

CHAPTER 9: DOUBLE DATE

The next morning, Claire woke up feeling energized at the thought of having a date with Sebastian. She remembered all the times he had been there for her in her last life, expecting nothing from her. And this time she would love him just as much, if not even more. This time she will have her happily ever after with her prince charming and this date will be the beginning of their new life. She will make sure of it!

As she was lost in her dreams, the door to her room barged open suddenly, making her startle. She was just wearing a thin nightgown, and she hurriedly pulled the blanket to her chest, covering her exposed cleavage. Without bothering to mask her irritation at the intrusion, she looked up only to frown seeing Liam standing there with a lecherous smirk as he stared at her up and down. Really?

"Good morning, babe!" He greeted her with a wide smile, as if he hadn't just barged in uninvited to her room and even had the audacity to check her out while she was in a vulnerable state. The nerve of this guy!

"Good morning," she greeted, trying to sound cheerful. Then she got out of the bed, still covered in the blanket, and marched towards the bathroom without further ado. Since he had the audacity to barge in uninvited, he could just wait until she gets decent.

After washing her face and brushing her teeth, Claire went to her closet and got dressed in a shirt and jeans. Now feeling more prepared to deal with Liam and his drama, she went back to see him sitting in her bed, looking too comfortable for her liking. As if he owned the room and everything in it, including her. Seriously?

"I have a surprise for you, babe!" he declared cheerfully upon seeing her.

Uh, huh. She didn't like the sound of that. Not even a bit!

"What?" she asked, trying to sound excited.

"We are going on a date!"

'Oh hell no, we are not!' Claire thought vehemently while she put on a mask of regret.

"I would absolutely love to. But I can't..."

"Why not?" Liam asked, his mood turning sour.

"Because of Eunice. She likes Alpha Devin, and I am going to set her up with him. You know we grew up together and I see her as a sister. I want to help her find a good match. Please don't be mad," Claire said in a pleading tone. Then she smiled.

"Also, Alpha Sebastian will be there and I could help entertain him while you can take time to sort out the pack's affairs without bothering to please him. Isn't that a good

thing?" Claire asked, knowing full well that he will falter when hearing even a word about getting to handle the pack.

Though he didn't look pleased at the mention of Sebastian, Liam looked as if he was pondering it after hearing about sorting out the pack's affairs. After all, that's what he always wanted. And he wanted Eunice away from Claire. That woman was a thorn in his path, always looking at him with suspicion and watching out for Claire. For his plan of gaining the Alpha position to succeed, he needed to clean up all the friends around Claire. That meant Eunice needed to be out of the picture.

Liam put on a sad face, looking as if he was wronged. With an aggrieved look, he pointed his finger at Claire.

"Why are you doing this, Claire? Don't you want to spend time with me? Do you know what all plans I had made for us? I had so much in mind for today and you just spoiled it just like that for your friend? Do I mean that little to you?" He asked, his lips trembling. Ah. He was good. It was times like this that reminded her of how good of an actor he was.

"Oh, no, darling! Why would you think so? You know how much I love you," Claire pouted right back.

"Then tell me why you don't even mark me?" He asked. "You are acting so cold to me and it's breaking my heart. Why?" He cried out melodramatically. Old Claire would definitely have sucked up his performance. Too bad for him, old Claire was dead...

Claire bit her lips to keep from laughing and looked at him with wide eyes. She even had tears in her eyes with how hard she bit her lips and, thinking she had fallen for his tricks, Liam had a victorious glint in his eyes. 'Ha! You are not the only one who could act!'

"Liam darling, I promise I will make it up for you after the things I plan to do are done. Believe me, please." She said having no choice but to let him believe she wanted to pacify him.

Before Liam could reply, there was a knock on the door and both of them turned towards it. As Claire took a step, ready to check who the visitor was, Liam walked ahead of her, his stride full of confidence, and pulled the door open. Ignoring her irritation at his blatant show of authority in her domain, she looked at the man standing in front of the door, fiddling his hands awkwardly.

"Hello Mike," Claire greeted the Omega who worked for her father. He was a timid guy in his mid-forties who talked only when he was asked something. Claire really liked him because he was one of the very few people in the pack who never looked at her with a judging gaze in her previous life.

"Hello Miss Claire," he greeted her, a genuine smile on his face.

"What business do you have here?" Liam interrupted rudely, and Claire sighed. Here he goes...

"I came to look for you, Master Liam," Mike said, and Claire frowned.

"Me? Why?" Liam demanded.

"The Alpha is looking for you. He wants to teach you to handle the pack's affairs."

Liam perked up at his words, his entire demeanor changing in the matter of a moment. After all, handling the pack was what he always dreamed of. And it was being handed to him on a silver platter. How could he not be happy?

Liam turned to Claire with a grin.

"Alright. You do your business. But don't forget your promise. Once you are done there, your time is mine just like you will be. Deal?"

Claire could only smile and nod at him in agreement. As he left the room, she watched with a mix of relief and dismay. Having him involved in the pack's affairs was certainly bad news, but she got him away from her, so that was a win at least.

An hour later, Claire walked with Eunice who looked as if she would bolt at any moment. It took a lot to convince her to come along, but she was successful in her endeavor and here they were, approaching the two guest Alphas. Seeing Sebastian and Devin chatting to each other in the garden, both looking serious as if they were discussing some important matter, Claire paused and turned to Eunice.

"Now we will see what exactly Alpha Devin feels for you. Ready?"

"Not exactly," Eunice muttered, and Claire rolled her eyes.

"Coward," she muttered, and pulled Eunice along with her.

"Hello! Hope we are not interrupting!" Claire chirped pleasantly, and the guys turned to her with surprised expressions. Wonder what they discussed so heatedly that they didn't even notice their presence until she greeted them. Maybe they were discussing the matter of Eunice and her? But she didn't think that Sebastian would reveal that she was his mate. So maybe they were talking about Eunice?

Sebastian looked at Claire and his emerald green eyes suddenly looked brighter while a breathtaking smile formed on his face. Was he trying to cause her a heart attack? If so, he was succeeding!

"Good morning," he greeted her, and then nodded at Eunice.

"G-good morning," Alpha Devin followed his suit.

"Nice weather, isn't it?" Claire asked, trying to start a conversation when the silence became awkward and all three of them, including her friend, stared at her with blank faces. Just peachy!

"Oh well. I will just come to the matter," she said with a sigh. And Sebastian grinned at her, his eyes full of mirth. She loved this look way better than his gloomy mood.

"We came to invite you guys to visit the pack with us. We would like to show you guys around the pack. What do you think?" Claire asked and Eunice stood there, biting her lips nervously.

Sebastian and Devin stared at each other, looking as if they were having a silent conversation with each other. Then they turned to look at her with conflict written on their faces.

"Well, we already made programs for today. We will let you know tomorrow," Sebastian replied finally, making Claire sigh in defeat. Was that a no?

"Oh. Okay. We will see you tomorrow," she said before Eunice and she practically fled from there, disappointment etched on both their faces.

After they left, both Devin and Sebastian stared at each other, feeling confused. What were they supposed to do?

The day passed by in a blur with meetings and discussions. When they finally got free in the night, the two friends sat staring at each other, pondering their decision.

"Do you think it's a good idea to say yes?" Devin asked.

"Do you think you can say no?" Sebastian asked back.

"But what if she realizes I am her mate?"

"So?" Sebastian retorted.

"I haven't yet decided if I should tell her or not. Do you think

she will be ready to accept being a Luna?"

"Well, you should try to know her first before deciding if she is fit for the role or not, right?"

"You are right, but..."

"But what?"

"But what if it doesn't go smoothly? What if I mess things up? What if..."

"You will never know until you try."

"I am scared."

Sebastian himself was feeling nervous, and it was not like he could offer him any comfort in that regard.

"I really like Eunice."

"That's good, no?"

"But will it be alright to spend more time with her now? Or should I wait until she turns eighteen?"

In the end, a decision was never made and both of them continued bickering the entire night. The next morning, Claire and Eunice walked up to see two tired looking alphas with huge dark circles under their eyes.

The moment they saw their mates, the men perked up and all their hesitation melted away as if it was never there. Right then they knew they couldn't refuse Claire's invitation

+20 BONUS

to spend time with their mates. Absolutely not.

Claire was startled to see the messy appearance of the two alphas and stared at them with wide eyes.

"What happened to you guys' last night? You look like zombies!" She blurted out.

Before Devin could reply, Sebastian, who was yawning, tiredly pointed his finger at him.

"Devin was thinking of Eunice all night yesterday and we couldn't sleep a wink. That's why we look like this," Sebastian replied absent-mindedly before freezing, his eyes widening in horror as his head snapped towards Devin. Oh shit!

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