

Broken 134

Chapter 134 If That's How You Want It DANIEL

I sat behind my desk, staring blankly at the pile of documents in front of me, but none of the words were sinking in. My mind wasn't on work. It was still stuck on what had happened earlier the argument with Selene, the look on Amy's face when she walked into my office, and the silence that followed after she left. I leaned back in my chair and exhaled slowly. I wished Amy hadn't gotten upset. I understood why she did, but still, I wished she hadn't. She didn't deserve to be dragged into the mess Selene brought with her. Amy had been through enough from the fights with Clara to all the chaos that came with my position both as Alpha and CEO. She deserved peace, not another woman from my past showing up and stirring emotions I thought I'd buried. But the truth was, I was conflicted. Selene and I never officially ended things. One day she was there, and the next, she was gone. No calls, no explanations. Just silence. For years, I convinced myself that it didn't matter anymore, that I'd moved on. But seeing her again all angry, emotional, standing in front of me, it opened up a small corner of curiosity I didn't expect to feel. What if she hadn't left? What if we'd stayed together? Would we be married now? Would we have kids running around, calling her mom and calling me dad? The questions came before I could stop them, and I hated myself for even thinking about them. I rubbed my temples hard and forced the thoughts out of my head. I have Amy now. She stood by me when everything else fell apart. Amy, who trusted me even when I didn't trust myself. That was what mattered. I couldn't let a ghost from the past ruin that. I pushed back from the desk and stood up. I needed air or at least a reason to leave the office before I started spiraling deeper into thoughts that wouldn't do me any good. I decided to go see my mother. If there was anyone who could talk sense into me, it was her. When I reached her office, she was behind her desk, reading through some documents. She looked up the second I walked in. "Daniel," she said, raising an eyebrow. "You look like someone who hasn't slept." "Maybe I haven't," I said quietly, shutting the door behind me. She tilted her head. "What's wrong?" I took a seat across from her and hesitated. "Selene showed up today." Her expression didn't change much – just a small flicker in her eyes. "So I heard." "I don't like it," I said. "Her coming back. It's already caused enough trouble. Amy's upset, and I can't even blame her. This whole thing feels like it's about to blow up in my face."

My mother placed her pen down and folded her hands neatly on the desk. "You're letting this get to you too much, Daniel." I frowned. "Too much? Mom, she walked into my office out of nowhere after disappearing for years. She said she never stopped loving me. How am I supposed to act like that's nothing?" She gave me that calm look that always made me feel like I was fifteen again. "You're supposed to act like a man who knows where his loyalty lies. You're a husband. You're an Alpha. You can't afford to be shaken by every ghost that walks through your door." I sighed. "I'm not shaken." "Yes, you are. If you weren't, you wouldn't be here talking to me about it instead of handling it." She stood up, walked over, and placed a hand on my shoulder. "Keep your home in order, Daniel. Don't let a woman from your past come between you and your wife. Amy has been through enough. And you—" She paused, pressing a light kiss on my forehead. "—you need to remember who you are." I couldn't tell if that was supposed to comfort me or scold me, but the message was clear. My mother didn't want any drama, and she expected me to make sure there wasn't any. "Thanks, Mom," I said after a moment, standing. "Just handle it," she replied, already sitting back down and picking up her Conversation over. pen again. I left her office and headed down the hall. But instead of going back to my own office, I found myself walking toward Elias's. The moment I stepped in, he looked up from his computer with that casual, friendly smile he always wore. "Daniel," he said warmly. "You look troubled. Is everything

alright?" If That's How You Want it B Finished I stood there for a second, studying him. I knew what he'd done. Amy, my mother, and I had all agreed not to confront him until the time was right until we could use the evidence we had properly. But that didn't make it any easier to stand here and pretend I didn't know. "I'm fine," I said finally, walking in and taking a scat. "Just a long day." Elias leaned back in his chair. "Comes with the job, doesn't it?" "Yeah," I said, then added quietly, "though it's not just work this time." He raised an eyebrow. "Selene?" "Why is she back, Elias?" I asked. "She walked into my office today like she never disappeared. Said she still loves me." Elias gave a nonchalant chuckle. "That sounds like her. But you know me, Daniel. I have no business in that. She was in a bad place when I found her. She needed help, so I helped. She asked about you, said she missed home, missed the pack. I thought she deserved a chance to find her footing again." I frowned. "You helped her? Since when are you her savior?" He leaned forward slightly, his tone still calm. "Don't twist it. I helped her because it was the right thing to do. She's a part of this world, our world. I didn't tell her to go knocking on your door." None of it sat right with me. His explanation was too smooth, too easy. "Elias," I said carefully, "you've been acting strange lately. And if I find out you're hiding something from me about Selene or anything else, you won't like how I handle it." He smiled, "That sounds like a threat, nephew." "Take it how you want," I replied, standing up.

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