## CHAPTER 7: AGREE TO STAY

Claire didn't know how much time she spent curled next to Caleb. But it was as if a heavy weight was lifted off her chest when she finally stopped stroking him. Within the short time she had spent with him, Claire could feel that Caleb was the exact opposite of Sebastian in every way. While Sebastian was reserved and calm, Caleb was energetic and fun loving. And she loved both sides of her mate...

As Caleb let out a huff of protest, Claire grinned at him.

"What? You want to stay here forever?" She teased Caleb, treating him completely different from how she had acted around Sebastian. Somehow she felt more at ease with the wolf than the handsome human who made her feel things she couldn't even begin to process.

Caleb cocked his head, looking as if he was contemplating the option and Claire let out a

laugh. Caleb sprang to attention, gazing at her as if mesmerized.

Claire stopped laughing before looking at Caleb and sighed.

"I would love to spend the entire night with you here," she said. In fact, she would love to

him.

other's presence.

his eyes

"Babe?"

have shown it to the bastard...

get back to the party now. We don't want that, right, buddy?" She asked and Caleb huffed, looking as if he didn't have a care in the world.

Just when Claire thought he was going to ignore her and go back to lying down, Caleb got up and started walking towards the pack house.

spend her whole life with him but not now. "But everyone will look for us soon if we don't

"Let's go to your room first and after you get dressed, let's go back to the party." Claire blurted out and felt like a fool after realising that she had just stated the obvious. It was not as if he could just prance into the party in his naked form.

spreading in her cheeks and failing badly.

Claire paused, hearing a strange sound coming from beside her, and turned to look at Caleb, who was shaking all over. She looked at him with wide eyes full of worry, concerned for

"Yeah right. You obviously know that," she murmured awkwardly, trying to stop the warmth

"Are you alright?" She asked before realization dawned on her. The damn wolf was laughing at her!

"Bad wolf!" She admonished him before turning away with a huff of indignation.

Slowly, Caleb trotted over to her before nudging her hands with his snout. He let out a

"Ha! Got you! You deserve that for making fun of me." She laughed, her blue eyes full of

whine, his green eyes wide with worry as he stared at her and Claire burst out laughing.

mirth. Caleb let out a huff that sounded like a chuckle and then nudged her playfully.

Both of them started walking together again in silence, both feeling comfortable in each

awkward. Feeling her gaze on him, Caleb turned towards her with a questioning gaze.

"Ahem. So..." she paused and stared at Caleb and seeing her hesitation, the sassy wolf rolled

After a few moments, Claire looked at Caleb with a tentative smile, suddenly feeling

Claire narrowed her eyes, feeling her nervousness dissipate.

a few more days?" She asked boldly. But when Caleb just cocked his head, she felt her

"You didn't answer me at the party. So I will ask again. Do you think you could stay here for

shoulders drop in defeat.

"Please?" she added, her tone no longer teasing but desperate.

Sebastian was hesitant to accept the offer as all the reasons he shouldn't stay any longer with her played in his head. He was worried he couldn't restrain his feelings if he stayed longer with her and may end up spoiling everything. But Caleb had no regard for reasoning and he was in control at the moment.

Seeing the hopeful look in his mate's eyes while she smiled at him with innocence radiating

could he say no to his mate when she wanted to spend time with him? Caleb was no fool like

from her soul, Caleb didn't bother to think. He just nodded his head in agreement. How

his human!

Claire grinned, her whole body relaxing as she felt relieved at seeing her mate agreeing to her request. She desperately needed this time with him. She can't lose him in this lifetime.

Never...

Unbeknownst to the two, a figure emerged from the darkness, watching their interaction with

making him literally see red. He had already marked his prey, but too bad, she hadn't marked

his eyes full of venom. Liam gritted his teeth, his hands clenched with fury as he watched Claire and Caleb walking towards the packhouse, looking as if they had known each other forever and not just met that night. He had been tensed since the night Claire had left the room without letting him have sex with her and seeing her with Caleb aka Sebastian was

him back.

If he wanted his plan to work smoothly with no interruptions, he needed her to mark him as soon as possible. Only then he could relax and wait to become the Alpha just like he wanted. He had been patient with her, but it looked as if it was time to act...

Too soon for their liking, Claire and Caleb reached the packhouse and headed towards the room assigned to him.

"I will wait here while you go and change. We can go to the party together," Claire said while opening the door. Caleb nodded at her before going inside and nudged the door close behind him.

Claire smiled and leaned against the wall, her soul full of warmth. Even Mia, who had oddly

been quiet after their rebirth, was feeling giddy at the moment, eager to spend time with their mate. Claire sighed dreamily, planning to ask Sebastian for a run later with both of them in their wolf form so that Caleb and Mia could interact. It would be wonderful...

Claire was startled and looked up to see Liam standing there with a 'worried' look on his face.

"What?" she snapped before she could think it through. She was having a good time thinking of spending time with her mate and she was annoyed at his interruption. But she shouldn't

"I mean, what happened, darling? Why are you here?" Claire asked in a gentle tone this time

"I came looking for you since you left the party without telling me. I was alone there, waiting for you," Liam complained and Claire refrained from rolling her eyes. He was acting

as if he were a toddler left alone in a dangerous place. It was not even as if he would miss

her company. Wasn't Diana there for him? So what was he playing at this time?

and relaxed when she saw the suspicious frown ease off his face.

Claire smiled at him while she looked him over suspiciously.

"I am sorry, darling. I just got out for a walk since I wanted to get some fresh air. I thought you would be fine mingling with all the guests," Claire replied. In other words, she didn't think she had to babysit him!

"I missed you, babe!" Liam whined.

Liam walked closer to her before touching her cheeks, making her stiffen in alarm. Slowly, he pushed her hair away from her face and his hand trailed down to her lips, parting them. He leaned towards her, his breath fanning her lips, making her shiver in disgust as nausea rolled over her. He had a knowing smirk on his face, expecting Claire to be affected by his

position. His smile as he watched his mate kill her ruthlessly...

'Oh hello, didn't you see me like thirty minutes ago? Talk about drama!'

Her heartbeats became erratic as she stood frozen in shock. She hated him, but she was more afraid of him even if he hated herself for it. Death was not something one could get over that easily...

"Babe! I can't wait till you become mine completely. Just mine forever! I have already marked you, but you are yet to mark me. I have been patient and waited for you to do it on your own, but I can't do that anymore. I just need you to mark me!" Liam declared. "Tonight, after the party, you have to mark me, darling. And then we will be bonded for eternity. Doesn't that sound awesome?"

'charms' but she was having the exact opposite reaction. His closeness was causing her to

remember his cruel face as he declared how he just used her as a pawn to gain the Alpha

suffocate, her breaths coming in pants, which he mistook for her excitement. She could only

Liam froze, his hands still on her waist and looked up to see a sullen-looking Sebastian stalking out of the room. His eyes no longer held that playful glint and his body looked tense, as if he was ready to bolt or attack at any moment. Seeing him in a bad mood again,

Claire wished she could tell him he had nothing to worry about. That she hated Liam's guts.

But she couldn't. She could only stand there helplessly, her heart twisting in agony as she

"Oh! Alpha Sebastian! I didn't notice we were in front of your room! Sorry for the trouble.

watched the heartbroken look in her mate's eyes. Damn you, Liam!

choice but to play along.

happen. Not yet...

Comments (5)

party silently, each lost in their own thoughts.

Absolutely not! But she couldn't tell him she wouldn't mark him. At least not yet. She needed

As if to convince her, he moved even closer, his lips hovering right above hers. His hand

snaked over to her waist, pulling her body snuggly against his. Claire stood rooted in her

spot, not knowing how to react. Just as Liam was about to kiss her, the door barged open.

to delay the marking without letting Liam become suspicious. What to do now?

When I am with my girl, I forget everything, even my surroundings. We are so in love with each other that nothing else matters," Liam bragged, with a devilish glint in his eyes. Seeing Sebastian's eyes narrow while a dark shadow crossed his face. A powerful aura emanated from him, threatening to drown everything around him, and Liam's smile faltered for a moment. But then he shook it off and grinned, even if it looked strained.

"You will understand only when you find your mate. Being in love is such a wonderful feeling that it couldn't be explained in words. Each day you wake up wishing to see your beloved's face, eager to have her in your embrace. I am so lucky to have found such a love. Right, darling?" Liam questioned Claire, who could only nod at him with a smile, having no

As she saw Sebastian clenching his fists, jealousy and pain evident in his stance, Claire wished she could run into his arms and soothe him.

"Let's go back to the party," she blurted out. The tension around them felt so thick that she could cut it with a knife. If she didn't do something soon, Sebastian would snap and if the rage emanating from him was any indication, the result wouldn't be pretty. She couldn't let it

As Sebastian gulped and nodded in agreement, all three of them started walking back to the