

Accidentally Pregnant By My Alpha Best friends

We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax 181

181-A Day With My Soon-To-Be-Husband

Madeline:

“What do you mean?” I asked in a hopeful tone.

Elgin seemed to notice, because he placed his hands on his waist.

Instead of letting me question Graham, he spoke first.

“That is great, but what about the issue you have caused?”

The shift in topic was sudden.

“What issue?” Graham frowned.

“The fact that you started all this mess. Now Madeline cannot go back home because she has a wolf, but all the other humans around her have been sent back,” Elgin complained, crossing his arms and taking control of the

moment.

“Oh, right, you were supposed to speak with the council. What did they say?” I asked Elgin, remembering at once.

The look on his face told me the news was not good.

“They did not agree. Madeline, I’m really sorry.”

As soon as he said that, both mine and Elgin’s eyes shifted toward Graham, and guilt washed over his face.

Anyway, I forced myself not to remember all the chaos Graham had caused and tried to focus on getting help for my daughter first.

I noticed the way Graham and Elgin kept looking at each other.

There seemed to be a lot of animosity and competition in their eyes.

I wanted to stay focused on what I needed to do for my daughter.

“How can we help Elara?” I asked Graham, turning my attention back to Elara.

Her condition was getting worse. And since all eyes were on me now, I felt afraid.

One mistake from her and I would be held responsible, and she would be taken away from me.

The fact that they had called me here and I was helping their children, yet they were not giving my children any understanding for being sick, rubbed me in such a wrong way.

Werewolves were still the meanest, just like I remembered them.

The other reports I kept getting from mothers, complaining about their children acting hostile toward the others, only made it worse.

But somehow Elara was the one who needed therapy, and her sickness was treated as if it had nothing to do with the illness.

It was mind-boggling to me.

“How about we go home and I will let you know the details of it?” Graham remarked, gesturing toward the passersby and hinting that we were still close to the council building.

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101 A Day With My Sat Te Hustsorrid

+25 Bonus

“Sure,” I replied.

“What about the promise we made to the kids?” Elgin snapped, and I turned my head toward him.

“Remember what they said? They want to go Indoors and have a dine out today,” he reminded me, and I tapped my forehead.

“Thank you so much, Elgin, **for** reminding me. My kids would have eaten me alive if I had forgotten,” I told him with a small smile.

“Then let’s plan the day according to their wishes today,” I told Elgin in a calm and cheerful tone.

It sounded almost like how a couple would speak.

I did not even notice it until I looked back at Graham and found him staring at me, looking upset.

“Sorry, Graham, but can you come tomorrow? We will talk about it tomorrow and discuss how we can get help for Elana,” I told Graham, who barely nodded before stepping back as Elgin and I started to get in **the car**.

Even when Elgin drove off, I noticed Graham standing on the side of the road, watching us leave.

“I bet he’s regretting his actions,” Elgin remarked, scoffing as he commented on his friend’s empty eyes.

“I don’t care,” I replied. As soon as I said that, I saw Elgin turn to look at me, then face the road again.

“He really upset you this time, didn’t he?” Elgin wondered.

“It’s not just that. It is the repetition of making mistakes. But this time, he got my kids in trouble too. He was going to take them away from their mother,” I explained, reminding Elgin how serious this was.

Elgin nodded. The rest of the day passed peacefully.

However, in the back of my mind, I could not stop thinking about how things would go now, without any of my own human guards around me.

Elgin had promised that he would place his own warriors nearby and that I did not need to worry.

He also told me that I did not need to think too much about it, because soon I would marry him and become the Luna of his pack.

We took the kids indoors and then had dinner at a fine restaurant.

For a moment, it felt like we were a perfect family.

That was strange. I had never imagined myself with Elgin after I left the werewolf world.

But here we were, coming back home. And right at the entrance, I could tell that trouble waited for us,

Even though I had asked Elgin to call Silver and tell her she could come or send the kids, so they could play indoors or join us for dinner, he refused.

He said Silver would insist **on** coming and would cause trouble.

He promised he would take his own kids the next day.

But now Silver was here, and I worried she would say something in front of my kids that would ruin their entire

mood. 1

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

182

182—My Wedding Day Is Near

Madeline:

“Take the kids straight inside,” Elgin told me once he stepped out of the car, letting me know he understood how messy Silver could be.

I helped the kids out of their seats and planned to bring them inside, but they stopped on the front porch when they greeted Hailey and Hannah.

The girls looked hesitant to respond. It seemed like they wanted to, but their mother's hand on their shoulders. held them back.

“How are you, Madeline?” Silver asked. It was strange. There was no hatred or anger **in** her voice, which instantly put my guards up.

“I'm great, how are you?” I replied, and she smiled while nodding.

“I’m good. Actually, the kids have been bothering me about wanting to play with Bodhi, Elara, and Gina,” she said, making me frown slightly as I tried to understand what she meant.

“So I was thinking, how about we get the kids together someday?” she suggested. Since it was already late, she clearly did not mean tonight.

“Oh, that will be great.” Before I could continue, Elgin began nodding and agreeing with her, then turned toward me as if waiting for my answer.

“Yeah, that would be good,” I said, because I could see my children watching me with hopeful eyes.

The moment I agreed, all the kids started cheering and jumping up and down.

“Anyway, we will head back. You should also rest. And Elgin, if possible, please spend five minutes with them,” Silver spoke softly. Her tone was unlike her usual self.

While others, especially Elgin, seemed relieved that she was not causing trouble, I felt uneasy.

I knew Silver.

People did not change overnight, and for her to change this quickly felt like a poorly made plan.

“Of course, I was gonna come over to eat ice cream with them,” Elgin told the kids, who ran to him, and he lifted them into his arms. “I’ll meet you later tonight, okay, Madeline?” he added before walking away with them. ↑

Silver gave me a brief look with a forced a smile, and then wandered toward Elgin.

Something was wrong, but I could not figure out what.

Or maybe she was trying to appear nice so Elgin would not cut her off completely.

The next two days were strangely different because the council had been coming around often.

They kept talking about how, since **all** the guards had been sent back, I needed to hurry and marry Elgin.

It was a lot of pressure, but they wanted it placed on me.

They even said they wanted to prepare a good, beautiful ceremony because people knew me as a researcher who had come to help their people, and having only a court marriage would seem odd.

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182-My Wedding Day it Nedr

+25 Bonus

They claimed it would look like we were hiding something.

So **that** was decided. The council members told me the wedding would take place **in Ron's** pack because **the** children had recently been sick here, and they did not want me traveling to another pack in case an emergency happened.

The venue was chosen, the dress was taken care **of**, everything was ready, and Elgin still had not let his parents

meet me.

They had found out about **it**, but I heard his mother had clearly told him she would not attend, and his father did not want to attend either.

But Elgin was stubborn.

As for Graham, he had to go back to his pack for a day or two to finish some business so I couldn't get to speak with him again about Elara.

But I was anxiously waiting for him to return.

"The wedding is in one week," Elgin stated as he walked into the house, smiling.

"Mommy, you are really marrying Uncle Elgin. Does that mean he will become our daddy now? What will happen to real Daddy then?" Elara asked.

I could tell that every time she mentioned Sawyer, Elgin grew uneasy, which made sense, since she was his daughter.

"Yeah, he will be your daddy," I answered. I did not focus on what to say about Sawyer.

The upsetting thing was that Sawyer had not contacted me in a while.

I sent him emails asking about Justin and everything else, but he refused to comment.

Whenever I told him there was a human involved in something, Bruno, my assistant, was the one who replied for

him.

He told me that Sawyer was busy these days, trying to build new factories, and that Nina was taking care of him.

At this point, I realized they had left me behind and forgotten about me.

1

I wanted to reach Sawyer quickly so I could ask what he had found in those chocolates, but I had no luck getting in direct contact with him.

He sent me emails now and then, but they were dry, mostly about projects or questions about files I had misplaced back in the human world, or work that needed my attention.

“What about Silver? Is she acting nice still?” I asked Elgin, and he nodded happily.

“Which reminds me, she wants the kids to come and play on the second floor of the guest house. You can come too. She said she planned a beautiful room for them, with toys and everything. My daughter wants to show them their toys too,” Elgin said, sounding excited about the kids getting along.

“Yeah, sure, we can do that,” I replied. I really needed to get out of the house.

The thought of getting married, after promising myself I would never give these alphas another chance, felt heavy.

But Elgin was doing everything he could to win my heart. As for the others, they had gone strangely quiet.

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182-My Wedding Day is Near

Baxter was busy trying to find out why a human had attacked his perfect Yuvonne.

And there was Graham.

He had contacted me, but I could not forget the way he had acted in the past few weeks.

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183

183-Getting Along With My Bully

Madeline:

I quickly got my kids ready. Elara, Bodhi, and Gina took short showers, and I helped them change into clean

clothes.

The whole time, they talked about how they would play with Hailey and Hannah, and how excited they were to become their siblings.

Even while I tied Elara's hair into a neat ponytail, she kept saying she wanted to try the ponytail look of Hailey.

Bodhi, while fixing his shirt, said he was excited to have four sisters now.

Gina brushed out her hair, giggling at the idea of having more friends.

They looked fresh, excited, and eager to leave the house, just like I was.

Still, I did not think being around Silver would be comforting for me.

I was doing this for my children's sake and also for Elgin.

Elgin waited by the door with a smile so bright it could not be hidden.

"I'm so happy the kids are finally getting along," he remarked. "And maybe you will get to spend time with Hailey and Hannah too, without Silver watching over everything."

As soon as he said that, I gave him a look.

“It is okay,” I replied as I stepped toward him. “I understand that it’s not easy for a mother to spend time away from her children, and I would not expect her to be comfortable leaving them only with me.”

As I tried to make him understand that we could not set rules differently for others, I noticed the way he blinked and kept staring at my face.

“That is the thing I like about you, Madeline. You’re so considerate of others,” Elgin commented before opening the door for us.

We headed to the guest house across the road.

3. 3.

When we entered, Kaylee stood near the stairs on the first floor, using her phone.

The moment she saw me, her fingers froze above the screen.

“Did you come here with the kids to spend time with Graham?” she rushed out.

She did not even take a second before asking. I could tell she did not want that to be true.

Her eyes kept shifting between me and my children.

She looked nervous, afraid I would use my children to pull Graham away from her.

“No,” I answered quickly. “I’m marrying Elgin in a week. I do not need to bring my children here to spend time with Graham.”

Her shoulders loosened right away. Relief washed over her face so strongly that she even smiled too widely.

“Good luck. I mean, congratulations,” she corrected, straightening her posture. “Elgin will be a great father. He already has two daughters, so he knows how to take care of them.”

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133-Getting Along With My Bully

+25 Bonus

She kept complimenting Elgin as if she wanted to make sure I did **not** back out of the decision. I rolled my **eyes** slightly.

She was only happy because she realized her husband had no chance with me.

Elgin and I took the stairs and walked to the second floor where he stayed with Silver.

Silver stood at the top of the stairs wearing a white dress and gold jewelry, waiting for us.

“Madeline, you’re here,” she said with a warm smile, stepping in and giving me an awkward side hug.

Hailey and Hannah came out of the hallway and rushed toward my children.

They took their hands and asked them to follow. All five children hurried toward the room Silver had prepared.

I stepped closer to the hall and saw how she had arranged everything.

The wall on one side was made of glass windows, but she had placed a safety net and checked the locks so the children would not open them.

The hall was filled with small tents of different colors.

There were stacks of toys, soft carpets, picture books, snacks, and a small juice counter.

It looked welcoming.

Elara quickly held Hailey’s hand and walked to the toy corner, while Hannah played with Bodhi and Gina.

Their laughter filled the space.

That was when Elgin’s phone started to ring. I noticed him ignoring Silver and turning the screen toward me instead.

Silver noticed it too, and the look on her face tightened, as if it upset her to see him give me more attention.

“It’s my parents. I’ll go and attend it quickly,” Elgin remarked.

As he walked past me, he gently nudged my elbow before heading out of the hall.

When I turned around, I found Silver staring hard at me.

“I want to know something from you,” she asked, stepping closer.

Her sudden movement made me frown at her.

“Will you ask Elgin to divorce me after you two get married in a week?” she questioned in a low voice.

Her words sent a chill through my spine.

“I have no right to speak in your marriage,” I replied confidently.

“But he must have told you that we don’t have any physical relationships,” she uttered, watching my face closely.

“Yeah, he told me. That is why I agreed. Otherwise, I would never enter your life and ruin what you already built. Elgin told me he was planning to divorce you even before we agreed to get married,” I informed her honestly.

I had no reason to hide anything.

“Yeah, that is true,” she whispered. “But I think he is just resisting giving me a chance, and because of that, my

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183-Getting Along With My Bully

kids have suffered a lot.”

As soon as she said that, my body shifted.

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184

184-The Test

Madeline:

“Let’s go get food for them,” Silver suggested, giving me a weak smile as I watched a few omega maids walk upstairs with trays of food.

They struggled to balance everything, so Silver and I rushed over to help.

“Imagine growing up in a family where you know your father doesn’t love your mother,” Silver continued while trying to steady the trays. She gave the maids a small nod, letting them know they could leave because we had it handled. “He should have at least tried to accept me for the sake of our daughters, but I guess he always loved you, Madeline,”

Hearing my name in that sentence made my chest tighten.

I did not know how to respond.

She looked at me with eyes full of old hurt, and for a moment, I could not tell whether she wanted sympathy or someone to blame.

Silver and I were taking a little too long to reach the children’s hallway because we were still talking about life, relationships, and holding the trays.

“I had no idea,” I told her in an apologetic tone. “I don’t know what to say or what to do in this case, but I will never ask him to divorce you. That is all that I can do.”

She gave me a genuine smile.

“That is already too much, considering how I used to bully you. Thank you for being so nice, Madeline,” Silver remarked.

Her kindness still felt strange. I could not understand how someone like her could change overnight.

A loud scream suddenly erupted from the children’s hall. Silver and I froze.

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Then we rushed toward the sound, and what we saw when we reached the entrance made both of us drop the trays.

The food crashed against the floor with a loud thud.

Hailey lay on the ground badly injured. Blood stained her hair.

It looked like Elara had hit her with a toy. I could tell right away that Elara was once again possessed by the sickness.

Her voice was heavy, and she spoke in tongues, shouting the same things she always did at her siblings.

“I will kill you. I don’t want any more siblings,” she screamed while crying.

Silver’s eyes widened. She knelt beside her daughter, trying to grab her, but Hailey was bleeding a lot from her head.

I hurried to Elara and held her, trying to comfort her and stop her from flailing her arms toward the others.

The rest of the children were crying and had cornered themselves in fear.

That was when Elgin arrived.

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164 The Test

+25 **Bonus**

His eyes widened at the sight of all the blood.

His face shifted with a father’s pain, but when Silver shouted, everything changed.

“That psychopath of a daughter you brought here did this **to** our daughter!” she yelled.

My heart skipped a beat, and Elara suddenly stopped struggling.

It seemed like the loud noise snapped her out of her trance.

She went limp and began to fall asleep on my shoulder, just like she always did after an episode.

I looked up and saw Elgin’s eyes turn toward Elara.

The way he looked at her made my stomach twist. It was not the look of a father worried for both of his daughters.

It was the look of someone who cared only about one.

He did not even glance at Elara the way a concerned father would look at his sick child.

He picked up Hailey carefully while Silver grabbed Hannah.

“We are going to the hospital,” Elgin stated.

Silver nodded and hurried after him.

I gathered my own children while Elara had fallen asleep on my shoulder.

I was ready to go after them, but Elgin stopped in the doorway and turned toward me.

“Take the kids to the mansion,” he ordered. “Not to the hospital.” 1

His tone made no sense to me, but I nodded and left with my children.

At home, I paced anxiously while Bodhi and Gina cried in the room.

I tried to comfort them and gave them ice cream, but every now and then they remembered what had happened and began sniffing again.

Elara sat on the couch with tears streaming down her face.

“I have no idea what happened, Mommy, I swear,” she cried again. “I just know I got triggered. Hailey was saying things to me.”

I stopped and faced her.

“What do you mean by that?” I asked, kneeling beside her.

“She asked me what happens to me. She said she heard I want to kill everyone. Then she started saying that if I want to kill her, then I should kill her,” Elara explained while hiccuping. “She was trying to make me angry on purpose, Mommy.”

As she cried again, I stared at her in confusion. Why would Hailey do that?

1

“Now you know why Silver was acting so nice.” My wolf snapped awake inside me, and the frown on my forehead deepened.

“She told her daughters to do this to provoke Elara and it worked.”

2/3

184 The test

My wolf was right. It took me a moment to understand it fully.

Of course Silver had not changed. She had only acted differently long enough to pull this stunt.

After hearing what Elara said, I instantly grabbed my phone to call Elgin and ask how Hailey was.

He answered almost right away.

“How is Hailey?” I asked in a worried tone.

“What else do you expect?” he snapped.

His harsh tone hit me hard.

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185

185–You Had Your Chance, Elgin

Madeline:

“Why are you speaking to me like that?” I questioned. “It seems like you’re taking your anger out on me,” I complained, waiting for him to respond.

But instead of answering, he let out a rough gruff, almost a growl.

“Tell me again, why are you not getting help for Elara?” he shot back. “Do you not understand what she just did, Madeline?” He chewed on every word, and even the way he said my name sounded bitter.

“I’m doing everything for all the children. You remember how the sickness is affecting them. And I am sorry that this happened to Hailey.” I tried to remind him how things had been and that I was **not** the one who suggested Elara go and play with the kids, but he shut me down.

“I don’t care,” he replied harshly.

“Elgin, calm down. Tell me which hospital you are at. We will come and stay with **you**,” I said, keeping my voice steady and reminding myself how helpful he had been in the past few days.

“No. Never,” he answered a little too quickly. “You want to bring that killer child to kill my daughter again?”

The moment he said it, something inside me cracked. He had called Hailey his daughter.

But Elara, our daughter, he called a killer child. The disgust and pain rose inside me so sharply that I could not speak.

So I did what I had to do. I hung up on him.

“Is Daddy angry with me?” Elara whispered, and I turned my head toward her in confusion.

“He told me the other day he is my daddy. Real daddy. I don’t want to upset him, Mommy. I’ll go apologize. I will apologize to Hailey, her mother, her sister, and to Daddy too,” she whispered again, her lips trembling. 1

My heart sank. I rushed over and pulled her into my arms.

“Elara, you need to have self-control,” I whispered, and then I felt like a fool.

She did not know what she was doing. It was the sickness.

“I know, Mommy. I should have not listened to Hailey,” she uttered, and her voice shook.

I remembered how Hailey must have been the one pushing her, how Silver must have told her what to say to provoke my daughter.

And I wondered how a mother could go that far.

She knew it could be dangerous, but she was ready to sacrifice one of her daughters just to make Elgin hate his other daughter.

After comforting Elara, I took her back to the room where Bodhi and Gina were.

The way they looked at her made me worry they might start fearing her.

“She did not want to hurt anyone. We just need to make sure she gets better,” I told my children before stepping out of the room.

1/3

185 You Not Your Chance, Elgin

+25 Bonus

I had barely walked away when I heard Bodhi speak.

“We don’t hate you. We understand you’re going through something, and we will get you help,” he told her, his little voice warm and steady.

“I’ll tell uncle Elgin that I heard Hailey say things to you. He will know the truth soon,” Gina added in her small tone, trying to comfort her sister.

Hearing their soft voices made my eyes sting. I wiped my tears and walked away.

I headed to the kitchen and made my children a glass of chocolate milk.

My hands shook as I stirred the spoon, thinking about Elgin’s cold behavior.

The bitterness of his words replayed in my mind.

After everything we had gone through, the way he came back into my life, making me believe we could still be friends and that I could trust him again, and then reacting so aggressively today shook me to my core.

I wondered if he would ever realize how wrong he was, or if he would become even colder toward me and toward his daughter who needed him.

My phone buzzed. It was a message from the council.

Council: The wedding preparations are finished, and we will be sending out invitations to everyone for next week’s ceremony. 1

I read the message and sighed. It felt like everything was happening too fast.

Elgin’s behavior made me question whether marrying him was even the right choice.

But all the preparations were done, and if I did not marry someone, all my children would be taken away.

The rest of the night felt like a blur. After giving the kids their chocolate milk and dinner, I tucked them in.

They were exhausted, and they fell asleep quickly.

I stepped out of the room and walked toward the window.

Headlights flashed across the yard, and I realized Elgin had returned with his family.

My heart beat harder. I wanted to check on Hailey. She was just a child too.

I rushed outside, hoping to see her, but Silver stepped forward with Hailey in her arms. She moved almost too quickly toward me, her steps sharp enough to make Elgin react.

“Take the kids inside,” he told her.

Silver obeyed reluctantly and carried Hailey toward the guest house, with Hannah following.

Elgin faced me then. His expression was cold.

“I’m really disappointed in you. Elara should never be near Hailey or Hannah until she gets help,” he snapped.

I stared at his face, shocked. He did not wait for me to respond.

He did not ask how Elara was doing, even though he knew she was sick.

2/3

185–You Had Your Chance Elgin

He simply turned around and walked into the guest house, leaving me alone outside. 1

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186

186–Gossiping **With** My Best Friend.

Madeline:

I could not understand why Elgin reacted this way with me. I went back home and sat on the couch thinking about my life decisions and how people quickly changed around me. I could give him the benefit of the doubt and say he was worried for his daughter, but Elara was his daughter as well, and he had plenty of time to calm down hours before he returned home. Should he not have been a little concerned for Elara? Sadness settled in my chest, and that was when my phone beeped in my hand.

It was a message from Baxter.

Alpha Baxter: Is everything all right?

I frowned at his text, and when I did not respond for the next ten minutes, he started calling me. I reluctantly accepted his call because at this point I did not know if I even wanted to have hopes for anyone caring for me and my children.

“Hello,” I replied tiredly.

“So you are awake. You were not answering my text message,” he remarked, a little sadly.

“Why would you ask?” I questioned him, thinking maybe Elgin had informed him about what had happened here. Could that be the case?

“Nothing. It’s just that I had a feeling something happened today. I cannot tell what exactly, and the way you are speaking to me makes me think I might be right,” he added.

“No, it’s fine. Elara had another episode,” I mumbled.

“Wait, is she okay now? Did something happen?” he asked.

His anxiety was somewhat comforting, knowing that someone cared for my daughter. Someone, even though it should not have been this way, but sometimes we feel lonely. We need support.

“I will tell you when we meet. Anyway, how is your investigation going? Did you figure out why anyone wanted to attack Yuvonne?” I asked him, looking outside the window toward the third floor of the guest house where I knew he had been staying with Yuvonne before. However, I had not seen either of them around.

“Oh, I am not researching that. Actually, some issues came up in my pack, so I returned there. Yuvonne is probably at her home with her mother,” he explained casually, making me tilt my head. I thought he had been with her all these days.

“Oh. Do you think she will be safe there?” I asked him, trying to hide my shock.

“Yeah, I have some warriors stationed outside. She will be fine,” he replied.

“Okay, you know what? I will try to come sooner. You do not sound okay at all,” he remarked, and I straightened

my posture.

“No, it is all right. I am fine. You will be coming to the wedding in one week anyway,” I mumbled, and then there was silence from the other side.

“One week, you say?” he wondered.

“Yeah. Were you not informed by anyone?” I asked him, clearing my throat awkwardly.

“No, I do not think the invitations have gone out yet. Is one week not a little too soon?” he questioned.

1/2

186-Goss@ng With My Best Friend

+25 Bonus

There was a strange agitation in his voice, almost as if he was not pleased to hear the news. But who was I to say? Maybe it was simply because it was indeed very soon.

“Well, you know the council. They are making many decisions at once. I will tell you when you come,” I stated. I did not know why, but I simply did not want to talk about my issues at that moment.

“You know what? I am not really doing anything right now. How about we talk about it?” Baxter remarked, and I could tell he had begun putting away his files because I heard the papers rustling.

“Do you not have some work to do?” I asked with a small laugh.

“Um, not really. It can wait. You tell me. What is going on? What happened today?” he insisted.

At this point, I realized that knowing Baxter, he would not stop until I told him what had happened. So I decided to go ahead while fixing myself a glass of wine.

“Elara attacked Hailey,” I uttered. As soon as I said it, even my own skin broke into goosebumps.

“Oh. Is Hailey okay?” Baxter asked.

“She was bleeding. Elgin took her to the hospital. They returned a few hours back. She looked fine, but she is a child. She lost blood.” I started feeling genuinely bad for Hailey, because knowing what my daughter had told me, it seemed her own mother had set her up for a disaster.

“How did it happen? Was there nobody around watching over them?” Baxter continued, showing both surprise and curiosity about how Elara ended up alone with Hailey.

So I told him everything. The way Silver’s attitude changed, the way she suggested that the kids should have a fun time, and how my daughter told me that Hailey had been provoking her. I also told him how Elgin responded to me today. Everything. It was always easy to speak with Baxter. When we talked, it felt like two aunties gossiping, because he reacted to every single sentence. Not once did I feel like he had drifted off.

Comments

Ruby Walker

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

187

187—The Old Flame Is Burning My House Down

Elgin:

“Hey, good morning,” I said to Hailey as I entered her room. The night had been very hard for me. I was consumed by many thoughts, including the way I had responded to Madeline. And whenever I thought about my daughter’s face, I felt as if my world stopped. There was also this burning feeling inside me, almost like something was telling me that I had done something wrong before. I could not understand what it was.

Silver stayed beside me the whole time, not intervening or bothering me, just being there in case I needed someone to talk to. I came in to speak with my daughter. She had woken up, **so** I rushed to be with her.

“Daddy?” Hailey whispered, making me hold her hand at once, showing her that I was there for her.

“Do you hate Mommy?”

As soon as she asked that question, my heart skipped a beat.

“No, I do not hate anyone,” I replied quickly.

She could barely hold herself up, but she moved toward me and sat in my lap.

“Then why did you not love Mommy, but you are marrying the other woman?” Hannah asked, and my heart trembled in my chest.

Silver walked into the room holding a tray with milkshakes.

“I made everyone a milkshake,” she remarked, sitting down on the bed and noticing the way we were all silently watching each other.

“It is all right. They always ask me these questions.”

As soon as Silver said that, my chest tightened.

“I

“Okay kids, first you need to drink this and then you can ask Daddy more questions, all right?” I heard Silver tell Hailey.

I was stunned by their questions. Silver and I helped them with the milkshakes and then with getting freshened up. After their breakfast, when the two of them were playing with their toys in the living room, we sat on the couch to talk. I really needed to know what my daughters thought about me.

“So? Tell me, what did they say about me to you?” I insisted.

“They used to ask me why you were so distant with me. They said their friends’ fathers were always loving toward their mothers,” she replied, taking deep breaths.

“And what did you tell them?” I asked her.

“Well, I had the same response every time, that their father is an alpha, and alphas are busy and hardworking, and that you do show me love, just not in front of them,” she replied, lowering her face as if she was trying to hide her

tears from me.

“But then recently, when they saw you interact with Madeline, they told me that their alpha father was different toward her. And I had no answer for them,” she murmured, turning her face away.

“Well, you should tell them that is not the case.” I felt sick with myself.

“It does not matter, Elgin. They know what they saw. They have feelings too. And after what happened, they were

1/2

* The times burning My House Des

+25 Bonus

really upset. You know what Hailey whispered to me when she woke up a little while after being struck?” she asked, and I knew it would be something bad.

“She said, ‘Daddy **will** be angry at **me**. He loves that woman and her children more. He will be angry that I did not **let** Elara hit me twice.’”

The moment she **said** it, anger **rose in** me.

‘Why I did not let Elara hit me twice.’ The words echoed inside me. My heart sank in my chest.

“Silver, you should have never kept all this from me. I deserve to know. My kids deserve their father. I owe them an explanation. My kids deserve an explanation from me,” I stated firmly, realizing that my children’s mental health had been deteriorating while I was busy chasing my old love.

“It is fine, Elgin. You do not have to make any promises to them, because then they will hold on to them and expect **you** to love me and care for me.” She paused, and I narrowed my eyes at her.

“And what? What else?” I demanded.

“And they will want you to not marry Madeline.”

The moment she said that, it felt as if my entire world shifted.

That was when my phone started ringing, and I realized it was the council calling me. They had texted a few times, asking if next week’s date for the marriage was acceptable. I silently stared at the screen. Then I looked up and saw my kids watching me. At that moment, I decided I would spend time with my children and give them my full attention. So I ended the call.

“Kids, it will be just you, me, and your mother today. What do you say?” The moment I said it, the smiles on my children’s faces said everything. Silver had not been lying. My children were suffering. 1

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

188

188—Slipping Away

Madeline:

It had been two days that I had not been able to get **in** contact with Elgin.

Not that I tried to, but I did hear from the council that he had not responded to them either.

I was the one who told them that he was probably busy with his children.

They understood for now, however, I was concerned about what was going on.

His behavior had really shaken my mind, especially at a time when we needed to discuss things, sit together, and figure everything out.

At this point, I did not know who to trust. I shared a lot with Baxter, and he promised to return soon.

I hated that I had stressed him out as well.

“Mommy, we want to talk to you,” Bodhi uttered, snapping me back to them.

I had been sitting in front of the TV, pretending to watch it while getting lost in my own thoughts.

My kids were playing with their toys when Bodhi finally spoke to get my attention.

“Yes, my child, what is going on?” I replied, keeping a smile on my face.

It was not easy to be a mother and still have time for yourself, especially when you wanted to cry, laugh, or feel hurt.

When you have a child, you need to make sure that your behavior is not ruining their mood.

“Is it true? Is Elgin our true daddy?” Bodhi asked.

The minute he said it, I realized they had misinterpreted something.

Elgin had only told Elara that she was his daughter, probably during the hours she had been in his care when I was at the council. 2

That must have led my children to believe they were all his.

“How about we not talk about it for now? Very soon, I will answer all your questions,” I told them, feeling guilty that every time they asked something like this, I had no response.

The truth was that I did not even know myself what the future held.

“Okay,” Bodhi nodded.

“Mommy, are we going to go and meet Daddy then?” Gina asked, and my muscles tensed.

“He means to say Uncle Elgin,” Elara replied, making me feel conflicted about how attached they had become to him.

“Not today. You remember his daughter is hurt. He will be spending time with her,” I answered, swallowing hard.

Sometimes children’s questions were difficult to answer.

“Oh, is Daddy still upset with me?” Elara uttered. 1

1/3

108 Stipping Away

+25 Bonus

“No, of course he is not. He called me asking about you,” I replied.

As soon as I said that, Elara stood up and clapped her hands.

“The other Daddy used to be so nice. He would get angry with people, but then he would come and be so concerned about us,” Elara remarked, remembering Sawyer.

“Yeah, he was nice. I mean he is nice,” I corrected myself, feeling odd that I had mentioned him in the past tense.

In the last two days, his emails had become distant. It upset me because I knew why he was busy.

I guessed that in the previous few years, somewhere along the line, even when I did not want to, I had developed some kind of feelings for him.

Then I remembered how he believed in polygamy, and everything changed for me.

I could not get myself to like him anymore.

How could I fall for him when every time I thought about him, the next image that came to my mind was of Nina.

“Anyway, you three keep playing. I’ll go attend this call,” I told them as I got up from the living room and stepped into the kitchen to answer the call from the council.

“Hello?” I answered.

“I know it is too early to be calling someone, but I need to speak with you about your marriage and everything, since neither of you, the bride or the groom, seem interested in discussing it,” Lady Abigail remarked.

I recognized her, not from her voice, but from the tone and the words she used.

“That is because the wedding was forced upon me, but anyway. What is it that you want to talk about? Do you want my comments on the dress or the venue?” I replied, giving her the same energy she always gave me.

I heard her scoff.

“I am way older than you,” she reminded me.

“You do not have to remind me. I already know that,” I hit back.

I had been so annoyed that I guessed I was taking my anger out on someone I felt I could, at least for now.

“Anyway, you two need to come and sign the cards. I have been trying to get in contact with your mate, but it seems like he is having second thoughts. He has not been picking up my calls,” she stated in a sterner tone.

At this point, I could not be sassy. I was also wondering what was going on with him.

The wedding day was getting closer, and he was distancing himself from me, my children, and the promise he had made to keep us safe.

I had no interest in him at all. Even the small chance of rebuilding our friendship had disappeared from my mind.

But the least he could do was keep his promise. 1

“I will speak with him and then let you know,” I told her, feeling exhausted before I hung up.

As I stepped out of the kitchen, thinking I would spend some time with my children and then speak to Elgin in the afternoon, I found something that made my stomach drop.

Only Bodhi and Elara were **in** the living room, giggling, while the door stood open and Gina was nowhere to be

2/3

188–Slipping Away

seen.

“Kids, where is Gina?” I almost yelled, because what was happening?

Comments

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

189

189–Rejecting Her Daughter

Silver:

Things had been going well. It had been two days, and Elgin had not left his children's side.

He was giving them attention and even being nice to me in front of them.

I knew it was only for show because I had told him that his kids were suffering watching their father treat their mother badly, but it was working.

We were getting along, and I was able to show him the nicer side of me.

Even if it did not exist for long, I pretended to be the nice one.

And to be honest, it worked. He told me a few times that he did not expect me to be this way, whatever that meant.

I knew it was supposed to be a compliment because he was smiling.

Then I heard little steps upstairs.

I was headed to the hall where Elgin and the kids were playing, bringing their milkshakes because after breakfast we always had a milkshake.

When I heard the footsteps, I turned around, and there she was.

The child of that woman stood in front of me. A warrior was bringing her upstairs.

“Ma’am, she told me that she wanted to meet Alpha Elgin,” the warrior informed me before leaving the girl with

1. me.

I crinkled my eyebrows, wanting to yell at the child, but I forced a smile.

“What are you doing here, Gina? Where is your mother?” I asked, grunting.

Of course, she would not understand from my tone that I was not happy with her being here.

“I came here to speak with Daddy,” she replied, making the frown on my forehead grow even deeper.

“Sorry, come again. You are meeting who?” I questioned, not because I had not heard her the first time, but because I was stunned.

She was calling my husband, the father of my children, her father.

“You want to meet Elgin?” I asked, and she nodded.

“Yes, Daddy,” she replied in her usual babyish tone.

“Well, he is not your daddy. You know that, right?” I remarked.

She frowned at me right away.

“Do you not know your mother has multiple fathers for her children? This means your mother was with Elgin, Graham, Baxter, Sawyer, Ron, everyone. Even Ron is your daddy,” I told her.

The minute I said it, I watched Gina’s frown grow wider.

“That is not possible. Daddy is only one,” she hissed.

1/3

189-Rejecting Her Daughter

+25 Bonus

How rude of her.

She then avoided me and sprinted toward the hall.

“Hey, wait,” I called out, but she was already gone.

I followed her to the hall and watched Elgin turn around to look at her.

Just as I expected, my daughters reacted the same way I had warned them about.

The minute they saw her, they became frightened. I had told them many times to be careful around certain children.

Just like before, they might attack. All three of them were like that. Now they were visibly shaken.

“Daddy!” Hailey screamed, getting up from the ground to hug Elgin, while Gina rushed toward him with her arms

open.

But as she ran closer, reacting to how loudly Hailey was yelling, Elgin raised his hand.

Being a child, Gina could not stop immediately, and she bumped into his hand before dropping on the ground.

“Oh, sorry,” Elgin tried to apologize.

But I realized I did not need to do anything. The chaos was going to erupt on its own.

“Oh Daddy, you pushed me!” Gina cried out.

“He is not your Daddy, he is my Daddy,” Hannah replied as she got up from the ground, rushing over to hug Elgin from the other side.

Both my daughters were now hanging off his neck, not letting him get any closer to Gina.

I put the tray down and folded my arms, ready to watch the scene..

“What are you doing here, Gina? Where is your mother? Why are you wandering around like that?” Elgin questioned, his voice sounding stunned, probably because he remembered how these kids behaved when they were alone.

“Isn’t it obvious? She sent her here to fetch you,” I remarked, watching Elgin look at me and then down at Gina.

“No, that is not true. I came here myself because I wanted to be with Daddy,” Gina replied, trying to move closer.

Hailey then started crying again, screaming and stomping her feet.

“Gina, do not get closer.” Elgin slapped his hand out toward her, and I noticed Gina’s body freeze.

“But you are my Daddy too,” Gina uttered.

“No, he is my Daddy,” Hailey cried louder.

The more Gina spoke, the louder my kids screamed.

They were yelling right into Elgin’s ears. I could see him growing anxious.

His priority was always going to be his own daughters, unless it was Elara.

“Gina, enough.” Elgin finally yelled to silence her. “Who told you I am your Daddy?” he shouted. 1

2/3

169–Rejecting Her Daughter

I noticed her shoulders slump down.

“But you are. Elara told me,” Gina explained.

+25 Bonus

“Well, she lied to you, okay? Your Daddy is in the human world. I am not your Daddy. I am their Daddy. And do not come here. Do you not see that my daughters are getting scared of you? Go now,” Elgin screamed at her. 1

“Why are you yelling at me?” Gina cried, stubborn like her mother.

Her crying made Hailey start losing her balance.

My voice came out broken as I rushed toward Hailey.

Elgin turned his attention back to Hailey, while Gina’s cries grew louder.

“Take her to the room. I will come and give her medicine,” Elgin told me as he handed me Hailey.

At the same time, he turned around and glared at Gina.

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We Listened to the Darkness by Sorin Pax

190

190–The Worst Father Ever

Madeline:

I had no clue why Gina thought to go out of her way to speak with Elgin, but since it was Elgin, I was sure she would be fine.

That did not mean my child would be safe there.

There was Silver, there was Kaylee, and there might be Yuvonne as well.

Elgin would not be able to control all three of them when Graham and Baxter were not around.

I could not expect anything from Graham, but Baxter would have **kept** my children safe.

“Okay, come with me.” I held both Bodhi and Elara’s hands, but when I stepped toward the door to go after Gina, I remembered how things went the last time.

I could tell the kids, at least Hailey, would not be comfortable seeing Elara for now, and she was also a child. So I stopped.

“Why don’t you two wait here, okay? Do not leave,” I told them.

I turned to the warriors.

“Keep an eye on the children, and if they tell you to take them somewhere, do not do it unless I tell you,” I snapped, annoyed because one of the warriors had taken Gina to the guest house just because she asked him to.

As the warriors nodded, I was finally free to go after Gina.

I briskly made my way, and when I reached the second floor, I heard Elgin scream at my daughter.

For a moment, I paused. It was only a few seconds, probably three to five, when I could not move forward.

Then I forced myself to continue until I reached the main hall.

I saw what was going on. Hailey was in her mother’s arms, almost about to pass out from screaming too much.

Hannah was in Elgin’s arms, yelling at Gina as well.

And then there was my Gina, my poor little daughter, who had no idea the world could be brutal.

“How many times do I have to tell you to go? I am not your father, okay?” Elgin screamed at her again.

Gina tried to speak, but Silver cut her off.

“Did you not hear him? Go. Go back to your mommy,” Silver shouted.

Elgin kept glaring at her when Gina opened her arms.

“If Daddy gives me one hug, because now I am afraid I upset him,” she uttered.

It was her way of trying to make things go back to normal.

I watched Elgin continue glaring at her.

“Do you not see me holding my daughter?” Elgin snapped at a child who did not understand grown-up things. Go. Go ask your mother to give you a hug.”

11

1/3

130 The West Father Eps

+25 **Bonus**

As soon as Elgin pointed toward the hall entrance, he noticed me standing there, and I saw the color drain from

his face.

Gina turned, looked at me, and rushed over. I bent down and carried her right away.

The way she hid her face in my neck and cried made her tears drip onto my skin.

“Madeline, actually-” Elgin tried to change his tone.

“No. Speak to me in the same tone you were using with my daughter,” I snapped, watching Silver roll her eyes.

“Do you not know my daughter is hurt? She was getting scared watching Gina,” Silver replied, but Elgin gestured with his hand for her to stay quiet.

“Oh, please stop it. You could not defend my daughter, a little child, and now you want to defend me?” I remarked at Elgin, who started shaking his head.

“No. Do not come any closer. I have seen everything I needed to see,” I hissed, turning around to leave.

“Well, then you should understand my position too instead of judging me,” Elgin snapped, but I did not stay to continue the conversation.

I briskly walked out, flushed with anger.

When I reached the lower floor, I saw Lord Eldon step out of his room with a newspaper.

“Oh, my granddaughter is here,” he remarked.

The minute he spoke, Gina lifted her head from my neck and stared at him.

“Wait, you are crying?” he asked.

“Uncle Elgin is a bad man.” The minute my daughter uttered those words, Lord Eldon looked at me angrily.

“Why is that alpha able to make a council leader’s granddaughter cry?” Lord Eldon yelled at me.

I raised my hand, trying to stop him, because my daughter had already been through enough.

He understood and walked closer. Without giving me any warning, he suddenly took my daughter out of my arms.

“She needs to go and be with her siblings,” I snapped at him.

“Well, then bring them here. They will spend time with their grandfather today. It is not as if Alpha Elgin is the only one who can take care of them,” Lord Eldon remarked while making eye contact with me.

The way he said it sent goosebumps up my spine.

“Would you like to spend time with your grandfather?” Lord Eldon asked Gina.

She had been so deprived of a male figure that she instantly hugged him.

I noticed the way Lord Eldon melted. He even froze for a moment before hugging her back.

“Bring in Bodhi and Elara. I will take them to the council building today. You are headed there anyway, are you not?” Lord Eldon asked, and I tiredly nodded.

I guessed that if this was what brought Gina peace for now, after such a difficult face-off with a man who was supposed to act like a mature adult, then I was fine with Lord Eldon comforting her for the moment.

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