

Accidentally Pregnant By My Alpha Best friends

We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax 101

101—Our **Weird** Relationship

Madeline:

I had gone out for a short walk after the kids were put to bed. They hadn't met Sawyer because we'd spent nearly the entire day with the council. I wasn't even sure if they knew their father was here.

After we returned from the council and the kids were asleep, we ate dinner in silence. Then I decided to step out for some air. On my way back, I saw Elgin leaving the guesthouse mansion, walking straight toward me. I slowed down immediately, his expression made it clear he wanted to talk.

"You haven't fallen asleep?" I asked.

Tired after everything that had happened, I'd promised myself not to get caught up in my little dramas with these alphas anymore. I just wanted to exist and focus on finding a cure for the sickness. The problem was, I wasn't doing it to go back home anymore, this was home now.

"So that's the big guy, huh? Sawyer," he said, his tone mocking.

I noticed the way his nose scrunched as he looked toward the guesthouse and realized he was trying to provoke me.

"What's up with you? Why are you being so sassy?" I asked, confused by his behavior.

"Well, guess what? While you were out taking a walk, your husband was fucking someone else in the house. And since you're out here and the babysitter's the only one inside, I'm guessing they're having an affair," Elgin said, resting his hands on his hips.

For a moment, I just stood there, stunned. Then I blinked a few times and leaned forward, making sure I'd heard him correctly.

“Say that again. My husband is what?” I asked.

“Your husband is cheating on you.”

As soon as he repeated it, his gaze shifted behind me.

From the woods emerged my husband, still in his suit, looking fresh, but he’d clearly heard the accusation.

“I’m sorry, what, Alpha Elgin?” Sawyer asked in his velvety voice, his hands tucked into his pockets as he positioned himself between us.

“I think he saw something and thought it was you,” I said quickly.

“I” Elgin cleared his throat. “I mean, I t-hought- I tho-ught it was you. I’m really sorry. It’s just that she used to be my friend, so I got a little protective.”

As soon as he said it, my heart skipped a beat.

From the way my eyes widened, I knew Elgin realized he’d said something he shouldn’t have.

“You guys used to be friends?” Sawyer asked, tilting his head.

The awkwardness that followed was unbearable.

“Yeah, we used to be. Why?” I replied, trying to sound casual.

And then another one appeared, the last person I wanted to overhear.

1/3

-Our Weird Relationship

“She hasn’t told you?” Baxter asked as he approached, towering over all **of** us.

“No, I didn’t know she had alpha friends,” Sawyer said.

+25 Bonus

The look he gave me made it clear to the men now that they had caused me a serious problem.

“It wasn’t much of a friendship,” Elgin intervened, “We just used to hang out, with a bunch of other people.”

Elgin immediately jumped in, trying to smooth things over, stumbling through his words to protect us.

But Baxter simply stood there, looking entirely unbothered.

“It’s alright. You don’t have to explain yourself. It was in the past.”

Sawyer wrapped his arm around me, pulling me closer against his chest. I almost bumped into him.

“Besides, I guess that’s why you were so worried about her. Don’t worry, I’m not a cheater,” Sawyer remarked, his voice full of confidence.

“Well, you guys were coming out for a walk,” Sawyer continued.

Even knowing the others were alphas, he spoke to them as if he’d known them for years.

There was no trace of insecurity in his manner, only layers upon layers of secrets.

After all, the human world moved at the flick of his pinky finger.

“Yeah, you guys were heading back?” Elgin asked, while Baxter stayed quiet,

“Yeah, we got really tired. I mean, it’s not like I have a wolf or something,” Sawyer replied in a deep, sassy tone.

I laughed lightly to make it seem like a joke.

“Good night,” I said quickly, wrapping my arm around Sawyer’s and leading him back to the mansion.

Once inside, with the door shut behind us, I pulled off my sweater and threw it onto the couch before turning to face him.

“Seriously? So you came here not for me, but for Nina?” I demanded, my fists clenched.

Sawyer rolled his eyes.

“I wasn’t fucking her. I just kissed her. There’s a difference.” The way he said it and the way he began taking off his coat, made me swallow my anger.

“Come on, you never had a problem with it before,” he commented, sitting down and pouring himself a glass of

wine.

“You’re right, but I don’t want them to know about the dynamics of our relationship,” I replied.

It was hard to admit that he had a mistress, and that same mistress was my nanny and my assistant

I forced deep, steady breaths, trying to calm myself down. I had no right to question him, not when I’d known about it from the beginning.

I was the one who’d signed that deal.

“I didn’t know your ex-best friends would be peeking through the windows,” he remarked, though there was a warning hidden in his tone.

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101-Our Weird Relationship

+25 Bonus

“They’re not my best friends, they’re my ex-**best** friends,” I corrected sharply. “And besides, you don’t need to do anything next to the window.”

I felt like a fool for even talking about it as if it were normal, but I had been the **one** to make it normal when I agreed to this arrangement.

“Tell me something,” he asked calmly. “Are you jealous?”

I met his gaze, holding it for a long moment before shaking my head. “No, I’m not.”

It was a lie. After we got married, I did get jealous and I was sure he knew it.

Sawyer wasn’t an idiot. He was intelligent, calculating, and fully aware of how his wife must have felt watching him with someone else.

But it was the deal we made. It said we’d be a happy couple, but it never meant he’d be restrained. And I was the one who agreed to it.

“So, are we sharing a bed tonight?”

As soon as he asked, my ears rang and my body went cold.

He was going to put the same mouth on me that he’d just put on Nina.

Ruby Walker

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102

102—He Says He Is Not Jealous

Madeline:

My kids had just woken up, full of energy and excitement to be in a real house again.

They couldn't wait to go outside and play in the garden.

The moment they came out of their rooms, all dressed and ready, their attention shifted to their father, right when he walked out of the side room.

He had just taken a shower and was buttoning his shirt when he noticed the kids.

“Daddy!” Bodhi was the first to run straight to him, followed by Elara and Gina, who approached more hesitantly before hugging him.

He picked up all three and carried them to the living room, which was mostly glass doors.

When the curtains were open, you could see straight out to the road.

Just then, Nina slipped quietly out of the room wearing a black dress.

She clearly didn't want the kids to see her leaving the same room their father had slept in.

They were young, they wouldn't understand much, but they would talk.

And that alone was enough reason to be discreet.

When her eyes met mine, she quickly looked away, guilt written all over her face.

After I refused him last night, Sawyer had gone straight to Nina's room, as expected, and of course, she welcomed him with open arms. 1

This had been going on for years now, and I'd been pretending it didn't bother me.

Maybe my ego, bruised after the Alphas rejected me, had hardened so much that when I first agreed to the marriage, I made it clear it was for safety, protection, and stability, for my children to have a home in the human world.

There were good moments too, mostly when Nina wasn't around.

I convinced myself that this was the life I had chosen.

But I also knew Nina had been the first choice for his marriage.

Everyone had wanted him to marry her, but he chose me.

For a long time, I told myself I was the one who came between them, that I stole him from her, even though there hadn't been an official relationship between them then.

But now, none of that mattered.

"Daddy, we're not talking to you," Elara said, crossing her arms.

"Why? What did I do?" Sawyer asked gently, brushing a hand over her head.

He could be tender one moment and distant the next.

He wasn't a man who naturally loved children, but mine adored him.

1/3

102 Me Says He is Not Jealous

+25 Bonus

They'd grown up knowing him as their daddy.

"Because we saw you hit Mommy last time," Gina said suddenly.

Sawyer froze. His eyes flicked from me to Nina, and Nina bit her lip, looking away.

Yeah, because the woman they'd seen wasn't me, it was Nina.

I could only imagine what had actually happened.

They probably got too intimate, maybe out in the open, and the kids had misunderstood it.

“I would never hit your mommy, you know that,” Sawyer said to Bodhi, his tone gentle. “We were just play fighting, okay?”

He said exactly what I’d told them too.

“You two play fight?” Gina asked, her tiny hand touching her chin.

“Yeah, we do,” Sawyer lied smoothly. “That’s because we’re best friends and we play fight. But trust me, your mother beats me most of the time.”

As soon as he said that, I saw my children relax, their little faces easing with relief.

It’s true, when parents fight, children suffer the most.

But in this case, it wasn’t even me fighting with him.

It was him having fun with Nina, and the kids had caught a glimpse of it.

Maybe they saw something, maybe they heard something, but hopefully, they hadn’t seen anything too revealing.

Otherwise, they would have said something far more alarming.

“And we were so upset we were thinking about making someone else our daddy,” Bodhi said suddenly.

My muscles stiffened.

Sawyer raised an eyebrow, clicking his tongue softly as he turned his full attention toward Bodhi.

“Really? May I know who it is, so that I can compete with him?” Sawyer asked, his tone casual but his eyes sharp.

Knowing him, I could already tell where this was going.

He’d dig until he found out everything, even from my children.

That was what I hated most about him, his way of extracting information from anyone, especially kids, who were too innocent to understand what they were giving away.

“Uncle Baxter,” Bodhi said proudly. “He’s Mommy’s best friend and he’s so nice.”

Sawyer’s lips curved into a smirk, one that didn’t hold amusement or affection, but something closer to anger.

I couldn't figure out why he even cared. It's not like he wasn't busy sleeping with someone else.

"Kids, that's enough," I said quickly. "You've already worn me out this morning. Nina, could you please feed them breakfast?"

I pretended not to notice the guilt that flickered across Nina's face as she hurried to gather the kids.

2/3

102 He Boys He Is Not Jealous

+25 Bonus

They had been with me all morning because I knew perfectly well where she and Sawyer had spent the night.

Once they left, I waited, because I knew Sawyer wouldn't stay silent for long.

"So, while I was away, you've been having quite a time, huh?" he said, stretching his arms lazily.

"Well, I wasn't," I replied flatly. "And there's no point in this conversation anyway. It's not like you—" I stopped myself, then added coldly, "If I got too close, I'd probably still smell Nina on you."

It wasn't just an insult, it was a reminder. He didn't get to question me when he was free to do whatever he wanted.

I turned to walk away, but his voice followed me.

"You think hanging around your best friends is going to make me jealous? Make me reconsider my life and choices?" he asked, standing now. "You're wasting your time. That's never going to happen, Madeline. You know I don't fall that crazy in love."

He moved closer, lowering his voice.

"You're my wife. I respect you. I give you everything I can. But don't expect loyalty from me, I don't believe in that word."

"And I certainly don't get jealous," he remarked.

Then, maintaining his steady gaze, he straightened his collar and headed to the bedroom to get ready for the day.

Well, if he didn't get jealous, then I supposed I had no reason to worry about my best friends either.

Comments

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103-Tag Along

Madeline:

My kids and I had breakfast together. Of course, throughout the meal, Sawyer behaved his best.

Then there was the other side of him, the part that ignored Nina, as if he wasn't sleeping with her **on** the side.

In fact, there wasn't a single moment when I saw him act intimate with her or even catch him stealing glances at her.

Sometimes, I didn't understand why.

For someone to have her as his only affair apart from me, you'd think he'd be more interested in her if he was willing to cheat on his wife.

"So, what's your plan for the day?" Nina asked.

She was my assistant, but I knew it was never just about work when she asked that.

Sometimes I wondered if her father was the reason she decided to sleep around with Sawyer.

After all, her father was none other than Mr. Bruno, the man I'd always had problems with.

"I'll have to check with the Alphas to see what we're doing today," I replied, keeping my calm in front of her like I always did.

I could ignore her whenever Sawyer wasn't around, but when he was, I couldn't help remembering she wasn't the great friend she pretended to be.

"I thought you'd be having a day off for me. I mean, your husband comes around, and you decide to go out for work," Sawyer taunted, one hand tapping the table as he smirked.

"I'll definitely plan something, but right now, it's important for me to go and see what's going on. You know—the children, they're suffering," I said, hoping he'd take the hint.

"You know, Daddy, we've been so sick," Elara said, turning to Sawyer.

"Really? I am here now, you will be fine," he replied, nodding.

I noticed a faint frown on his forehead, as if he wanted to ask me something but held it back.

After breakfast, I just wanted to leave.

The kids decided to go to the nearby park with the warriors from the three Alphas, and with Nina, while I went to meet the Alphas about the cure.

But someone's unexpected arrival stopped me before I could leave the mansion.

"Hello," Ron greeted, flashing a cheeky smile.

"Hello, Mr. Ron. Have **you come** to confirm my husband is real and not a balloon I made up for myself?" I joked lightly.

He was easygoing, and I felt comfortable with him.

"No, I met him yesterday. He's pretty real," Ron laughed, then added in a softer tone, "and very lucky too."

I didn't dwell on the comment. He'd already told me he was interested in me, so I understood what he meant.

1/3

103-Tag Along

+25 Bonus

“By the way, I didn’t just come here to check in or see if you’d settled in with the kids,” **he** said. “I also wanted to talk about one of the issues that has recently come up with them.”

“Really? What happened? Has there been an issue? Why wasn’t I informed about it?” We began walking out of **the** mansion together.

I wasn’t sure where Sawyer was, maybe somewhere on the second floor, doing exercises on the terrace, but I knew my kids were happily playing in the park.

I had packed food, toys, and everything they might need before sending them off with Nina.

“That’s because you were also dealing with your own issues these last two or three days,” Ron explained as we walked down the road.

“So, what exactly is going on?” I asked.

“One of the kids in my pack has started complaining about seeing water in his dreams,” he explained. “Later, he said he could still see it around him after waking up.”

“Huh! That is odd,” I commented.

“Previously, it was fire. And now it’s water.” I sighed tiredly at the growing issues.

“Well, that’s one of the things I wanted to talk about,” he replied. “The other is that the council is considering assigning you a rank. You know that’s how it works in wolf packs.”

As he said that, my heart skipped a beat.

I swallowed hard while he looked around casually before meeting my eyes again.

“Are you alright?” he asked. I forced a smile.

“Yeah, of course I am. So, what were you saying? When do they want to assign me a rank?” I questioned, keeping a smile on my lips.

“By the end of this month,” he explained. “They want you to get comfortable with your wolf first. It’s been a while, and since your wolf took some time to wake up, they want to be sure she’s ready to show her full potential.”

That made sense. Unlike the first transition at twelve, mine happened much later, right into adulthood.

Naturally, my wolf would behave differently and take time before showing her strength completely..

“Great. Thanks for the heads up,” I said, wondering how I was going to hide my grey wolf now.

“Anyway,” he continued, “are you ready to go meet the child?”

I nodded absentmindedly.

“Do you want to inform the other alphas too?” he asked. I shook my head firmly.

“Let them rest,” I replied, concealing the real reason I didn’t want them to come.

They’d bombard me with questions about my husband, and I didn’t feel like answering anyone.

After all, I wasn’t answerable to anyone.

Besides, after Elgin thought he’d caught my husband cheating, I was sure he’d have more questions.

He was an alpha for a reason, he wouldn’t just let it slide because Sawyer and I told him he’d been on a walk with

2/3

103-Tag Along

+25 Bonus

1. me.

“Well then, let’s go. I have my car parked right here,” Ron said, pulling me out of my thoughts.

I started to follow him when a voice called from the mansion’s main door.

“I heard you guys are heading to the mission. Mind if I tag along?” Sawyer appeared, wearing gray pants and a white shirt, looking freshly showered.

“Yes of course, you can-”

Of course, Ron had to say yes.

He had to let him come with us.

I noticed how Ron shifted uncomfortably, his body tense as he looked down and tried to sneak a glance at us through his thick eyebrows.

Ruby Walker

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104—He **Simply** Does **Not** Care

Madeline:

“And do you hear that water very often?” I asked the kid, and he timidly nodded.

“Okay, that will be it. Do you like chocolates?” I asked again, and after an hour-long interview, he finally smiled, though there was pain hidden behind his innocent grin.

“Good thing I brought you plenty. And I also got you this video game,” I told him as I handed over the game and a full basket of chocolates and snacks. I knew it wasn't much.

His parents would rather prefer a cure, but for now, it was the best I could do for the kids.

“Thank you. You're really nice, lady,” the little boy said, his voice so fragile it shattered my heart.

All I could think about was my own son while watching this child in pain.

I gave his mother a reassuring smile before I said goodbye and walked out of the house.

Earlier, when I arrived, the boy had refused to speak to anyone except me.

That's why Ron and Sawyer waited outside while I talked to him.

After listening carefully, I realized there was a new danger coming.

Once outside, I noticed Sawyer and Ron standing opposite each other.

Ron had his hands in his pockets, staring absently into the distance, while Sawyer kept one hand in his pocket and with the other he was holding his phone, constantly texting.

When I approached, Ron noticed me first. Sawyer didn't even glance up, or maybe he just didn't want to acknowledge me, until Ron began talking.

"So, was it helpful?" Ron asked softly, hoping I had good news. All I could do was shrug.

"The kid seems traumatized for sure. Imagine waking up to water surrounding you. I'm just worried about what's going on," I replied, glancing sideways at Sawyer, who finally slipped his phone into his pocket.

"So, are we done here or not? I'm kind of hungry. Where do you guys want to have lunch?" he remarked carelessly.

The way he spoke, with no regard for what I'd just spent the last hour doing, or for what was happening to the children, made me feel ashamed in front of Ron.

I noticed the way Ron looked at him. It wasn't just because these were the children of the pack members.

In Ron's eyes, my children were Sawyer's children too.

Any illness affecting them should have concerned him deeply, yet he seemed indifferent.

"Ron, I'll talk to you later if you have time," I said quietly, asking him not to take Sawyer's behavior to heart and assuring him I wouldn't dismiss the matter like Sawyer did.

"Yeah, **of** course. It's alright. Actually, my grandmother asked me to invite you to lunch today. She said she wanted to meet your husband and show him respect by hosting a feast," Ron replied, his posture calm but attentive.

Sawyer only shrugged and nodded.

1/3

104-He Simply Does Not Care

+25 Bonus

"Okay," was all he said before storming off to the car.

"I'm really sorry on his behalf, but we truly appreciate it. Thank you," I said awkwardly, feeling the weight of Sawyer's actions on my shoulders.

Ron drove us back home, though I had insisted he didn't have to take us all the way to the parking lot.

Our mansion was right next to his, so I told him Sawyer and I wanted to take a little stroll.

As soon as Ron disappeared into his own house, I began walking briskly with my fists clenched.

"I thought you wanted to take a walk with me," Sawyer called from behind.

"Did you have to act like this? Couldn't you just appreciate that he was being nice enough to invite you to lunch?"

I turned to him hastily, my fists clenched. This was one of the few things I ever allowed myself to argue with him about.

Most of the time, I stayed silent, especially in the human world, because that was his world, his rules.

But now that he was in mine, I finally felt like I could question him.

And I guess he noticed it too, because every time I spoke harshly, I saw his eyes narrow in warning.

"I am grateful. That's why I accepted the offer," he said, and I stared at him in disbelief. I shouldn't have been surprised, he was arrogant and thought far too highly of himself.

"You don't need to cry about it so much. Don't worry about him, is what I'm saying," he added quickly, realizing how dismissive he sounded.

It was his awkward way of correcting himself, as if I were the one being too sensitive.

"At least try to act like you're concerned about the sickness," I said, shifting the argument to something that truly mattered.

"Well, I would if it actually existed," he replied flatly. "I think you werewolves are all being a little too dramatic. Something happens, and you panic. Nightmares, sleepwalking—humans have dealt with those things forever. I don't see them losing their minds."

I shook my head, stunned.

"Do those kids die after one year?" I shot back.

He rolled his eyes again, and that single gesture infuriated me.

“There are probably underlying issues you’re overlooking,” he said dismissively. “Reminds me of those old cases, what were they called? Yeah, exorcisms. Crazy ones, right?”

His smug tone, his hands shoved in his pockets, it was too much. I scoffed and turned to walk away.

That’s when I saw Yuvonne coming out of the guest house.

I was surprised. I thought things had ended between her and Baxter.

But I didn’t have the energy to care. I just wanted to get away.

“Madeline, please wait! I needed to apologize to you—for what I did to -you!” she called out.

She barely got the words out before Sawyer stopped in his tracks.

2/3

104 He Simply Does Not Core

+25 Bonus

I noticed him freeze, so I did too, turning to glance at him.

“I don’t want to talk about it right now,” I said quickly, grabbing his arm and pulling him back toward the

mansion.

The moment we stepped inside, he slammed the door behind us. In one swift move, he caught my hand and yanked me against his chest.

Our bodies collided hard, and his eyes locked onto mine.

His grip was tight, so tight.

“Who was she?” he demanded. “What did she mean by being apologetic for what she’s done to you?”

His tone was nothing like his usual cool indifferent tone.

“What did she do to you?” he asked again, harsher this time.

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105

105—Let's Stay Close, Sister

Yuvonne:

Seeing my sister with such a handsome man really surprised me.

I watched her from the window of my room.

I had been sitting there, keeping an eye on her, and when I saw her return with such a dashing man, I almost lost my breath.

I knew her husband was here, I'd heard about it.

But seeing him in person, from so close, stunned me.

Still, he wasn't as good-looking as Baxter. I'd scored a better one.

But Sawyer was a good catch, someone who looked good, who was probably good in bed too.

When I tried to introduce myself and apologize to my sister, she shocked me by shutting me out. I was so disappointed.

I expected her to forgive me right away. It's not like she had any other family.

But ever since she'd returned, she'd become this strange version of herself, always trying to prove she was better than everyone else.

First of all, how the heck did she become so popular?

Second, her attitude sucked. And third, how the hell did she manage to land a husband like Sawyer?

Even though she wouldn't let me introduce myself, I followed her anyway.

When I reached the porch and placed a hand on the door, I overheard her and her husband talking inside.

Their conversation stopped me from barging in.

Her husband's voice carried a strange, angry tone when he asked if I had hurt her.

I wasn't scared, I knew I was safe with Baxter on my side.

There was no way she could get me punished, and no way he could hurt me.

But something about the way he asked who had hurt her, it had power in it.

Then I reminded myself that he might be powerful in the human world, maybe even rich too, but in the werewolf world, he was nothing.

Baxter was an alpha. Not just any alpha, the most powerful one I'd ever seen.

So I stepped back, thinking I could use Baxter as my shield. I turned around and walked straight back into the mansion, where I saw Baxter walking downstairs to the first floor.

The others weren't around, probably in their own rooms.

"Baxter!" I called, opening my arms wide.

I hadn't seen him all day because I'd stayed up watching movies all night and only woke up about an hour ago.

1/3

100-let Stay Close Sister

+25 Bonus

After a quick shower, I got ready, sat by the window, and that's when I saw Madeline coming home.

"You seem to be in a good mood," Baxter remarked, not hugging me but gently pinching my cheek.

"Come on, give me a hug," I insisted, pouting.

He smiled at my silliness and hugged me softly. But his scent, it was mesmerizing.

“What were you doing outside?” he asked casually, not suspecting a thing.

“I went to speak with Madeline and apologize, but she just stormed off with her husband. It was weird, the way she wrapped her arms around him, like I was interrupting their moment. Maybe I picked the wrong time.”

I tried to sound casual but slipped in a few details on purpose, and I saw Baxter’s face tighten slightly.

“So you didn’t get to talk to her?” he asked, and I shook my head.

“Well, I really do want to apologize. Can you please come with me?” I pleaded.

“Yeah, sure. But let me speak with her first. I want to make sure she’s comfortable seeing you right now,” Baxter said, walking toward the kitchen.

I followed behind him, and thankfully, I was behind him, because even though my mood soured, he didn’t see it.

I was honestly annoyed. I didn’t like the fact that he wasn’t telling me I didn’t need to apologize.

Instead, he was suggesting that he’d ask her if she, the queen, wanted to see my face. That really rubbed me the wrong way.

But as always, when he turned around to face me, I forced a smile onto my lips, trying to look perfectly understanding.

“Yes, please do, but make it quick. I really want to apologize. I kind of miss the kids, you know?” I said, pouting.

I noticed the way Baxter frowned at me.

“Really? You like kids?” he asked.

There was deep confusion in his tone, which only made me more upset.

“Yeah, why are you asking me like that? Don’t you think I can like kids?” I laughed awkwardly.

“You used to hate even going to schools with me when I volunteered at the orphanages. Remember how you said you couldn’t stand the kids running around and all?” he replied, reminding me of something that made me clench my jaw in secret.

Did he really have to bring that up? Apparently, yes.

“Baxter, that was different. Honestly, seeing these kids changed my mind. There’s something so wonderful about them. They’re adorable, aren’t they?” I said in the cheerful tone I always used with him.

He smiled at me, that soft, innocent smile someone gives when they think the other person is being cute.

So I guessed my act was working.

“Okay, fine. Let’s have some breakfast, and then we can go speak with her,” he finally agreed.

I didn’t want to apologize. I just wanted to be involved, to see what was happening between her and her husband.

2/3

105-Terr Stay Close, Sister

+25 Bonus

And if I didn’t stay close to her, how else would I hurt her? 1

“Why breakfast? It’s already lunchtime. Let’s go there and have lunch with them. What do you say?” I suggested, clapping my hands happily.

“That would be too much. We shouldn’t go uninvited. But yes, we can go and apologize to them. Let’s just eat lunch first,” he replied.

As he spoke, I got a notification on my phone. It was a message from my mother:

Mom: Make sure you make amends with Madeline today. That day we made foolish mistakes. We shouldn’t have driven her away. This time, be nice. Remember, staying close to her is important for us.

I glanced briefly at Baxter before replying to her.

Me: Already working on it. Her husband doesn’t seem to like the idea of anyone hurting her. But don’t worry, everything will be fine and taken care of.

I hit send, giving Baxter a deceptively sweet smile.

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Ruby Walker

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

106

106—Spewing Poison

Nina:

“Have a sweet nap,” I whispered as I tucked in the kids.

Finally, I was free and I could go outside to be with Sawyer, the absolute love of my life.

Still, I had to admit I'd been quite upset lately.

Sawyer was becoming more and more distant.

He always told me he wasn't the jealous type, so when I told him that we should take a step forward in our relationship because I couldn't stay his mistress forever, his response was cold.

He said I was free to find a husband.

He said it with little to no emotion, but afterward, we had sex, so I wondered if it was just his playful way of teasing me.

And now, here I was, hastily putting his kids to sleep so I could go be with him.

But when I walked out, I stumbled into a rather distasteful scene.

Sawyer was holding Madeline by her arms, pulling her so close there was no space left between them.

He stared into her eyes, and it looked like he was the one who had initiated this intimate moment.

“Tell me,” he insisted, though his gaze lingered more on her lips than on her eyes.

“It’s nothing. Let me go. I need to check on the kids and get ready for lunch. Remember, we’ve been invited by Alpha Ron.”

Madeline’s tone carried no affection toward him. In fact, I knew the truth about their relationship, the deal she’d made.

She didn’t let him touch her. They were intimate here and there, but she would always push him away afterward.

I couldn’t understand why a man like him tolerated her tantrums.

Maybe because she was popular now. But back then, she wasn’t.

She was just his maid, the maid he respected, married, and helped in every possible way, while I remained his mistress.

“Ahem. The kids have fallen asleep, though. They’re taking a nap. They were tired from playing in the playground,” I said, coughing deliberately to interrupt them and ruin their moment.

In my head, I told myself I was helping Madeline.

I could tell she didn’t like being held by him. Why would she? He had a mistress.

Shouldn’t she have pushed him away more forcefully?

What was wrong with her?

Why did she have such low self-esteem?

Sawyer finally let go of her, but the way he did it, shaking her slightly, made it clear he was upset that she hadn’t

1/3

106–spewing Poison

+25 Bonus

answered his question.

“I’ll go get ready,” Madeline said, hastily walking past me to the bedroom.

The bedroom.

She was still occupying his bedroom while I stayed in the guest room, the ‘side room,’ as they called it. It was a constant reminder that I was just the side chick.

“Come with me to the office.”

The moment Sawyer asked me to follow him, my hope flickered back to life.

Maybe he’d finally realized it was better to be with me than with that arrogant woman.

I smiled and adjusted my top, tugging it down slightly to reveal more of my neckline for his eyes.

Then I walked after him to the second floor, to Madeline’s office.

But the moment we stepped inside and I wrapped my arms around him, Sawyer untangled my hands swiftly enough to leave me stunned.

“Don’t immediately start anything until I tell you to,” he hissed, turning to face me.

Then he gently pressed a finger to my shoulder, pushing me away from him.

It was disrespectful but it was Sawyer. What could I do?

“Tell me every little detail of what happened while I wasn’t here. Most probably, if there’s a woman involved,” he said sternly, his hands in his pockets.

I straightened my posture and began explaining how I’d joined Madeline in the suite, about the kids’ illness, and how she had been working with different alphas.

Then I realized something, I didn’t need to make it sound casual. I could, but maybe I shouldn’t.

“And then there was this moment when I realized that they were actually pretty close friends,” I added.

As soon as I said that, I saw Sawyer adjust his shoulders. “All of them,” I continued, and noticed him frowning.

“Keep going,” he urged when he saw me slowing down.

“There was this girl and I think I know who you’re talking about. It’s her half sister,” I stated.

He looked at me in shock and confusion.

I went on, explaining that her sister had been the one to cause a lot of damage to Madeline.

But before he could feel any sympathy for her, I made sure to strike him with another truth.

“And then the alphas came over after dinner, and they had a huge argument. Madeline sent me to the room so she could talk to them alone,” I said, trying to sound casual while pretending I was just informing him.

“So that’s her sister?” he asked, nodding to himself as he paced and rubbed his chin, clearly deep in thought.

“And I think Alpha Baxter broke it off with her briefly but today I saw her in the guest house, so I guess they’re back together,” I said, clearing my throat.

“Okay,” he replied with a shrug. “Is that all?”

2/3

106–Spewing Poison

+25 Bonus

By then, I’d finally started to calm my breathing.

“Something else happened,” I murmured, and instantly had his full attention again.

“One of the alphas’ fathers came over demanding a DNA test for the babies.”

The moment I said it, I had his attention exactly the way I wanted. He looked shocked and intrigued.

“What?” he asked sharply.

That’s when I realized this information could change everything.

“Yeah, it was odd. And then Madeline got really scared,” I said, watching him clench his jaw. “By the end of the day, the alpha backed off because Madeline was getting angry. She didn’t want to do the test, and it turned into a whole-”

I was still rambling when he cut me off.

“That will be enough. Dismissed,” he said, gesturing toward the door.

And just like that, I was humiliated. He didn’t ask for intimacy—nothing.

I was simply dismissed, kicked out of the office like I didn’t matter.

Ruby Walker

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

107

107—My Unpredictable Husband

Madeline:

We had come to Ron’s place for lunch, and so far, everything was going well.

However, I had noticed a few things. One of them was that Sawyer didn’t seem very interested in talking to anyone.

At the same time, I also noticed that Lady Riva, Ron’s grandmother, wasn’t taking part in the conversation either.

I remembered the last time we met, she had been so eager to tell us stories about the wars and how she had fought in them.

Everything she said was filled with enthusiasm and intrigue.

But now, she seemed rather dull, almost as if she wasn’t enjoying herself.

She finished her lunch in silence, only speaking to me a few times.

Her words were mostly about illness, the children, and the interview we'd conducted yesterday with the child.

That was all.

The same woman who had asked for a drink last time didn't seem to want one today.

The moment lunch ended, she began to prepare to rise from her seat, though she kept a polite smile on her lips so we wouldn't feel awkward.

"How about I go and rest now?" she asked.

I noticed the way Sawyer rolled his eyes, almost as if he was thankful the meal was finally ending.

"Yeah, we'll leave now, but thank you so much. It really means a lot. You didn't have to do all this," I told her, grateful to Ron's grandmother.

Sawyer, however, didn't even bother to thank her once.

"The food was good," he finally remarked. At least he had opened his mouth.

"Thank you. I asked my maid to prepare it especially for Madeline," Lady Riva replied, smiling at me.

Finally, now that the meal had ended, they were talking.

"Yeah, she's special, isn't she?" Sawyer commented, turning toward me.

I gave them a cheeky smile because his compliments were always so dry, almost like those trendy lines you see on

the internet.

"Yeah, she is. Madeline, would you please help me get to my room?" Lady Riva asked.

It was the first time she had ever asked me that, usually, her grandson took care of her.

"Wow, my grandmother seems to like you a lot," Ron remarked, not sarcastically but playfully.

"I adore her too. She's such an inspiration," I replied instantly, standing from my seat and walking over to help

her up.

I held her hand and guided her to her room, which was on the ground floor just a few steps from the dining area.

1/3

107-My Unpredictable Husband

+25 Bonus

Once inside, I tucked her into bed, noticing she didn't let go **of** my hand.

That's when I realized she wanted to talk about something.

"Don't ever think you deserve any less," she began, startling me.

I hadn't expected her to say that.

When she stayed silent earlier, I had assumed it was because of me because of the recent revelation about me being a wolf, and the interview my sister gave about me ruining her engagement announcement dinner.

I knew Lady Riva was fond of my half-sister, so I thought that might be the reason.

I sat down on the chair beside the bed, watching her as she continued to hold my hand.

"What makes you say that?" I asked softly.

"I'm just saying. You know what? It's funny that your husband showed up. All this time, I was probably just thinking too far ahead. I really liked you for my grandson," she confessed.

Her words caught me off guard, and the smile slipped from my face before I quickly forced it back.

"That's very sweet **of** you, but I'm sure Ron will find someone he deserves," I replied.

Life is strange. There was a time when everyone told me I would never find a mate, that I would never walk down the aisle, never get married, never have anyone chase me.

And yet, here I was, surrounded by people who wanted me while I was already married.

After that, I said goodbye to her because she needed to rest, and then I walked out of the room.

Ron was awkwardly standing in front of the arrogant husband of mine, who seemed to be more interested in his phone once again, and I knew he wasn't doing anything particularly on his phone.

It was just his way of avoiding conversations. I knew him very well.

It really did upset me. I gave Ron a head nod and then walked out of the mansion with Sawyer.

"How about we take a little stroll?" Sawyer asked, and I silently just joined him.

"The old lady, she seems to be fond of you," he started, and I instantly did not like the way he was mentioning her.

"Lady Riva, that's her name," I corrected him.

"Well, Lady Riva is an old lady. Do you want me to lie and say that young teen is fond of you?" he commented, and I did not argue more with him.

I used to avoid arguing with him by just letting it go, but sometimes it gets a little too much.

"Anyway, what did you two talk about when you left?" he pried, and I realized he was curious about the conversation I had with her.

"Nothing," I replied.

"You were not interested in listening to anything or engaging in conversation, so why do you want to know now?" I retorted, noticing him nod his head.

"Well, that is also true," he said. That was all he said, making me roll my eyes.

2/3

107-My Unpredictable Husband

+25 Bonus

Once again, silence struck us. Then I noticed someone come out of the guest house, and at this point I was so annoyed with her.

However, when I turned around, I realized it really wasn't Yuvonne. Maybe she was just in my head.

It was Kaylee coming out with Graham.

“We saw you guys taking a walk, so we thought we should also join you,” Kaylee said cheerfully, her arm wrapped around Graham’s arm, who looked rather stiff, not really in a cheery and cheerful mood.

“I told her that we should let you guys do a walk alone, but- women,” Graham commented coldly.

“No, it’s okay. Actually, it’s good. Come on, join us,” Sawyer, who did not want to talk with anyone, was suddenly interested in this couple, and I knew Sawyer.

I knew how his brain worked. He had something in his mind that he needed to investigate by pulling these two closer, and I was instantly alarmed.

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

108

108—Trying To **Break** My Marriage

Madeline:

“Oh, so you are his Royal Beta’s daughter. Got it,” Sawyer said to Kaylee as we were taking a stroll.

For the past five minutes, Sawyer had been very talkative.

That did not seem too good to me.

I mean, the **way** he had invited them and started speaking was automatically a big concern for me.

Throughout the time, I could tell Graham did not want to communicate, or at least, he did not want his wife **to** keep going on, but she ignored all his attempts to pull her away.

I noticed several times that he tried to get her attention.

Even at times, he told her that he was not in the mood to take a walk right now.

By this time, it had been ten minutes, Sawyer would ask questions, and Kaylee would go on and on explaining.

“And you know what? When Madeline came back, I was so scared. I looked at my husband and said, ‘I hope she is not back for you.’”

Those words suddenly jolted me back to reality and out of my thoughts.

I stopped dead in my tracks and looked at her. She noticed and stopped along with the others.

“What are you saying?” Graham nudged her, his eyes trying to make contact so he could let her know she had overstepped.

“What? I was just saying—Did I say something wrong?” As expected, she started acting really clueless.

“It’s alright. I trust my wife. I know she is not back for anyone. I mean, she never even mentioned any of these friends, so it’s fine,” Sawyer spoke up to ease the tension.

But I knew it was just his attempt to calm things for now, later, he would use it against me.

“Okay, don’t make me feel bad. I was honestly just talking. I mean, Madeline used to have a crush on Graham. She used to write diaries and entries about him. So of course, I was a little worried when she returned.”

Then it seemed like Kaylee’s true intention behind insisting on taking a stroll with us was exposed.`

My fists clenched, and my eyes moved to Graham in complaint before I looked back at her.

I did not even have the courage to look into Sawyer’s eyes. That could be done later.

Right now, I needed to respond to her properly.

Since she had already ruined it for me, I decided to ruin her night too. I knew it was petty.

I was a mother of three, I should not have behaved this way. But sometimes, people just push you over the edge.

“Well, it’s not like he didn’t like me. I mean, by the end of our friendship, before I left, he was also quite touchy with me.”

That was all I said, just to irk her, and I noticed how her cheesy smile, the one she had been giving us after she thought she had ruined my relationship with Sawyer, started to fade away.

1/3

109 Trying To Break My Marriage

+25 Bonus

She snapped her neck to look at her husband, who had been watching my face in silence.

I did not see a look that told me he was upset.

Actually, he looked very confident, probably even happy that I had spoken out.

“And now, you two can keep walking. We’ll **go** back home,” I said as I turned around and walked past Sawyer.

Sawyer, who Kaylee thought would instantly snap at me and bombard me with questions, chuckled a little.

“Have a great rest of the day,” he commented.

If Kaylee thought she could come between us, she had no clue what kind **of** man Sawyer was.

He could surprise her with his unpredictability.

I could hear Kaylee almost raising her voice at Graham, asking him if what I said was the truth, while I went inside the mansion.

The minute I stepped in and the door shut, Sawyer grabbed my hand and pushed me against the wall.

He held my hands pinned against it.

Then he leaned over, stretching his legs back so that his body hunched down and his face was level with mine.

“So you had quite the suitors here,” he commented.

Of course, he could not yell at me for anything, especially when it came to loyalty.

He wasn't loyal himself. And because he had also said that he wasn't a jealous type, it wasn't like I was cheating on him now.

It was in the past. Whatever Kaylee said was in the past.

He could not possibly make me feel bad about it or force me to explain it to him.

“Let me go, Sawyer,” I said, but not in a threatening way.

“Where is the baby daddy **of** your children?” And then the question arrived.

I clenched my fists, and he noticed.

He straightened his back, still holding my hands against the wall, but pulled his body closer.

I felt his lips brushing my cheek before he moved them back to my ear.

“Is he one of them?” he whispered in my ear, and my body broke out in goosebumps.

“No,” I uttered hopelessly.

“Hmm. Well, it seems like I've got a lot of competition here,” he continued whispering in my ear, sending shivers down my spine.

“Kids, look! Your parents are here.”

As he was about to do something reckless, Nina arrived with the kids, and both of us jolted back.

At least I pushed him back.

I did not want to engage in activities in front of my kids that were inappropriate and too mature for their little

2/3

10B-Trying To Break My Marriage

+25 Bonus

minds.

“Mommy, I had a perfect dream!” Gina said, dancing up **and** down.

I was so excited to hear about it because it had been so long since one of my kids had a good dream, the sickness had been affecting them.

However, before she could respond, there was a knock on the door.

Sawyer, already next to it, opened it effortlessly, letting in my half-sister without any prior notice.

The minute the door opened, she stormed in, holding a huge tray in her hand.

“This is just a little bit, but I will come back with dinner tonight,” she said cheerfully, hurrying into her words before even introducing herself to Sawyer.

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

109

109–The Chocolate Factory

Madeline:

“And who are you exactly?” Sawyer asked her, making her smile falter for a second before she forced the same grin again.

“I’m Yuvonne. I’m her half-sister,” she said excitedly, pointing at me.

I rolled my eyes, folding my arms across my chest, watching her face in disbelief.

“Oh, well, that’s odd. She never spoke of you.” Sawyer had the same response to everyone.

He knew how to piss people off.

But he didn’t understand that Yuvonne was not Kaylee. She was not an emotional fool.

She was very clever and cunning.

“Oh, yeah, I see. We sisters kind of fight. Like it’s those cute sisterly fights,” Yuvonne said, exaggerating with her hand gestures and everything, when Baxter also came in.

“Really? That’s not how I recall it,” I retorted, watching her face harden.

“You know, the way I recall it is—she used to bully me. It was the same, like the stepmother, her vindictive daughter against me. That kind of situation,” I explained, exposing her lie in front of Sawyer, who stretched his neck visibly from side to side.

Then, when he opened his eyes again, he stared straight at Baxter.

I noticed the way the two looked at each other.

There was this silent communication going on.

Baxter, being the tallest and broadest among all, had a very heavy appearance.

But it was more like a silent questioning in their eyes. I wondered if they knew each other.

Every time they were in front of each other, they did not communicate directly.

But I knew they had never met, because one was raised and born in the werewolf world and the other was from the human world.

“Let’s not talk about it. I want to mend my ways. And I want to apologize for everything. I’m really sorry. Please accept this,” Yuvonne spoke, her voice filled with guilt.

I would call it a fake one because I knew her very well.

And I also knew that there was no way, absolutely none, that she would feel guilty about her actions.

That was her way **of** entering my life once again.

But the minute she lowered the big tray, my little kids, who had been angry with her previously, started to melt at the sight of all the premium chocolates in the tray.

“It’s okay, you can take these,” Yuvonne said, squatting down and staring at Bodhi.

Bodhi took a step forward, then stepped back, turning his head to the side and looking up at me.

1/3

109-The Chocolate Factory

+25 Bonus

“I’m sorry,” he murmured.

“I don’t give them too much sugar. It’s already nearing evening, and kids shouldn’t have this much sugary content before bedtime,” I excused, placing my hand on Bodhi’s shoulder and stopping him.

The way Yuvonne’s smile dropped was a sign she did not like that I did not appreciate her attempts.

“I’m sure they can take one,” Yuvonne commented, once again pushing the tray in front of Elara and Gina this time.

“I’m sorry, Yuvonne, but I don’t want them to eat this. They will have dinner with me,” I said, rushing ahead to make sure my kids stayed behind me as I grabbed the tray, making her stand up and not stay at their level.

There was silence engulfing everyone. I knew all eyes were on us.

“Alright, it’s okay, then I will leave it here. They can eat it in the morning. Here, take this,” she said to Nina, almost pushing the tray into her.

She held it just in time before it dropped. I noticed that Yuvonne did not even let it go until she was certain Nina had it.

“Please make sure the kids eat it, okay? It’s for them,” she continued. “I will return with dinner. I’ll be cooking tonight. And I guess it will be a good way to welcome you guys into the pack,” she said to Sawyer, who had his hands in his pants pockets, eyes on me, head down, examining my every move.

“You don’t need to do that. If you are going to come here and eat, I will be the one to cook,” I explained.

I noticed the way she took a minute before she nodded.

“Okay, well, see you then. Let’s go, Baxter,” she said, turning around and walking out of the mansion, and Baxter followed suit.

Once they were gone, I rushed over and locked the door so that nobody else could storm in.

I turned around and noticed the kids staring at the tray.

“How about we go out for ice cream, huh, kids?” I said in a cheerful tone to get their attention.

The three turned around, smiling at the suggestion.

“We’ll go get ready,” Bodhi said, running with his little legs toward his room.

The two little sisters followed him.

While I walked over to Nina, I snatched the tray out of her hand.

Then I went toward the kitchen and dumped the entire chocolate tray into the dustbin.

However, just when there was one left, somebody held my hand and stopped me.

“What are you doing?” he asked.

Standing in front of me was Sawyer, questioning my actions.

“I don’t trust her,” I said, and he started to smile.

“**Well**, then there are ways to confirm what she’s up to, aren’t there?” he asked.

With that, he gestured with two fingers, asking Nina to come into the kitchen.

2/3

100 The Chocolate Fo. tory

+25 Bonus

“Grab all these chocolates. Put them in a plastic bag. Let’s get them tested and see if there is anything harmful in them,” he insisted.

For a time, my brain could not process it. Even Nina seemed a little confused.

Then it hit me, and I realized he was not wrong. The way she had been insisting the kids take this candy felt- odd.

However, there was still a problem.

“Well, we cannot get it tested here, you know. With everything going on and all the people working for the alphas, if we go ahead and give anything for testing, they will inform the alphas. This is how it works. The hospital doctors reach out to the alphas and let them know what is going on,” I explained to him, outlining the rules of the werewolf world.

Sawyer started to smile, almost chuckling.

For some reason, my eyes moved to Nina, and I noticed how she looked at him with dreamy eyes.

“Well, I will be testing them in the human world. Don’t worry,” he said, his smile completely fading away.

“Now, let’s bring them for dinner. I am intrigued to know what your stepsister is hiding,” Sawyer commented, making the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

Then, without explaining anything else, he simply walked out of the kitchen.

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

110

110—Cooking A Plan

Yuvonne:

Once I was on the road, I made sure to walk briskly so Baxter stayed behind **me**, and more importantly, so he couldn’t see my expressions.

“Just make sure you don’t have any commitments. We’ll be dining with them,” I told Baxter, hurrying straight to the second floor and avoiding Kaylee and Graham downstairs.

I needed to notify my mother first.

The moment I entered my bedroom, I locked the door and called her.

“So, did you make the kids eat the chocolates?” my mother asked excitedly.

“Not really. I mean, I left the tray out. And you know, they’re kids. They’ll eat eventually.” I sat down on the bed, exhausted and annoyed by the way Madeline got to act around me now.

“Why didn’t they eat it already?” my mother wondered.

“Because Madeline has to prove she’s someone important, that the kids belong to her, and that she gets to control their lives,” I grunted in frustration.

“Well, it’s alright. You said you left the tray there. Once the kids see the chocolates, they won’t be able to resist. She’ll have to give them one eventually. One is all it’ll take,” my mother remarked, and I nodded.

“Anyway, I’m heading over there for dinner. I insisted on preparing it myself and thought about making dishes just for the kids, in case they don’t eat the chocolate. But Madeline said she’ll be cooking tonight,” I explained what had happened at the mansion and how the plan hadn’t gone as expected for now.

“Hmm. It’s fine. Don’t worry, they’ll eat them. But remember, there are more things you need to do, otherwise, we’ll fail miserably,” my mother murmured, and I nodded again, running a hand through my hair.

“I’ll

go

downstairs to see what Baxter’s friends are talking to him about. They’re also a big problem. They seem to care too much about Madeline,” I muttered, recalling how Graham had charged at me in the café just to please her.

“Okay. Don’t lose your temper, and best of luck,” my mother told me.

I ended the call and went to eavesdrop on their conversation.

When I looked down from the stairs, I noticed that Kaylee had left for her room.

This time, it was the three of them sitting together, talking about Madeline and Sawyer.

“He seems odd to me,” Graham continued.

It was hard to eavesdrop from that far **away**, but since no one else was around and there wasn't much noise, it was still easy to hear them.

“I don't know. I can't put my finger on it, but he's definitely a little weird,” Baxter agreed.

Of course, they were openly talking about him because they knew that even if anyone from this guest mansion overheard them, they would not betray them by telling Sawyer what they thought of him.

Elgin and Graham sat at the dining table while Baxter stood behind one of the empty chairs, his hands gripping the backrests of two, his body leaning forward and his fingers tapping against the wood.

1/3

10-Cooking A Plan

+25 Bonus

“Well, you guys will be surprised to know that I caught him cheating on her,” Elgin continued and what he said sent a chill down my spine.

My curiosity sharpened as I watched the way Baxter and Graham exchanged a quick look before turning back to Elgin.

Baxter even pulled out a chair and sat down to give him his full attention.

“**Say** it again?” Baxter pressed.

“Remember the other night when we were on the road?” Elgin said to him and Baxter started nodding.

“Yeah, yeah, yeah, there was some talk about you thinking he was inside but that was cleared up, right?” he replied, leaning back slightly, sounding defeated.

And I wondered, did he want Sawyer to cheat on her? Why?

“Because if that happened, Madeline would be single again, and single women always drew more interest than married ones.”

My wolf stirred at the thought, uneasy about why Baxter seemed to want her to be betrayed so badly.

It soured my mood for a moment, but I stayed focused, needing to hear the rest and understand how they knew Sawyer was cheating.

“Yeah, because I am pretty sure he came out through the backdoor. Or maybe I’m not sure, okay? I just know what I saw. Madeline wasn’t in the house at that time, and he was with someone else,” Elgin said tiredly.

“But then, why did Madeline lie for him? That doesn’t make sense,” Graham retorted.

Elgin shrugged, showing his confusion.

“That is so odd. What are we going to do now? I want to know what he’s up to,” Elgin insisted.

“So I checked his schedule. He asked for a boat. He plans to go back to the human land for some time.”

As soon as Baxter said that, my muscles stiffened.

There was a problem with his plan. If he left, Madeline would once again be alone and vulnerable to cheating with any of these three.

I didn’t care about Elgin and Graham, but it would be a huge issue if she tried to take Baxter from me.

And then, if Sawyer stayed here, that would be another mess, because I wouldn’t be able to do what my mother wanted me to do.

Sawyer seemed skeptical of me and not a very welcoming man

“Who’s there?”

However, I had been so lost **in** thought that I hadn’t realized Baxter had arrived.

I noticed him walking towards the stairs and I panicked.

As soon as he reached the top, his eyes widened when **he** saw me sitting on the stairs.

Our eyes met, and **in** that brief moment, my entire relationship with him flashed before my eyes.

“What are you doing sitting here?”

2/3

no-Cooking A Pron

+25 Bonus

Elgin appeared behind him, and so did Graham.

Now all three were looking at me, so I swallowed hard and made up a lie.

“I sprained my ankle,” I uttered, rubbing it and forcing tears into my eyes.

Thankfully, it seemed to work.

Even **if** the others suspected something, there was no way Baxter would suspect that I could be cunning enough to eavesdrop on his conversations.

Ruby Walker

Ruby Walker is a rising voice in the world of romance and spicy fiction. With a gift for weaving deep emotions, sizzling chemistry, and unexpected twists, her stories are a blend of passion and drama that captivate readers from start to finish. Ruby’s writing style is bold and irresistible—perfect for those who crave intense, addictive love stories.