

117 117- Perfect chance

Phoenix: 1

Abruptly, Jai stood, brushing the tears from his face, "Come on. Get up," he held my hand to pull me up, "We need to leave. We can't be seen together. This isn't about me, remember... it's about you..." he held my face between his palms and kissed my forehead.

I closed my eyes as I felt tears running down my face. He didn't move back, and I could feel his tears falling on my face.

"I still have to keep you safe. Until you're in this pack, you're my responsibility."

He stepped back and started wiping my face, "You will always be my best friend. Always remember that," his eyes again welled up with tears, but he suddenly controlled them and blinked several times.

"Jai, I'll miss you," I whispered.

"I'll miss you too, honey," I laughed through my tears. He never used this endearment for me. 1

This one was always reserved for the cute nurses he worked with.

He pursed his lips and held my stray hair between his index finger and thumb, "In the



Blood Moon Night Ceremony, I'll give you a friendship gift. From me... That will be the last gift for you. After that, our path will be different, and we will be going in separate directions." 1

"That's it," I muttered with a sarcastic grin, "Zero contact?"

He nodded at me and moved back, "Yeah. That's it. Zero contact. Once you go to the Royal Palace, you won't want to meet me anyway."

Brian's death must have played with his nerves. I needed to ask Alpha Blake to take him to a doctor. Maybe a psychologist?

Lately, he was not himself. This was not the Jai I knew.

He started to leave, but I blurted his name, making him halt, "Jai."

He didn't turn around. I tried to swallow the sudden lump forming in my throat, "I love you," I told him softly.

He seemed to go still and then slowly turned around, "I love you too, Phoe," he breathed, and then opened his mouth to say something. 1

"What?" I asked him, and he shook his head.

"A goodbye joke?"

I chuckled and closed my eyes. He got the hint

and started,

"A politician dies and gets to choose between heaven and hell, but first he's given a tour of both places." he looked down and started digging the floor with the tip of his shoe, "The tour of heaven goes as expected, it's vibrant, sunny, peaceful, with a charming scenery and music playing. There are people dressed in white robes walking around; everyone appears happy and peaceful, but honestly, it seems a little bit boring. Then the politician gets a tour of hell," he stopped for a while and let out a short laugh, "But it's not what you'd expect. In hell, he's shown all of his favorite things: beautiful golf courses, free everything, infinite booze, all of his old friends, partying, drugs, prostitutes, and the hot chicks. The politician can't believe it. It's like all of his epic nights out combined have stretched out to infinity, and it's time to make a choice..." he paused for a moment, "Rather surprisingly, the politician chooses heaven. The devil's completely shocked and goes, Why the hell did you choose heaven after I showed you how incredible hell would be for you? The politician replies, I know a false promises campaign when I see one."

Jai started laughing after that. The laughter sounded fake to my ears.

Was this his way of telling me that I was shown

the perfect hell behind all those lies?

"Don't you have a goodbye joke?" he placed his hand in his pockets. His eyes were taking in my frame from head to toe.

"Yeah. I do have..." I struggled to keep my voice steady.

"A man goes to the shrink and says," I cleared my throat, "Doctor, my wife has been unfaithful to me," I took a long sigh and continued, "Every evening she goes to the bar and picks up a random man. In fact, she spends her nights with almost anybody who asks her. I think I'm going to go crazy. What do you think I should do?"

"Relax, says the doctor. Take a deep breath and calm down. Now let's start from the beginning. Exactly where is this bar?"

Jai burst into laughter. He closed the distance between us, still laughing, and before I knew it. His arms were around me, pulling me tight against him. 1

The sounds of our laughter mixed until neither of us knew if we were laughing or crying anymore. 1

Tears were streaming down my face, and I was sure he was also crying. But we didn't care.



In that moment, nothing else mattered.

I lifted myself up on my toes, trying to control my pounding heart, and kissed his cheek. When I left my family, I missed my twin brother William the most.

And now I was sure once I leave this pack, I would surely miss this man who became my friend, brother, father, mentor, doctor. All in one. 1

"I know I don't deserve your love. But please stay safe for me," I heard his teary voice and couldn't utter a word. Just nodded my head. 1

"You also get mated to one of those cute nurses," I drew back and gave a playful punch on his shoulder.

This time, I didn't let him make the first move. I needed to leave this room or my heart might explode.

"Bye, Doctor Jai Chris," I saluted him and walked past him, feeling his eyes burning my back.

This was one of those goodbyes that hurt me the most after Delis and Kamila.

"Don't worry!" The familiar voice echoed in my head, "You're going back to the palace. We can meet Delis and Kamila again!"

This time, I didn't get scared of my wolf's voice.

"Sure, sweetheart," I wiped my eyes while walking to Sebastian's quarters. That was the only place I could go back to.

The king might be planning to leave after attending the Blood Moon ceremony. However, I needed to finish some tasks before leaving this pack.

I wasn't leaving before teaching Klara and Raya a few life lessons. However, I didn't know fate was already at work to provide me the perfect chance I needed. ●

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