

## Chapter 15

Derek's POV

"Alpha Derek, are we going back to the Council of Elders?" asked Rolf after we left 32 Seaside Avenue.

I glanced back and said, "Nah, we're heading back to the pack."

With that, I got in the car.

Before closing the car door, I heard Rolf muttering, "Aren't they supposed to hold the feet; rejection ceremony today? We didn't waste a lot of time here. Maybe we'll be able to catch up with Tabitha..."

To my surprise, postponing the rejection ceremony was a relief to me. But I was too cowardly to think why.

"Where's Tabitha?" I asked.

Alvin immediately replied, "She should be with Gloria now."

It made sense since Gloria was her bestie. To keep tabs on all of Tabitha's moves, I had Alvin follow Gloria on social media.

Alvin fished out his phone while speaking and scrolled to Gloria's latest Instagram post, where I spotted Tabitha beside her straight away.

The two seemed to be celebrating something, as Gloria captioned it with "A new beginning."

My grip on the phone couldn't help trembling before I even realized it. After trying to patch things up with me for a whole year, she now finally chose to let go. It was clearly what I wanted, so was I heartbroken?

No, I wasn't heartbroken. I was just angry.

The torment wasn't over yet. I wouldn't let her get away with it.

"Tell her to come back to the pack to see me," I ordered, clenching my fist.

Alvin picked up his phone and dialed Tabitha's number. Soon, he looked up and said tentatively, "Luna Tabitha isn't answering her phone. The pack guards said she returned to the pack this morning and then left with some luggage."

Panic seized me as I heard what he said.

Finally, I realized that I never wanted a divorce. I just wanted to see her pay for John's crime by my side.

"Head back to Black Thorn Pack right now, Rolf!" I coldly commanded.

Then I was lost in thought. Tabitha had nowhere to go in the city. Where could she be?

Having no other choice, I had to call out for Leo in my mind.

"Can you sense where Tabitha is?" I asked.

"No," Leo responded irritably. "The mate bond's shattered. So it's hard for me to sense her, and Crystal's disappeared for a long time."

Crystal was Tabitha's wolf. She was all white, looking stunning. I saw her when Tabitha shifted for the first time.

"Crystal's disappeared?" I asked in astonishment.

"You keep hanging around that damned woman Daphne, so the mate bond's breaking, and Crystal's getting weak. I've been unable to sense her these days."

Leo's response made my heart sink.

I had Rolf take me to my villa in the pack.

I hadn't stayed here for two days.

The room was only filled with cold furniture now, all signs of life wiped clean.

She used to put fresh bouquets in the vase on the dining table every day, but now, even the vase was gone.

So did her photos on the walls and the bedside table.

The frames now held my pictures only.

She didn't take any of the designer bags, clothes, and jewels that I had given her after our marriage.

Her toothbrush, glass, and towel in the bathroom all disappeared.

Panicked, I strode towards the nursery.

It was her favorite room in the entire villa as we decorated it together.

When I opened the door, however, it was completely empty.

At that moment, I felt a chill running through my entire body.

She had erased everything related to her from this house thoroughly. How could she be so ruthless?

"Easy, Alpha Derek. I checked all airlines and transport services, and Luna Tabitha hasn't booked any tickets. Mr. Hartley's still in the hospital, so she won't just flee."

Then it dawned on me why I didn't kill John when I had every chance to do so.

I knew John was her last tether. As long as John lived, she remained under my control.

"Find her and bring her back."

"Got it."

After Alvin left, I collapsed on the sofa, raking my hands through my hair in frustration.

In fact, Tabitha had nothing to do with Elena's death. She didn't even know who Elena was.

Even so, I couldn't help venting my anger on her.

I made her go through hell, and it took a toll on me, too.

Our happiness seemed like a fault, a desecration of poor Elena.

But now, I realized my pain wasn't resulting from Leo's weakening but my deep love for Tabitha.

The fear of losing Tabitha drove me to a new decision.

I had to keep her by my side.