

Talking to the Moon |

Chosen Mate

Greyson, that idiot. Why did he have to blab? I was hoping for a fresh start, and now they all know.

I'm the girl who got dumped not once, but twice. The one who lost everything that night. I'm seething, and then my heart sinks. Did he tell them about the baby?

"She wouldn't lie about that," Leo mutters, more to himself than to his brother.

"Did you ask her? Directly?" Jason gently places a hand on Leo's shoulder, trying to ground him. His wolf is still in control, and I'm surprised he's managing to keep a level head.

"No, of course not. How do you even ask something like that?" Leo's anger has faded, replaced by a heavy sadness.

A few seconds pass, and suddenly he shrugs off Jason's hand and looks pissed again. "You're only saying this because you want her for yourself."

"Yeah, so I was interested in her. She's gorgeous, smart, and incredibly talented. I haven't felt anything for a woman since...since Veronica."

Jason pauses and looks at the ground. "But as soon as I found out you were interested too, I backed off."

"Damn it!" Leo rakes his hands through his hair and over his face.

He starts pacing around the small clearing, and when he gets close to a tree, he punches it with his closed fist. He hits it another two times and then looks at his bloodied knuckles as they start to heal, thanks to his lycan genes.

"What do I do now? I'm in too deep to just walk away."

"I don't know, but either way, you can't claim what isn't yours. Especially if it belongs to two alphas." Jason pulls Leo into a quick hug. "Just talk to her. Maybe there's something he didn't tell you."

"I love her. I can't lose her." Leo's voice breaks as he sobs into his brother's shoulder.

"I know, little brother, I know."

They start walking back to the pack house, and I wait until they're gone before I come out of hiding.

I'm not sure what to do now. I didn't want anyone to know. Until now, only the twins, Greyson, and I knew—unless the twins blabbed—but they didn't even know about the baby.

I follow their trail, trying to get back to the cabin and prepare for the day's training session.

I'm almost back at the cabin when I walk right into a solid wall. I stumble back, but the wall catches my arm and steadies me.

I look up to see Jason looming over me with a scowl on his face. "We need to talk."

"No, we don't." I've been getting pretty bold with alphas lately, and it seems like now is no exception.

"I know you heard us, and I need you to explain what you're doing," Jason says calmly, still holding onto my arm. "Why are you sleeping with my brother when you have two mates waiting for you at home?"

"I don't owe you an explanation." My eyes start to well up, and I look away.

Jason's grip on my arm tightens, and it starts to hurt. I try to wriggle free, but of course, an alpha lycan is much stronger than me. "If you want to stay here and finish your training, you will."

I can't believe him. He's willing to send me home over something that's none of his business.

I've passed every test and every challenge they've thrown at me; I'm at the top of my class. Yet he would send me home because of his brother? He's not as nice as he pretends to be.

My tears are flowing freely now, and I start to sob. He eases his grip, and I seize the opportunity to break free. I yank my arm down fast, freeing myself, and take a few steps back.

"I don't have any mates. I'm all alone," I manage to say through my sobs.

"That's not what your beta said," Jason warns.

"Did Greyson not tell you how I dated them for three years after growing up with them as my best friends? Did he not tell you how they rejected me because I'm an omega? On my birthday, the night before I came here?"

“Did he not tell you that I miscarried their pup that night and lost a piece of myself?” I spit out.

I’m nearly hysterical, and I’m having trouble breathing. I take a few deep breaths to try to calm down, but it doesn’t help much.

Jason walks toward me with a somber look. I back away and turn to run off, but as I do, I see Leo standing behind me with tears glistening in his eyes.

He heard everything. He knows the secret I’ve been keeping all this time.

I can’t face him too, so I run to my cabin and start packing my bag. Luckily, the rest of the cabin is having dinner at the pack house, so I’m alone.

I don’t know where to go. All I know is that I can’t stay here anymore, and I can’t go back to the White Oak Pack either.

Running seems to be my only option, and I don’t see any other way out. Maybe I’ll just go rogue and stick to the cities. Sure, my wolf would suffer, but at this point, I’m not sure it would make a difference.

Leo storms in behind me, grabs my bag, and tosses it over the bed out of my reach. “You’re not going anywhere.”

“Why? You know the truth now, why would you want me to stay?” I snap at him.

“I don’t judge you for your past, Olivia, but I do want you to tell me about it,” he pleads.

I walk past him and head out the door. He follows me until I stop in a clearing in the forest, bathed in the light of the full moon. “Do you know the saddest word in the English language?”

He takes a few moments before he speaks. “Melancholy?”

“Close.”

He looks at me quizzically and raises an eyebrow.

“I was *almost* good enough. They were ~almost~ in love with me. They ~almost~ chose me. I ~almost~ had a pup. But almost is never enough,” I conclude.

He doesn’t respond, just holds my hand and gives it a squeeze, offering silent support as I go on.

“Liam and Jameson were my best friends. I loved them so much, and I thought they loved me too. They were my mates. I was thrilled, but they rejected me because I’m an omega and not good enough to be their luna.

“That night, I miscarried a pup I didn’t even know I was carrying... They shattered me.”

Leo wraps his arms around me, holding me close. “You’re enough for me. They didn’t deserve you. Saying you love someone and making them feel loved are two different things. I plan on doing both.”

“What are you saying?”

“I’m saying that I love you, Olivia. I don’t care about your past. I want to spend my life with you, have pups with you. I want you as my chosen mate. Will you accept me?” he asks, his hold on me tightening.

“What happens when you meet your mate?”

Leo cradles my face in his large hand.

“To me, you are my mate. Even if I meet her, I’d reject her in a heartbeat. You’re it, you’re the one... So I ask you again, will you accept me as your chosen mate?”

Am I ready to move on, to leave the twins behind? I gaze at the moon and make my decision. I’m done with sadness, done with this anger and pain. I need to move on with my life, and this might be the way.

A smile tugs at the corners of my mouth. I look at him and say, “Always.”

Leo leans in and kisses me with such passion that I feel like I might be swept off my feet.

He quickly undresses me and starts sucking on my nipple. He bites down, sending a wave of pleasure-pain straight to my clit.

“Baby, let me taste you.” He backs me up against a tree, lifts my left leg to rest on his shoulder, and kneels before me.

“The scent of your arousal is the best scent ever.” He licks my folds and flicks my clit with his tongue. “But your taste is even better.”

He sucks on my clit, drawing a moan from me. “Goddess, Leo. Ah, ah!” My body starts to pulse, my orgasm teetering on the edge. “I’m cumming!”

An earth-shattering orgasm ripples through me, and Leo continues to lap and suck, prolonging the pleasure.

“Lie down, baby.” I lie down in the grass, bathed in moonlight, and Leo hovers over me, still standing and fully clothed. “You’re gorgeous, so beautiful.”

He undresses slowly, putting on a show, and even wiggles his butt as he pulls off his pants. I laugh, and he winks at me as he finally strips off the last piece.

His cock stands erect, and he wraps his hand around it, stroking it as he watches me. “Touch yourself.”

My fingers trail down to my folds, finding wetness pooling there. I rub my clit and then slide a finger inside.

My orgasm is building again, and Leo is stroking himself faster. Precum glistens on his head, catching the moonlight.

“Are you ready for this, ready to be mine?” Leo asks as he lowers himself over me.

“Yes.”