

The Unwanted Bride Of Atticus Fawn Book 4: Chapter 76 -

4 minutes read

~SCARLETT~

“You look beautiful.” Clara compliments me. “The most beautiful bride I’ve ever seen.”

I smile and hug her tightly.

“Are you sure this is okay for you?” I ask for the hundredth time. I wanted to make sure that she was okay with me marrying Carter.

She sighs, “Stop asking me that. I told you that I’m completely over Carter. I don’t see him the way that you see him. I will always care for him, and I’m happy for our memories, but I’m over everything. I didn’t tell you before, but Carter met with me after I found out the truth about the two of you.”

My eyes widen, “he did?”

She nods. “He asked me to forgive you.”

I’m shocked to know this.

“He asked you to forgive me?” I ask for confirmation.

She bit her lip, “he did, Scarlett. He put the entire blame on himself. He said that you were innocent in all of this. He wouldn’t leave until he heard me say that I planned on forgiving you for not telling me the truth. I didn’t realize then, but I realize now that Carter does care for you. If he didn’t, he wouldn’t have bothered to ask me to forgive you. If he didn’t care, he wouldn’t have decided to marry you either. On that day, he even apologized to me for everything that he did. A part of me will always blame him for our break up, but I no longer am crazy about him like I used to be.”

I can see the sincerity in her eyes. She meant all of these words. I felt like a weight had just been lifted off my shoulders.

“You don’t have to worry about me anymore, Scarlett.” She promises me. “You need to worry about yourself and your baby from now on. Carter’s family is very nice. They would take good care of you. I’m sure of that. Carter isn’t

the guy I ever saw you marrying, but as long as he lives up to his word, I think this might be good for you.”

I was surprised by Clara’s words. She was the one against the wedding just yesterday. Maybe she’d gotten time to think things over. I was happy that she was being supportive. I needed a supportive sister right now, and she was the best out there.

There was one thing that still bothered me. When Alaric’s wife entered the house, she mentioned the full moon. I was still curious about the effects it had on Carter. I saw the panic in his face the second she said those words.

He didn’t wait for her to finish her sentence either; he’d pulled her away, and Alaric had run after the both of them. I knew there was something serious that Carter was hiding from everyone else. I wanted to get to the bottom of it.

Clara had watched them all walk away, and she didn’t look happy yesterday. I didn’t know if she was hurt because of Carter or Alaric. Today, I was sure that it was because of Alaric. I believed her when she said that she was over Carter. I knew I wouldn’t have to worry about her when it came to him anymore. But Alaric, I could see that my sister was developing feelings for him even if she hadn’t realized it herself.

I knew it wasn’t a good idea for her to go down that road. Alaric was married, and Nicole seemed like someone who would fight for her husband. But who wouldn’t when their husband was Alaric Prince?

I could only hope that Clara only had a slight crush and would get over him soon. I didn’t want to see her hurt over a Prince again.

“Let’s go show everyone what the most beautiful bride in the world looks like.” Clara teases me. Her words brought me back to reality.

I was marrying Carter Prince today. A few weeks ago, I never imagined something like this happening to me. My life had taken a completely different turn.

I smile and hug her, “I love you sis.”

She hugs me back, “I love you more. Let’s stop this before I make you cry on your big day. I know a lot of girls are already crying today. I don’t need to add you to that list.”

I knew the girls she was speaking about.

There were hundreds of girls depressed because of this wedding. No one ever thought that Carter would marry me. After I embarrassed myself in front of the entire stadium, everyone felt that he didn't care about me. This was a surprise for them all and not the good kind.

No one could believe it. They thought I'd put Carter under some spell even though I wasn't a witch. They were making up the most unbelievable stories possible. Clara had taken my phone away so I wouldn't read any more of the madness.

I was glad she'd done it. I was already nervous about this day. I didn't know if I was doing the right thing.

I place a hand over my stomach.

This is all for you, my sweet baby. You're my life now. I live for you. And I promise to protect and love you for the rest of my life and yours.

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~CARTER~

I always knew Scarlett was beautiful, but this is the most beautiful I've ever seen her.

All I could think about was how much I loved her as I watched her walk down the aisle towards me. She had on the most elegant wedding dresses I'd ever seen and everything about her sparkled like never before.

I could have pictured this day a million times in my head and still, it wouldn't have compared to seeing her now.

I knew she didn't want to marry me, and I was the only one to blame. I convinced her that I didn't care for her; I made her think that I was the biggest a*****e in the world. I did what I thought was the right thing to protect her from me.

What would happen when the next full moon appears? I still didn't know what was wrong with me. I was afraid that I would go after a different woman. If that happened, I would never be able to look Scarlett in her eyes again.

There were so many risks involved with marrying her. However, I was being selfish today. I wasn't marrying Scarlett because she was pregnant; I was marrying her because I wanted her, and I didn't want another man to have the chance of ever loving her like I did.

I would never give her up after today. However, I still didn't deserve her, and I didn't want to confess my feelings until I was sure that she wouldn't hate me after finding out the truth about me and my family.

All thoughts leave my mind when she finally joins me, and the ceremony begins. She's even more beautiful up close. It took every bit of strength inside of me not to lean forward and pull her into my arms.

She smelled amazing. Her scent was powerful; it made me want her like crazy.

What was wrong with me? I felt like she had me under a spell. I felt like I had to have her or lose my damn mind.

I can't stop staring at her.

Pregnancy agrees with her; she has a beautiful glow on her face that shines even through her eyes. Outsiders still didn't know that she was pregnant, and we didn't plan on telling anyone. However, soon enough, they would all know the truth. I didn't care about that; the only thing that bothered me was the rumors that would follow immediately. They would all say I was forced to marry her because I got her pregnant. But only I knew that it wasn't the truth. Even Scarlett thinks that I married her because I had no choice.

Hopefully, one day, I could tell her the truth without fearing she would leave me.

The moment that we both say I do, I know that she's mine.

She was now a Prince.

f**k.

That made me happy.

Happy wasn't even enough to describe how good this made me feel.

She still isn't looking at me, but again, I know it's my fault. She would keep avoiding me for as long as she could. I deserved it after what I did to her.

"You may k**s the bride."

I was waiting for those words.

I knew I didn't deserve the chance to touch and k**s her again after what I took from her, but I would be a madman if I didn't take this opportunity. I cup her cheek in my hand and press my lips against hers. The second I taste her, I lose all control. A low growl escapes my mouth, and I can't stop myself as I pick her up into my arms and deepen the k**s.

Scarlett isn't k*****g me back like she usually does, and though it hurts, I can feel the wild beating of her heart; it's the reminder that I needed to know that she wasn't as unaffected by my k**s as she wanted me to think.

When I finally break the k**s, our eyes meet.

You're mine now, and I'm never letting you go. I didn't say those words out loud, but I knew she could read it in my eyes.

"Welcome to the family, Scarlett." My mother welcomed her, and I was grateful that everyone was so welcoming to her. I wanted her to feel as comfortable as possible around my family. I didn't want her to regret marrying me. "We loved Clara when Carter first introduced her to us, and I know we're going to love you as well. Thank you for giving our family a chance. I will treat you like I treat my daughter. This is my promise to you."

Scarlett looks grateful for my mother's kind words. I feel a sense of pride as I watch them hug each other.

When Nicole stepped forward to congratulate us, I knew that I had to be on high alert.

I didn't trust that woman, not even a little. Alaric is right behind her, and I can see him tense a little. He knows just as well as I do that she couldn't be

trusted. He was the one who'd been married to her; he knew her better than everyone else.

"Congratulations, Scarlett," she says. So far, so good.

"Thank you," Scarlett responds with a kind smile. I wanted to step between them and protect her from whatever foolish words came from Nicole.

"Enjoy it while it lasts. I was once in your place; I was the first daughter-in-law. I know what to expect from this family now, but you will soon find out as well. Don't say I didn't warn you."

My entire body goes completely still as a stone.

Scarlett looks at me and f**k me. What the hell am I supposed to tell her now?

What the f**k was wrong with my brother's crazy wife?

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~SCARLETT~

Nicole's words were the confirmation that I needed. The panicked look on Carter's face tells me this had something to do with the full moon. Whatever it was, he didn't want me to find out about it. I have never seen him look this terrified before. It bothered me that I didn't have the slightest clue what this was about.

Nicole seemed to be convinced that something would happen the moment that I found out the truth.

Does this mean that Carter's family didn't like Nicole? That would explain the tension in the room when she entered and saw Alaric hugging Clara.

It meant that I was right.

"Nicole." Carter growls. She doesn't look affected by his tone. She must be used to it.

Judging from their expressions, they both didn't like each other at all.

Now, I was sure more than ever that there's a reason he always disappears on a full moon. However, he never completely disappeared since he found me the last two full moons.

Why did he look for me on those days? Was there any particular reason behind it?

I remember precisely one time that he practically begged me to keep my window closed. I thought he was messing with me then, but now I didn't know if that was the case.

He was trying to protect me that day. He was trying to protect me on both occasions.

There was something that terrified him. Did he find me each night to protect me from whatever it was? Or was it supposed to be a distraction from something else?

Whatever it was, I wouldn't rest until I discovered the truth. Maybe if I spoke to Nicole, she could give me the answers I was looking for.

But something told me that it might not be the best idea to speak to Alaric's wife. I had very bad vibes from her.

I knew if I asked Carter, he wouldn't tell me the truth. He would find excuses to keep it from me.

There wasn't much he could hide from me anymore. We were married now.

Married.

I was his wife.

I couldn't believe it. I was now a part of his family, and I was also pregnant with his baby.

Despite everything we've been through recently, I would be lying if I said I wasn't happy to be called his wife. I knew that many girls wished they were in my position.

It's crazy to me that I disliked Carter just a few weeks ago. I used to laugh at the girls who followed him like he was their idol. I used to even make fun of them. Now, I was married to him.

Life, indeed, was unpredictable at times.

Alaric grabs Nicole's arm and pulls her away from us while Carter throws daggers with his eyes at the both of them.

I stare at the ring on my finger. I wasn't sure if Carter had chosen this for me or if his parents had done it for him. However, I loved it. It suited me well. It matched my personality.

Clara walks over to us and hugs me tightly. "I'm so happy for you, Scarlett."

She pulls away from me and looks at Carter. "If you ever hurt my sister again, I will make sure that you pay in the worst way possible."

Carter looks amused by her threat, but he still nods his head. "That's not going to happen. Ever."

Was he that convinced that he wouldn't hurt me again?

Clara surprises both of us when she smiles at him. "Good. I didn't think that I would one day have to call you my brother-in-law, but I must say, I might like it as long as you treat my sister well."

Carter's eyes soften. "Whatever works for you, Clara."

For some reason, it felt like they were both healing from their past in that second, right in front of me.

It made me happy to finally see it happen. I was thrilled that Clara was over him for good. It made everything so much easier for me.

"Welcome to the family, Carter." My mother welcomes him again. "I know we had a rough start, but I hope our relationship can improve from today onwards."

"Thank you, Mrs. Mae," he thanked her. "I promise to protect both Scarlett and our baby. I won't hurt her again. She is safe with me."

My heart skips a beat at his words. I knew he was only doing this for his family's sake, but it still made me happy to hear him make these promises to my family.

Everyone present were close family members and a few friends of our parents. The wedding wasn't open to the public, but our pictures would be posted for everyone to view.

A lot of girls still didn't believe that it was true. They thought it was all a horrible rumor. The pictures would finally get them to shut their mouths about our wedding.

Hopefully, after this, they would all stop bugging me. However, after what I saw happened to Autumn, I knew marriage wouldn't change much in our world.

Married men sometimes seemed to get more attention than the unmarried ones.

The girls at our academy liked an off-limits man. I think it excited them at the thought of him choosing them over his wife.

I frown at that thought.

Could I truly trust Carter?

He promised me that he wouldn't look or even touch another woman now that we were married. But I knew him. He's spent half of his life sleeping with random women. He knew nothing about settling down, and this had happened out of nowhere. He didn't get the chance to prepare.

All I knew was that if Carter cheated on me while we were married, it would be over for us for good. I would never be able to forgive him.

For both of our sakes, I pray that he never hurt me like that.

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4 minutes read

~SCARLETT~

"I know the both of you already slept together," Clara whispers. "But I still wanted to get you something to spice things up."

W-what?

She pushes a bag into my hands. I took one look inside of it and stared at her in horror.

“What do you expect me to do with lingerie?”

She laughs, “It’s to add some excitement to your marriage. It’s your wedding night after all and just because you’re pregnant already doesn’t mean you can’t have some fun.”

“I know you’re over Carter, but are you that over your past to give me something like this?” I demand in shock.

She shrugs, “Carter is like a brother to me now. Besides, I know you love him. I’m going to be your special Cupid. I’ll help you make him love you back.”

“Do you think that’s possible?” I ask her. “Your whole revenge plan was to get Carter to fall in love with me, and instead, I was the one that fell head over heels in love with him.”

“Trust me, I can make it happen this time.”

I laugh, “I think you’ll make me fall more in love with him before you get him to fall in love with me.”

She rolls her eyes at me, “I can do it. I got him to care about you, didn’t I? We need to try a little harder. Plus, now that you’re married to him, everything will be much easier.”

“What plan is she trying to force you into now?” Jenna asks as she walks into my new room. It wasn’t just my room; it was also Carter’s.

We would be sleeping in the same room together. My cheeks turned a bright red at that reminder. It meant that I would have to share a bed with him.

Would I be able to control myself around him? I didn’t trust my feelings. I knew it wouldn’t be easy to resist my desires. However, I didn’t want to get hurt for a second time.

“She wants to make Carter fall in love with me,” I answer my best friend.

She sighs, “We tried that already and failed.”

“That’s what I’ve been trying to tell Clara, but she’s too stubborn to listen to me, “I tell her.

“I think Clara should focus on her own problems.” Jenna points out.

I frown, “her problems?” I demand. “What problems does she have?”

“It’s nothing?” Clara tries to dismiss it almost immediately.

“Jenna?” I ask again. “Did something happen while I was busy getting married?”

Clara sighs, “It’s nothing important.”

“Then why are you trying to hide it from me?” I ask her.

She sighs, “It is about Nicole. Alaric’s wife”.

I tense at the mention of her. I still hadn’t completely gotten over her warning from earlier today. I couldn’t get her words out of my head.

“What happened with her?” I ask her.

“That b***h told Clara to stay away from Alaric,” Jenna answers for her.

My eyes widen. “Did that really happen?”

Clara sighs, “she did. I explained to her that I had no intention of stealing Alaric from her, but she didn’t believe a word I said. She even threatened to spread nasty rumors about us if I didn’t stay away from him.”

“She must have a mental problem or something,” I mumble. “You and Alaric are two different worlds apart. He’s going to be your lecturer, and you, his student. There is a small gap between your ages as well. Plus, you’re both loyal people. He would never cheat on Nicole, and you would never cross that line. She needs to focus on being a kinder person before she makes unnecessary enemies.”

“She’s already made one.” Jenna snaps. “I do not like that woman. She smells like trouble.”

I didn't want to judge Nicole wrongfully, but I didn't like her much either. She did seem like trouble. She looked like someone who enjoyed stirring up drama. I'd had enough of that and didn't need anymore.

"I think we should leave Scarlett to get dressed for her husband now," Jenna says as she wiggles her eyebrows at me.

Clara empties the bag, and the white lingerie falls out of it. She leaves it on the bed and waves goodbye to me.

"Carter Prince!" Jenna shouts at the door. "You married Carter freaking Prince! Way to go, Scarlett! Teach me your ways so I could marry into the Prince family also!"

I sigh when she leaves and stare at the lingerie on the bed.

Did Clara think I'd wear this for Carter tonight when we weren't even on speaking terms? Things were still very awkward and tense between us.

We hadn't had a proper conversation since that awful night.

The door opens suddenly, and I try not to gape at a shirtless Carter at the entrance.

Was this something I would have to get used to from now on? His hair was w*t, and he'd just gotten out of the shower.

He didn't use the bathroom in this room. Then which one did he use?

His eyes fall on me briefly before he lazily drags it to the bed.

My eyes widened when I realized what he was about to see.

No. No. No.

I would kill Clara for this embarrassment!

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~SCARLETT~

I'm about to explain the lingerie on the bed when I realized something I should have realized sooner.

He was drunk.

He was drunk?

Why would he choose tonight to drink?

The way he swayed on his feet towards the bed was the confirmation that I needed.

Was marrying me so difficult that he had to drown his sorrows away with alcohol? I tried not to let it bother me, but it wasn't something I could easily ignore.

I watch as he drops to the ground next to my feet.

"Carter!"

I move to the ground to help him to the bed, but he pushes my hands away. His rejection hurts me.

"Don't." He growls.

I fight back the tears as I attempt to move away from him when I hear him whisper,

"I don't deserve your help."

I freeze.

I couldn't believe he'd just said that.

"Why don't you deserve my help?" I ask him.

"I'm a monster." He whispers.

My eyes widen. I don't know what's happening, but he seemed to be convinced that he was a 'monster'

“What are you talking about, Carter?” I demand. “Does it have something to do with the full moon? Does it have anything to do with what Nicole tried to warn me about?”

His eyes snap up at my questions, and I’m taken aback by the fear on his face.

“Please don’t ever mention the full moon to me.” He begs. “Don’t. I never want to speak about it. Not with you.”

I move back onto the ground next to him. “Is it really that bad that it makes you behave this way?”

He can’t even look me in the eyes as he ignores my question.

“Carter, please,” I beg. “Please tell me that the man I fell in love with isn’t the one who turned his back on me. Please tell me that you had a reason for hurting me. Please, I’m begging you.”

He doesn’t respond to me, and I can’t stop the tears this time. I still was hurt over everything. I was still heartbroken.

“I gave you my heart: I gave you a part of me that I never gave to anyone else.” I whisper. “I’m still here waiting for you to give me an explanation. I’m still willing to make things work. All I need you to be is honest with me. What happens on a full moon? Please just tell me.”

“No.” He snaps. “I hurt you. I hurt you and your sister. I don’t want to hurt anyone anymore. So please, don’t ask me anything. Don’t ask me, Scarlett. I’m begging you. Stop asking.”

Why doesn’t he want to tell me the truth? What could he possibly be hiding?

“Let me at least help you onto the bed.” I try again, but he pushes me away a second time when I reach for his arm.

Ignoring his protests, I make another attempt to help him. I reach for his arm for the third time, but he pulls away before I can touch him.

He moves so quickly that it causes me to lose my balance. Before I could hit the ground, he caught me in his arms.

There's a look of urgency in his eyes as he leans into me, "You're carrying my baby. Please be careful from now on, Scarlett."

"He isn't just yours," I whisper. "He's mine also."

"Our baby." He says softly, and there's a glow in his eyes as he says those two words. I'm lost in those eyes before I realize how close I am to him.

"Our baby," I repeat.

He buries his face against my neck, and I can't help but bury my hands in his hair. For some reason, I felt like Carter was in much pain. I could feel his pain through this hug "Thank you for keeping him safe." He whispers.

Did he think that I would ever consider the possibility of abortion? That never once crossed my mind. I loved him too much to ever think about it.

"I wish you could be honest with me, Carter." I try one more time.

I didn't want to give up. I wanted him to tell me the truth.

He freezes the second I say that. It seems he locks me out of his life whenever I mention the full moon.

"Get some sleep." He tells me. "I don't think I will be sleeping here tonight."

"What?" I demand. "We are married now. Doesn't that mean that we both will sleep in the same room from now on? Isn't this your room?"

Where do you plan on going?"

"I don't know yet."

I angrily pull away from him and move back onto the bed. I grab a pillow and throw it at him.

"If you don't want to sleep here, that's up to you." I snap. "Sleep at another girl's place if you like. We know that's what you want to do."

He picks himself off the ground and leans over me to place the pillow back onto the bed. I narrow my eyes when he pulls the sheets over me.

“I do plan on sleeping here with you.” He says suddenly. “Just not tonight. I had too much to drink. I don’t trust myself around you.”

He doesn’t trust himself around me?

“What does that mean?” I ask him. “Why don’t you trust yourself around me?”

“You’re pregnant now, aren’t you?” He asks me. “I did that to you. I’m sure you didn’t want to be pregnant with my baby. Our baby. I’m sure it’s the last thing you wanted, Scarlett, but I did that to you. I took everything from you like you said to me before. You’re forced into this marriage with me, and everything is my fault. I can’t trust myself around you; I keep doing things to ruin your life. I don’t want to ruin it anymore than I’ve already done.” I’m left speechless by his words.

Was that what he thought about our marriage?