

Chapter 1 - Alpha Alexander and Omega Scarlett Novel by IS Barbosa

Scarlett:

I hissed as he pulled out of me, the feeling of being empty somewhat being foreign despite the discomfort that I felt during the experience. My body was somewhat sore; however, this was nevertheless, one of the most beautiful nights of my life.

The way he held me in his arms, cradled, and kissed me, everything just kept playing in my head as I watched him getting out of bed.

“Why didn’t you mark me?” I asked, frowning in confusion. He wouldn’t even let me mark him, and instead, he chose to take control of the whole night, not that I minded, I was just confused by his action.

“Because I never planned to” he answered coldly. The gentle and sweet man who was holding me in his arms earlier seemed to disappear all of a sudden. I frowned, and forcing myself to sit up, my body being sore just wanted me to rest.

“Alexander, this is not a joke to play around with...”

“I am not playing you, Scarlett. I never planned to mark you, and I believe that you’re not stupid enough to know that an Omega would never be in the same rank as an Alpha” he said coldly. My heart raced against my ribcage as he put on his boxers and pants. He turned to face me, and with hard eyes, he glared at me, waiting for an answer.

His green eyes met my blue ones, and shaking my head, I tried to process what he was saying. The man couldn’t be serious, he couldn’t be saying this, could he?

“Then why did you invite me here? I don’t understand...”

“I was curious on how it would feel to f*ck my mate. Needless to say, you are the best I’ve been with; however, the two of us know that it is Delilah who I am in love with; therefore, I do believe that you...”

“You just took my virginity to be with a different woman?” I asked, stopping him “hell, if you’re in love with a different...”

“And if you want to stay alive, I will suggest that no one hears of this. Otherwise, I will be ripping that tongue out of your mouth, feeding it to you before I’ve killed you, do you understand me?” He asked, glaring daggers at me. Tears brimmed my vision and nodding in understanding, I gripped the blanket over my body, hiding it from his eyes “good, now it is time for your rejection”

“Alex, please. The two of us have been friends…”

“That friendship ended when we grew older. I am not saying that you did anything wrong, on the contrary, but we are of different ranks, and omega can be matched with an Alpha” he said, stopping me.

His words tore into my soul like nothing else, and tightening my grip on the blanket, I waited for his rejection as my heart throbbed. My wolf broke, but I promised her to make it up to her I promised her that if she doesn’t show her pain to him, that I would be helping her heal. Maybe we would be getting a chance with another mate, maybe our fate would be different.

“I, Alpha. Alexander D’Angelo, reject you, Scarlett De Luca, as my mate and Luna”

I kept my eyes on him as he spoke his words, not reacting to his cold words. He frowned in confusion, expecting his words to break me, they did, but I wasn’t going to show it to him, not when I did nothing to deserve the rejection.

“And I, Omega Scarlett De Luca, accept your rejection, Alpha Alexander D’Angelo” he frowned in confusion as he watched me lay on the pillow, covering myself with the blanket, hiding my face. I was thankful that it was a while past eleven and that we were at my house.

My house at the pack was at the far end of it, and having lost my parents at a young age, I’ve been living alone, thanks to Alexander’s father, Mathew D’Angelo, who allowed me to stay in his pack after their death.

He walked to my side and sat on the edge of the bed for a second, running a finger over my forehead before pulling his hand away and clenching his fist. A manner that he had since we were kids. I squeezed my eyes shut, and holding the blanket tighter, I turned around, giving him my back before I felt him getting up from the bed and walking out of the house.

“Good night, Scarlett, I will show myself out” he said, not bothering to wait for me to respond as he walked out of my room, then my house, and it wasn’t until I was sure that he was away from my house that I allowed myself to sob.

Both because my heart broke at the fact that the man that I couldn’t help but imagine myself with as I grew older. He was the one support that I had growing up, and it wasn’t until he met HER, that he changed.

The fact that I also knew that I couldn’t say anything about it didn’t escape my mind. The way he rejected me, looked at me, and even spoke to me kept playing in my head, causing my wolf to whimper in pain. Her whimpers were ones that broke me, mostly because I knew that I couldn’t keep her safe. I couldn’t be that human who was good enough for her.

I had lost my family as a child, and therefore, when I shifted for the first time, I was the only one without my parents around. Alpha Mathew was there to support me alongside his Luna, Alexander’s mum, Katlyn D’Angelo, as they both made me obey and were gentle on me. I had submitted to them without question, they were my only family.

Then when Alpha Mathew chose to step aside to have his son as Alpha, I knew that I would submit to him, why? Because on the very night that I shifted, the night of my eighteenth birthday, I knew that he was mine and I was his. But that was a month ago, a month with him quiet with no response to our mating bond.

No reaction, and not even a simple glance of satisfaction, nothing at all. And now I understand why.

The man was taunting me, wanting a taste, but also wanting to let me go when he was done; however, as I was ordered, I was going to stay quiet.

I would suck it up, and wash my face, ignoring all the pain I lived through, and I was going to suck it up...

Therefore, forcing myself out of my bed, my sore legs caused me to stumble a bit. But nevertheless, managed to reach the bathroom as I stared at my reflection.

“You, Omega Scarlett, are not going to weaken in front of the Alpha. Not today, not tomorrow, and not ever, do you understand?”

Alexander:

“What do you mean she’s gone?” I asked Carter, my best friend and beta, glaring at him.

We couldn’t find her at her house. I knocked a few times, and when she didn’t respond, I broke the door down, but she wasn’t there...”

“Find her” I said, stopping him. He nodded and ran out to follow my order, knowing that I wasn’t joking around at this point.

My girlfriend, Delilah, frowned when she saw my concern; however, she didn’t know that Scarlett was my mate. She didn’t know that I rejected her for her over a month ago.

“She left, why are you upset about it?” She asked, crossing her arms over her chest as she walked

toward me. Her blonde hair, and brown eyes met my green ones, and shaking my head at her I walked past her without saying a word. I tried catching her scent, but it was nowhere to be found, and being the pack’s orphan, and omega, I knew that losing her would only anger my father.

“I am talking to you, Alex” Delilah said, wrapping her hand around my arm, stopping me. I growled in warning, forcing her to let go, and shaking her head in question, Delilah tried processing what just happened.

“I do not care about her; however, if my father finds out that she is lost, I am in for more trouble than I want to handle. The two of us know how much he cares about her, and we both know that he would go head over heels when he finds out about this...”

“She left on her own. You can’t possibly be blamed for that, Alex” I took a deep breath, forcing myself not to respond as I knew that she didn’t just leave because she wanted to. I knew that watching me with Delilah broke her more than she let out, and seeing as she didn’t say a word about it, I eventually knew that she would collapse; however, I didn’t really expect her to leave.

“Delilah, can you please leave me alone to think? For crying out f*cking loud, just give me my space...”

I am your girlfriend, and I don't think that watching you get worried over another woman should be something that I allow" Delilah snapped, stopping me. I sighed and turned around to face her. I cupped her cheeks and made her look at me, quickly leaning in to peck her lips. The kiss felt different, and not a good different, much like the other kisses that we've been sharing since that night.

"My gorgeous neonata, you know that the last thing I want right now is for you to be upset; but I really have to find her before we've gotten in trouble with father" I said, gently running my finger over her jawline. Delilah sighed but nodded, allowing me to take a step back without complaining this time.

I tried to catch her scent, knowing that since she was my mate, rejected or not, the bond between us was still unbreakable, especially since I never marked my chosen mate, or in other words, my girlfriend.

"Where are you, Scarlett?" I hissed, walking around the pack's ground. I knew that she wasn't here, I just needed to know which path she took so as not to get caught; however, the woman was smart enough to take different routes to prevent me finding her. Typical Scarlett...

"And where the f*ck are you even going?"

"What do you mean she's gone missing?" Dad asked angrily. He got up from his chair on the dining table just as we entered the house, and seeing as she didn't come to dinner, he knew that something was off.

"It is not Alpha Alexander's fault. She left the pack unnoticed..." Delilah started only to be stopped by dad banging the table, stopping her. Alpha Mathew, my father, was a man who not only took Scarlett in as his daughter, I knew that he had hoped that the two of us would be mates. He didn't know that his wish did come true, it would be a secret that would be dying with the two of us.

"No one addressed you, Delilah. If you are on my dining table, I do not expect you to believe that you would mean anything more to me.."

I let out a low growl of warning, not wanting him to insult her, and he let out a quiet chuckle in response.

"The girl was a good friend of yours, how could you be so calm...?"

“I have been searching for her all morning; however, if she chose to leave on her own, I do not think that it is my responsibility as her Alpha to look for her. Yes, I did search when another Alpha would have banned her from the pack, making her a rogue, if...”

“Scarlett wouldn’t have left without a reason, Alex, we all know that” mom said, stopping me “whatever her reason is, we will know of it when she is back. Until then, we do not want you to stop the search for her. I don’t think she would last long out of the pack; however, no matter how long she stays away, when he’s back, she is not to be kicked out”

I nodded in understanding, knowing that objecting to anything would only end up being against me. I knew that they took her in as a daughter after both her parents sacrificed their lives to save me and mom. Had it not been for them getting us out of the burning building when I was a child, we would have been dead. They died unable to leave while we were saved. Scarlett was barely a few months old back then, and she too was saved from the fire. Her mom handed her to mine at the last minute before a wall fell between us, locking them inside as we walked out.

They died in that building, either by suffocation, the fire itself, or the crashing walls around them, and we honored their sacrifice by taking their daughter in.

“And I want to know her reason for leaving, from her, when she is back, do you understand me, Alex?”

“Yes, father” I said, looking at Delilah who I knew wanted to make a comment. I glared at her not to before taking a seat beside my mom, Scarlett’s seat was empty, and wanting to take a chance to sit on it, Delilah walked toward it making me shake my head at her behavior. Dad banged the table in warning, stopping her, and taking a step back, she was reminded of her place.

“Delilah, child, I will give you this last warning, and I do not care whether you or your mate like it or not...” dad said, glaring at her “you are an outsider, not from this pack. I would suggest that you remind yourself to mind your f*cking limits with me. You are not this pack’s Luna, regardless of my son being an Alpha; therefore, if I find you crossing your limits with the pack members, you will find me standing in front of you, do you understand me?”

Scarlett:

I put a hand on my stomach as I walked around the streets, heading to the apartment that I rented, having finished my last shift of the day.

“Don’t worry, my love, mummy will keep you safe” I said, speaking to my baby. It killed me to admit, but knowing that Alexander didn’t know that he was going to have a baby made me feel somewhat guilty. But I also knew the consequences of telling him that I was, and I knew that I couldn’t handle them.

A child of a mating who I was forced to hide in fear of getting told to abort it.

I didn’t want to, and I was determined to protect my child if it cost my life, and if the man threatened me as not to reveal the fact that he cheated on his ‘girlfriend’ to sleep with me, wanting to feed his sexual hunger; then he was not going to hesitate to tell me to lose the child in fear of everyone’s reaction.

Having been working for a month before I left the pack and two months now that I was away from it, I knew that I could support myself and my child, if only a little when I didn’t have any allowance from Alpha Mathew anymore. The man has more than enough for me, and I was thankful for being able to save up most of the allowance he gave me over the year when I initially planned to get myself a car, but getting pregnant changed my plans for me, not that I minded. At least I knew that I wasn’t going to be alone, theoretically, I was going to start my own family, something which I was deprived from.

No one knew about my job, and instead, everyone thought that I was studying for university exams, or doing my projects. I was, when everyone fell asleep, I would study, but during the day, I was between my classes which I switched to being online, and between work to afford a living for myself and my child.

I entered one of the grocery stores on the way, getting myself something to eat, a loaf of bread, a few bottles of water, and two bottles of peanut butter and jam should last me a few days at least. The less I spent on myself, the more I could save for my child’s needs, and being a wolf, I knew that I didn’t have much time anyway.

Thankfully, when I started working, I was already showing and they could only assume that I was in my sixth month. My stomach was hidden back at the back under the mom jeans that I bought while back at the pack, and the loose shirts that they were used to me wearing; therefore, thankfully, when I did join them for dinner mainly, most of my day was either spent out of the pack or at my house, and when the first full moon hit, I made sure to pretend to go and shift with ‘friends’ that I didn’t really have, outside the pack’s grounds.

Alexander didn't really care, and since that was the case, his father didn't question me. But, when everything came down to it, no one suspected a thing.

"That would be five dollars, ma'am" the cashier said, looking at the things that I bought. She looked at my stomach and smiled, handing me another loaf of bread, as well as a bottle of milk "these are on the house, I wish you a safe delivery, ma'am"

"Thank you r much" I said, putting a hand on my stomach. "You are very welcome, ma'am" she said, nodding at me.

I smiled and paid the woman before putting my things in a bag and walking back to my apartment. I was hungry, I knew that, I lost weight over the past few months that I was staying alone, and I knew that it was due to the fact that I was barely eating enough to make sure that my baby didn't die on me, or that I didn't starve. My diet mostly consisted of bread and whatever I could spread on it, or leftovers at the restaurant. I didn't mind, they filled me wonderfully, and at this point, I had no better option.

I entered my apartment, making sure to lock the door behind me before sitting on the floor in the middle of what was supposed to be the living room. I smiled as I placed my hand on my stomach before making myself a sandwich and eating it.

I took a few sips of water before getting up and setting the things in the mini fridge that I had in the hying room, something that I bought with my first actual salary when I moved here, knowing that I would at least need it to store food.

My baby moved inside me, and feeling the kick, I couldn't help but giggle despite it being somewhat harder than it normally was.

I know that you're hungry, but for now, we're going to need to settle for this quantity. You know that mummy cannot afford to buy food every day, we still need to have money when you're here" I said, running a hand on my stomach, rubbing it gently "I promise to shower you with the love that I was deprived of. I promise you to protect you from anyone that would try to harm you"

I got up from the floor and walked toward the bedroom, turning the lights on before dusting my bed. My night light which was beside my head was unplugged, and plugging it in, I turned it on and turned off the light, giving myself a dimmer aroma.

Smiling at myself, I stripped out of my clothes, knowing that I would need to wash them tomorrow morning before heading to work. But for now, I needed to get enough rest before getting up early to study for my finals. Thankfully, they were going to be online, but I was more worried about wanting to head to the university to see my professors if needed. For now, that was not going to be the case, but if, that ever happened, and anyone from the pack was around, either searching for me, which I doubted, or actually attending any classes, another thing that I didn't consider possible since they made sure that I entered one of the schools where none of them wanted.

Regardless of the previous Alpha and Luna's love for me, I was still one of the lowest ranked at the pack. Especially after losing my parents.

Most of them didn't remember the sacrifice that my parents did to save our Luna and current Alpha. Had it not been for their sacrifice, I might have had my family, but the pack wouldn't have had a Luna, an heir, and an Alpha who had his sanity in place.

Shaking my head at myself, I put on comfortable pajamas and a pair of socks to warm my feet. My wolf has been weakening as well, and despite her body being warmer than that of a normal human, it still didn't keep me warm enough to ensure keeping enough energy and losing less calories that would end up killing us out of starvation.

"Good night, my little, please try and let mummy sleep a little. We both need to rest to be able to function tomorrow" I said, rubbing my stomach gently. My baby kicked my stomach and I couldn't help the laugh that escaped my mouth at that, the feeling being one of the best that I keep experiencing despite the pain that followed it. It was a good pain, I had to admit, but it was still painful.

Alexander:

I don't care whether or not she is dead. I want her body if you have to bring it" dad snapped, glaring at me.

"My men are on the search for her. The girl has not been to her university in months, if she was still in the city, we would have found her already" I snapped, glaring at my father. The fact that he was speaking to me in such a sense annoyed me, especially since I was the one who was Alpha, and not him.

His eyes widened and a low growl escaped his chest before he wrapped his hand around my neck, choking me “Mathew!”

Mom’s voice broke through the silence of the room, and growling in warning, dad had her stop before she said a word about it the girl’s family sacrificed their lives for your and your mother’s sake. The

least we could do is ensure that their daughter is safe until she’s found her mate, do you understand me?”

The man didn’t know how much his words tore through my chest. If he found out that I was her mate and that I rejected her, then I was more than just dead in his eyes. The man wouldn’t even give me a grave.

He removed his hand from around my neck, and taking a step back, he nodded toward mom and the two of them walked toward the door. He looked at me over his shoulder, stopping at the door for a second before he spoke “I want her found, and I don’t care what it costs you. Whether she is alive, dead, in the city, or somewhere away from it. I want to know why she ran away, and I want to know of her whereabouts; otherwise, I will be sure that you pay for her leaving the way that she did”

The man walked out of the house before I could say a word, and sitting on the couch, I pinched the bridge of my nose, knowing that I didn’t know what I could do. The fact that my mate was away from the pack was something, the fact that I couldn’t even stand looking at Delilah was another thing. Her living with me in the house right now only angered me more than I could have imagined, and I couldn’t help but regret both sleeping with and rejecting Scarlett.

“Alex?” Delilah said, entering the house carrying a bunch of groceries. Her voice, which was once music to my ears now angered me, and seeing as I didn’t get up to greet her like I normally would have before that night, Delilah let out a low whimper.

She handed one of the maids the grocery bags that she was carrying, and putting her car keys on the table, she walked toward me.

When are you going to tell me what I did so wrong that you’re not bothering to look at me?” She asked, sitting on the couch beside me. The two of us have grown more distant over the past three weeks, and it was also due to the fact that she was either growing too protective, or trying to get me to make her

pregnant. Se knew that I didn't want it, but I wasn't stupid as not to realize that she stopped taking birth control since Scarlett disappeared and I started my search for her.

"You can start by going back to your birth control pills and stop..." "It is my body, and what enters it..."

"Then you can dream about me touching you, Delilah" I said, glaring at her. She looked down at her lap, watching as I got up from the couch "I will not risk you getting pregnant..."

"What happened to the 'family' that we wanted to build? As far as I know, a family was built when two Mated and had their child. You're refusing to mark me, and now you're just annoyed that I want us to trii,for a baby. You have been since that slut..."

"One more word about her, and I will be sure that you don't see the next light of day" I snapped, stopping her. She looked down at her feet, and taking a deep breath, I got down on my knees in front of her and laid my head on her lap, not wanting her to be upset "I'm sorry, dad just got on my nerves and I'm taking my anger out on you. I shouldn't be doing that"

She looked at me and sighed before putting her hand on my head, gently massaging my scalp as she ran her fingers through my hair. Dad was right, maybe knowing that she was dead would be better, at least bringing her body here might help my wolf be at ease. However, me being in constant conflict with him and with my relationship with Delilah was something that I could no longer stand.

"Is it about her again?"

"Yes, and the topic itself is starting to annoy me; especially since both he and mom are blaming me because she left" I said, not looking up at her. In theory, they were right. I knew that she left because she could no longer stand looking at me with Delilah. I saw it in her eyes the first time she walked out of her house, three nights after I took her virginity.

She had kept herself locked inside the house throughout the next three days to the point where we actually thought that something happened to her. I knew that she wasn't dead, I couldn't help but check on her, listening to her beating heartbeat within the walls of her house.

"They can't keep blaming you for her leaving, Alexander. She chose to leave, why are you the one to blame?" Delilah asked.

"I am the Alpha of this pack, and we all know that it is my responsibility to ensure that everyone in the pack is safe. Scarlett was part of the pack, and whether or not we chose to like it, she lost everything for our sake..."

"That was in the past, Alex, you know that you and your father have paid her more..."

I don't think that any money would repay for the sacrifice her parents did, Delilah" I said, stopping her. It was another thing that annoyed me about her. Delilah believed that everything could be solved with money. I raised my head from her lap before getting up from the ground to head out to look for her.

I still had one place to search for her at. It was one of her favorite cafés, and if she wasn't there, I didn't know where she would be at this point.

Delilah frowned in confusion when she saw me heading to get my keys and wallet, and getting up from the couch, she shook her head in confusion, wanting to either stop me, or question where I was going. She knew that I wouldn't answer if she asked, but I knew that she wouldn't be 'Delilah', if she didn't make a big deal out of this.

"For crying out loud, just spend one night with me. That is all I am asking..."

"I have responsibilities to take care of, and I don't think that playing house with you for your egoistic reasons is going to get things done; therefore, my apologies, Delilah, but I will have to leave" I said, getting my jacket from the closet. My heart ached, but I prayed that I would find her, dead or alive, to give myself a sense of peace that she was either okay and happy, or dead and gone.

"Alex..." I opened the house's door before looking at her.

"Don't wait for me tonight, Delilah, I'll be late, and I believe that you have things to tend to in the morning..."

Scarlett:

“Shit...” I hissed, gripping my stomach tightly as my baby kicked. I gripped on my door handle as I tried to calm my breathing down, wanting to process the pain that I was suddenly feeling.

Today was a day where my beloved little one was more than determined to make himself known. The kicks grew more intense with each passing minute, and needless to say, I knew that I didn’t have it in me to try and relax. I was due in a few weeks and the last thing I needed was to skip work or skip the one thing that would ensure our survival after I gave birth, at least, until I was back to work.

I shook my head, and taking a deep breath, I forced myself to open the door as I walked out of my apartment. I walked to work, making sure that I didn’t forget anything at home, and basically, by anything, it was a small bag of clothes if any accidents decided to occur, and something to eat if I didn’t want to eat any leftovers. The café was a few blocks away from the apartment, that was something that I was grateful for, because regardless of not needing a cab, I knew that I wouldn’t afford paying for one if I wanted to, especially if my job was further away from a few blocks away.

My heart clenched, and my wolf grew more alert as another kick hit. My eyes widened in surprise and, catching sight of HIM, I felt my whole body freeze. My heart raced against my ribcage, and despite the pain of my abdomen, it seemed like I was distracted, all too distracted, to try and keep up with what was happening.

His eyes met mine, and for a second, I could swear that he frowned in confusion, probably no longer making out my features as easily as he could, or catching sight of how different I looked. I have lost more weight in the past three months to the point where my once beautiful face grew pale. My eyes had black circles under them, something that never existed, and that was due to the exhaustion that I was dealing with. Me being pregnant, studying, and going to work didn’t come out as easy as I thought it would be.

Alpha Alexander, the love of my life and my first heartbreak took a step toward me and that was when I felt like my lower half was no longer supporting me. A cry of pain escaped my mouth before I could stop it, and looking down at my feet, my heart dropped to my stomach when I saw red.

Blood.

It was MY blood. “Scarlett...?”

“My baby” I said, putting a hand on my stomach, my vision blurring. My eyes rolled to the back of my head, and I could vaguely hear Alexander asking for help before I felt his arms wrap around me. My heart throbbed, and my wolf whimpered, but I couldn’t care less. I felt my heart weaken, and my body go numb.

“Hold on, Scarlett, help is on the way” I heard Alexander say as he lifted me “I just need you to hold on...”

My eyes fluttered open in a familiar room, my room.

My whole body ached, and the sound of the heart monitor only gave me a headache, and taking a few seconds to process what was going on, I found myself sitting up so quickly that my head throbbed as a headache kicked in.

“My baby?” I asked, looking down at my stomach, remembering the blood and what happened out in the street. Two hands were put on my shoulders, pushing me down gently, and looking up at whose hands they were, my heart raced against my chest when I saw that it was Alexander.

“Your baby is asleep in her crib” he said, not allowing me to get up. “Her?”

“You gave birth, or more specifically, the nurses helped you give birth to a beautiful little girl” he said, his voice softening “her body is a little weak due to you being unhealthy, but she should be fine in a few days. They have her in an incubator room that we set up for her. She’s laying in a crib that we got her, you don’t have to worry about her now, she is in safe hands”

“How...?”

“How what, Scarlett?” Alexander asked, stopping me. His annoyance was clear in his voice, and despite the pain that I felt in my chest, I fought to stay as calm as I could so as not to show him that his words, attitude, or even presence, had an effect on me. They did, but that was the last thing that I wanted him to know of.

“How did you find me?” I asked, watching as he took a step back “when do I get to see her...”

“You are very lucky that I did find you when I have. You would have died if it was a ‘human’ who found you and took you to their hospital. Why the f*ck did

you choose to leave if you were pregnant, Scarlett?" He asked, glaring at me "do you realize how worried my parents were? And f*cking pregnant..."

"You would have had me killing the baby..."

"I would have found out who the child's father was and ensured that he took care of the two of you, why the f*ck would I have asked you to kill your child?" He asked, glaring at me. My heart ached at his words, and shaking my head at him, I glared back at him.

"The baby is yours" I said, snapping at him "but just like you chose to f*ck me to please your wolf, asking me to keep it quiet; you would have had me aborting the baby to ensure that YOUR life doesn't get ruined"

"What?" Alexander asked, frowning in confusion "what do you mean the baby is mine...?" "A child of a bloody mating bond, that is what it is..."

"You can't be..."

"What do you f*cking mean by a child of a mating?" Alpha Mathew's voice broke our conversation. Alexander and I froze, and turning to the door, Alexander's eyes widened when he saw his girlfriend, Luna Delilah, standing by the door with wide eyes. His parents, Luna Katlyn and Alpha Mathew seemed to be more surprised than angry; however, Delilah was not only angry. The woman was raging...

"You cheated on me, with..." she pointed at me as if I was some virus that she wanted nothing but to get rid of. Her choice of words took me off guard as I knew that it was all she saw me as "this THING?"

Alexander:

Delilah ran out of the room before I could say a word to process what I just heard.

My heart raced, and following tier, I walked past my parents who had their eyes wide in surprise. "Delilah, stop" I said, wrapping my hand around her arm, forcing her to turn and face me.

"I f*cking knew that something was wrong with you. You turning cold and resenting my touch. f*cking hell, you wouldn't touch me for months, and now I

find out that you f*ckED HER” she snapped, pushing me back “you cheated on me with the pack’s orphan, and not only that, she’s your f*cking mate “

“I rejected her, okay? For your f*cking sake, I rejected her” I said, clapping my hands as if removing dust from them “she accepted the rejection and we were done...”

“Yes, that is why you spent months looking for her only to come back with her giving birth, and the funniest part is that the baby is f*cking yours! That thing inside the incubator is YOUR BABY!” She yelled again “you refused to mark me, you refused to have us start a family...”

“Delilah...”

“We are f*cking done!” She snapped, wiping her tears “do you understand me? I fought everyone to be with you, and I was more than willing to fight till the end...”

“Don’t pretend like you didn’t do it because of my position, Delilah” I said, stopping her. Delilah frowned in confusion, shocked at my words “you only did it because of who I am, therefore, there is no need to act like I meant anything...”

She slapped me before I could finish my sentence “you are not the only f*cking Alpha out there; therefore, the last thing I would need right now is for your f*cked up mind to start making up stories...”

“Oh, really?” I asked, not bothering to respond to her slap, I wasn’t going to raise my hand on a woman “every other Alpha has rejected you, and the two of us are aware of it. I accepted your kind heart, but if you want me to dig out the past...”

“You f*cking cheated on me and now I’m mistaken for my past?” She asked, taking a step back, running her fingers through her hair.

“I rejected the woman for your sake...”

“And yet you went ahead and f*cking f*cked her” she said, stopping me. My heart throbbed as my guilt tore through my chest, mostly because I knew that she was right. I shouldn’t have cheated on her the way that I did.

"I'm sorry, Delilah, I really didn't mean for this to happen" I said, avoiding her eyes. I didn't even know what to tell her at this point, but I knew that she was right in being as angry as she was. Had it been her who was in my shoes, I knew that I might have never looked at her. She shook her head and wiped the tears that fell from her eyes.

"Go to your mate, Alex" she said, shaking her head at me.

"There is no guarantee that the baby is mine, Delilah..." I said, trying one more last attempt "yes, I did sleep with her, but it was one time..."

"We both know that the baby is yours, Alexander" she said, stopping me "I am going to leave..." "Delilah..."

"Me staying here would make no difference with that child being yours. Okay, you might resent her and your mate today, tomorrow, and even for a year; but there will come a time where you would go back-to___ her, and I don't want to be that second choice who you just put aside" she said, looking toward her door

"I don't want to be like her, a little whore to f*ck and leave on an empty bed..."

I stayed quiet as I controlled my wolf so as not to attack her for insulting Scarlett the way that she did, and taking a step back, Delilah waited for a second, probably wanting me to fight her so as not to leave; however, I wasn't going to. If she chose not to listen, I wasn't going to push her into doing so.

I took a step back, and turning to the door, I found my father crossing his arms over his chest as he waited for an explanation.

My father stood in front of me, his eyes glaring daggers at me as he waited for an explanation, one that I really didn't have at the moment.

"She left because of you" he stated, glaring at me "for months we've been looking for her, wondering why she left..."

"She left because she wanted to..."

"She was carrying a child, Alexander" he snapped, stopping me "YOUR child, a direct heir to this pack..." "That girl inside is never going to be this pack's heir. We are not even certain that she is my baby..."

"If you really believe that sentence of yours, then you can go after the woman who just left you" he said, stopping me. My heart throbbed and nodding, dad turned around to enter the room where Scarlett was laying "the woman left because she was afraid that you would make her abort the baby. Your mother is not happy about it, especially since the baby she put at risk is an Alpha's child. She was not well fed and has overworked herself to be able to support herself, and her baby when born. I don't know where she's lived, but judging by how she looks, I can assume that she did not stay in a palace"

"And the baby?" I asked, my curiosity and guilt getting the best of me. I shook his head at me, but didn't bother responding as he walked toward Scarlett's room. I followed him, and my heart broke when I heard mom yelling at her.

"YOU COULD HAVE COME TO ME! YOU COULD HAVE GONE TO ALPHA MATHEW..."

"Katlyn, enough, she's already tired as it is..."

"The baby she nearly lost is our direct blood and heir. Had Alexander not found her, she would have lost the child..."

"She was going to die alongside the child, and you know that, Katlyn" dad said, making my heart drop "you heard the doctors, she needs to stay away from stress and needs to regain her strength. Whatever happened, we can't change it, but you, Scarlett, are not going to leave the pack again. You're the mother of one of our blood, and I don't care what you might think..."

"Your son rejected me, and I apologize, Alpha Mathew, but my child and I would leave the second regain the power to get out of this bed..."

"You are not going anywhere with my granddaughter, and I do not care what you say about it. From now on, you two are going to live together to raise that girl by one another's side..."

"What?" I asked, stopping him "excuse me, but who are you to decide on that?"

"Your f*cking father in case you forgot. The child grew in her mother's womb without your presence and as her father, you are to take the responsibility of her existence. I do not care whether you choose to f*ck other women or whether you choose to accept your mate; you will spend your nights at yours alongside your child" dad said, glaring at the two of us before he directed his

full attention to Scarlett whose eyes were filled with tears “and you, Scarlett, should you choose to play such a stunt again, I will be sure that you never get to see your child again, am I making myself clear?”

Scarlett:

“How could you be so f*cking reckless?” Alexander asked, glaring at me the second his parents walked out of the room My heart throbbed at his choice of words and I found myself frowning in confusion, and shaking my head in question I waited for him to explain what he was referring to “how could you get f*cking pregnant?”

“Excuse me!” I asked, frowning in confusion “first, it is YOU who entered my house to get into my pants. Second, it was YOU who searched for me. Third, it was f*cking you who brought me here! I could have stayed in my own space with my child...”

“You would have been f*cking dead if not for me...”

“I would have found a way to survive just like I have been surviving through the last three months” I said, stopping him “I didn’t need you, your help, or your ‘search’. If you didn’t want me back, then why did you bring me over?”

“You f*cking ruined my life and made me lose my girlfriend...”

“It was YOU who wanted to cheat on her, Alexander, how the f*cking hell is this my fault?” I asked, stopping him “just f*cking explain to me how this is my fault because I’m completely baffled by this”

“You spreading your legs for me is your fault...”

“Get the f*ck out of my sight” I said as tears formed in my eyes. As if I needed more pain to deal with right now. Needless to say, I was yet to even see my daughter, and here I was, regretting having her to begin with, hating her presence that was currently ruining my life “just get out, I don’t want to see you”

“As if I want to be in the same perimeter as you are...”

“GET OUT!” I yelled before I could stop myself. Tears fell from my eyes and running my fingers through my hair, I massaged my scalp to try and block the headache that I was feeling. The heart monitor’s voice broke into a speed that

had the nurses rushing into the room, and taking my shaking hand in theirs, three nurses stabilized my hand as the doctor sterilized it before injecting a needle.

“Alpha, she would need to rest for the next few days. Her body has weakened a lot more than any normal person could handle. I am surprised that she and her child are still alive, normally, anyone as weak as she was might have not survived” the doctor said, looking at Alexander who didn’t say a word. He froze for a few seconds, and nodding, he took a seat on one of the chairs, watching me, keeping his eyes on me as a hunter would do to his prey.

“Luna..”

“She is no Luna” Alexander said, stopping me “tell me what she needs and I will ensure that she is well taken care of”

“My apologies, Alpha” she said, looking down at her feet “for now, she would need to stay away from stress. I am not sure whether or not she would be able to feed the baby; but I would suggest that even if she does, the baby might need to have a bottle because her milk wouldn’t be enough for her”

“And the baby?” He asked, his tone filled with anger and disappointment My chest ached at his tone, and it killed me to know that I wasn’t qualified enough to protect my baby who was in my womb My heart ached, but I couldn’t react to that if I wanted to.

“She would need to be under supervision I have assigned four nurses, two of each shift, to be by her side to help tend to her needs. Then, once she is okay and has fully gained her strength and full growth as a child, they would be able to leave her side” she said. Alexander shook his head at her, making my chest ache as he glared at the woman.

“Her mother is unqualified and would not be able to manage taking care of her child. Therefore, the nurses would be staying with her to ensure the baby’s health and safety” he said, glaring at me.

I closed my eyes, not bothering to respond to him. There was no use in doing so after being attacked as many times since I woke up, and now, the idea of simply holding my child was something that I didn’t want to consider.

“As you wish, Alpha” the doctor said, approaching me. She put her hand on my forehead, checking my fever before taking a step back “Annalise, you will be in charge of Ms. Scarlett. Should she need anything, let me know”

“Yes, doctor” the nurse said, her tone calm. I held on the blanket tightly as I squeezed my eyes shut I could hear the doctor leaving the room, leaving me alone with Alexander,

I will be sure that you regret having this child, Scarlett, do you understand me?” He asked, not caring that I was already tired.

Little did he know that I was already regretting having her...

The bedroom’s door was knocked twice before it opened, revealing Alpha Mathew and Luna Katlyn, walking inside with a baby, my baby, in Luna Katlyn’s arms. They both looked at me then down at the child as Alexander sat up to look at his daughter.

“We thought to bring her to you, at least you would get to see her...” tears filled my eyes as I heard her low whimpers, and getting up from his chair, Alexander walked toward her, carrying her from his mother. The woman watched as her son looked down at his daughter for a few seconds, his eyes softening before his gaze turned cold once again.

However, despite his threat earlier, I was surprised when he walked with her in his arms, bring her to me. He sat on the edge of the bed beside me, and slowly extended her toward me. I went to take her before pulling my hands away.

“Scarlett...?”

“You can take her back to her incubator, thank you, Luna Katlyn” I said, stopping the woman from what she was about to say. Alexander looked down at our child then at me, surprise clear on his expression as he saw me looking away from her.

“Scarlett, I know that you want to at least hold...”

“I said, you can take her away” I snapped, stopping Alpha Mathew who I knew was more than just a little surprised with my behavior. I was never one to talk back at any of them, but having heard all their words earlier, I regretted

keeping the child, fighting for her, or even trying to keep her safe “I do not want to see her, thank you”

“Scarlett...”

“I’ll speak to her, mom” Alexander said, stopping his mother from saying another word as he got up to hand her the child. They walked out of the room, leaving the two of us alone again, and never in my life did I feel as helpless as I did at this very moment.

“What are you doing, Scarlett?” Alexander asked, glaring at me “do you think that this would attract...” I am not qualified to be her mother” I said, reciting his words, stopping him.

“Scarlett, you are acting like a child..”

“I would like to rest now, please” I said, stopping him “I am very tired, please?”

“We will discuss this later, Scarlett. Tonight, I will give you the chance to process the fact that you are a mother” he said, walking toward the door, opening it. He froze for a second, as if wanting to turn to face me only to walk out of the room without saying a word, leaving me to my thoughts.

“But you all claimed that I was not qualified to be a mother...” I said, whispering my words to myself as I put my hand on my stomach “and you’re not letting her stay beside me, and that could only mean that you believe that I should not be a mother...”

Alexander:

I walked out of the room, frowning when I processed the fact that she was resenting her own child.

The way she looked at her made my heart ache, and I knew that it was due to all the stress that she’s been through.

“Alpha...” A nurse said, walking toward me. She looked down at her feet, avoiding my eyes, and shaking my head in question. I waited for what she had to say “the baby girl is yet to be named and we don’t know...”

“Anastasia, Nasia for short” I said, looking at Scarlett’s door, hearing her calm heartbeat. I knew that the medication put her to sleep and that accepting the

child after feeling so much resentment from everyone would take a while; however, considering that she made the choice to keep the baby when she found out about it, she was not going to drop her now.

I walked out of her house and toward my own, knowing that the nurses would be staying with her for the night. I had ordered the pack's doctor to set her things at Scarlett's place for the next few days to ensure that she didn't do anything that was crazy during the night.

I entered the house, and couldn't help the sight that escaped my lips when I saw that Delilah was fixing her bags in front of the door. Her eyes avoided mine as she carried one of her bags as I approached her "stop this, Delilah..."

I took the bag from her, setting it on the ground beside us as I looked her in the eye "please give me a chance to at least try and make things right"

"You have a mate, Alex, and that mate has your baby. Rejected or not, the child is yours, and I will not stand being a second choice..."

"I never said that you would be my second choice, Delilah. For f*cks sake, I just found out about this today, I can't just have things crumbling over my head like this" I said, putting a hand on her waist, pulling her closer to me.

"Alexander, please..."

"No" I whispered, leaning in, knowing the effect that I had on her. Our breaths mixed for a second before I connected my lips with hers, tightening my arms around her as I pulled her closer. Delilah didn't hesitate to kiss me back, and lifting her in my arms, she wrapped her arms and legs around me, deepening the kiss.

A low growl escaped my chest and walking toward the couch, I sat on it with her on my lap, gently grinding against me. Her moan sounded like music to my ears, and slapping her ass, I squeezed it gently before pulling away from her lips to strip her off her shirt.

She blushed, looking flustered, and taking off my shirt, I wrapped my arms around her as I pulled her to my chest. Our skins touching had my body setting on fire, and as my blood traveled down to my cock, it hardened tender her, throbbing with each grind of her ass on me.

“F*ck...” J hissed, squeezing her boobs when she bit my earlobe, gently sucking on the area. I moved my neck to the side, giving her better access before lifting her gently, moving her from my lap as I motioned for her to strip. She bit her bottom lip, and pulling both her pants and panties down, she stood, waiting for further orders as I took off my own pants and boxers.

My cock sprung free, hitting my stomach, and letting out a low growl, I wrapped my arms around her, pulling her to my lap making her whimper. I positioned myself under her and watched as she sat on me, allowing me to push myself inside her, stretching her completely.

DeUlah tightened her arms around my shoulders, and laying her head in the crook of my neck, whimpered.

“F*ck” I groaned. thrusting upwards, pulling out before pushing inside her. She tightened her arms around me, and smirking, I noticed that she tried tightening herself around me, a tactic that she’s been doing to get me to cum inside her.

I pulled out of her completely, shocking her, before I laid her down on her back and got on top of her. She knew for fact that I wasn’t going to give her what she wanted, but finding out about Scarlett having my baby, she would want to do the same, and regardless of her being my girlfriend, I knew that I wasn’t ready to have a family with her. Hell, I didn’t even know how I was going to manage the girl to begin with.

“Don’t worry, neonata, I’ll let you finish” I whispered to her, kissing her chest, stomach, then down her clit. Her back arched from the couch, and blowing on her clit, I pushed my index and middle finger inside her, looking up at her as I did, thankful for the large couch that we had in the living room. It was one that we specifically chose for long nights like this one when we used to spend our movie nights at home when we first got into this relationship. Those were nights that I missed having, but I was quick to understand that nothing ‘good’ or ‘perfect’ lasts forever.

“Alex...” She whimpered, gripping my arm as she tightened around my fingers. Her eyes widened and her back arched as I leaned down to kiss her clit while pushing my fingers in and out of her. However, I quickly pulled them out before pushing my cock inside her making sure to make her reach her climax at a quicker pace before she went on complaining or getting angry. Her eyes widened and gripping my shoulders as I hovered her body, she buried her head in the crook of my neck, whimpering profanities that made my cock throb inside her.

Turn for me, neonata” I whispered, pulling out of her completely before pushing back inside. Her eyes widened and letting out a cry of pleasure, she came around me. My thrusts grew sloppier as I neared my own end, and pulling out of her completely, I stroked myself, emptying myself on her stomach, groaning as I did before laying down beside her.

I went to wrap my arms around her to pull her to my chest only to frown when she shook her head and moved away from me. Her eyes were filled with disappointment as she grabbed a few napkins to clean my cum off her stomach, and leaning down, she picked up her clothes and quickly started getting dressed, not bothering to say a word or look at me.

“Delilah, what are you doing?” I asked, shaking my head in question “the two of us...”

“You came inside her with no hesitation” she said, stopping me “and here I am, your girlfriend, or so I considered myself, unmarked, and you choose to pull out of me to cum on my stomach”

“You are literally angry about that?” I asked, frowning in confusion. She pulled her shirt over her head and started getting dressed, her eyes avoiding mine as she turned to face me.

“Find yourself another girl to mess around with or you can proceed with f*cking your ‘mate’. I am certain that she will enjoy it” she said, pulling her pants up as she walked toward the door, carrying the two bags she had by the door and her purse “I’ll send two of the guys to get the rest of my things in a few days. Goodbye, Alexander.”

Scarlett:

“Good morning” I heard Luna Katlyn say as I opened my eyes.

I jumped at the sound of her voice, not expecting to be here, and sitting up, I straightened against the bed’s headboard.

“Relax, Scarlett” she said, looking at me. My eyes dropped to the baby, my baby, in her arms, and looking away, I had to fight the clench in my chest at the fact that I was resenting her after all the pressure they put on me “it’s normal what you’re feeling. Especially after all the pressure that you were under, but Anastasia has nothing to do with it

“Anastasia?” I asked, frowning in confusion.

“Alexander chose to call her Anastasia, Nasia for short” she said, looking down at the little girl who whimpered “do you want to hold her?”

“Everyone claims that I am not fit to be her mother...”

“Scarlett, you’re scared, I know, and what you’ve dealt with is far more than anyone could want to handle. But you are nowhere near unfit to be the child’s mother. To say the least, you kept her safe inside you, alone, giving yourself the minimum to ensure that you got her something for her when she was born” she said, looking at me “yes, I know that we all said harsh words that may have hurt you; but you of all people should know that we said them out of shock”

“Alpha Alexander is not going to accept her as his daughter...”

“Wasn’t he the one who named her?” She asked, stopping me. I looked down at my lap, avoiding her eyes “he brought you here himself. He could have left you out there, but he didn’t. I understand your fear, anger, and pain, but your child is not to blame for all of this”

I watched as she extended her to me, and looking at her, I couldn’t help but tear up a little at how selfish I was being. Luna Katlyn’s eyes were fixed on me, and extending my hands to the baby, she slowly handed her to me “just put your hand under her head to support her neck. She is yet to be fed today, if you want to give it a shot...”

I don’t think that my milk would be healthy for her...”

“There is no milk healthier than a mother’s to her child” she said, stopping me. I pulled my daughter to my chest, and looking down at her, I couldn’t help the sob that broke from my lips. My baby’s eyes met mine for the first time, and leaning in, I carefully kissed her forehead.

“Hi, baby” I whispered to her “I’m your mum...”

My little girl kept her eyes on mine for a few seconds before she opened her mouth and started crying, startling me. My eyes widened in surprise and wanting to push her away, I was surprised when Luna Katlyn stopped rye, gently putting her hand on mine as she shook her head at me “she’s hungry, and as a baby, this4’ how she can express herself...”

“How...?”

“Just pull the hospital gown down, and guide her toward your nipple, she would know how to suck on the milk” she said, handing me a baby blanket. I frowned in confusion, and putting it over my shoulder, she helped me cover myself as I did what she told me to.

My eyes widened in surprise when small lips wrapped around my nipple as my baby started sucking on my milk, and I couldn't help but laugh, despite the tears that were falling from my eyes, at the feeling of her biting me as she sucked as hard as she could. Luna Katlyn kept her eyes on me, studying my expression, before she nodded “I'll have them bring her crib here, she can sleep in your room, how

about it? There would be nurses helping you tend to her, but it is important for your baby to hear your, breathing to learn how to breathe in the same pattern”

But won't Alpha Alexander be upset? “

I will be speaking to him, Scarlett” she said, stopping me “the baby is yours, not the nurse's, and it is only right for her to stay beside you For now, we will help you get the proper nutrition in your body, and I'll ensure that we help you regain your health and strength I'll also teach you how to handle small things like changing her diaper, give her a shower, and even feed her through a bottle”

“So, I would still need to bottle feed her?” I asked and she nodded.

Your baby would need to drink a few herbs to help with any constipation that might form, water, and even artificial milk as I am not really sure that you would be having enough milk. But we would work on everything; however I am going to need you to be strong and patient through it all” she said, looking me in the eye “it's not going to be easy, not on you, and not on Alex either”

“But what if he doesn't accept her? What if he resents her completely? I am sorry for asking this, but you've seen how he was yesterday The man was more willing to accept her if she wasn't his child” I said, my heart breaking at the fact that I heard him telling Delilah that the baby might not be his. He knew that he was the one who took my virginity, and regardless of that, he accused me of being touched by another man.

He was in shock, and he won't be accepting her in a day or two either But the two of you are going to eventually learn to come to some mutual agreement, whether it is to be together completely or to co-parent your child. For now, you both need to know how to manage things" she said, looking me in the eye "and if you use your brain, heart, gentle soul, and kindness, I am sure that you would be able to even have his heart"

"Pardon?" I asked, frowning in confusion.

"A home is not built in a day, Scarlett. You're a beautiful female, use that to your advantage. Have him wanting to come home every night. Tend to him, try talking to him, maybe even spend the night with him. You have so many options to try, and with Delilah gone, I am sure that you would be able to make something out of this" she said, smiling at me.

"Delilah is gone?" I asked, frowning in confusion.

"Yes, she left last night and had two men come and get her things. You have all the space to yourself, all you have to do is be smart about it" she said, making me frown.

I am not going to be the replacement or that cheap..."

No one asked you for either one of them, Scarlett" she said, stopping me as I looked down at my baby who was in my arms, still drinking her milk "but if you want your daughter to have a father in her life, you need to make sacrifices. You chose to keep your child, then you are to be a mother to that child, and that includes giving her the best that you could offer"

Luna Katlyn got up from the edge of the bed and turned to the door before I could respond. Her eyes avoided mine .s she saw my frown on my face, probably understanding how absurd she sounded, or maybe shei6st didn't care about ME in specific, the girl she was referring to was her grandchild.

"Think of what I said, Scarlett. As long as you wish to keep your child, you are going to be responsible for her" she said, standing beside the door as she looked at me over her shoulder "the maids will come in with the crib in a few minutes. Then the nurses would come to check on you and help you to the bathroom if you need it. I'll be back later today to check how you are doing. Until then, I want you to think of my words carefully. You are no longer that child or girl who was here under our mercy..."

i frowned at her choice of words, but choosing to stay quiet, I waited to hear what she had to say, too exhausted to even argue with her to begin with “you are a mother; therefore, I suggest that you start acting like it...”

Alexander:

She really did send them to bring her things...?”

“Shut up, Carter, I am not in the mood for this” I said, glaring at my beta. There were times where Delilah did leave the pack after an argument. I would usually apologize and come back home with her, but this was the first time she’s sent someone to get her things after she’s packed.

“Do you think she will come back?” He asked. I shook my head and pinched the bridge of my nose, not really sure whether or not she would at this point. Things have never reached this far in any argument between us, and seeing as they have this time, I didn’t know where life or things would be taking us.

“I don’t know, but I really do hope so” I said, sitting on the front porch. I couldn’t help but frown when I saw dad coming toward us, and standing up, both Carter and I looked at the man, trying to understand what it was he wanted at this hour. His eyes studied our expression for a second, before he looked at the men who were getting Delilah’s things.

it is for the best, Alexander” he said and I glared at him. He looked at Carter and motioned for him to leave, and taking a step back, he left to tend to the things at the pack.

“Why are you all doing this? I understand your gratitude toward Scarlett, and I never denied what her family has sacrificed for us. Hell, the woman was my best friend for a long while before...”

“Delilah entered your life” he said, stopping me. My heart ached at his words, but he was right. Delilah was the one who was actually against me being Scarlett’s friend. Her and I rarely fought, hell, I knew that at some point, Scarlett knew me better than anyone at the pack “I am not saying accept her as a lover, Alex; but don’t treat her like some stranger. She has done nothing wrong, and keeping the child was for the best, we all know the consequences of aborting an Alpha’s baby”

He took a step toward me and put his hand on my shoulder, gently squeezing it “Scarlett has agreed to feed the child. Your mom left her with the baby.

There are two nurses with them, helping her to tend to whatever they may need. Go and see them today, give it a chance to speak to her. Yesterday was a mess for the both of you, and her waking up after nearly losing her life and the baby wasn't easy; therefore, today, after at least managing to calm down, I want you two to talk"

I didn't respond as he took a step back, leaving me alone. I sat on the porch, and ran my fingers through my hair, thinking of what he said. I knew that I had no other option than to accept the child and the fact that Scarlett was her mom. Therefore, getting up from the floor, I walked toward her house.

Frank, one of the men that I assigned to ensure her safety, opened the door for me, and walking inside, I walked straight toward Scarlett's room.

Are you full, little one?" I heard Scarlett ask gently. Her voice softer than I've ever heard it. "Ms. Scarlett, you would need to croak her" a nurse said inside the room.

"Can you please teach me how to do it?" Scarlett asked. I opened the door slowly, watching as the nurse taught her how to hold the baby as she tapped her back gently.

Anastasa croaked in her arms, jumping gently, and I couldn't help the smile that formed on my face at the sight of the little child. Scarlett, who was distracted by the baby, caught sight of me before looking down at her feet, avoiding my eyes. Her heartbeat, which was calm when I first entered the room, quickened, and seeing her, the nurse nodded at me.

"Do you want me to take her, Ms. Scarlett?"

"There's no need for that, I would put her in the crib once she's asleep" Scarlett said and the nurse nodded. The nurse walked out of the room, leaving the two of us alone, and taking a step toward Scarlett, I was careful not to make any sudden movements that would startle her.

"How are you feeling, Scarlett?" I asked, breaking our silence. She looked up at me, her eyes studying my expression for a second before she sighed.

"You can sit down, Alexander, I am not going to eat you" she said, looking down at the baby again. "I take it that you're still upset with me after last night?"

"I believe that the two of us went away before last night; but either way, no, I am not upset with you, I am just tired" she said, turning to the edge of the bed. She tensed, and looking at her, I got up from bed and extended my hands toward her. She studied my expression carefully before handing me Anastasia to put inside her crib "I take it that your girlfriend is gone by now"

Her statement caught me off guard, and putting Anastasia inside the crib, I turned to look at her "your mum told me that she was leaving, and seeing as you came here, I assumed that she has; otherwise, knowing her, she would have come here to give me a piece of her mind"

"You have two men in front of your house, she wouldn't have been able to do that if she wanted to" I said, taking a seat beside her "but yes, she did leave"

It was quiet for a while after that, and it wasn't until a question popped into my head, one that has been running through it since she left, that I opened my mouth to speak "where were you staying through this whole time?"

"Does it matter?" She asked, shaking her head in question.

"Scarlett, your body was drained, sick, and exhausted. The doctors could tell that you weren't eating enough, sleeping enough, or sleeping somewhere comfortable..."

"I had a roof on top of my head and that was all that mattered to me..."

"Scarlett, I am not asking to hurt you. I just want to know" I said, making her frown. "What difference would it make? You already brought me back here" she said coldly. -You wanted my baby to live in that house..."

"I believe that until a few hours ago, you were telling Delilah that the baby might not be yours" Scarlett said, shocking me that she heard the conversation "you knew that you were the one who took my virginity, and the first thing you said when I woke up was that you would have found the baby's rightful father..."

"Scarlett, I didn't think..."

"You expected me to sleep with another man when you knew that I wanted to be with my mate or lover before doing so. I don't know what came up in your head about me, but at least, I kept my pride and didn't open my legs for a man"

for a place to stay or food on my plate” she said, making my heart drop to my stomach.

“I never said that you did”

“You implied it, and as a person who I grew up with and who was once considered my ‘friend’, I find it absurd, cold, and very hard to accept” she said, laying on the pillow “if there is nothing that you need to tell me, Alphonse, I would please like to get some rest. My body is still drained from all the exhaustion, and I believe that you of all people should know it”

I nodded and got up from the edge of the bed before heading to my daughter, gently running my finger over her small hand. I smiled when she wrapped her whole hand around the finger. I looked at Scarlett over my shoulder and sighed, knowing that she wanted me to leave; therefore, not wanting to exhaust her, I walked toward the door.

“By the way...” I said, stopping by the door “once you’ve gotten better, you and my daughter are moving to my house”

“I beg your pardon?” Scarlett asked, her tone somewhat annoyed.

“You heard me; therefore, I suggest that you enjoy your few days of ‘peace’. In a few days, the tvorrf would be sharing the house, and I believe that you are well aware that it would be for the baby’s best” I said opening the door “I will come to check on you two later today, and I better find that you’ve dropped your attitude when I am back, Scatlett...”