It was a futile attempt from him.

Fernando was growing impatient, but I had nothing to fear from my sweet mate.

I was sure he would not nd his shirt. I hide it very well, and his skills would not help him. It might sound mean and stupid, but it was part of my plan. I have my reasons.

I had two good reasons; one, he will be shirtless more time, so I get to enjoy the view; and two, which was the most important reason, he will be forced to wear my clothes, with my scent on them. Everyone will know he is mine.

"Fer, do not get mad at your Liam... I am missing you already..." I laid and opened my arms for him to come to me. Whining like that made his heart melt for me. I knew him by now; he has a kind soul with a forgiving nature. Pleads would move his heart. Especially towards his mate, me.

We both will have a hard day of work, and a little more time together is what I need to start this special day. He will be assisting my mother in the role of Beta Female. The job title would be wrong for him, but the duties do not have gender, and the pack needs as much help as we can get.

My mate also had to restart his studies; we will not have much time together after it. We both are busy.

Fernando was Soledad's son, my grandmother's former housemaid. She took the job when my grandparents retired from their roles as second in command of the pack.

My parents were so busy with work that they used to send me with my grandparents. They were pretty much absent, and my grandparent's teachings had a huge impact on me, especially the beliefs of my grandmother.

I did not notice Fernando particularly. Naturally, I was attracted to him because he was handsome, still is. However, by then, I was a teenager struggling with my own hormones and fears, facing my own insecurities about liking guys instead of girls. I was just trying to be what my grandparents told me I was supposed to be, and the fakeness of it made me a stupid wolf.

Her mother resigned one day, tired of my verbal abuse of my grandmother.

Grandma is lthy rich and pays very well, but it is not out of her kind heart. Almost no omega would accept to work for her regardless of the money. Soledad saved enough money to start her own business and left them. Time passed, and he was out of mind. I did not expect to see Fernando years later and even less to nd out that he was my mate.

He is lean and quite handsome with black hair in short soft silky curls. Fernando has a tiny nose and a small mouth with thin lips. His scent awoke every ber of my whole persona and wolf when I saw him for the rst time in years. Yet, the words of my grandmother ringed in my head.

Imagine my shock... my mate was not only male but also an omega. I was everything my grandmother taught me to hate.

All the time I spent laying around with females, faking to live a happy life, did not change a thing of my soul... I was still into guys, and Moon Goddess, in all her wisdom, sent Fernando as my mate.

I was just out of my mind when everything happened. Not an excuse, though.

Fernando did not run to my arms. He saw me and run the opposite way to hide from me. My wolf was screaming, well... howling. I was so ashamed of myself and hurt seeing him run away from me. I do not remember ever feeling so mixed and strong emotions in me any time before.

In frenzy, I chased Fernando like the wolf I am, but when I found him, another male was holding him. I was so jealous, hurt, and ashamed of myself that without thinking any further... I rejected him there. The pain I felt was so intense that I regretted my action. I was not thinking properly when I did it.

I was not thinking at all! He was surrounded by his friends. They were just trying to protect him... from me. His own mate!

My stubbornness, my stupidity could have taken my mate away from me forever, killing me as well.

Taking my rejection back was not an easy thing to do for a cocky wolf like me, but the worst part was accepting myself, come out to myself before looking for my mate. It took time.

I thought I would lose my friends and my parents... everything that mattered to me when coming out of the closet. But I was dying painfully slow. To be wolf-less is no joke. Feel the hate of your wolf destroys you, and the emptiness is something I would not wish to anyone.

The stories Carter told me about omegas mated to high-rank wolves helped me understand my situation and encouraged me to do what I wanted to do. Fernando was alive, and I would be able to ght for him. There was very little chance to win him over... but I had to try.

He was sleeping in an induced coma because the rejection would have killed him. Too much pain for his fragile body. By some miracle, the doctors found a new potion, and he began to get better with it until they could fully wake him up. I visited him every day without his knowledge... or authorization. I watched him from the shadows.

Maddox, my wolf hated me, but I hated myself more. My only moment of peace with him was while looking at Fernando in his sleep.

I became a creep but one privileged one. Some tips here and there, and I was able to access his hospital room at night.

Carter was right. Once the rejection was removed, the bond between us awoke. It was weak for him while mine was not. Despite that, my devotion earned me an opportunity with Fernando. He agreed to date, without any promise, and without exclusivity, but I took what I was offered. In my ears, he was mine again. Yet, he made me wait for him.

It was worth it. After some time, Fernando saw my pain and honesty, out of pity or not, he agreed to start a relationship with me. I guess I am the luckiest bastard on earth.

His hair was still wet from the shower he just took in my bathroom. He smells heavenly. Coconut and pineapple mixed with my shampoo. I saw his internal battle. I won! Fernando sighed and bent to my wishes, coming to bed with me, to my arms. We snuggled, and I kissed his neck, taking deep breathes of his scent. Our wolves were muttering in pleasure.

"I know what you are doing... I will not let you mark me, Liam... and I will not mark you until I am sure, absolutely sure..." Fernando has doubts.

I made my mate doubt me; I do not deserve him. I almost killed him with my stupidity. If it were not for his studies in medicine and his strength, I would not have him in my arms now.

"I am sorry. I will ask your forgiveness forever. And, I will say thank you every day you spend with me..." He kissed me, silencing me. He does not want to talk about it.

It is odd how all my aggressiveness from before evaporated. The cocky proud wolf in me was a puppy under the touch of my mate.

I guess my internal struggle to embrace my true self made me unnecessarily aggressive. Even Maddox was more patient, calmer. He had a hard time understanding as well, but we are happy now.

In the past, I wanted to t in the group and be the same as Mason and Carter. I pretended to be someone I was not. While here with my mate, it was just truly me and him. No pretenses. Just us.

"I swear my feelings go beyond the mate bond. Fer, you are the best thing that could ever happen to me. We will mark each other whenever you are ready. I will earn your trust." I will wait as long it would take, forever if he wants it. I will gladly take any punishment if he stays like now, between my arms.

"Fine." He huffed. "I will stay, but just one more hour. And give me back my shirt! None of your shirts matches my style!" I felt it. He was smiling.

Fernando was happy but did not want to talk about feelings. Funny, who would have thought, I was the romantically outspoken one, and he was the reserved one. He was my little wolf.

I must work to gain the full trust of my mate. He might open with me after more time together. I will even gain the favor of his friends one day. Thinking about friends, Mason came to my mind.

I felt sorry for Mason but even been the asshole I was, I would have never crossed the line he did. I understand, though; he had his reasons and a lot of s\*\*t in his head. Marissa and Sky helped to f\*\*k him up with his true mate. He ended up rejected... by both. His true mate and the chosen one.

"What happened? I feel your sadness. Are you okay?" he asked concerned. As an omega, he was empathic could feel my emotions. We did not need the mate bond for that. I can only imagine that our marking would only deepen our relationship.

"Yes. I just remembered Mason," I said, honestly.

"Poor jerk..." Mate!

"He is my friend, and he is suffering." Fernando sighed, and I told him about how he reacted when I came out before him and Carter. He was not that kind of a jerk. I wanted him to understand my friend. We kind of grew up together due to our appointments when we were six years old.

Mason can be f\*\*\*\*d up, but brothers are brothers.

"You are right... I have heard omegas calling him 'The Rejected Alpha' because of Clara's rejection and after the mating ceremony disaster, even wolves from other packs do it, too." We all heard those rumors.

"Life sucks for Mason. He is a Sole Alpha, with support from his uncle. Her mother still does not wake up and Alpha James does not leave her bedside, all duties are on Mason without a Luna." Fernando does not even imagine how hard it is for Mason to be Sole Alpha, especially one with a wolf who hates you.

"I am so busy with work that I am glad to stay a little longer with you." My Fer does not even imagine what it is like. I work hard to help Mason, especially since Carter is not on speaking terms with him.

Carter found out what happened between Mason and Sky, and his command to her to shut up. It was one bad thing after another. I was still thinking of a way to help them out.

"The good news is that Luna Michelle was moved inside the packhouse. Although there is no major change in her state, she will improve over time. Since I will help your mother, I can monitor her condition and help as needed." My sweet kind, mate.

My door was slammed open just when I dived in for a passionate kiss to leave behind the sad story of Mason and his family. It was my grandma in full rage. Most of her silver hair was out of her stiff bun. Her face was so red that I wanted to laugh.

She is very stiff and wears black all the time, as good widows do, according to her.

"Liam Junior! I cannot believe this!" She screamed. I knew she would freak out. It took her quite a while to nd out, though.

"You and this lthy..." Grandmother or not, my mate comes rst!

"Watch your mouth, grandma. Fernando is my mate! This is my room. You have not right at all!"

"My own blood and esh." She huffed. "How could you? Reject him! Kill him with your own hands!" She was crazy, indeed crazy!

"Get out of my room!" I yelled. She was ruining things for Fer and me.

"I better leave..." Fernando was blushing completely embarrassed and run to the walking closet to grab a shirt. It was his shirt, he found it!

"No, you are my mate. You are moving in with me! Today!" I did not want to order him, but it was necessary to make my point. Fernando stays, although he did not like my tone of voice.

"Liam! Nol You are deling our name!" Grandma was even louder, she is old. I am not sure if she still shifts, but she might any minute.

I had to stand up from bed, but I forgot! I was naked under the sheets.

My grandmother was making a scene in my room, and my father probably heard when she broke the door.

"Mother! Stop this!" My father walked into my room to my dismay nding me as I was born. "Please, Liam cover yourself..."

"We are werewolves, nudity is part of our nature." I shrugged my shoulders. I am still Liam. Fernando threw some pants at me to put on.

"I apologize for this scandal, Fernando. Please, you are welcome for breakfast." My father offered him.

"Thank you, Mr. Johnson." My sweet mate was blushing.

It is amazing how my parents took my mating so well. I guess the mess Mason created eased up the way for me. We have learned the lesson; a mate is precious.

"Wait for me there, baby." I told him. He left heading to our dining room for breakfast. Mother mind-linked me that we will have scrambled eggs and bacon with pancakes.

Back to the scene...

"Mother, they are mates. It is Moon Goddess's wishes... Her gift for Liam and our family."

Yes, I am sure now. A mate is a gift, especially one like Fer.

"You agree with this? Your ancestors would die again if they knew you allowed this monstrosity under your roof." It hurts, my grandmother rejecting me this way.

"They are dead already! Who cares? I just want my son to be happy."

That lied my eyes with tears. The support of my father.

How did I doubt him? The love and integrity of this werewolf towards his family. I should have come to him and tell him about how I felt. Probably, I did not because we never talked... like really talk about important things.

"I care! Our community cares! Dear Goddess, the gossip! I wish Liam were dead!"

I cannot believe my grandmother; I am his grandson!

"Mother! Mated or not, whichever rank, gay or straight... he can be a unicorn for what I care. He is MY SON! Don't ever say that!" My father never raised his voice to his mother. It did not matter what she said

, but I am his son.

"Don't you see! Your bloodline ends with him. He will not have pups to take over as future betas! Our pack is condemned!" Fernando and I did not get to talk about having pups, but we can always adopt, right?

"Grandma, if that is your concern, I can adopt..."

"This is a disgrace. My queen will be so disappointed!" What?

"Mother, what are you talking about?" My father did not know either.

"Until your son, our blood was pure! My mother made sure of it, as her mother... but I did not do my duties. I am ashamed of myself." We still did not understand her. She was sobbing loudly, and fell to the oor. We could not understand her at all.

She pulled at her own clothes, ripping them apart, ending with a torn sleeve and showing her right shoulder. Father went down on his knees to console grandmother when he suddenly froze and gasped looking at her.

"Mother! How could you?" I did not understand what was happening, so I approached them.

I understood then, in full display on the wrinkled skin, her shoulder bared the tattoo of the Fleur de Lis.