

Accidentally Pregnant By My Alpha Best friends

We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax 171

171-My Husband's Nudes

Madeline:

After I was asked to identify the guard, and I confirmed it was Justin, I was taken back to the house.

The silence in the car felt heavy. Lord Eldon did not speak, and Baxter did not say a word either, but I could tell things were not going to end well for me.

Once I was inside, I told Elgin what had happened.

My kids were probably realizing how anxious I was. I tried to spend time with them, trying to distract myself until the others arrived.

The warriors returned with the three council leaders again.

This time Baxter and my sister were with them.

She clung to Baxter, looking timid, likely because the entire incident had been traumatizing for her. We all settled in the living room.

The kids were already in bed. It was quite late.

"We checked his phone, Madeline Sawyer," Lady Abigail began.

The three leaders sat together on one couch while I sat on another with Elgin beside me.

Baxter and Yuvonne were seated on another couch. Warriors stood around us.

"Okay, did you find anything?" I asked.

I could already sense a problem from the way they were all watching me.

“The last conversation he had was with you, Madeline,” Lord Eldon told me.

A chill ran up my spine. That was when I remembered something.

“Oh, yes, I should have told you. Actually, I did ask him to come meet me alone. I had some job for him.” As I said it aloud, it sounded wrong.

They exchanged glances while Elgin and Baxter stared at each other.

“I am sorry, it just came out wrong. The job I had for him was to help me get in contact with Sawyer because I could not reach him through my phone,” I explained.

Because I was lying, it did not sound convincing.

What I truly wanted was to ask Justin which guard had been in contact with Sawyer, giving him information before.

I had even spoken about it to Nina, telling her that a guard knew something.

I assumed Justin would know because I thought he was close to Sawyer.

In my head, I expected him to come and admit it was him: But it was too late now.

The way they watched me already showed they had their own thoughts.

“Really? But you **can** contact your husband through emails. Your emails were unblocked,” Lord Eldon countered,

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171 My Husband’s Nudes

+25 Bonus

and I shifted **on** my couch.

“I do, but there was a guard who was giving Sawyer misinformation about everything happening here, so I wanted to know who it was,” I replied, trying a more open approach and slipping in a bit of truth.

“So you can communicate with your husband via emails?” Lady Abigail asked, and I nodded.

“Yeah, I do, but I told you-,” was in the middle **of** speaking when she hushed me.

“Then we would like to see your laptop for further investigation,” she stated.

As soon as she said that, a bubble formed in my stomach.

“I am sorry, what did you say?” I asked her.

“We just want to go through the emails to see if there has been any mention of any tasks given to Justin,” she explained and I frowned at her.

“What are you trying to suggest? That either my husband or I wanted my sister dead?”

I was blunt because I was terrified of them reading my emails.

That one email with the suggestive pictures of Sawyer and Nina.

If those pictures were exposed, it would cause a major controversy. It would invade their privacy too.

“The man who worked for you tried to kill your sister. There was a last text conversation with you where you mentioned giving him a job. We would like to hold your computer, go through the emails between you and your husband, and see if there has been any connection between Justin and you through emails as well,” Lord Eldon said sternly, making it clear there was no room to refuse.

I looked at their faces one by one. My body began to tremble.

“Give it to them. Just clear your name,” Elgin told me, unaware that I was not afraid of being accused of planning a murder but of other secrets involving my marriage with Sawyer.

“There are personal conversations between a husband and wife,” I tried to explain.

Lady Abigail scoffed.

“Then I will be the only one reading them. It is not like you have never done anything controversial before.”

As soon as she said that, I snapped my head toward her.

She was referring to the fact that I had a foursome.

“Oh yes, I do not think Madeline is very afraid of people watching her or reading her private conversations with her husband,” Lord Eldon remarked, making my fists clench.

“Fine, I will bring my laptop,” I said as I stood up. My feet felt cold as I stepped away.

I went toward my room, and the moment I entered, I placed a hand on my forehead.

A warrior arrived, informing me that they would not allow me to have any alone time with the laptop.

I picked up my laptop and stepped out, feeling all kinds of pain.

They would definitely keep those pictures. In the human world, things like that were taken very seriously.

2/3

Not only that, everything would fall apart, and I would be angry at myself for not taking care of the pictures.

I handed the laptop to Abigail and turned around, covering my face with my hands as I heard her open it and the others lean in.

There was no privacy. Then I heard her grunt and gasp, and I knew they had seen the pictures. 1

Ruby Walker

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

172

172—I Am Hacked

Madeline:

I was standing with my back to them, ready for them to tell me they had found something inappropriate.

When I heard them gasp, I turned around to look at them.

The three stared at me, and I wondered why that was.

I reached behind the couch to lean down and check what they were looking at.

I noticed they were actually staring at a new email I had received.

There was no name on it, only numbers, and the subject said it was about the sickness.

I felt confused, but I leaned back, anxiously rubbing my palms, knowing they would now check my emails with suspicion.

“We should open this email. Maybe it is a disguised one,” Lord Eldon remarked as he quickly checked it.

There was a link inside, and the body said to check the link because there were pictures about the sickness and the secret behind where it was spreading from.

I stared at the screen, tense, but then Lord Eldon decided to click the link as well.

I knew I could not tell them not to do it. They were far too curious.

Lord Eldon was certain I was the one behind the attack on Yuvonne.

He wanted to know what kind of emails I was getting, so he clicked on it, acting as if it might reveal something about the attack, only disguised as something related to the sickness.

However, I knew I had not done anything wrong. I was only afraid of the nudes and my conversation with Sawyer.

Apart from that, everything was fine for me. So I did not stop him when he clicked the link.

The minute he did, the entire laptop went black.

At this point, Baxter and Yuvonne were just watching us, while Elgin did not care and stayed busy on his cell phone.

Then a gasp erupted and he lifted his head, looking at us.

“What did you do?” Lady Abigail scolded as Elgin stretched his hands back.

I leaned down and snatched my laptop out of their hands, trying to turn it on.

“What is going on?” Elgin voiced from the couch.

I stepped over to him and sat down.

“Look, there was an email with a link. Lord Eldon pressed it and then my laptop went blank.” I showed it to Elgin, who tried a few buttons and then grunted.

“That has to be a virus that Lord Eldon clicked on.” As soon as Elgin stated this, everybody turned to look at him, and he started to gulp anxiously.

“How was I supposed to know?” he complained.

1/2

172-1 AM Frocked

+25 Bonus

“Don’t you know you are not supposed to touch someone else’s computer? We were only going to check her emails with Sawyer,” Lady Abigail yelled.

The old lady had far more strength than she looked.

Even Lord William did not look pleased with the outcome.

Everyone was upset with Lord Eldon, and this was the first time I had seen him look so guilty.

“I don’t think we will find anything in the emails anyway,” he explained, making everyone roll their eyes at him.

“But my email could be hacked too. I have important emails here,” I hissed at Lord Eldon. “And I have a huge file saved in my documents about the sickness. I have done research and there is no backup.” I hissed again, slamming my laptop shut and putting it aside as I stood to face Lord Eldon.

“I mean, I am an old man. I do not know much about technology. How was I supposed to know that just by clicking a link the entire thing would shut down?” he complained, avoiding our eyes and anxiously rubbing his palms.

“Anyway, I will leave.” He stood after he had damaged everything for me.

He had saved me from embarrassment, but the rest of the work was gone,

Elgin grabbed my laptop, trying to do something.

“It says some kind of password. I guess it is hacked. Do not worry. I will get it repaired, but everything will be gone,” Elgin replied, and I slammed my forehead.

“We are really sorry. We did not want to cause trouble,” Lady Abigail said as she got up from the couch.

Now that they realized they had jeopardized an entire research project about the sickness they had brought me here for, they all looked guilty.

“You should have done things professionally. You cannot just march in and demand someone read their private emails to you. This is the job of gamma warriors!” I started to yell at them.

Now that I knew they had not seen my emails, my confidence returned, and I was able to scold them.

“It is okay. You will try to get your email back. We will also help you,” Lord William told me, sounding guilty.

He was the only one I could not bring myself to yell at. He was not a bad man.

“Anyway, we hope you can retrieve the emails. We will try to contact your husband about Justin,” Lady Abigail murmured as she rose from the couch and started to leave.

One by one, everybody left.

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173

173—My Second Husband Is Also Protective **Of** Me

Madeline:

“What do you think, Baxter? Do you seriously think Madeline has anything to do with this case?” I did not expect Elgin to ask Baxter or involve him in the conversation, but now that he had, I wanted to know what Baxter thought.

“I do not think so.” As soon as Baxter said that, I watched my sister snap her head toward him.

“Then why would your guard want to kill me? What have I ever done to him?” Yuvonne spoke up before Baxter could say anything.

“I have no idea, Yuvonne. I am shocked myself,” I replied.

I was not trying to be rude to her because I knew what had happened to her was wrong.

“Then can you text your husband and ask him what is going on? He must know something. There is no way his guard would attack me for no reason.”

As soon as she said that, I remembered something.

He had taken the chocolates with him, saying he would test them to see if Yuvonne was up to something.

What if he found out she had poisoned the chocolates or something and decided to take revenge on her?

Knowing Sawyer, he could do something reckless like that.

“I will speak with him, but I am pretty sure Sawyer has nothing to do with it,” I stated, trying to swallow the fear of finding out he actually had done something.

I would not be angry at Sawyer if he acted because she had tried to poison my children. I would be angry at her.

However, sending a man to kill her that way was the part I had a problem with.

He should let me know so I could tell Baxter and the others what she had tried to do to my kids.

“And please do not worry, I will let you know whatever my husband tells me.” I was still being somewhat kind to her after all the times she had been rude to me.

I watched Elgin and Baxter look at Yuvonne and then at me.

However, I could tell Yuvonne was bitter and that she was not going to stay around for long.

She already hated me, so if one of my guards had tried to kill her, she must hate me even more now.

Yuvonne got up, looked at me, and then said nothing before she stormed out.

When she neared the door, she turned to Baxter.

“You are not coming with me?” she asked, already showing authority.

I guessed that because of her trauma, Baxter simply stood and strolled toward her.

“Elgin, take care of the laptop. Try to restore her stuff, okay? Do not let her worry too much,” Baxter told Elgin.

His eyes briefly landed on me, and he gave me a quick nod, a silent goodbye, before he followed her.

Once the two had gone out, I locked the door and stepped to the couch, sitting down and staring at the screen with the large letters, password needed.

1/2

173-My Second Husband Is Also Protective Of Me

+25 Bonus

“What am I going to do with it now?” I complained, almost on the verge of tears over losing all the progress.

However, Elgin suddenly chuckled. He leaned forward, typed something **on** the screen, and the computer came back on.

My head snapped toward him as I stared in shock.

“You are looking at someone who is very good at playing games when it comes to computers, mobiles, and any electronic device,” Elgin stated, showing me his phone.

The email address we received was actually his. I was completely shocked.

“But why did you do that?” I asked, stuttering as I checked my laptop, and sure enough, there was no virus

anymore. 1

“I noticed how anxious you looked, and I realized there was something you did not want to share with anyone. So I sent that email, and I knew Lord Elgin would fall for it. I set the password and the timer, and now you have your laptop back. Make sure you delete the emails you do not want anyone to read,” he replied, making me stare at him with so much admiration.

I had no idea, but it helped me today.

“Elgin...” I tried to speak, but he leaned closer and placed his finger on my lips.

“No need to thank me. This is what a good husband does,” he remarked, then winked at me, making me roll my eyes and gently push him away.

“Oh my God, I was so scared,” I sighed happily, grabbing my laptop and rushing to Sawyer’s emails to delete everything.

“By the way,” I said as I got up from the couch, one arm under my laptop while I typed and deleted the sketchy emails with the other, “do your parents know you are marrying me?” I asked, my eyes on the screen.

“No,” he replied, his head resting back on the backrest.

My eyes snapped up at him.

“Elgin, I do not want people yelling at me for marrying you,” I complained, annoyed at how relaxed he was.

He acted as if it was not a big deal.

“Why do you worry about it? Madeline, I will take care of everything,” he answered casually.

☐

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174

Madeline:

Flashback:

“I know you are hiding in there. Come on, come out. Do you not want to eat lunch with us?” I heard Silver’s voice from outside my bathroom stall.

I sat on the ground, hugging my lunchbox tightly. I knew what would happen.

She would steal my lunch, make fun of it, and throw it in my hair. That was her ritual.

I was only fifteen. She was too, but I never understood how someone could be **so** cruel.

The school staff did not care. She was an alpha’s daughter.

They took too much pride in her studying at our school and blessing us with her presence.

“Madeline. Mad Madeline.” She called me again.

This was not the first time she had used names like that.

She had many insults, but Mad Madeline was the one everyone knew.

“If you do not come out in five seconds, I will open the door and drag you out. I swear I will cut all your hair and leave you bald.” The minute she said that, I hugged my lunchbox even tighter as panic spread through me.

If I came out, she would make fun of me, throw food on me, and leave me starving. But if I did not, I would anger her.

Before I could get up from the ground and reach for the door, there was a loud thud against the bathroom door.

Someone had barged into the female bathroom, and the voices sounded like boys.

“Hey, you are not allowed in the girls bathroom,” one of Silver’s friends yelled.

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Then she screamed and went silent. I began to wonder what was going on.

“Silver, that will be enough. Leave her alone,” Elgin yelled. I froze.

He had come into the girls bathroom to save me.

I opened the bathroom door and stepped out, rushing toward Elgin.

Silver stood in front of him with her arms crossed, looking annoyed.

“Are you kidding me?” Silver complained. Graham held me by my arms and pulled me to his side, and his friends stood around me to cover me.

All the boys had come to support me. That always angered the girls.

They hated that the alpha boys protected me.

That was why Silver chose to bully me in the bathroom.

She thought he would never come here.

But the way he rushed in showed how urgently he wanted to help me.

1/3

174-Friendships Trastes Good

+25 Bonus

“Do you have no shame left in you, Silver? Seriously? You are going to pick on her in the bathroom? Why? Do **you** have nothing better to do?” Elgin grunted at her.

I noticed that Silver did not carry the same arrogance she used with me.

She was afraid of him.

“I was just playing with her. Come on, do **not** be rude. We are both related to alphas,” she whispered, trying to reach for his hand.

He glared at her, and she pulled back.

She always looked at him with a certain desire, and I knew she had a crush on him.

When Elgin held my hand, I watched the frown on her forehead grow deeper.

“Come on, let us eat lunch,” he said, holding my hand.

He was one year older than me, popular, and well liked.

Sitting with him at lunch would draw attention.

“Are you sure you are going to eat lunch with someone like her?” Silver questioned, sounding irritated.

“Yeah. I feel more peaceful when I am with her than when you are around me,” he replied.

Silver gasped, and her jaw hung low.

He pulled me away from the bathroom, and I followed him down the hall while Silver and the other girls stared at

1. us.

Flashback:

As soon as Elgin poured me another drink, I snapped out of my thoughts.

“Yeah, I remember that day as well,” he said, mentioning the little memory we had just shared about the day he came into the bathroom to stand up for me.

I guessed the day had been so tiring that a drink was what we needed.

I let out a deep breath and leaned back on the couch while he sat next to me.

“It has been a long time since we sat like this,” he remarked, tapping his glass against mine to cheers.

“Yeah, I almost forgot how easy it was to talk to you,” I replied.

Then he snapped his fingers as if something came to his mind.

“What?” I asked him.

He sat up and put his glass down.

“There is something we should do,” he told me.

As soon as he said that, I raised my eyebrow, wondering what he wanted to do with such urgency that he stood up so quickly.

He rushed out of the house, saying he wanted to grab something for us.

2/3

174 Friendship Tastes Good

I began to wonder what it was.

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175

[910 words]

175-The New Orders

Madeline:

He had come back with a board game box. We had been playing for the past few minutes, and I realized he had not changed at all when it came to being naughty.

“I forgot how much fun this used to be,” Elgin stated excitedly.

“Yeah, I remember you used to cheat in this,” I replied.

As soon as I said that, he frowned playfully.

“I never cheated,” he insisted.

He said it with such confidence that I rolled my eyes at him. We both reached for the small wooden tokens.

I picked the blue one, while he picked the red one and placed it at the starting point.

Then he shuffled the card deck with a little too much enthusiasm.

A few cards slipped under his palm. His hand covered them longer than needed, and I narrowed my eyes at him.

He placed the deck down, but the top card was tilted slightly, as if he had pulled it forward on purpose.

I watched his hand drift toward the card with slow movements.

He was trying to be sneaky. Before he could slide the top one up with his thumb, I grabbed his wrist, giving him a firm clap.

“Elgin, you are cheating again,” I told him in a scolding tone.

“No, my hand accidentally did it,” he replied.

It was an excuse he did not even try to improve. That was how he always behaved.

I let go of him, and he picked up the dice instead.

He shook them in his hand but angled his palm in a way that hid the numbers from me.

When he dropped them, they rolled only half a space before stopping.

“Elgin, this did not even roll,” I said sternly, my lips puckering.

I was starting to get annoyed with him.

“It rolled enough, okay,” he said, as he moved his red piece forward four places.

Then his finger pushed the piece one extra space as he tried to adjust it.

“Elgin, come on, not every second,” I complained, pointing out that he could not help but cheat.

“What?” he replied, but this time he could not hide that he was actually irritating me.

We kept playing for a little more time, and he continued to try cheating, and I continued to catch him.

He tried to switch his cards with mine, even once when I was not looking.

Each time I caught him, and each time he laughed.

1/3

*75 Boys

By the end, we both realized it was not just about the game or who would win.

It was the fact that we were having fun, and everything felt lighter,

For the first time in a long while, I felt like a teen again, reliving the days I never got to enjoy.

By then we were tired, and it was time to head to bed.

I had placed new sheets for him in what used to be Nina's room.

Once he was tucked in, I left for my room. I took a shower and then lay under the covers.

I was tired and had a little too many drinks. When I lay down, I fell asleep instantly,

Weirdly enough, I woke up without any headache.

Usually when I drank and woke up the next day, I had excruciating pain.

But I guessed that because it had been such a pleasant night, I slept like a baby,

I changed into black pants and a grey off-shoulder shirt, leaving my hair loose after blow-drying it.

I applied red lipstick, and when I came out, I realized everybody was still sleeping

Before I could go into the room to wake the children, there was a hard knock on the door.

It sounded too urgent, so I decided to check the door first.

When I opened the door, the wind entered first, before I even registered who was standing in front of me.

Two warriors were on the front porch, waiting for me to answer.

The minute I did, they greeted me with a nod and stepped closer.

They wore the special uniforms used by the council warriors, so I already had a feeling something serious was going on.

There were SUVs parked outside as well. I began to wonder if they were here to arrest me.

I remembered the last time they came, which was last night, and it had been about Justin.

What if they had found something else and were blaming me for it?

All these thoughts rushed through my head so fast that I could not greet them back.

One of the warriors said my name.

“Madeline Sawyer?” he asked.

I snapped out of it and nodded.

“Hello. How may I help you?” I asked, steadying my breath.

I still had not contacted Sawyer, so I did not know if he had ordered Justin to do what he did, or if Justin acted on his own.

“This is for you from the council,” the warrior said. Instead of handcuffing me, he handed me a file.

2/3

170-He is facing Mic Kids Behind

+25 Bonus

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176-He Is Leaving His Kids **Behind**

Madeline:

I reached for it and stared at the fresh council seal on top.

I stepped backward into the living room and opened the file.

The warriors stayed at the doorway while I pulled the papers out.

The first page shook in my grip. My stomach dropped.

It was an order stating that every human guard I had brought from the human land was being sent back and was not allowed to return.

I swallowed hard, because it meant a lot more than it looked.

I went through the pages. It was a new deal.

As a werewolf and part of this pack, I was supposed to help with the cure for the children, and in return they would give me a large amount of money.

But all the other conditions I had set about the kids, the human guards, Nína, and even my husband, had been

revoked.

A heavy feeling settled inside me.

First my husband left, then Nina left, and now all the humans around me were being removed.

I knew I was no longer a human, but this journey had been meant to be temporary. Now it felt like a cage.

I had been staring at the papers so hard that I did not notice someone else had come out of his room.

“Morning,” Elgin greeted.

I snapped my head up, and from the way he looked at me, I could tell he sensed something was wrong.

His hair was wet, and droplets were still sliding down his face as he ran his fingers through his hair.

He wore blue jeans and a white shirt.

The fabric stretched slightly over his muscular biceps and chest, and some droplets had landed on the shirt, so parts of his abs were faintly visible.

He stopped when he noticed the way I was hesitating to speak.

“What is it?” he asked, picking up his pace toward me.

“They are sending everyone back, every human that came with me,” I said in a shaky tone. “Elgin, it feels like they are ripping away every person I knew in the last five years.”

I sounded like I was about to cry, and Elgin noticed.

He frowned and took the file from me.

For a moment his fingers brushed against mine, and even though he had just taken a shower, his fingers were warmer than

my

cold hands.

I stood still, shocked by what I was learning.

1/3

176-18 bleiving His Kids Behind

+25 Bonus

He checked the papers quickly before clenching his jaw.

The warriors must have noticed the **shift** in his expression. He snapped his head toward them and glared.

“Your highness, it is the order from the council. We have nothing to do with it,” the warrior explained before Elgin could question him.

Elgin handed the file back to me and adjusted his pants.

“Madeline, get the kids ready. We will go and speak with the council ourselves,” he advised.

I nodded and hurried toward the children’s room. They were still sleeping.

The curtains were drawn, and I knew I should not wake them up so suddenly, but it was important.

“Come on, Gina, Elara, Bodhi, wake up, baby,” I said gently, keeping my voice steady. “We need to get ready and **go** somewhere.”

I opened the curtains, and light filled the room. Bodhi sat up first, rubbing his eyes with both fists.

“Are we going to the playground or a park?” he asked in a sleepy voice.

“We have something urgent to take care of first,” I answered while pulling the blanket off his legs.

Elara sat up next, her hair sticking out in several directions, her lips pouty.

“What urgent thing? Is it somebody’s wedding again?” she asked in her small voice.

“No, it is mommy’s work,” I replied, lifting Gina into my arms because she was still half asleep.

She rested her cheek on my shoulder right away.

I guided them to the bathroom, steadying Bodhi when he stumbled.

“Brush your teeth and wash your face quickly,” I instructed while taking out their small toothbrushes and squeezing toothpaste on each one.

“I am going to prepare the breakfast, and then we will leave,” Elgin said as he walked in, letting me know what he was doing.

“You know, Elgin, we should not waste time. How about we take the breakfast with us? They can eat it in the car,” I suggested while helping the kids wash up.

He nodded and walked out.

I quickly pulled out their new clothes and helped them change before guiding them out of the room.

The warriors were still outside, probably wondering why we were taking so long.

“Come on, everyone,” I told the kids as Elgin and I rushed out of the house.

“**You** can leave. We are headed to the council ourselves,” Elgin said to the warriors.

Since he was an alpha, they did not argue, which was pretty obvious.

As we stepped into Elgin’s car, I saw Silver come out with Hailey and Hannah.

They looked like they were rushing toward us. I opened my mouth to speak.

2/3

176–He is teaving His Kids Behind

+25 Bonus

“I think your kids want to...” I started, but Elgin raised his hand to stop me.

“I let Silver know we are in a hurry,” he said.

When he started the car, I noticed the way his kids’ lips dropped.

A little guilt settled in my chest for taking him away, but he was stubborn. He would not stop even if I asked him

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177

177–What About My Husband?

Madeline:

Throughout the car ride, my kids kept trying to ask me where they would go once they returned home, because they wanted to play with their toys and everything else.

During all this, I was extremely anxious. I felt as if I was losing my connection to the human community.

I did not know why, but it felt wrong, as if something was not right, and that I should be able to go back.

Then I wondered why. My husband is openly cheating on me.

What is left for me?

What is left for me in the human world?

Soon my kids will grow up and start transitioning. Then what?

I will transition, then what?

But my heart kept saying that I needed to go back.

There was some unresolved work left in the human world.

Once we arrived at the council, I stepped out of the car and told Elgin to stay with the kids.

They were quite hyperactive that day. I grabbed the papers and hurried into the council building.

The minute I entered, I was asked where I wanted to go, and I told them to take me to the leaders' office.

They brought me to the office shared by the three leaders.

When I was let in, I saw Lady Abigail and Lord William straighten their postures as they looked at me, while Lord Eldon kept his head buried in some files.

"I need to speak with you about these new orders," I told them.

As soon as I said it, Lord Eldon lifted his head and rolled his eyes, as if he had not known I had come in. What a liar.

I knew there was no way he had not noticed my arrival.

"What about it?" Lord Eldon remarked.

"What is this? Why are all the guards I feel comfortable with being sent back?" I argued, hoping they would understand that they could not strip me of all my rights here.

"You want us to keep the human guard here, even after knowing very well what one of your guards has done?" Lord Eldon hissed at me.

I tightened my grip on the file I was holding, trying to steady my breaths before I argued with them.

"Not all are the same," I told Lord Eldon, quickly giving a glance at Lord William and Lady Abigail.

However, Lord Eldon shook his head.

"We cannot take a risk. If there was no motive behind the attack, then it seems like a hate crime. And we know how humans have hated werewolves and how werewolves cannot

stand the sight of humans. It is only recently that they tried to resolve matters,” he remarked, clicking his tongue.

1/2

177-What About My Husband

+25 Bonus

I opened my mouth to argue, but he continued before I could.

“And why would you need a human guard in a werewolf community? A human cannot fight if a werewolf breaks into your home. If anything, humans will need a werewolf to protect them. If you need guards, you can ask the fathers of your children for warriors. You have three of them.” He spoke while staring directly at me.

The message was clear. He wanted to remind me that a human could not keep me safe.

I felt the tension rise in my shoulders.

“This is unfair,” I said. “Once Nina returns, she will come back with the guards, of course,” I replied, reminding them that she would be much more comfortable around human guards than werewolf warriors.

However, Lady Abigail placed her glasses down with a little more force, almost as if she wanted me to notice something.

“Nina, that human nanny? No, she is not returning,” she snapped at me, her voice sharp, as if she found it ridiculous that I still thought Nina would come here to care for Alpha’s children. “You can have a werewolf nanny here. There are many.”

My mouth parted in shock. One by one, they were separating everyone from me.

Everyone I had known in the past few years.

“What about my husband? Is he not allowed either?” This time, I could not keep my voice steady, and Lord Eldon watched my body language closely.

The guards filled the room, and after observing my reaction, Lord Eldon exchanged a glance with the others.

The three of them leaned in and whispered, planning something.

Then Lady Abigail was the one given the chance to respond to me.

“He can come,” she stated, and before I could feel even a little relief, she added, “but he will have to register a request first. We will think about it, and when he comes here, he will not bring any of his guards.”

As soon as she finished, my stomach dropped.

The thought of Sawyer arriving here without any protection felt wrong. It felt dangerous.

Ruby Walker

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

178

178—Everyone Is In Danger

Madeline:

“Is there anything else you want to talk about?” Lady Abigail asked me, almost ready to dismiss **me**.

I did not say a word and turned around to leave.

I had not gotten through with any of my demands, so there was no point in acting as if the meeting had ended well.

The meeting had not led me anywhere.

I pushed the council office door open with force. It swung wide, and the sound echoed through the hallway.

Other council members seated at their desks, working on more rules, looked up at me.

A few even paused with the papers in their hands.

Their eyes followed me as I moved past them quickly.

I could already imagine them thinking I was arrogant.

My pace was fast enough that the sound of my heels echoed in the corridor.

I reached the main entrance, pushed the glass door open, and stepped outside.

I paused for a few seconds to catch my breath, but the wind was so dusty that it swept across the ground and hit my face.

My eyes stung for a moment. I blinked hard while stepping down the stairs toward the road.

The SUV was parked on the other side.

As I headed there, I saw Elgin get out of the car. He must have seen me leave the council building looking upset.

“Madeline,” he called, hurrying across the road. Before I could start crossing, he had already reached me.

“What happened?” he asked. There was concern on his face, a genuine concern.

“They’re not listening to me, Elgin,” I complained, clearing my throat as it kept feeling itchy.

“They’re not even letting me have Nina back. And you know what they said? They said my husband will only return if they allow it, and without guards. They are making things difficult for him too.” My fists clenched as I spoke.

He looked back at me with a tense expression.

“You go sit in the car. I’ll go and speak with them. Let’s see if they will listen to me,” Elgin uttered, gently rubbing my elbow as he took the file from my hand.

I let out a shaky sigh and nodded.

He stepped back toward the building, so I turned with him for a moment, watching him move briskly toward the glass door.

Once he stepped inside, I turned around again and made my way to the SUV.

I felt defeated.

1/3

178-Everyone is in Danger

+25 Bonus

When I opened the back door to check on the children and let them know they had to wait a few more minutes before we headed home, and **to** promise them a playground or an indoor trip, I saw another problem waiting.

The moment I opened the door, I realized something was wrong.

Gina sat strapped in her seat, her lips trembling and her little fingers tangled together.

Bodhi sat beside her. His eyes were lowered, and his lips kept pulling down in a way that showed he wanted to cry.

“Where is Elara?” I asked at once, noticing her seat was empty.

Gina finally looked up at me, and her lips began to quiver.

“Elara said she would kill us if we made a noise,” she whispered. “She said she wanted to leave, so if we don’t want to die, we should let her go. So we did,” Gina explained.

My world started to shake around me. Everything felt like it was moving.

I had to hold on to the car door just to steady myself.

Bodhi nodded slowly, supporting Gina’s story.

I understood then that Elara must have slipped out while I was speaking to Elgin.

Just those brief moments with my back turned to the SUV, and she had escaped.

Panic rushed through me quickly because I remembered that in her sickness, she tried to hurt other children.

“Both of you stay inside. Do not leave the car for any reason, okay?” I spoke to Bodhi and Gina as I leaned into the car again, keeping my voice low and gentle because I could tell they were already worried.

When the two nodded, I pulled out my phone and began typing a text to Elgin with shaky hands.

Elgin: Come out. Elara is missing.

I hit send, not sure if he would see it.

I knew he was headed inside to argue with the council leaders, so he would probably be too busy to check his phone right away.

As I closed the car door and turned around, I almost gasped at the person standing behind me.

“Is Elara missing?” Lord Eldon asked, startling me.

How had he ended up behind me? Had he followed me? It was the last thing I wanted.

He was the last person I wanted to know that Elara had gone missing, but now he was here, and he could see through the car window that she was not inside.

“I’m pretty sure she is affected by the sickness,” I mumbled, swallowing hard. “Isn’t the sickness making her hurt other children? If she runs away, that means her lives are in danger.”

“And all that because of you. Because you could not control her or keep an eye on her,” Lord Eldon snapped at me, my jaw dropping even lower. I knew he would use this against me.

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

179

179–The Fingers Point At Me

Madeline:

“Excuse me, I’m trying my best. You all keep dragging me into unnecessary problems and arguments. I’m only one person. I have to take care of my children, you caused drama, and also the sickness,” I snapped at him, feeling blood rush through my veins.

“It seems like you use that excuse too often. Maybe you have too many priorities. Maybe you care too much about bringing humans here rather than caring for your own children,” he replied.

His words hit harder than I expected. My throat started to burn the moment I wanted to cuss at him.

I wanted to say all the wrong things I had learned in the human world, but I grunted softly and brushed past him, refusing to waste time arguing when I should be looking for my daughter.

I heard him come after me.

He was following close behind, probably waiting to find my daughter in a condition he could use against me to prove she was dangerous.

But I did not care. I would see for myself. My first priority was to find my daughter.

“Elara!” I called out, scanning every direction. “Elara, baby, where are you?” I shouted.

I reached a small row of shops and rushed into the nearest café, pushing the glass door open.

A few people inside looked up from their meals as I stepped closer to their tables, checking corners and peeking behind chairs.

There was no sign of her. Some people might have thought I had lost my mind.

I hurried back outside and checked the parking lot next to the building.

Lord Eldon followed after me the entire time.

He spoke to people, asking if they had seen a little girl and giving them Elara’s description.

I leaned between cars, bending down to look under them. The space beneath smelled like oil and dust.

“Elara!” I called out again, louder this time, until I started coughing.

When I stood up, anxiously rubbing my palms, I saw Lord Eldon point toward the street.

“There is a park nearby. Children go there all the time,” he uttered.

I began to follow his direction, running, pushing myself toward it.

The closer we got, the more anxious I became.

It felt like I was heading in the right direction but at the wrong time.

I could not explain the feeling, but it was there.

The park had swings, slides, outdoor activities for children, and some benches for parents.

I reached the park, and the leaves rustled under me as I stepped forward quickly.

Then my steps halted.

1/3

179- Tes Pst At M

+25 Bonus

A child **was** crying in the distance. I knew my daughter's **cry**, and this was not her.

But it was the child's words that caught my attention.

"She pushed me! She pushed me down the swing!" the little **boy** screamed at the **top of** his lungs.

A bad feeling hit me. Lord Eldon tried to move faster than me, but I knew I had to get there first.

I reached the clearing and saw a little boy on the ground near the swings.

It looked like he had fallen hard. I already knew who had pushed him.

Other children were scattered around the park, some at the slide, **some** on the grass, none close enough to witness anything except the boy himself.

I rushed to him and knelt down, pulling him up gently to check on him.

As I did, I cupped his face carefully and checked his arms, hands, and neck for injuries.

Thankfully, none were visible. I guessed he was shaken by whatever Elara had told him.

"Hey, hey, it's okay, okay?" I told him softly. "Tell me what happened. Who pushed you?" I asked, wiping the tears from his cheeks.

"There was a girl. She pushed me," he cried in hiccups, unable to form a full sentence.

I looked up and saw Lord Eldon staring at me.

His eyes were fixed on me, full of disappointment and judgment.

He said nothing, but the look alone made my stomach tighten.

Before the boy could say anything more, a woman rushed across the grass.

“This is my son. Is he okay?” she cried out, pulling him from my arms.

“He is shaken, but he is okay,” I said as I straightened and got back on my feet, rubbing my fingers together anxiously.

The woman started to hug her child, and thankfully she did not say much.

I guessed she thought it was just children playing and hurting each other.

Or maybe she believed her son had fallen on his own.

But I still needed to find Elara, so I began running again, searching for her.

This time, Lord Eldon stepped right into my path, blocking me.

I stopped before I could bump into him.

“Do you still want to argue that your child is safer than other children?” he asked, not letting go of a single chance to make things harder for me.

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

180

180—The Alphas Are Trying To Win My Heart

Madeline:

I raised my hand toward him in dismissal and rushed past him again.

We reached the small path that led back toward the road we had come from.

I checked both sides quickly. This road was farther from the one where my SUV was parked.

Cars were passing fast, kicking dust into the air.

My phone vibrated in my hand, and I checked the message from Elgin.

Elgin: Do not worry. I am with the kids. I am driving around, trying to look for you and also for Elara.

I did not have time to respond.

I shoved the phone into my pocket and stepped onto the road, watching the traffic carefully before crossing.

Lord Eldon crossed with me. He was still grunting and making comments.

“When she is found, they will put her in a council holding. She will have to be separated from the others and get therapy,” he grunted.

As we crossed, I stopped and turned to him.

“What did you just say?” I asked, keeping a warning in my tone, telling him to think twice before saying anything senseless about my daughter.

“You heard me. This time she will be put in a facility. She will not be with you, because you cannot keep an eye on her,” Lord Eldon hissed.

A voice came from behind us, startling both of us.

“Who are you two talking about?”

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We turned to look at the owner of the voice and found Graham standing there.”

And he was holding Elara.

She was licking a chocolate ice cream cone, her cheeks smudged with melted drips, and she looked completely

fine.

“Oh, you found her! She pushed a child! She tried to kill him!” Lord Eldon started to speak at once, directing his words to his son, but Graham stared at him with no idea what he was talking about.

“What are you saying? There is no way she did that. And what do you mean by, I found her?” Graham asked, holding two more cones in his hands.

“She was gone. I searched everywhere,” I said softly, stepping closer,

“I picked her from the car. She was talking about getting ice cream for herself and her siblings. So we got ice creams, see?” Graham replied, giving me a steady look while shifting Elara in his arms and glancing at his father.

Lord Eldon and I exchanged a glance before looking back at Graham.

“What?” Graham snapped, reacting to his father’s stare.

1/3

180 The Alphas Are Trying To Wins My Heat

+25 Bonus

A clear disappointment settled on Lord Eldon’s face.

“I’ll head back to my work,” Lord Eldon hissed. As he walked past me, he whispered slowly, “You cannot always get away like this.” Then he left without another word.

I exhaled slowly and looked at Graham. He glanced down at Elara, then at me, and began to smile.

“Thank you,” I said quietly. I felt more grateful than ever.

A strange silence settled between us for a moment.

I reached out and took Elara from his arms.

She clung to my shoulder, still holding her ice cream. The drops were running down her arm now.

“I saw her in the playground. She had pushed that kid down. But then I saw you and my father up there, so I grabbed her and ran away,” he explained, telling me how he had saved me from another embarrassment and saved my daughter from being taken away.

“Thank you, Graham. You have no idea what you have done,” I repeated, thanking him again.

Even though I had been angry with him, this one moment, where he saved my daughter, meant a lot.

“Of course. I would do anything to redeem myself,” he mumbled softly.

There was a heaviness in his tone.

I could tell he was guilty about the last few weeks’ events, but there was nothing that could be done anymore.

The damage had been done.

That was when a car, an SUV, pulled up beside us.

The door opened, and Elgin stepped out quickly, rushing toward us.

As soon as he saw Elara, he placed his hand on his chest and sighed in relief.

“Little kid, you scared your mother so much,” Elgin told Elara, smiling at her and taking her from my arms.

Graham leaned into the car to give Bodhi and Gina the ice cream cones,

Their faces lit up immediately.

Elara hid her face in Elgin’s shoulder because she knew she was in trouble.

He rubbed her back, kissed her forehead gently, and carried her toward the SUV.

After he strapped her in and made sure she was safe, he stepped back out to speak with us.

“Actually, I was researching something. I found there may be a way to help Elara with her condition,” Graham began.

The moment he saw Elgin interacting with me and my children like a family, he brought up something that pulled my attention to him.

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