

Seducing My Ex's Father In Law 551-560

"You're too good to me," she murmured, sipping the milk. "So, what were we talking about? What's an option?"

"I was suggesting to Nan and Chester that maybe they should adopt Emalyn," I told her, pausing to gauge her reaction.

Her eyes grew wide as she looked at me, and then at Nan, Chester, and finally Emalyn, who was content in Nan's arms, drinking from her bottle.

Breaking the silence, Nan started to ramble nervously.

"I was telling them that it's ridiculous," she said with a nervous laugh. "We've only been mated for like 5 minutes, and so far it's been so rocky between us. Yes, we can babysit, but we don't know the first thing about raising an actual baby. I don't think we are ready for that kind of step and—"

"I think it's a great idea," Irene cut in before Nan could finish her jumbled thoughts.

We all looked at her, surprised.

"You do?" Nan asked her, widening her eyes.

Irene nodded as she took another sip of her wine; her eyes turned thoughtful.

"As much as I love Emalyn, she's not my baby. She's a reminder of the cruel man I fell in love with...she's a reminder of the betrayal I faced. I can't connect with her. She's adorable, but she cries constantly when she's with me. I knew in my heart that she would have to get adopted eventually; I'm way too immature for a baby. I want her to go to a good home and be loved by people I trust. I want to still be able to see her and be Auntie Irene," Irene said with a grin. "There's no better couple than you."

"I couldn't agree more," I said with my own grin.

Irene looked at me, and then her eyes narrowed.

"How are you so put together after last night?" She asked. "I looked like the human equivalent of a train wreck, and you look hot."

I glanced down at my crop top and high-waisted jeans with a frown. I didn't think I looked hot, but to each their own.

"Thanks," I said with a shrug. "I took a shower this morning. Don't get me wrong, I have a headache too, but I drank water last night to keep me hydrated this morning."

I didn't bother telling her that it was her father who gave me the water and made sure that I was okay this morning.

"I have to go see Elana later," Irene murmured. "I need to apologize for my behavior last night. I shouldn't have gotten that drunk. I should have listened to you, Judy. I'm sorry for putting you in that position."

I shake my head.

"I'm an adult and made my own choice," I told her. "I'll come with you later. I'd like to apologize too. I finish until 2 and then we can go together."

She nodded, looking slightly relieved.

"In the meantime, take a shower. Let Chester take care of the baby. Recover yourself. Nan and I ended up getting to school."

"I just made breakfast," Chester said, bringing over some plates. He placed one in front of Nan, kissing her on the head. "You have a little time to eat."

Without another word, he took the baby from her, like a natural father, and it made me smile.

He placed the other plate in front of me; Irene was already chowing away, eating like a starving woman.

I had to admit, the food looked and smelled delicious. I wasted no time eating. By the time we were done, we were stuffed, and the slight hangover I was sporting was almost non-existent.

It was Erik who arrived to take us to the school, which surprised me because lately it's been Taylor taking us to school. Or at least he's been taking me to school; maybe because I was being picked up at the mansion instead of home, and Erik was already here or something?

"Something wrong?" Erik asked as I got into the car beside Nan.

I shake my head.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm glad to see you. I was just expecting it to be Taylor this morning," I told him. "Was he busy?"

Erik nodded.

'Yeah, he's at Gavin's office doing some missed paperwork," he admitted. "Gavin wasn't able to make it into the office this morning, so Taylor got stuck with the slack."

I frowned at that.

"I don't understand... why couldn't

Gavin make it in?" I asked; I saw Gavin literally last night, and he was completely fine... more than fine. My cheeks flushed at the memory, and I hoped that nobody else could see it.

"He's busy this morning with Miss Rachel."

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Judy's POV

I should have known that's where he had gone this morning. He had sex with me last night and then left to be with another woman. My heart was shattered, and I hated that he affected me so much. Nan, feeling my mood shift, wrapped an arm through mine and gave me a reassuring squeeze.

"I'm sure it's nothing," she whispered to me.

She wasn't meaning for Erik to hear it, but with wolf hearing, he heard her clear as day. He glanced at me through the mirror with a small frown.

"She's in the hospital," he clarified, drawing my attention to him.

"What?" I asked, raising my brows.

"Rachel," he clarified. "She's in the hospital. He went to make sure she was okay. Taylor called him this morning and told him about it. That's all I really know, though."

My heart thudded against my chest; many different scenarios played out in my head.

"What happened?" I asked. "Why is she in the hospital?"

"You'd have to ask him," he replied. "I'm not entirely sure."

"That's all the information you have?!" I practically shouted; I was aware that I was acting stupid. This wasn't Erik's fault, nor was it his problem. I wasn't being fair to him, and the look Nan was giving me told me she agreed with my internal

monologue.

"It's not my business to know these things, Judy," he said with a sigh, his attention on the road. "You'll have to ask him later."

I sat back in the seat.

"Sorry, Erik," I said softly. "I don't mean to take my frustration out on you."

He nodded but didn't say anything more.

Soon, we were arriving at the school. We said our goodbyes to Erik before heading through the campus grounds. The school was packed with students who were cramming for their finals last minute.

"I'm so nervous," Nan admitted. "I know we are prepared and all, but still."

I nodded in agreement.

"Yeah, I'm a bit nervous too. This is kind of a huge deal."

"Hey, Judy," Lukas said as we entered the student lounge. "Did you get anymore studying done this weekend?"

"A little, but not as much as I'd like," I admitted. "How about you?"

"I crammed all Saturday, but didn't do much studying yesterday," he told me. "Hopefully, it doesn't affect my scores."

"At least your graduation isn't pending until next year," Nan told him. "You'll be fine."

"Yeah, but every grade counts," he told us. "If I don't pass these with flying colors, I'll lose my scholarship, and my uncle will force me home."

"He's not paying for you to be here?" Nan asked, raising her brows.

"He didn't want me to come here at all because it's so close to the Landry territory," he admitted. "The only way he allowed me to come here is by my own merits."

I nodded, understanding why this was so important to him.

"You're going to be fine, Lukas," I told him. "We will all be fine."

"I have to go," Nan said, giving me a brief hug. "My first final starts soon, and I need to get to class and prepare myself."

"Yeah, I should probably head to class too," I say. "Good luck, you guys!"

In

With a rapidly beating heart I headed out of the student lounge and went to my first class. There were already some students doing some last-minute studies by the time reached the class. I sat down in my seat, took out my notebook and

spent some time studying myself.

I knew this material inside and out, so I wasn't sure why I was so nervous.

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Maybe because my head was a bit clouded and knew this distraction could be detrimental. The teacher walked into the classroom, putting his briefcase on his desk and then turning to the class as more students started to fill the seats.

"Welcome to your final day in this class," he announced. "Shall we begin?"

Gavin's POV

I hated having to leave Judy this morning to go to the hospital. I couldn't even see Rachel when I first got there because she was being examined by the doctor. I paced the living room, my heart practically in my throat.

I grabbed my phone, about to text Judy, when the doorway to the emergency room opened and Dr. Pierce walked out.

"Alpha, she's ready now," she announced. "You can come see her."

I let out a breath and nodded as I followed her through the doors and towards the room Rachel was in.

Rachel was sitting up in bed; she didn't look like someone who should be in a hospital. She looked perfectly fine. When her eyes met mine, there was a flash of something in them that I didn't recognize.

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"I'm still running some tests, but as far as I can tell, it was only a panic attack. I'll leave you two to talk," Dr. Pierce said as she turned and walked out of the room, leaving me alone with Rachel.

I walked to the bed, my posture stiff and my eyes narrowed.

"Rachel, what happened?" I asked her, trying to keep my tone calm.

She folded her arms across her chest.

"You didn't come home last night, and I freaked out," she admitted. "I broke a few things, and then I passed out. Next thing I knew, I was here."

"You shouldn't have freaked out," I told her, unable to hide my aggravation.

"You didn't come home!" she repeated, loudly.

"It's not your place to decide when I return to my home," I said through my teeth. You are a guest in my home, and you were disrespectful last night."

"I was worried about you! You wouldn't answer my text messages or phone calls and-"

"I was busy."

She faltered for a moment, her eyes welling up with tears.

"Is there no hope for us, Gavin?" She asked softly. "You've been cold towards me for days now. I thought we were building something. Is it because I betrayed you all those years ago? I already apologized for that and told you that the love was always there. I've always loved you..."

"Things are different now, Rachel. I agreed to give things a chance and see if we could rekindle anything...we can't. I've tried, but my heart isn't in it. So, I agreed to friendship. That's all I can give you right now. I'm sorry if that's not what you want to hear, but that's all I'm willing to give you."

"Is it because of her...?" Rachel asked, her eyes turning cold and almost calculating, causing me to freeze. "Judy?"

"Leave Judy's name out of your mouth," I practically growled; I felt my anger rising almost immediately.

"It is... isn't it. You were with her all night," Rachel said through her teeth. "That's why you reek of her scent! Did you fuck her last night?"

"You are out line."

"I think I have a right to know," she hissed. "Did you or did you not fuck Judy Montague last night."

My wolf was furious at her audacity;

he felt we

had every right to rip

Rachel's head off for disrespecting Judy in the first place. He was

uneasy over the fact that Racial ne

felt

comfortable slandering her in such a manner, and honestly, I couldn't blame him. It was taking everything I had to keep myself and my wolf under control.

Before I could reply, Dr. Pierce walked back into the room holding a small file. She was reading them, her expression hard to read.

I could practically hear her heart beating at a quickened pace, and my mind was racing, wondering what could be wrong. It was obvious something was wrong from her demeanor.

"What is it?" I asked, ignoring the look Rachel was giving me.

"Alpha, I think we should speak in private," she said, her voice sounding almost distant and at that moment, I realized her face had gone pale as well.

"Um, excuse me... if it has something to do with me, I'd like to hear it was well," Rachel said, folding her arms across her chest. "You are not about to keep me in the dark about this."

Dr. Peirce looked at her and then back at me.

I nodded, granting her permission to continue speaking openly in front of Rachel.

Dr. Pierce took a deep breath, steeling herself.

"Well, as you know, we wanted to

rule out everything. A fainting spell isn't normal for

for someone who has a

panic attack, and we wanted to be sure that's all it was. So, we took some bloodwork, along with urine samples, and brought them to the lab for further testing," Dr Pierce explained.

"We already knew that," Rachel scoffed, rolling her eyes. Had she always been

this bitchy or am I just noticing it now? "Get on with it."

"Mind your tone," I said through my teeth; it felt like I was scolding a child.

Dr. Pierce cleared her throat and turned to Rachel before continuing.

"Well, we got the results from all tests, and they all came up with the same conclusion."

"And that is?" She asked impatiently.

"You are pregnant."

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Gavin's POV

"Pregnant?" Both Rachel and I said at the same exact time.

"How is that possible?" I asked, my eyes darting to Rachel. "Who had you been with since coming here?"

"Are you serious right now??" She asked, her cheeks flushing. "Do you seriously think I had been with anybody other than you??"

"We didn't..." I started to say, but she held up her hand, her eyes growing colder.

"You literally woke up naked with me in bed next to you," she said, cutting me off. "Don't you remember our time at The Grand Hotel?"

I felt bile rising up in my throat. I was still convinced that Judy was the one I had been with that night, but when I woke up, it was Rachel's naked body that was beside me, and her marks all over me that branded me for a few days. I was glad that they were finally gone, but now it seems we have an even bigger problem at hand.

"No, even if that's true, I'm always careful," I say, refusing to believe that I got Rachel pregnant.

"We were so drunk," Rachel said. "Neither of us was careful that night, Gavin."

"From the results, it seems she's a little over 2 weeks pregnant," Dr. Peirce continued, her eyes fixed on the file and not at all on our faces.

"See?" Rachel said, a smirk on her face. "That's the same time as the Grand Casino Hotel."

"Excuse me for a minute," I said, turning and walking towards the door.

"Gavin, where do you think you are going?!" Rachel asked, annoyance clear in her tone.

"I need to make a phone call," I told her over my shoulder without looking back.

Once I was in the hallway, I let out a breath I hadn't known I was holding. I reached into my pocket and pulled out my phone. I brought up Taylor's contact number and clicked the call button, bringing the phone to my cheek.

"Alpha," Taylor greeted on the phone; he knew right away that this wasn't a personal call.

"I need you to find out everything you can about that night at the Grand Casino Hotel," I ordered.

There was silence on the other end for a moment.

"When you went there for that meeting a few weeks ago?" Taylor asked.

I hadn't told Taylor the entire story from that evening. I suppose now I should do just that.

"Yes," I replied. "Something happened that night, and I think it's coming back around to bite me in the ass."

"Want to enlighten me and tell me what happened?" He asked. "I need to know what it is I'm looking for."

"As you know, we had an important meeting with important shareholders, and something happened with our ride, where needed to leave. I sent out a memo

seemed to have misplaced my phone shortly after and didn't hear anything back from anyone. Rachel and I went to the bar to get a drink, and I got way too drunk off one scotch..."

requesting another ride, but me Pune

"One scotch got you drunk?" Taylor asked; I could hear him typing away, so I knew he was taking notes. The typing had stopped for a minute as he asked that question.

"Yes," I told him. I knew that was

weird as well, but I was so wrapped up in what happened the next morning, hadn't really thought about the evening as a whole. The rest of the night was kind of a blur after that. But I remembered Judy being there. I remembered the feel of her body pressed against mine, the sound of her breathy moans... the taste of her-"

"Okay, don't need that many details," Taylor interrupted. "Get to the end of it."

I rolled my eyes.

"I woke up the next morning with

Rachel in my bed instead of Judy. We were both naked, and I had hickeys all over my body. She had hickeys all over her as well tha knew were from me. Her perfume was all over the suite, though I could still smell the lingering séent of Judy as well, so I knew she was there."

"Did you talk to Judy about it?"

"Of course I talked to Judy about it," I snapped. "She denies being there. I don't know why she's denying it, but she's adamant about keeping it from me. I decided not to push her, and I just walked away."

"That was stupid," Taylor muttered as he continued to type on his computer. "What time was the meeting again? 6 pm?"

"Yes."

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"And what time did you get to the bar? I'll try to get the security footage from that night," Taylor told me.

I'm not sure why I didn't think about that sooner.

Running my hands through my hair, I muttered, "We got to the bar a little before 9."

There was more typing on the other end of the phone.

"Can I ask, suddenly, why you are looking into this?" Taylor asked. "It's been weeks since the meeting."

I was quiet for a moment, my eyes drifting back to the hospital room door, a deep- rooted worry festering in the pit of my stomach.

"Because I might have gotten her pregnant."

Third Person POV

Rachel sat in the hospital bed, watching as Gavin stormed out of the room. Her chest felt heavy, though at the same time, she was elated. She was pregnant with a baby; this was

the perfect opportunity to trap Gavin into mating with her. Once he makes her his Luna, the entire pack will fall at her feet; she will be able to get all the information needed to take over his company once and for all, and then bring it to the ground.

She touched her belly where her future lay.

"Since you are not the mate of the Alpha, the baby will need a paternity test once it's old enough," Dr. Pierce continued, making Rachel's heart thud even faster in her chest. "It's just for precaution."

"Of course," Rachel said; a paternity test was easy to fake; it would be no issue getting fake results.

After a few more words from the doctor, she too left the room soon after. The second Rachel left the room, a slow grin spread across her lips as she grabbed her phone off the table beside the bed. She scrolled through her phone until she found the person she was looking for.

"About time you called me," he said, his tone low and dangerous, sending a shiver down Rachel's spine.

"Aw, have you missed me?" Rachel teased.

"You've been there for over a month," he growled. "I expected to hear from you much sooner. Why are you now just contacting me?!"

"Jealousy isn't a good look on you," Rachel practically purred. "Didn't I tell you to trust me?"

"Don't test me right now," he seethed. "I need an update on your progress. Are you sticking to the plan?"

"Yes, I'm sticking to the plan. I'm glad to report that I'm in the hospital right now... just found out I'm pregnant."

"With whose baby?" He asked through his teeth.

"Some humans... just as promised," Rachel said with a chuckle. "Don't worry, I won't let Gavin truly touch me. I'm not his to touch. I only belong to you, My Love."

"But he thinks it's his baby?"

"Yes," she replied. "I made him think it was during a drunken one-night stand, one he barely remembers anything from that night. This is a perfect plan, just like I told you it would be."

"What will you do with the baby once it's born?" He asked.

Rachel rolled her eyes.

"I don't know; maybe give her away for adoption or something. Does it really matter what happens to it? It'll be half human... that's practically useless to us. There's a chance it'll never get a wolf."

"True, but right now that baby is the ticket to get into the Landry corporation. If he thinks that baby is his... he'll think it's the heir. We need to tread carefully if we want to pull off this mission."

Rachel grinned, her fingers splaying across her still flat belly. The thought of taking over the Landry Corporation as her in a choke hold and her heart racing with excitement.

"Trust me, love. I know exactly what I'm doing. Gavin might be wary of trusting me right now, but once he comes to terms with the fact that I'm pregnant with his baby, he'll come around and start accepting me as his chosen mate."

"You better be right," he growled. "I'm putting a lot of resources into this."

Rachel giggles.

"It'll be over before you know it. Then once I'm done here and Gavin

Landry and his company are officially destroyed, I'll be right back

there, warming your bed and being your mate just like we always planned."

There was silence on the other end before he heaved a sigh.

"Just call me regularly to keep me updated. Don't keep me waiting again, Lila."

"Wouldn't dream of it, Alpha."

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Judy's POV

It's been a week.

One week since I last saw Gavin. It has been one week since I last spoke to him. I didn't bother calling him on the phone or texting him like I did last time. I knew what this was; he wanted to get laid, and he used me for that reason. I just didn't understand why he didn't just use Rachel. I mean, they were close now. None of it was really making sense.

I hadn't told anyone about my night with Gavin because I was embarrassed about putting myself in that position again. I was embarrassed because I let that man use me and my body to get his rocks off, and I was once again left in the dust.

Last week, Gavin told me not to worry about tutoring Matt during my finals week at school. He didn't want Matt's tutoring and training to become a distraction, so Taylor had been taking me straight home after school. I've been drowning myself in studying and doing my finals each day. Though Gavin was a bit of a distraction himself, constantly popping into my mind at the wrong times, I was confident he wasn't a distraction enough. I got through most of my finals except for this last one.

Today was the final for my combat class. I knew I'd ace it without a problem, though, and most were terrified to go up against me because I had already won the Gamma competition.

The final was in the gym, and anyone could watch if they chose to. Nan was in the front row, cheering for me. I smiled at her when she waved before I took my seat with my other classmates. I looked around at the nervous faces, and I felt like I was the only confident one, which was funny because everybody in this class was really good.

Once my name was called and my opponent, Monica, was called, I put my game face on and stood in the center of the gym. She looked to be a nervous wreck; her eyes were clouded as she stared at me, and I hated that I was intimidating her, but I needed a good grade for this class. It's not like she'd fail the class if she failed this competition. The professor is only looking at our technique and whether we actually learned anything in his class. If she gives me a good fight, he will pass her no problem.

"Good luck," I say to her, trying my best at a warm smile.

She tried to return it, but it looked more forced, and she gave me a short nod.

As the bell sounded, we got into our stance and circled around each other. I always learned to never make the first move; only attack if being attacked. The professor hadn't taught us that, though someone needs to make the first move. I watched her every movement, the way her eyes darted back and forth. The way she sized me up, the way her eyes would stare at my hands and then my legs, trying to figure out what kind of attack I was going to do first.

I'm sure she had seen most of my attacks from class and from watching the competition, which I found out that the entire class had watched me in the competition over the course of the summer.

Her mistake was staring at my feet for too long; I now knew she was going to try and knock me off balance. An opponent is weaker on the ground, and though it was a good tactic, her tell was too obvious.

She immediately went for my feet, and at the last second, I back-flipped away from her. In the process of it swung my foot out and knocked her to the ground. She gasped and attempted to kick herself out from under me, but I was faster and pinned her in a way that she couldn't move. If she was a real enemy, I'd be able to slit her throat from his position and end her life immediately. But because this was only a final in a class, I pretended to slit her throat just for good measure, making everybody stand to their feet and cheer.

"That was the fastest time yet," my professor announced, clapping his hands. "You both did well. Monica do have a few notes for you, but you handled yourself well, and though it failed, you did attempt some of the moves taught during class. Good job."

She was flushed cheeked when I released her. Her eyes were filling with tears; I knew she was feeling bad about how she performed. She wanted to do better despite the praise she was receiving.

"It's not fair," I heard her whisper to another classmate. "I did have to go up against Judy the tank."

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I frowned at the nickname; I was trying not to listen, but I couldn't help myself.

"She's a fucking beast," the classmate agreed. "At least it's over now."

"You were amazing!" Nan said after we left the gym once the final was complete. I smiled at her and gave her a quick and sweat-coated side hug.

"Thanks," I told her. "I didn't mean to intimidate anyone. But it seems they were all afraid of me."

Rightfully so," she said, nudging me with a smirk. "You kick ass, Judy. You deserve to be feared for once in your life you badass warrior bitch."

I laughed, letting myself feel good for once. The finals were complete, and I felt amazing. I think I actually aced each and every one of them, despite my clouded brain. Though I feared that now that my finals were over and I could finally relax, the weight of worries would bury me alive. Now all I had left was to think about Gavin and why I hadn't heard from him all week after our night together.

The last I've heard, he was with Rachel in the hospital, but I hadn't heard anything more about it. It was also no longer Taylor picking me up from school and bringing me home; this entire week, it's been Gamma Erik. When I asked where Taylor was, Erik told me that he was on a special assignment and didn't have much more information for me.

It left me with an unsettled feeling, but I'm hoping the answers will come to light soon enough. I should be returning to my tutoring job next week, and then I'll be able to see Gavin at the Villa. I'll get the truth out of him one way or another.

Except it didn't work out as planned. For whatever reason, the tutoring sessions had been moved back to my house instead of the villa. Erik would pick me up with Matt tucked away in the back seat and then take us to my house.

"I don't understand why we are doing tutoring sessions here again," I murmured

as we pulled up to the large building. It broke my heart knowing that Gavin was pushing me away again and I didn't understand why.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Erik said with a shrug. "They don't tell me anything."

"My dad's been really busy lately," Matt said as we walked through the front doors of the house. "I barely saw him all last week."

"Really?" I asked, raising my brows. "What's he been up to?"

Matt shrugged.

"Who knows? It's all very secretive, though. They stop talking when I'm nearby and he's been hanging out with Rachel a lot," he muttered, his eyes rolling as he spoke.

"Judy, is that you?" My mother asked as she came around the corner. She paused when she saw us standing in the living room and then a small smile spread across her face. "Oh, hello Matthew," she said politely. "I didn't know you'd be here this evening. Are you hungry? I was just about to make dinner."

"I'm starving," Matthew said with a grin. "Thank you, Mrs. Montague."

"Oh, sweetie, you can call me Shelly. We are practically family at this point."

He smiled at her words and gave her a small nod.

"Will you be doing your tutoring sessions here again?" My mother asked.

I nodded.

"Yeah, I guess for the time being."

"Everything okay with Alpha Landry?" She asked, her lips turned downward, and her eyes filled with concern.

"I'm not t entirely sure," I admitted. haueard from him for a bit Matt
s been busy." Contatt

Matt nodded, confirming my words.

"I see," my mother said, eyeing me carefully. "Did you get your final grades back yet?"

I shook my head.

"Not yet, but hopefully soon."

"Keep me posted. In the meantime, I'll start making dinner. Your father should be home soon."

With that, she left the room and went into the kitchen.

As I studied with Matt and helped with him with his homework, the living room filled with the delicious scent of my mother's cooking. She was an incredible cook, and my stomach growled with anticipation forher food. Matt's mouth was practically watering as dinner time feared.

My father came home, looking exhausted from a long day of work. He greeted

Matt before retreating to the kitchen.

Just then, my phone went off.

I glanced at the screen and saw that

the school had sent me a text. When I opened the text, there was a link. I Cked on the link, and my eyes grew wide.

My grades had finally arrived!

Tonight's simple dinner turned into a celebration.

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Gavin's POV

"Are you seriously avoiding her?" Taylor asked, folding his arms across his chest. "It's been almost 2 weeks since you found out about Rachel's pregnancy, and you haven't talked to Judy yet?"

I ran my fingers through my hair, my frustration levels growing with each passing second. It's been a hell of a two weeks, too. I had barely slept, and I've only eaten scraps, my appetite was shit. My thoughts were overwhelming me, and my investigation work had been exhausting.

If Rachel truly was playing a con like I suspected, she was good at her job. Every security footage, every scrap of fucking evidence... everything ounce of proof I could possibly get my hands on, it's all been void and deleted. She's good at covering her prints, I will give her that.

"I can't face her until I know the truth," I said, feeling a headache forming at my temple. The thought of Judy made my heart ache. I couldn't look her in the eyes and see the hurt when she found out about Rachel's pregnancy. I couldn't let this terrible thing get to her because I knew with certainty that it would destroy her. I couldn't be the reason for her heart to break... not again.

And yet, I craved her touch. I craved her taste. Every second that Judy isn't in my arms drives both me and my wolf even crazier. I've been more temperamental than usual, snapping at everyone, including my Beta and Head Gamma.

Rachel has been trying to cling to me, and though I've been entertaining her to keep her close and unaware, her touch disgusts me.

I've been careful not to mention anything to Matt or Irene about the pregnancy because I didn't want it getting back to Judy. I needed to find evidence that this baby wasn't mine... or that Rachel wasn't truly pregnant, and then I could face Judy again.

"What if you don't like the truth when you find it?" Taylor asked, raising his brows.
"What if Rachel isn't playing some kind of game and she's telling the truth. What if this baby is-"

"Don't fucking say it," I growl, my wolf on edge.

He held up his hands in surrender.

"I'm just saying, you should be prepared for bad news," Taylor said. "You don't know what happened that night."

"I didn't sleep with her," I said with sharp conviction. "That night might have been blurry, and yes, we were both marked up, and I was covered in her scent. Yes, I woke up naked next to her... but I didn't fuck her. I know I didn't. She wasn't the one I tasted on my tongue when I woke up. She wasn't the one I saw when I closed my eyes. It wasn't Rachel I thought of as soon as I woke up."

Taylor watched me for a while as I got lost in my own thoughts.

"You have it bad," Taylor concluded. "Have you even told her how you felt?"

I was quiet; how do I explain to someone how I feel when I don't even know myself? I've sworn off serious relationships long ago. I told myself would never allow myself to fall in love for a third time. Not only would it disrupt my life, but the lives of my children as well. I didn't want to put them through that, despite how much they like Judy.

I mean, she was the same age as my daughter; a line has to be drawn. Boundaries needed to be made.

And yet, whenever I'm around her, it seems as though none of that matters. My wolf wanted her more than he's ever wanted anyone. I don't remember a time when he was ever this possessive over Melissa, and she was my fated mate.

But there was something about Judy that was... different.

Taylor sighed and stepped closer to my desk as I pondered my thoughts, my silence stretching on for a while.

"Look, Judy is a smart girl. She's not going to wait around for you to get your head out of your ass forever, he told me. I looked up at him, meeting his eyes. I knew he was right, if I didn't make my move on her, she would soon walk away officially, and I wouldn't be able to get her back. "Erik told me she's graduating top of her class. She's making a speech during the ceremony on Friday. You're going to be there, right?"

"Of course," I said without hesitation. "I wouldn't miss her graduation for anything."

I had it planned out. I was going to show up with the biggest bouquet of flowers I can get my hands on. I even bought a diamond necklace for her, which I've been keeping in the top drawer of my office desk for the past week.

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Then afterwards, I plan to take her to dinner.

The door to my office opened, and my head Gamma, Derek, walked in.

"You better have good news," I said, my eyes narrowed.

"My cousin from the Redcliff pack is on his way. He'll be here by tomorrow night at the latest," Derek announced.

I nodded, though I'm not happy it'll take him a day to arrive, but as long as he gets here, that's all I can hope for.

Derek's cousin, Monty, is a known cyber hacker and a technology genius. If anyone could recover erased security footage, it was him.

The rest of the evening went by torturously slowly. I hated pretending to be there for Rachel, tending to her needs, making sure she remained happy and oblivious. As far as she knew, we were expecting a baby, I had accepted the fact that I had gotten her pregnant during that night together, and I was almost thrilled to be a father again. However, little did she know, I had my own plans at play.

I didn't buy the fact that I had sex with her, let alone got her pregnant. I knew she was up to something, but I couldn't figure out what it was.

That evening, Matt sat in his room, his head down. He's been fairly avoidant lately, and though I've also been busy, I wasn't too busy to not notice his mood change.

"Can we talk?" I asked, leaning against his doorframe.

Matt looked up from his pillow and nodded, making room for me on his bed.

I stepped into his room, making sure to shut the door behind me before sitting on the edge of his bed.

"I just wanted to check in and make sure you were okay," I told him. "We hadn't really talked in a while."

"You've been too busy with Rachel," Matthew said, and I could almost hear the bitterness in her voice.

I frowned.

"But I'm never too busy for you, Matthew," I told him. "Is my spending time with Rachel bothering you?"

"It just doesn't make sense," Matthew said, sitting up in bed and folding his arms across his chest. "Why are you hanging out with her, Dad? Why is she here?"

I wasn't sure what to tell my 8-year-old kid. I sighed, running my fingers through my hair.

"It's complicated, Matthew..."

"Do you still care about Judy?"

His question came as a surprise to me.

"Of course I care about her. She's your tutor and-"

"That's not what I meant," Matt snapped. "I miss Irene because I get to talk to her about this stuff all the time. When are you going to let her come home? I'm not mad at her anymore. My wolf doesn't want to kill her, and if he does, I'm strong enough to keep him under control."

My head was spinning.

"Just calm down for a second and talk to me," I told him, trying to keep my tone calm. "What's going on in your head?"

He sighed, looking frustrated.

"I don't like Rachel... I thought you and Judy were going to be together. Both Irene and I thought you liked her."

I was stunned by his words; there was a lot to dissect, but for right now, I needed to choose only one element to focus on.

"What do you mean you don't like Rachel? Had she said or done something to displease you?"

He was quiet for a long while, nibbling on his lower lip, a nervous look in his eyes.

"Matthew, tell me what happened," I urged, my temper rising.

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"I just get a bad vibe from her," he muttered. "I think she's hiding something. My wolf doesn't trust her... more than he doesn't trust Irene. I'm able to keep him under control, though. But I haven't been staying around her because I worry that I might lose control one of these days. Something is off about her, Dad."

I couldn't deny that I felt the same way. I nodded, though I didn't want to confirm his suspicions. I didn't want to worry about him.

"I promise I'm not going to let her hurt you or anyone. I need you to trust me," I told him, putting my hand on his shoulder. "Can you do that?"

He nodded without much hesitation.
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"Of course I can," he replied. "There's something else, too, though..."

I raised my brows.

"What is it?"

"Whenever I do talk to her... or rather whenever she talks to me... she tries to convince me to see my mother..."

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Judy's POV

"That dress is gorgeous on you," Irene breathed with a large smile on her face. "And you are glowing. Have you always glowed like this?"

"She's right," Nan said, her eyes wide. "You are glowing, Judy."

I looked down at the sundress I was wearing, my cheeks flushed. I was graduating tonight, as was Nan. Today was the second biggest day of my life; the first being winning the Gamma competition. My entire family was going to be there, all of my friends; pretty much the whole pack, though I'm not expecting the Cash family to arrive, and some members of the Silver Crescent pack will be there as well.

Rumors were already flying all around that Gavin was planning on making an appearance as well. My heart was thudding wildly in my chest. It's been about 2 weeks since I last saw him, and every time I ask someone about him, like Matt, Irene, Erik, or even Beta Taylor, they would all tell me the same things.

"He's been busy."

"He's barely around anymore."

"I never saw or talked to him either."

I felt a little better knowing it wasn't just me but also felt crappy knowing that he slept with me and then went off the grid for 2 weeks. The last official thing I knew of him was that he was with Rachel at the hospital, and now, nothing. I tried to brush the thought from my mind because today was supposed to be a joyous day. I had worked hard to get to where I am. I was finally graduating and starting my life, which meant I had some serious decisions to make.

I've had job offers left and right since the competition and now I was finally ready to think more seriously about them.

Alpha Levi's beta, Ron, had also been in contact with me about the job opportunity they are offering me in one of their packs. It was a huge opportunity, and truth be told, I'd be stupid to turn it down. I keep waiting for Gavin to offer me something, but he still hasn't.

Some say he's waiting until I officially graduate, but honestly, wouldn't he have said something to me by now about it?

"I can't believe my Judy is graduating," my mom said, wrapping me in her arms, tears in her eyes. "After everything you've been through, I'm so very proud of you for accomplishing this huge goal.

"Thanks, Mom," I say to her, hugging her tightly.

"Have you already written your speech?" Nan asked.

I nodded.

"Yes, I wrote my speech," I confirmed, patting my purse. "It's all in here. Hopefully, it sounds good."

"I'm sure it'll be great," Irene says, nudging me playfully. "We should go through. We don't want to be late for the ceremony."

"Are you sure Emalyn will be okay in the care of a maid?" I asked.

"I trust her," Irene assured me. "She'll be fine. Besides, there's no choice. I'm not bringing a baby to a graduation ceremony. Chester is going to the ceremony to support Nan. There's no one else to watch her."

I nodded.

"Okay, well, as long as you trust her. That's all that's important."

We had to take several cars to the ceremony; rode with my parents. I was nervous. My heart was hammering in my chest the closer we got to the ceremony. As the car pulled up to the front doors, saw a cluster of students getting their graduation robes on. Namand Chester had arrived before us, so she was already getting her robes on.

She beamed when she saw me approaching.

She waved me over to a group of girls who were all standing around, talking about the event before them. They were all whispering about Gavin Landry and how he's supposed to be arriving at the ceremony soon.

I was nervous to see him; I wanted to talk to him about why he disappeared, but I knew now was not the time to have that conversation.

"You look so nervous," Nan chuckled, handing me my robes.

I smiled gratefully at her and started to put the robes on.

"I am," I admitted.

We walked into a busy ceremony hall; some other students were already seated, those who weren't graduating this year. Lukas, being one of them, waved at me when he saw me walking down the long aisle that led to the center stage.

I sat with the other graduating students in front; it was by alphabetical order, so I couldn't sit with Nan.

As seats started to fill, I glanced around the place, my eyes finding my parents, who were waving and smiling at me. I couldn't help but smile back. My eyes continued to scan the place, and then they landed on Trene, who gave me a wry smile in return. The seat beside her, reserved for her father, was empty. My heart fell into my stomach.

He wasn't here.

My eyes found hers again, and she gave me a slight shrug and mouthed, "He'll be here."

I nodded, forcing a smile myself.

Nan caught my eye from the front row, and she gave me a small smile; I returned it, though mine felt more forced.