

Chapter 14

Derek's POV

Kyrian's disappearance almost drove me insane, so I had to tell Tabitha to put off the rejection ceremony.

Watching her lose control in anger, I had to release the Alpha aura to calm her down.

Holding her, I suddenly realized she'd lost a lot of weight. What had I done to the mate I used to love wholeheartedly? Was this really what I wanted?

But then, the image of Elena's cold, lifeless body popped up in my mind.

My guilt immediately vanished, and I resolutely pushed Tabitha away.

Hearing her talk about splitting up, all disappointed, Leo wailed with pain inside me again.

But Kyrian's missing got me too wrapped up to dwell on that agony.

After Tabitha disappeared from my sight, I headed toward the car, instructing, "Alvin, let's go!"

Going a few miles, I finally couldn't put up with Alvin's slow driving, so I told Rolf to take his place. Finally, we arrived at 32 Seaside Avenue after half an hour.

I barged in, and before I could say anything, Daphne rushed out of the room.

"Derek, thank god you're here." She wrapped her arms around my waist, crying.

"What's going on?" I was annoyed but didn't push her away.

"I'm so scared." She held me tighter. "Derek, can you stay here tonight? Or you prefer me to go back to the Black Thorn Pack with you?"

"Daphne! We'll talk about that later. Tell me what happened to Kyrian first." I held onto Daphne's shoulders and pushed her back a bit.

Daphne avoided my gaze, looking guilty.

She lowered her head and said, "Sorry, it's all my fault." Then, she smiled at me, all sheepish. "I didn't expect you to come here so soon. Please sit down. I'll go make you a cup of coffee."

"Damn it! Daphne!" I finally yelled in anger, my patience snapping.

Seeing her looking scared and aggrieved, I held back my anxiety and scolded, "You're Kyrian's mom. Why are you not worried at all when he's missing? Are you insane?"

"I'm sorry. I was too excited to see you," Daphne blurted out. "We've found him."

"What?" Shocked, I rushed to the nursery and pushed the door open.

Kyrian was right there, sleeping soundly in his crib.

I gently touched his soft forehead, feeling his body temperature. After making sure he was okay, I finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Closing the door, I sat down on the living room sofa. Daphne tried to inch closer, all smiling.

I watched silently as she sat on the nearby sofa after a moment's hesitation. The whole thing just felt off.

"Derek, what's wrong? Kyrian's fine. Aren't you happy about it?" she asked tentatively.

"Did Kyrian really go missing?" I asked, staring at her.

"Of course. I was worried sick when I noticed it..." Daphne said cautiously while stealing glances at me occasionally. Seeing that I didn't feel like speaking, she continued, "Later, the neighbor said they caught the thief and helped take care of Kyrian for a bit. So I said thank you and brought him back."

Her guilty expression sold her out already, so I was done hearing her nonsense.

I turned to Alvin, commanding, "Go and retrieve the surveillance footage from the nursery. Let's see who was bold enough to sneak in."

"What? There's a surveillance camera in the nursery?" Daphne exclaimed beside me and jumped to her feet, her face filled with panic.

"What's there to be surprised of? You think I'd let my son stay here without it?" I looked at Daphne with a faint smile and said, "Last chance. Anything you wanna say?"

"I..." She clenched and then relaxed her hands, her body shaking.

Soon, Alvin walked over with a tablet.

"Alpha Derek, this is today's surveillance footage." He handed me the tablet.

Glancing at it, I asked, "When did the thief break in? And how?"

Alvin took a quick look at Daphne before replying, "We've checked the footage. No strangers entered the nursery. The only person who went in was Daphne."

I sneered and then shifted my gaze to Daphne.

Terrified, she stumbled back onto the sofa. "Sorry. I didn't mean to lie to you. It's just that I really missed you. You wouldn't let me go to you, so I came up with this foolish idea. I..."

"Daphne, do you know where I was at that time?" I cut her off.

"Where?" she looked at me with confusion.

"At the Council of Elders. Just about to go through the rejection ceremony, which means, you were a few minutes away from becoming Luna. Unfortunately, your foolish actions have once again kept you away from this position."

As soon as I finished speaking, Daphne shook her head in disbelief. "No way. It can't be."

Watching her distraught face, I scoffed and walked to the door.

"It's the last time I'm letting you off," I warned her before leaving.