

# Accidentally Pregnant By My Alpha Best friends

## We Listened to the Darkness 351

**351-I Am Not Her Hero** Anymore

Baxter:

I had seen how hopeful Madeline looked when Ron arrived with his warriors. I felt responsible for her state. She had not eaten anything.

She had not taken a single sip of water. She had been searching for Gina without stopping.

There were moments when I wondered if her mental health would worsen.

There were too many questions, and I had no answers. I was just an alpha who had let it happen, who had let his daughter be taken.

“I will come with you,” I said after they returned a few hours later.

We had covered only a small part of the area. This time, I noticed they were taking a short break to plan where to head next, and I realized they were about to leave again.

That was when I understood they were planning to leave me behind because of my mother.

“No. I told you, I need you here,” my mother insisted again.

“Why, did you not just say I am useless?” I remarked, taunting her and reminding her of what she had been telling me for hours, ever since I lost my daughter.

It has been two days now. Bodhi and Elara were just getting through each day. They were as upset as we were.

The news must have spread as well. And then there was Madeline, who had not slept at all. Every waking moment, she was out looking for Gina.

Even the drones had failed to find any trace of the monster.

“But remember, your father is an old man,” my mother continued. “He has been handling your responsibilities for the last two days. One of you needs to stay at the cabin and take care of the children. And Madeline is the one running herself into the ground. You should stay.”

She crossed her arms tightly. “It is not like it will make any difference if you go.” (1

“I think you should refrain yourself from making comments like this,” Ron said, slamming his hand on the table as he stood up.

Madeline had gone to take a shower to clear her mind, while Yuvonne sat with the children.

“I’m not old, and I can take care of these children.”

My father snapped, proving that he was more understanding, more like a father I had always wanted.

I wondered what had triggered that in him. Maybe it was the need to protect me, because I was weak now. “And I was still here to take care of the children. Besides, Baxter has a lot of strength. He can come in handy,” Yuvonne commented, probably just so I would not feel bad or embarrassed.

“Fine. Either you guys state the truth and look for that child, or just keep stroking his ego. But the moral of the

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351-1 Am Not Her Hero Anymore

### **+25 Bonus**

story is that Baxter did this to himself. Instead of fighting for the crown and refusing to give the rank over, he just left it, as if the world was nothing,” my mother said.

She was still bitter about the fact that she could no longer enjoy the luxuries. She commented again before stomping her feet and walking into the room.

“Don’t listen to her. Nobody would have been able to fight that monster,” Ron stated.

“Yeah, of course, I know. Anyway, I think I’ll stay over,” I commented, noticing how my father, Yuvonne, and Ron looked sad that my mother’s words had finally affected me.

“I’m ready. Let’s go.”

Madeline walked out of the room, tying her wet hair into a bun. She was wearing a green top and blue jeans. There were bags under her eyes. The once-happy face looked worn now.

“Baxter wants to stay,” Ron commented.

Madeline could barely look at me. It was not that she had told me I was responsible, but I felt like she probably thought I could have done more.

“Okay, take care of the children,” she said softly, grabbing a knife from the table.

Of course, she did not insist on me coming. She knew the truth, that I was useless.

At this point, I knew that somewhere along the line, Ron and Yuvonne must have noticed that Madeline had found her wolf. She had been using the strength to run around, but they were not questioning her.

“Please take care of her,” I said to Ron.

Madeline turned to me almost like in a way that made me step back.

“I can take care of myself, Baxter. Please stop worrying about us.” There was a sharp edge in her tone. It broke

1. me.

At that moment, I did not want to speak again. I felt like I was becoming a problem.

Just as they reached the door to leave, it slammed open. Someone barged in, looking hysterical.

“Where is Elara?” Elgin yelled, his eyes full of tears and anger. “Is it true?”

His tone shifted as he looked around at everyone. Then he leaned past Madeline’s shoulder. “Where is Elara? Why is she not with them?”

Madeline immediately placed her hands on his chest and pushed him back out of the cabin.

“You will stay away from me and my house and my children, you hear me?” Madeline yelled.

I wanted to step in beside her. But I was just as weak and pathetic as an alpha. What could I do? She could fight better than me.

Ruby Walker

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## We Listened to the Darkness 352

352—The Tables **Have** Turned

Elgin:

+25 Bonus

I began to wake up in the guest room of Graham's mansion. For the first few seconds, I was completely puzzled. My head hurt, and I had to rub it and shake myself awake just to gather my thoughts and understand what had happened in the last few hours. Why did it feel so strange? Then it finally struck me.

"Elara," I gasped as I got to my feet.

I remembered everything. My daughter, my dear Elara, had been taken away from me. The monster came and took her, all because Graham and I had constructed a very poor plan.

I sprang up from the bed and reached for the door. It was as if Graham was already on his way to see me, the moment I opened it, he was standing outside with one hand on the handle, about to open it.

because

"Elgin. Wait. Elgin," he greeted softly, but once he noticed me rushing past him, he moved to block my path. "Get out of my way, Graham," I snapped, then reached into my pocket to look for my phone.

"Your phone is on the nightstand," he remarked casually, his voice gentle, as if he had no care in the world. I reached for my phone and realized hours had passed. In fact, a whole day had gone by. It was another day entirely. I felt like hitting myself for being so drunk yesterday that I wasted time.

As I rushed toward the door again, he stood in my way, his hands in his pants pockets.

“What the fuck is wrong with you?” I finally snapped at him. “I don’t understand what is wrong with you.” “Elgin, it’s been two days,” he replied. “Do you seriously think the monster is just flying around with her?” His words broke me. I tried to come up with an answer, but he was not wrong. I was late. But what if the monster dropped her somewhere and she was out in the woods, crying?

“What if she’s out there alone?” I asked, tears streaming down my face.

“Elgin, what the fuck is wrong with you?” he shot back. “You didn’t want her, remember?”

His words made me clench my fists.

“I said I didn’t want her because she already had a mother and I already had children,” I yelled. “That doesn’t mean I would want to see her in pain. Or think about her suffering and do nothing.”

He was not ready to listen. He stood there, calm. Of course he was. His daughter was fine. My Elara was gone. “Step aside,” I told him. “I need to go see what’s going on at that mountain top. And I am going to confront Madeline and her husband for not taking care of my daughter.”

I grunted as I realized whose fault this was. Madeline chose a man who no longer had a wolf. 3

Baxter convinced her he would take care of her. Yet the other children were safe, and only Elara was taken. Were they taking their anger out on my daughter? 19

I hoped that was not the case, because if it was, Madeline was going to deal with me. I would make sure her life became unbearable if she dared put other children above mine.

I finally managed to get Graham out of the way and headed straight to the mountain top.

**He** stayed with me, though. He was in the same car, but thankfully he did not say a word.

352-The Tots Hove Turned

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Seeing him sit there so calmly made me feel bitter. I wanted that certainty, I wanted to know my daughter was safe. But she was not,

When we reached the mountain top, I questioned Madeline she shoved me back, warning me to stay away from her and her children.

“You’re going to push me?” I demanded, pointing at my chest as I got back to my feet,

I squared up in front of her, and her fists were clenched just like mine,

“I want to know,” I started, then stopped.

Reality hit me. My mind seemed to check again as I glanced over her shoulder. That was when I saw Elara looking at me, a teddy bear clutched in her hand.

“Wait,” I muttered, rubbing my head. “She’s here. But I heard she was gone,”

I could not understand what was happening. Even after pushing my way inside and looking around, my mind felt so unfocused that it took me a moment to realize it was truly my daughter,

Then what was that warrior about? I did not say it out loud. If I did, they would question how I knew so much.

“How did you find out my daughter was missing?” Madeline asked,

“Well, the news got out, and since Ron has been running around helping you, everyone heard about it.” Graham arrived late. He took his time getting out of the car. I turned to him and watched his face in disbelief.

“What?” he asked, his hands still in his pockets, looking casual. (1)

“Elara is safe,” I told him.

He frowned, then tilted his head toward Madeline, looking cocky. Watching him act so casual even made Madeline clench her fists.

“Really? How did you guys do it?” he asked, a slight smirk on his face.

I expected him to be happy for me, but he stayed cocky, focused only on how he could upset Madeline.

“No, you don’t get it,” I replied, since Madeline kept glaring at him. “She was never taken away.”

As soon as I said that, a smile stayed on my face. A smile of relief. A smile of happiness.

“Really? Then why is Ron running around like crazy?” he questioned casually, until he noticed I was watching his face in silence.

He turned his head toward the cabin. I swear he saw Bodhibet he noticed Elara. His hands slowly slipped out of his pockets.

“Where is Gina?” he asked, his tone suddenly changing.

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## We Listened to the Darkness 353

353-Everyone Left Me Alone

Graham:

I did not know what was wrong with Elgin. He acted as if reaching the mountain top would make everything fine. If anything, Elara was gone. At least I knew that much. I did not understand why he could not get that through his thick head.

I wandered up the path, moving casually, and when I reached the mountain top, I saw Madeline giving him a hard time.

She shoved him around and yelled at him, but his anger was no longer the same. His worry did not look the same either.

He looked calm, almost stunned. I understood why when I turned and saw what he was staring at.

It was Elara in the distance.

I tried to make sense of it, but then I noticed one child was missing from the group.

“Where is Gina?” I demanded again. This time my voice caught in my throat.

“Both of you get the fuck away from my home,” Madeline screamed, refusing to answer me.

“Wait. No. No, no, no,” I insisted. “You are going to answer me. Where is my daughter? She was supposed to be here with you. Why the fuck are there only two children? Where is Gina?” I could feel my head pounding at my temples. The world suddenly felt unbearable. My life felt ruined. 1.

“Suddenly you care,” Madeline muttered, nodding slightly. “You’re going to stay away from this. Me, my husband, and my friends are looking for my daughter. You will stay away from us.” (1)

Her eyes showed the hatred she carried for me as she called my daughter Baxter’s, who finally stepped forward and stood beside her.

“You couldn’t take care of my daughter,” I shouted. “She was taken right under your noses.”

“Oh my. Oh my fucking Goddess,” I screamed, grabbing my hair in my fist. 1

“Alpha Graham, the family is already grieving,” Ron yelled as he stepped forward. “If you don’t want me to call Lord William and the other council leaders and inform them that you are once again standing on the mountain top, then leave.”

Right beside Ron stood that bitch who was supposed to be taken away instead of my daughter.

“You,” I snapped, pointing at Yuvonne.

She frowned, but Ron immediately stepped in front of her, blocking my glare.

“Don’t fucking point a finger at the Luna of my pack and my mate,” he warned me.

It hit me then. The trap I laid out caused me more loss than it did anyone else.

“Graham, let’s go. We don’t want trouble, remember?”

Elgin suddenly grabbed my hand, forcing me to step away from them. I struggled, trying to stop him **from** pulling me away. He used all his strength, and my warriors stepped in to help take me back.

“No, wait. I want to help. I want to look for our daughter. For my daughter,” I pleaded, pressing **my finger to my** chest.

Madeline **did** not **even** look at me. It was **as** if she was **completely** done with **me**. She **did not seem to believe I**

could be of any help at all, and that hurt deeply.

“No, wait. Don’t do this to me. I deserve to be here. I deserve to look for my daughter,” I remed, but it nothing

Elgin and my warriors pulled me away. Part of me knew I might be getting in the way of their search, and the scared me. When Elgin dragged me back to the car, I began to pace anxiously

“I can’t let this happen. I need to look for my daughter.”

“Elgin,” I said, turning to face him.

There was a strange look on his face, almost like he was judging me.

“What?” I snapped.

“The last time I checked, you didn’t want your daughter either,” he replied.

The moment he said that, I felt betrayed. He could see I was hurting, yet he chose to use that moment to strike back at me.

“Can’t you see I’m in pain?” I asked quietly.

“Oh, I can see it,” he remarked. “I was in pain too, so I know what it looks like.”

He kept giving me that same judging look.

“I’m confused,” he continued. “When I was worried about my daughter, you didn’t care. You didn’t care at all, Graham. But now that it’s your daughter, everything has changed.”

“That’s because you were cruel to your daughter,” I shot back. “You pushed her away. You yelled at her. You said things you shouldn’t have. I stepped away because my wife was pregnant, and she threatened to leave me and take my child. I never wished harm on my daughter.”

As soon as I said that, Elgin grunted and stepped closer, as **if** ready to challenge me.

“And you think I wanted my daughter to suffer?” he demanded. “Yes, I snapped at her. Yes, I said those things. That doesn’t mean I hated her. I’m a father. I have bad days too. And you expect me to believe you’re the only one who loves your daughter?”

He scoffed and gestured toward the car door.

“Well, **it** seems even the moon goddess knew who not to give pain to,” he added.

“We should go,” he finished. “They’re not going to let you help.”

He turned **away** and climbed into a separate car, making it clear that he was leaving with or without me.

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354-No Hope So Far

Madeline:

“I could not believe he came thinking he would ask us to be part of the investigation and that we would let him stay,” Yuvonne complained, following us toward the wooded area. She was definitely going to go back inside. She had only come out to comfort me and put me at ease.

“Not only that, they were probably told that Elara had been taken. That was why Elgin was the first one to come and complain,” Ron explained.

“It does not matter what they think or what they say. None of them deserves to be around my children or even worry about them. As for Graham, it was because of him that all this mess started in the first place. He was the one who started the argument with me. He was the one who brought up wanting me to marry him. He forced it all on me, then he stepped back. So no, I do not think any of them deserves an explanation.”

I grunted, finally stopping when I felt I did not want to go any farther, so at least Yuvonne could go back and take care of my children with Baxter.

“Yeah, forget about them. You guys should focus on looking for Gina,” Yuvonne told me, giving me a gentle pat on the shoulder.

“Please take care of Bodhi and Elara. They must be feeling so sad,” I requested, my voice breaking at the end.

“Of course they are. They must miss their sister.” Yuvonne wrapped me in a hug.

Before she decided to step back toward the cabin, I watched Ron gesture to one of the warriors to go with her. Ever since that monster had taken my daughter, the news had spread about a deadly creature taking children away. Nobody knew what compelled it to come, to appear for the first time. Nobody knew why it took my daughter. Everyone was worried that the next time the monster came back, it would take their children.

“Are you okay?” Ron asked me, after his attention shifted back.

“Only if I knew,” I replied quietly. “I do not know. I just feel like I am half dead.” I spoke to Ron without looking him in the eye. I did not even want to be seen. But I had no other option. My daughter was out there, and I was not going to believe that anything had happened to her.

“Are things okay between you and Baxter?” Ron asked, using a gentle tone.

I took a deep breath and finally turned to look at him.

“I am scared for Baxter. I do not think he understands what he means to me.” I finally broke my silence about his situation. “Ron, you have no idea. Ever since that incident, he has looked at me with wild eyes, almost as if, **if** I did not stop him, he would make a mistake just to find that monster.”

I noticed how Ron began to frown at me.

“Come on, Madeline. He is not that weak,” Ron remarked.

I shook my head.

“**He** is not. But that is the problem. He is trying too hard to prove it to others. And I saw the way the monster attacked him that day.” I swallowed hard. “Ron, I have already lost my daughter. I have no idea where she is. If

anything were to happen to Baxter, I would stop living.”

As soon as I said that, I felt a tear roll down my eye.

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No Frope so For

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“The thing is, Ron, I love Baxter. I love him more than he can imagine, and I am afraid of losing him. He does **not** understand that the only reason Bodhi and Elara survived that night was because of him,” I uttered, rubbing my hands together anxiously.

Every time I mentioned that night, I remembered my daughter’s innocent face, the way her eyes watched me, hoping her mother would arrive in time and grab her before the monster snatched her. She must have been so scared. She must have thought her mother failed her.

“And then you need to tell him all this,” Ron snapped me out of my thoughts about that night.

“You do not understand, Ron. I have to let him fight for his wolf. If I told him that he does not need to have a wolf, he would stop fighting.” I paused as my heart began to pound harder than ever. T

“And?” Ron asked me.

“And Ron, once he loses his wolf, he will turn human, and they will take him away from me,” I commented, tears forming in my eyes.

It was then that Ron realized why I was so scared of losing everyone.

“Hey, calm down. Everything will be okay,” Ron said as he quickly stepped closer, rubbing my elbow to comfort

1. me.

“But it also hurts when his mother taunts him that way. She is crushing his confidence. He deserves to be cared for, to be built up, not torn down,” I explained.

Then I buried my face in my hands. I wanted to spend time with him, to focus on his healing. But my daughter also needed me, and she needed me first. 1

admin

## We Listened to the Darkness 355

355-Growing Distant

Madeline:

“Let’s look for Gina. Once we find her, we can start training to keep his wolf alive, at least enough so he is **still** considered a werewolf and not sent to the human world,” Ron explained, and I gave him a nod.

The rest of the day was the same. We wandered around looking for Gina.

Each time the drone showed nothing, the warriors returned empty-handed, and there was no news, I began to **feel** my heart break little by little, and then we returned to the cabin, defeated and alone.

“It is okay. You can start fresh tomorrow.” Yuvonne sat beside me on the couch, gently rubbing my arm.

I had returned and taken a shower, but I had not been able to eat anything. I took care of my children and then put them to bed. I insisted on doing it tonight. And then there was Baxter. He had been staying with Ron, asking him about the progress.

“I do not know, Yuvonne. I am afraid,” I uttered, running my hand through my hair. When I ran my hand down face again, I stopped, resting it against my forehead.

“No, I do not believe anything happened to her. You do not need to be afraid. She is fine. Trust me,” Yuvonne replied.

Then she pulled her hands back, as if something was on her mind. I removed my hand from my forehead and turned to look at her.

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“It does not make any sense, though. There was always a myth, but there was never a witness to the monster. Yet the monster is real. How was there never a witness? Somebody must have seen it to start that rumor, right?” Yuvonne questioned.

Ron and Baxter, who were standing nearby discussing the map on the table, suddenly straightened and turned to look at her. Her question made sense, but it did not help in finding Gina.

“Yeah, but you will not. It changes nothing. My daughter is gone.” I paused, hunching down to rest my elbows on my thighs, bending forward to hold my face in my hands.

“Yeah, but whoever witnessed the monster must have survived to tell the rumor. Maybe if we can find that person, we can figure out how to escape the monster, how to defeat it,” she mumbled. Her words made me lower my hands and look at her face in silence.

“Or maybe we can find out where it stays, because the monster cannot stay in the clouds. It comes from the sky, but that just means it is flying around. That is its way of moving.”

As she added that, I snapped my head toward Ron, and we shared eye contact.

“Right. If we can find the monster’s home, maybe we can find Gina.” I hesitated before standing up from the couch, feeling a surge of energy.

“Exactly. And for that, we need to find that witness. I mean, track down who started the rumor first,” Yuvonne added. Almost instantly, I felt like there might be hope. 1

“I will spread the word for anyone to come forward and tell us if they know anything about the person who witnessed the monster or who started the rumor,” Ron remarked, snapping his fingers as he grabbed his phone and hurried toward the door to make a call.

Just as he reached the door, Yuvonne stood up from the couch.

1/3

Growing ext

1/25 **Bonus**

“Ron, it is pretty dark outside. Why do we not stay here tonight?”

Her words made us look at Ron. He seemed to understand the fear the monster had planted in all **of** us.

“Come on, Yuvonne. I am with you. You do not need to be afraid. We will go home, make a plan, talk it through, and come back in the morning to let them know what we are going to do next. Remember, my grandmother **is** home alone,” Ron explained.

The confidence in his voice made Yuvonne nod before stepping toward him.

The moment they left the cabin, I glanced at Baxter and noticed him staring off into space. I could not tell what he was thinking. He snapped out of it, looked down, and then turned his attention back to the map.

“What do you think we should do?” I asked, stepping closer and placing my hand on his shoulder.

“My opinion does not matter. You guys are already handling it. I will take care of the children,” he replied. There was sadness in his voice as he gently removed my hand from his shoulder and wandered back into the room. 2

I felt like, somewhere along the way, I had upset him. Maybe it was because I did not involve him in the search, but he needed to understand that I never asked him to stay behind.

He suggested it, and I was afraid he would push himself too far. His wounds were still not healed. He needed rest.

Comments

admin

## We Listened to the Darkness 356

### 356—Between Two Mates, One Is The Worst

Graham:

Elgin did not stay with me. I had to go back home alone with my worries, but that did not mean I would give up on looking for my daughter. I was enraged by how this could have happened.

There were so many people there that night, yet the monster only took my daughter. It felt like she was not their priority. Otherwise, my daughter would have been saved too.

“Wait, what are you saying?” my father questioned as I moved restlessly around the living room.

Ever since I had arrived, I noticed I had not been able to form a full sentence. I was not panicking. I was just losing my grip.

“What is it that you do not understand?” I shouted. “A monster came and took Gina.” I raised my voice again, making my father narrow his eyes at me.

“A monster?” my father repeated, folding his arms across his chest. “And where did this supposed monster come from?”

“From the sky,” I snapped.

“No, I mean how did it come down?” he pressed, his stare making me uncomfortable.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” I asked my father, snapping at him.

“Because, if I remember correctly, my son, it was you who was interested in finding out about the monster. And it cannot be a coincidence that it arrived right after you fixated on it,” he replied, staring at me with his hands on his

waist.

“So you think I wanted it to come and take my daughter away from me?” I asked.

I did not raise my voice because I could tell he was growing frustrated with me. I needed him on my side if I wanted my daughter found.

“Well, play stupid games, win stupid prizes,” he muttered, making me wave my hand to dismiss his words.

“Look, I will be honest with you. It has been days now. She is gone.”

As soon as he said that, my heart sank. I hated the truth. I hated the reminder that I had lost my daughter because

of me.

“But we have not even looked for her yet. What if—”

My father lifted his hand, cutting me off.

“There is no if, no buts, Graham. She is gone. And she is gone for good.”

Those words were spoken by Kaylee as she intervened, stepping into the living room with a hand pressed to her back.

“Aren’t you happy that you are no longer connected to Madeline in any way?” she asked me. Her eyes were red, likely from crying or anger. That was only because I had not answered her calls in the last few hours.

“And you think that your reaction is appropriate?” I hissed at Kaylee, my fists clenched, but my father instantly stepped in front of me.

1/3

Between free Than

+ 25 Bonus

“You will not take your anger out on my daughter-in-law. She is carrying your pups. She **is** going **to** give **you the** strongest heirs. As for Gina, it is sad that she passed, but she is gone. And Kaylee is right. You no longer have **any** connection to Madeline, so just be

happy about that. She disrespected you enough times, especially when she protected the other kids and let yours be taken away,” my father declared. \$2

He continued, listing facts, but every word hurt.

“I am a mother too, Graham, and I will never let one of my children suffer while protecting the others. Nobody can take any of my children away from me unless I want them gone. So you better believe she did not put as much effort into saving Gina as she did into the other two. Snap out of it. You are lucky you are not connected to that witch, because trust me, Elgin still is, and she will make sure she takes revenge on him by hurting his daughter too,” (19

Kaylee muttered under her breath, taking deep, heavy breaths, because as a mother, it was not easy for her to say all these things.

I wondered how vindictive Madeline had to be to purposely not protect Gina.

“But there is a chance that she tried,” I asked my father.

He chuckled and shook his head.

“My son, you do not know these women. Just because you have Kaylee does not mean you understand how cunning other women are, especially Madeline. She did it on purpose. That is why the news first came out that Elara was abducted. Do you not see what she is doing? She has you by the neck. So snap out of it,” my father hissed angrily. 2

“What we are saying is the truth, because I interrogated the warrior after you left,” my father stated confidently.

My eyes

shifted to the warrior I had asked to summon the demon on the mountain top. The warrior stepped forward to relay the whole story to me.

“And before you start questioning him, let me remind you that your wife, the one carrying your pups, is the one who made sure she got all the information from the warrior so you could be put at ease. So be grateful that you have a mate who is so understanding. Even in a place like this, where she has to talk about your ex, she is doing it just to put you at ease,” my father said, full of praise for Kaylee. 1

And if what they were saying about Madeline was true, she had no idea what was coming for her.

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Comments

admin

## We Listened to the Darkness 357

357-Finish Her

Kaylee:

“What is this, Your Highness?” the warrior asked as I placed a suitcase in front of him.

“It is an amount of money you could not count in days,” I replied calmly.

“What is it for, Your Highness?” he asked again. I could already see his throat move as he swallowed, his eyes fixed on the suitcase,

“Why do you not open it first?” I suggested.

Daniel began to open the suitcase. The moment he did, some of the cash spilled over. He smiled brightly before forcing the serious expression the warriors usually carried.

“What am I getting paid for, Your Highness? Is there something you want me to do?” he asked.

“Why do you not have a seat with me?” I told him, gesturing toward the couch.

Graham was out with Elgin. He had rushed out in a hurry, while his father and Penny had gone to the hospital. That was why I had the moment to myself, and I decided to handle this matter alone.

As soon as Daniel sat down, I crossed one leg over the other and looked at him calmly.

“Start from the beginning,” I told him.

He began to explain what had happened, and the money clearly encouraged him to speak more freely. He mentioned everything, including the fact that Elgin said Elara was gone.

“So you are telling me that all the kids were outside?” I asked and he nodded.

“And you are telling me that you later received information from another warrior that Graham had found out it was actually Gina who was gone?” I asked. He nodded again.

“So the child you saw near the fence was Gina?” I murmured.

He nodded once more, likely because he had not been able to tell which child was which in the dark. Madeline's children looked mediocre enough that it had not been easy for him to tell them apart.

After listening to him explain everything, I decided to speak.

"So here is what you are going to do for me. It will be harmless. No one will ever be able to prove you wrong. You are getting paid to lie. And you are lying about someone who is not that important."

As I spoke, I noticed the warrior's eyes kept drifting toward the open cash. I leaned forward and quickly closed the suitcase. If he wanted the money, he needed to listen carefully.

"Your Highness, just tell me what I need to do," he insisted, a little too eager now.

I cleared my throat.

"You will tell Graham, once he returns, that you remember what you saw. You will say that you could not tell Elara and Gina apart, but that the events themselves were real. You will say that you could tell the difference between a boy and a girl. You will say the couple tried their best to protect Bodhi, while the daughters kept crying. Say that even Elara was left at the mercy of the monster. But when Madeline ignored Gina and ran toward Bodhi, that was when the monster got distracted. Elara managed to save herself, while Gina was left standing by the fence, crying alone," I explained carefully.

1/3

"What if Madeline tells him that is not what happened?" Daniel asked, sounding uneasy.

**+25 Bonus**

"He will not believe her. Why would you lie? Graham already thinks poorly of her, so he will believe you. And the result stays the same. Gina is gone. What you say matches the outcome. Just make sure you tell him the girls were taken for granted, and that both parents threw themselves toward the monster to save Bodhi," I finished.

Daniel immediately began to nod and reached for the suitcase, but I slammed my hand down on it, making him jump.

"But remember, Daniel, you are never to speak of this to anyone," I warned.

He nodded again, smiling. I then removed my hand from the suitcase.

As we stood in front of Graham, the warrior said exactly what I wanted him to say. I was careful enough to have Lord Eldon with me when I questioned him about the event.

It was only after Graham's father returned home with Penny that I suggested we discuss the incident with the warrior.

Graham looked furious. It was as if he had been stabbed in the chest. I could not believe how well everything had gone. The only thing connecting Graham to Madeline was gone now.

It had been days since the monster took Gina. Of course, it had eaten her. Even her bones would be hard to find by now. And I had erased any sympathy Graham could ever have for Madeline.

He stood there, tense.

After the warrior finished speaking, we all watched Graham. He took a few steps back, then grabbed a vase from the table and slammed it against the wall.

"I will fucking kill that bitch. I will make her suffer every waking moment of her life," he screamed.

His father and the warriors rushed to restrain him as he began to shift. I quickly stepped out of the living room. I could not witness such a violent reaction while I was pregnant. All I knew was that I had done my job well. 3

Comments

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admin

## We Listened to the Darkness 358

\$25 Bonus

**358**—Broken Hearts Find Comfort **Together**

Baxter:

I knew I should not have snapped at Madeline like that. Even though my tone was calm when I dismissed **her** request to know if I had any plans, I could tell that I had upset her.

When I walked back into the room and lay down on the bed, it felt like it had been a long time since I had done that. I only did it to avoid Madeline's eyes, because neither of us could sleep until we had found our daughter, Baxter.

I snapped my eyes open when I saw Madeline walk into the room and sit on the bed right beside me.

"I think keeping ourselves awake is not going to help us. You should also rest," I told her, trying to turn my back to her. However, she held my hand, stopping me.

"I do not want to lose you," she murmured. Those were the first words she said after sitting down, and they instantly had my attention.

The way she crumbled while looking down after saying that made me feel guilty. I sat up at once and held her by her arms.

"You are not losing me," I assured her.

She gently placed her hand over mine and shook her head.

"No, the Moon Goddess always takes away whatever I like. And I have liked you for many, many years. I am afraid --" she uttered, her voice breaking as her breath quickened.

She had no idea what hearing those words did to me.

"Come here," I said as I pulled her against my chest, holding her tightly.

"You are the only one I can trust, Baxter. You are the only one who gave me hope, who gives me life. You are the only one who has protected me. Even that night, you did not care about your own life, and you saved me and my children. Otherwise, none of us would have been alive today," she continued softly, and I started to feel even more guilty. 2

"I had no clue you were thinking of all of this," I said, still hugging her tightly. She began to wiggle out of my arms so she could place her hands on my chest and look me in the eye.

"This is a difficult time for us, Baxter, and I know we need each other's comfort, but we also need to understand not to judge each other. You know how I feel about you, and if you do not, then let me tell you. You saved me and my children, Bodhi and Elara, that night. The only failure is me," she confessed.

Her voice broke again, and I started to feel terrible for making it about myself. The truth was that she had been drowning in guilt.

“That night, I could not even take Elara and run toward the porch. Then you had to come out and put yourself in danger for us, and Baxter, I could not even reach Gina,” she continued.

The more she spoke, the more I realized that her telling me not to worry about her had come from feeling responsible for losing Gina. She was likely thinking she was incapable, and that was why I had put myself in danger to save her.

“My Madeline, we are going to find her, okay? Remember what Yuvonne said today,” I said as I rubbed her elbow and caressed her cheeks, running my hand through her hair to fix it.

1/3

+26 Bonus

She nodded. I realized she had been wanting me to step up, but at the same time, she was scared about something. The moment I started to speak up, she handed all the control to me.

“But how will we find out who started the rumor?” she questioned, her eyes showing emptiness.

“You do not worry about that. I will contact someone and figure it out,” I stated as I pulled her back against my chest.

She hugged me tightly. Holding her in my arms and listening to her confess just minutes ago how much I meant to her changed something in me. I was more determined than ever to find Gina and prove to her that she could rely on me. At the same time, I knew what I had to do.

I broke the hug and helped her climb onto the bed, pulling her close to cuddle.

“Tomorrow, we will ask Yuvonne and Ron to book us a room at the motel. This place is not safe. And since we are out at night a lot with the warriors, I am afraid the monster might get triggered. Remember, we still have two children living with us here,” I told Madeline.

She only nodded, getting comfortable as she pressed herself closer to my chest. I tightened my arms around her. She stayed quiet, letting me take the lead, and I was going to do exactly that.

☐

Comments

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3

Sara Lili

**Sara Lili** is a daring romance writer who turns icy landscapes into scenes of fiery passion. She loves crafting hot love stories while embracing the chill of Iceland's breathtaking cold.

## We Listened to the Darkness 359

### 59-The Shadow's Choice

Madeline:

At least I was able to have a heart-to-heart conversation with Baxter after that, and the good part was that **we** cuddled to sleep.

It felt so fulfilling, but there was still a missing piece of me that was nowhere to be found, my daughter.

When I woke up again, I found myself alone in the bed. It seemed as if the other kids had already woken up and Baxter had taken care of them. I rubbed my eyes, feeling a sense of yearning.

I only got out of bed when I noticed the darkness outside the window, and something struck me.

Was it the same night, or had I been asleep for the whole day and it was already another night?

That anxiety gripped me, and I began to panic. I hastily reached for the door and opened it to see where the others were. However, the entire living room, almost as if the whole cabin, was empty.

"Baxter!" I called for Baxter, reaching for him as I stepped into the kitchen, but it was empty too.

The worst part was that it was not just empty, but everything seemed as if it had never been touched before.

There were cobwebs everywhere, dust covered the torn couches, there was no food, and nothing in the kitchen looked as if it had been used in years.

Panic took over because none of it made sense.

“Bodhi, Elara?” I yelled, screaming as I searched for my children.

I ran upstairs to Yuvonne’s room, or what used to be Yuvonne’s room, and it seemed to be locked, as if it had never been opened before.

Then I rushed downstairs to Baxter’s parents’ room, and it was locked too. The same thing. There was no light. There was nothing. It was just a house that had been abandoned for years

Then I heard a faint whisper coming from the bedroom I had stepped out of.

“Baxter, is that you?” I called out.

I hurried toward the door but stopped midway when I heard voices coming from inside, and they did not sound like Baxter’s.

“What are we going to do?” a woman whispered, her voice gentle as she cried softly.

“Do not worry. I will find a way. I will not let anything happen to our child,” a man replied.

My hand began to shake as I reached for the door, trying to open it and see who was inside.

However, for reasons I could not explain, I was unable to open the door. I stayed there, listening to them.

“She has a high fever. If we do not get help for her, she will die,” the woman said, sounding distressed.

The way she spoke to the man reminded me of myself. That was how miserable and vulnerable I felt when Gina was snatched from my arms.

“Honey, I am telling you, I will go out and get her medicine. Just make sure you do not open the door for anyone,”

the man told her.

Then I heard footsteps moving toward the door. I stepped away, feeling frightened.

I was afraid they would catch me listening to their conversation. For a moment, I truly felt like I was the **one** invading their privacy. That fear made me step back even more, with greater hesitation.

However, the moment the door opened, a bright light filled my vision, and I saw a black shadow standing within it. There was no couple. There was no bedroom. It was only a bright light with a shadow.

“Mate or child?” a voice came from the dark shadow, but I could not see any features, as if there was no face, nothing there.

“What?” I asked the shadow, confused and unable to understand the hint it was giving me.

“Pick one,” she uttered.

“I do not understand,” I replied, shaking my head.

“You have to pick one,” she repeated.

The voice was terrifying. It almost sounded like it was not coming from the shadow itself, but from some unfamiliar source.

“I cannot pick one,” I uttered, refusing to give in to the orders of this entity, or whatever it was.

“Well, you must pick one, or you will lose both,” she warned.

As soon as she said that, my heart began to thump louder in my chest.

“Who are you? What do you mean by that? Is that supposed to be a threat?” I screamed.

That was when I noticed the shadow growing smaller, as if it were stepping back and away. I rushed into the bright light, trying to follow it.

“You cannot hurt my mate or my child. Who are you?” I screamed, calling out again and again as I tried to find it, trying to reach it.

But the more I stepped toward it, the more it faded away.

“No, wait. Come back. Tell me what you mean by that. Do you know where my daughter is?” I screamed over and

over.

As the shadow continued to fade, I heard one last thing from it. 1

“Since you did not pick, I will pick for you.”

“}

1

Then a loud static noise hit me. I covered my ears with both hands and dropped to my knees.

“No, stop this. Stop it. Stop,” I screamed.

I suddenly felt hands gripping my arms, shaking me awake. I gasped, opening my eyes and staring straight into Baxter’s eyes.

“Hey, it was just a nightmare,” he murmured softly.

Behind him, both of my children stood in the doorway, watching me with shock and fear in their eyes.

2/4

960-1 Will Grote

Sara Lili

**Sara Lili** is a daring romance writer who turns icy landscapes into scenes of fiery passion. She loves crafting hot love stories while embracing the chill of Iceland’s breathtaking cold.

## We Listened to the Darkness 360

**360-1 Will Go Solo**

Baxter:

I had been trying to calm Madeline down ever since she woke up, but I could tell the nightmare had left a heavy

effect on her.

She looked scared and confused. Whatever it was, it had to be related to Gina, but she was refusing to tell **me** exactly what it was.

She only said that she did not want me to go out anymore.

Honestly, I did not take it as something that hurt my ego. I realized she was panicking and worried about me. “Okay, kids, give her some space, all right?” I told my children.

“I am fine now,” she finally spoke softly.

I had asked her, even requested her, to take a shower and change, hoping she would feel better. She even ate a little, at my insistence.

“Ron and Yuvonne are outside too,” I told her, and she sniffled, nodding her head.

“Did they tell you what they have planned?” she questioned.

“Yeah, Ron said he will request several Pack members to let you all visit, so they can ask them questions about the rumors,” I informed her.

She watched my face with hope, likely waiting for me to give her some good news.

“Do you think it will be helpful?” she questioned me.

I realized how much she needed me. Every time something happened, she would turn to me, and over the last few days, I had been so absent, thinking only about myself and my pride.

“Yes, it will work,” I told her and then held her hand, gently rubbing the back of it.

“Madeline, there will be good news.”

The confidence I showed made her eyes widen as she blinked at me.

“Well, then I trust you,” she said with a broken smile.

“Now come on, let’s go. You guys should not waste a minute,” I said, holding her hand and helping her out of bed. She had returned to it after taking a shower.

After the casual meeting and discussion, it was decided that Madeline would leave with Ron.

However, I noticed she seemed confused about why I was not insisting on going with them.

It felt strange, especially since the night before, we had talked and almost agreed that we would do everything together.

Still, I could not go with her because I had different plans for the day, something I had been quietly working on.

After Madeline and Ron left with the Warriors, Yuvonne began to play with the kids. However, it was time for me to act on my next mission.

“Yuvonne, I need to speak with you,” I said as I sat down on the couch opposite her.

1/3

360 WR

\$25 Bonus

She turned her attention away from the children and looked at me.

My children had been struggling deeply. Every waking minute, they remembered their sister and asked us if **the** monster would eat her alive.

We had to lie to them, telling them she was fine, that she was scared, so she was at the hospital.

Still, I could tell that with all the search going on, they might hear things here and there. For now, we had told them we were just looking for the monster to punish it for scaring them.

“Do you have the ability to book a room at the motel for us?” I asked quietly, rubbing my palms together.

“Oh yeah, I can do that. I was just thinking the other day that it would be better if you all stayed at a motel instead of this same cursed place,” she replied, immediately pulling her phone out of her purse.

I nodded, because once we were out of here, I would be able to move forward with the secret mission.

She spoke to the motel manager for a while, and when she hung up, she smiled at me.

“I have booked two rooms, one for you, Madeline, and the children, and one for your parents,” she said, getting up to start packing the kids’ things.

“Thank you so much, Yuvonne. It will be very helpful,” I replied, quickly heading to the bedroom to grab my bag.

I picked up my bag, then stepped over to the closet and hid it inside before walking back out.

Yuvonne was really helpful.

As for my mother, she was the same. She only cared about herself, and honestly, I did not blame her.

At her age, I did not think it was fair for me to expect anything from her either. My father, however, was showing change, a good kind. He had been helpful too.

Yuvonne had her car parked by the road. I only needed to tell my parents that we would be staying at the motel. I knocked on her door, and my mother answered, standing with her arms crossed over her chest.

“What is it? Did the monster take someone else away?” she taunted, mocking me for not finding a secure place.

“Actually, Yuvonne booked a motel for us for a temporary stay. I think it would be much better if we go and stay there,” I replied.

As soon as I said that, relief crossed my mother’s face.

“See, she is so clever and intelligent. I wish you had picked her,” my mother grunted, and it made me clench my

fist.

“Well, it does not matter who I picked. Yuvonne picked an alpha, and Madeline picked someone who is nothing. So be grateful that your daughter-in-law still respects me,” I remarked angrily as I walked out of her room. 2

Sara Lili

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