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As Claire stared at Eunice in shock, she stood there with her bruised lips trembling as if she was trying not to cry. And then Eunice leaned against the door suddenly, as if she didn't have the strength to stand by herself anymore. She looked absolutely terrible, nothing like the beautiful, glowing woman who had left her room the previous day. Seeing the nightmarish appearance of her friend, Claire felt rage and panic well up inside her. The feeling of something bad happening made absolute sense now. Somehow her instincts had recognised that something would happen to Eunice. But what had happened to her? Who hurt her like this? Whoever did this will pay!

Then Claire remembered how Eunice had asked her to join her for a walk and when she couldn't, she had suggested she ask Devin instead. Eunice had been glowing with happiness when she left her room, so something must have happened during their walk. Did that bastard do this to her? He had acted like such a gentleman. How could he cause her sweet Eunice to become like this? He will regret ever messing up with her Eunice. She didn't care if he was a fucking alpha! She will kill him!

"I will kill that bastard, Devin. How dare he do this to you?!" Claire snarled, her eyes flashing with rage, making it clear that she was serious. Even Mia, who adored Eunice, was growling inside her head, demanding the blood of whoever did this to their sweet friend. Claire snarled in agreement before turning away, intending to rush to find Devin and teach him a lesson. He can't expect to stay unscathed after hurting Eunice like this. He will pay! Claire will make sure of it. Alpha or not, no one hurts her sweet Eunice and gets away with it!

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"No! Wait!" Eunice called out from behind her, and Claire paused. She turned to see Eunice standing there, her fragile shoulders shaking with her hysterical sobs. Her puffy eyes were wide with panic as she trembled, her face getting paler by the moment. Her breaths came in short puffs as she tried to gulp in air, but in her panic, she wasn't able to breathe properly.

Seeing her state, Claire felt her eyes widen in panic and she rushed to Eunice, all thoughts of pummeling Devin taking a backseat in her mind. Eunice was the priority! She needed to tend to her friend first.

"Breath, darling. Just breathe. Calmly, take a deep breath, please," Claire called out, trying not to panic as Eunice hyperventilated. She needed to be strong for Eunice. She had always been there for Claire and now that she was distressed like this, it was her turn to take care of Eunice.

Eunice complied with Claire's instructions, taking in a hungry lungful of air and slowly color returned to her cheeks as her breathing slowed down. Still, she was sobbing hysterically as she looked at Claire, her eyes full of desperation.

"What's it, Eunice?" Claire asked gently, as if she was speaking to a child who needed soothing.

"Don't tell anything to him please!" Eunice wailed suddenly, making Claire frown.

"To Devin? Why?"

Did he threaten her or something? Why was she this jumpy at the

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mention of his name?

"P-please don't let him see me like this. I c-can't see him right now. I c
-can't see his face. I just can't," she wailed, making Claire's heart
clench painfully.

Eunice was always tiny, but her personality made up for it. Always
bubbly and full of life, making her feel bigger. But now, it was as if
she was trying to pull into herself. She never looked as tiny and
helpless as she did now. Even when Diana assaulted her, the fire in
her eyes had been burning vengefully. Even with her wounds,
Eunice's spirit stayed the same. But right now, she looked so lost
that Claire felt tears brimming in her eyes. What happened to make
her strong, fearless Eunice to be this broken?

Even during the darkest part of her first life, she had never seen
Eunice like this. Even when the whole pack bullied them, she had
always stayed positive, saying everything will be fine one day. What
in the world happened to make such a positive, hopeful girl become
this fragile, whimpering mess? Claire couldn't believe the broken girl
in front of her was the same Eunice who left her room with a teasing
smile on her radiant face.

It was just a day ago that everything was perfect for her friend. She
was absolutely content with Devin there to adore and respect her,
even when she was a wolfless omega and he was an alpha. She had
watched her fall in love with him, her initial hesitance because of their
status differences forgotten as days passed by. She was just full of
hope and energy. But now, she looked as if she was tired of life itself.
As if she lost all hope and will to live. Just why Eunice?

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Seeing Eunice's condition, Claire felt her heart breaking to pieces. She just wished she could make her friend's pain go away. She couldn't bear to see Eunice like this. She had been the only one who had seen through Diana's facade in her last life, and she had been the only one to stand beside her through the toughest of her times when the entire pack abhorred her. How could she let a friend like that suffer alone like this?

With tears streaming down her cheeks, Claire pulled Eunice for a hug, wishing her presence would offer even a semblance of comfort to her. Eunice kept on crying, her wails turning to pitiful sobs that wracked her whole body. As Claire held her silently, she promised herself that she would get her Eunice back as the strong woman she was. She just had to.

After what felt like ages, Claire felt Eunice's sobs quiet down and she just stayed there silently, her body shivering as if from the cold, even though it was so hot that Claire was sweating. Claire still continued patting her back in a soothing motion, waiting for Eunice to calm down. 'Please come back to me, Eunice. I can't see you this broken.'

Once Eunice's sobs quieted down and she appeared calm, Claire pulled back from her, her eyes examining Eunice to make sure she was still awake and not fainted or anything. Seeing her stare at Claire with her lifeless grey eyes that always used to twinkle with mirth, Claire's heart clenched painfully.

When Eunice looked at her with her swollen eyes, Claire sighed, trying to stay strong.

"What happened to you, my Eunice?" Claire asked, her voice betraying

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her by breaking in the end.

Eunice shook her head, a strange sound bursting out of her as she tried to muffle her cry. Claire felt her heart go to her friend as she wiped her tears. If she wasn't ready to tell her, she wouldn't pressure the poor girl. She was already traumatized, and Claire wouldn't add to her problems. But right at that moment, Eunice started speaking, a faraway look in her bloodshot eyes.

"Devin didn't come with me for the walk. I went alone," she said, her voice barely above a whisper, and Claire stiffened. She decided not to interrupt, but Eunice still understood her confusion. She took a deep breath, as if to gather her courage.

"He had already told me he had a meeting with the alpha. And I knew you were going to see Alpha Sebastian. I didn't want to interrupt you and that's why I didn't say I will be going alone," Eunice said and Claire stiffened. She would have never let Eunice go alone if she had known Devin wouldn't be there. She should have just cancelled her training with Sebastian when Eunice asked her for a walk. If she did, maybe whatever made Eunice to be like this wouldn't have happened. Claire sighed regretfully at the thought. But still the question remained. What had happened to Eunice?

"As I walked alone in the forest, suddenly a stranger leaped out of a tree. I tried to call for help, but he shut my mouth and held me tight. I couldn't do anything," Eunice cried helplessly.

Then she slowly looked up at Claire, her eyes full of defeat. "And then he raped me," she whispered.