

Chapter 11

Derek's POV

The moon's round orb shone high in the sky, casting its velvety light on the Black Thorn Pack's turf.

It was bedtime, but I couldn't sleep, my mind in turmoil.

As long as I closed my eyes, Tabitha's face would haunt me.

Her stubborn look, the agony in her eyes... Every detail was etched in my mind.

I gotta admit, restoring her rights as Luna was quite a relief, even if it was just to chill Leo out.

After staying up all night, I got up early the next morning, spending the whole day dealing with pack biz. Hopefully, it'd distract myself from all the mess inside my head.

My phone kept ringing, but the sight of Daphne's name killed my urge to pick up.

After a while, I heard a knock at the door.

"Come in," I grunted, rubbing at my forehead.

Then the door swung open and in walked Daphne.

Not expecting her presence, I asked with a frown, "What are you doing here?"

She walked over, grumbling, "I rang you up a few times, but you didn't answer. Got a bit worried. So here I am."

I coldly replied, "Just mind your own business. Leave me alone."

"But," she cooed, taking my arm. "I don't want any danger to happen to you. After all, Kyrian and I can't live without you."

Her coquettish smile and gesture disgusted me.

"If I was seriously in danger, you think you'd be able to be of help?" I asked slowly.

"I..." Her fake smile vanished, replaced by a look of panic after a pause.

"I'm sorry, Derek. I'm just here because I missed you," she explained in a hurry.

I shook her hand off my arm immediately.

Somehow, Tabitha's stubborn gaze flashed through my mind.

She used to love me so fervently with all her heart, never feeding me stupid lies like this.

I looked at Daphne, who seemed at a loss, and asked, "Save it. What do you really want?"

She lowered her head and hesitated for a moment before cautiously replying, "Well, I'm just wondering if you've completed the rejection ceremony."

"Not yet."

"What? Is that bitch delaying it on purpose again?" Her face twisted into hate on the dime.

Leo snorted in my mind. Seemed like he didn't like Daphne at all.

Neither did I.

So I snapped, losing my patience, "Daphne, I'm warning you for the last time. You'll be Luna of the Black Thorn Pack. But, you gotta toe the line. Or, I'll go find someone else without a blink."

"No, don't do this to me, Derek. We are fated mates..." Tears streamed down her cheeks.

"Get out! Now!" I unleashed my Alpha aura.

Startled, Daphne ran out instantly.

I lit a cigarette and took a long pull, the taste of nicotine dispelling my agitation.

The night'd settled in deep, but I didn't wanna go home.

Just as I was about to get up and grab a bite, Leo let out a howl of agony in my head.

A ripping sensation tore through my chest.

"End him! The jerk approaching our mate!" Leo growled.

His rage and my pain intertwined, almost tearing me apart.

Knees buckling, I nearly hit the deck.

What did Tabitha do? Did she cheat on me?

Then it dawned on me, she must've been going through the same pain when I was with Daphne.

Waves of agony kept hitting, and I had to mind-link Alvin.

When he arrived, my pain was just easing up.

"Where's Tabitha?" I asked.

"No idea." Alvin shrugged, handing me his phone. "But, Alpha Derek, I think she's really giving up on you."

I shot him a glare before taking the phone.

Clearly, Tabitha was having a wonderful time, cuz she posted two photos on Instagram.

One featured her dancing at a bar in a mini-skirt, looking super hot.

In another one was her sitting next to a damn jerk kissing her hand.

Damn it! I almost crushed Alvin's phone with rage.

"All I got is she's with Gloria," said Alvin.

I picked up my coat and walked out, ordering, "Let's hit up that club."

When we got there, however, Tabitha and Gloria were nowhere to be found. Surveillance showed they had left hours ago.

I found the guy who had kissed Tabitha's hand, though.

He was tall but far less powerful than werewolves. Right now, he was shaking, voice all jittery, "What do you want?"

"What's your relationship with her?" I asked, and Alvin showed him Tabitha's post.

"I-I barely know her. We never met until today. She kept her distance from me the whole time. And she left with her friend after having a few drinks."

As soon as he finished speaking, I dashed over and punched him in the face.

Watching him crumple and curl up, groaning in pain, I casually straightened out my clothes.

As I made my way to the exit, I thought to myself, 'I'm not gonna let Tabitha and our mate bond mess with me ever again.

'It's gonna stop me from getting back at her and John.'

"Tell Tabitha we're having the rejection ceremony at the Council of Elders tomorrow," I commanded Alvin before leaving the club.