

Chapter 101 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

I stared at Lucas as my heart lurched. Mother's words were still there at the back of my mind, but I tried not to let it get the best of me because that would ruin all the experience for me.

I needed to do this because I wanted to be a part of Lucas, and not because I needed my power to be awakened. I sighed as I took a step closer to him, wanting to be somehow near him.

"You mean that?" I asked softly.

His eyes slowly slid to my lips, and then, back to my eyes. "Yes, Ember," he admitted.

"Is there a proper way to say I want to be marked by you?" I asked softly.

He smiled as he slowly let his hands fall to my waist, pulling me closer to me. My wolf chose that minute to make her appearance, purring lightly for the both of us. I looked into Lucas's eyes, and it was the softest I had seen him in a long time. It reminded me of the night we had spent together in each other's hands.

He leaned closer to me, and I closed my eyes to savor him completely. His lips were so soft as they caressed my cheeks so softly. "There is no way to say it, other than feel it," he said softly.

I smiled lightly at that. "You make it sound so beautiful."

He chuckled against my cheeks and I held on to him with a smile on my face. Gosh! I was in love with this man! I didn't know how it happened, but it was as real as breathing. I have fought with him so much, but now, it was as though, everything that, I felt, was coming to the surface with such intensity.

His left hand pulled my face up, choking me in submission. My cunt dripped with wetness at it all, and I couldn't stop thinking that this was the way I needed to live my life to the fullest.

I was meant to be here.

"I want to make you feel beautiful," he said darkly.

And, just like that, his lips pressed against mine. I sighed, letting him take control of it as his hands moved from my waist to my back, pulling me closer to him. I let my finger fall around his neck, clinging onto him.

The kiss deepened with fervor, and I let Lucas's tongue slide into my mouth. He pulled at my waist, causing me to pull my legs around him. Lucas slid his lips from my lips to my jaw and neck, licking and sucking while I moved my body like a snake around him.

My eyes slid open, just in time to notice that darkness had descended on us, and the moon was shining on the horizon. Fuck! The full moon was today.

“Lucas, don’t waste time. Make love to me,” I moaned.

He grinned in response as his lips slowly unlocked the button of my shirt, letting my breast fall to breath in his mouth. He sucked as his life depended on it, and I couldn’t help the tickle of pleasure I was feeling.

In minutes, I had my back on the bed, and his eyes were thorough as they peered deeply into mine, causing every part of my body to shake in the awareness of him. He bit his lips as he slowly slid down to me, holding on to the waistband of my pants as it tugged it down, exposing everything to his naked eyes.

I bit my lips as I let my hand tug at his hair. He sniffed my core, and I threw my head to the side. It was just in time for his tongue to slide down my pussy. I gasped as I slowly played with his hair.

“Do you think you can handle me?” He teased.

I shifted my gaze to him and licked my lips. “Bring it on,” I said sensuously as I tweaked my nipples.

One of Lucas's hands went to the other side of my breast, and he played with it as he sucked something down my legs. I groaned in pleasure and used my legs to lock him in.

“More,” I cried darkly.

My body moved in sync with his tongue magic. I was on fire, and it had nothing to do with the match stick. I grabbed him by the hair, untangling my hand in his hair as he moved forward until I was kissing him fully. His hands were around my neck, choking me.

“Fuck me!” I snapped.

He smirked as he pecked my lips softly. “You don’t need to ask.”

Just like that, he aligned himself and I felt him feel me up. It was not as painful as yesterday, and instead, I felt immense pleasure that made my eyes roll into my head. I let my fingers move through his bare back, and I just couldn’t stop the way everything seemed to be going.

He looked into my eyes with every thrust he made, and I met him too. We kissed as we moved with such recklessness. Oh, Goddess! This was so hot. My wolf moved to the surface as she purred, and this time, I didn’t stop her. She wanted to mark her mate, and she wanted him to mark her as hard.

I let my fingers touch his cheeks as my lips pulled into a kiss. Lucas said a couple of words that I didn't understand. But, sounded so sexy that I didn't want him to stop the words.

"Yes," I cried. "Harder!"

Just like that, he slammed further into me, and I noticed at the last minute that his face was contorted into that of a wolf's, and it made my head throw to the side in, please. I could feel his fangs at the crook of my neck as he let it play lightly on the temple. This was the most intense I had ever been in my whole life, and I wanted it so much.

"No going back," he said softly.

"Till life snuffs out of us!"

He howled as the fangs plugged into my skin, driving me breathless, and tears slid from my eyes. But, as he sucked, it slowly turned into an immense pleasure that left me breathless.

My blood seemed to sing with power, and I clung onto Lucas, letting him take control of the entire thing. He pulled away from my neck and I could see my blood on his lips. It didn't disgust me, but strangely turned me on. Maybe, I was half-mad. I had no idea at this point.

I let my hands brush his chest and moaned as he thrust even harder. "Oh, Lucas!" I cried further.

It was right then that a knock sounded at the door, and everything seemed to go to a standstill. I closed my eyes as the sensation of using my powers became poignant. What was I doing?

"Who is it?" Lucas was asking.

"Lucas, I think there is something weird going on. You both need to come out right now," Caleb pointed out.

I blinked my eyes open, and Lucas slowly slid out of me, his eyes. "What the hell?" He asked as he fell back to the ground, his eyes fixated on mine.

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I turned towards the door and noted that Caleb and Tristen were looking right at me with a somber expression on their faces. I slowly stepped down from the bed, as the pain of the sex and marking washed over me. It was not important right now, though. What I needed was to figure out what was going on.

Grabbing a robe on the chair, I dabbed it on and made my way to the window. It was there that I saw birds moving around the moon. Something in me said, 'It's time.'

I turned to the boys and noted that Lucas was on his feet now. He looked pensive as he snapped his boxers up, covering his sensitive areas. “What did you see?” I asked Caleb and Tristen, but my eyes were still on Lucas.

I felt the bond tighten like never before, and it made me smile so lightly. I could do this. I could win...

“We don’t know how to put it into words, but it seemed as though there were ants around the pack house. I have never seen something like this before, and Father is not aware of it, or he would have sent for us by now,” Caleb supplied for us all.

“They are here,” I said simply.

“Who?” Lucas asked softly, and I felt his heartbeat despite the fact I was not close to him at that very moment.

I licked my lips softly. “The witch,” I said simply.

He moved fast, holding me in his hands. “I won’t leave you alone.”

As he held me, I noted that Caleb and Tristen were shifting on their legs, trying hard not to move closer to me. I closed my eyes, as I let Lucas hold me for a time. It was as though an unnatural 'peace' had sunken into my soul at that very moment.

“I have to go,” I said simply, ignoring his words.

Slowly, I pulled away from him and looked around for a bead to wear. Zealina had said in passing about a week ago that witches were known to wear beads, and this time, I wished to have one with me.

I sighed as I grabbed it from a side of my jewelry box, and wore it. Without wasting time, I moved to the hallway and noted that the whole place was silent. My heart skipped a beat as I moved. I turned back when I heard a sound and saw no one. Even my mates weren’t there.

Maybe, they were still thinking about what to do.

I had no idea.

Closing my eyes a bit, I tried to stabilize my racing heart. This was not the time to feel fear, but to face what worried me. I walked on, until I got to the stairs, and noted that the members of the pack were lying weirdly around, both in a standing or sitting position. It was the spell.

I should break it, but I chose not to.

May the goddess protect them where necessary! Moving away from them, I stepped outside the pack house. There was no air, and I was barefoot. I looked around at intervals but didn't see anything.

"Whoever you are," I said slowly. "I need you to stop playing games with me. Come out, and face me if you can."

There was no response. I slowly turned to the corner and noted a bright light. It could be a trap, but I needed to be trapped to gain through freedom. With a slightly shaky breath, I slowly walked over to the light, and it led me to another part of the forest.

"Welcome," a singsong voice said behind me.

I turned quickly and caught a glimpse of a woman in black peering at me. It took me 5 seconds to realize that her eyeballs were glassy. It could literally peer into one's soul. It took me everything I had not to turn away.

"Who are you?" I asked coldly.

She cackled, the sound worse than chalk. "You're the thing that has been so useless to us. I'm here to do you a favor by watching you off the face of the earth."

"You can't harm me," I said stiffly.

She pouted at me, and before I could blink, she was beside me. "I can and I will."

I took a step back. "I won't let you."

She snapped her fingers then, and I could see Caleb, Lucas, and Tristen in a room filled with tribal witches. They were held to the ground, with some powerful words being used on them.

"It is not in your power. Your mother is an idiot. She shouldn't have come to meet you. If she hadn't, you would be safe. But, there is nothing to be done now because you would get exactly what you deserve-death."

I said nothing to this as I concentrated on summoning my powers. They would be handy. The witch moved left, and slowly I felt a pair of ants on my arm. Squatting them away didn't help, for it seemed to grow.

"Get it off," I cried.

She cackled even more. "I will if you agree to give me the power inside of you. You don't know how to use it anyway, so someone else can actually figure it out."

Glaring at the woman, I noted that she was ugly now. "I would rather die," I scoffed.

She lifted a finger at me, and I was fixed to the nearest tree, its trunk sliding around my legs and arms. I struggled for freedom, but it was useless.

“Don’t irritate me, girl.”

I gritted my teeth as I glared at her. She did a slight dance on her foot, causing the whole of the tree to burn. For some reason, I didn’t feel it against my skin. I threw my head to the side, and I noted that Caleb was coughing out blood.

No, I can’t let this happen.

“You want my power, then, you have to bring me down to do the ritual,” I said quietly.

She frowned a bit. “I don’t think I follow.”

“There is a ritual that needs to be done in others for the powers to move from me to you. I saw that in an ancient book and I believe that half of it could be true.”

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“I have effective ways to get it,” she mumbled as she snapped her head back.

The tree trunks were slowly trying to move into my skin, and I knew that I wouldn’t be able to handle it at all. I had no choice but to breathe out and out, which made me glow, and I was suddenly moving through the sky. My eyes settled on the witch who looked stunned, and I wrung out a spell from my lips which connected my fingertips to the boys in the room.

The souls holding on to them diminished like flies. 'Run!' I screamed at Lucas quickly. I knew he would tell the boys.

I felt his pain like never before, but I ignored it.

“So, you know a few tricks?” The witch asked in irritation.

I glared at her. “Be gone.”

Nothing happened. She instead used a magical wand to slam me against another tree. I fell down on it with a thud, seeing nothing but blurry images. Not this time! I heard her mumble something, and she was suddenly in front of me.

"No one dares me", and just like that, a sword which dripped with blood slowly aimed at my chest. I tried to move, but I couldn't.

Fear had never felt so real.

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“Don’t make such mistakes,” Lucas snapped coldly.

I blinked as, suddenly, I was able to move my hands around my body. I was still breathing and was not dead. So, there was definitely a way out of this mess. I noted that Lucas was holding the blade by its tip, and soft blood dripped down the ground. Oh, no!

“Get out of my way, boy!” The witch sneered in rage.

Lucas shoved her back with all of his strength, and she took several steps back, not without the knife, slicing through his palm. I staggered back to my feet as I made my way to him, holding his face in my hands. My wolf threatened to come out, but I pushed her back. It was not the time to fight in my wolf form. I had to be strong this time.

“Are you ok?” I pleaded.

He nodded, as he pecked me on the forehead, and I could feel the taste of tears on the side of my lips. This was not the time to feel sorry for myself. But, I just couldn’t help it.

“Watch out!”

Everything happened so fast. One minute, I was holding on to Lucas. The next, I was practically watching the same knife move directly to Lucas. Lucas shoved me to the side and dived towards the ground.

The sword wouldn’t stop, and it seemed to be craving blood. I heard Caleb scream my name, and it was then I turned and noted that the witch’s eyes were wildly fixated on Lucas, and there was death in them. I couldn’t let that happen. I turned to the sword and snapped my fingers, ordering it to back down.

It did not.

“Turn to ashes right now,” I spat like an order the moment it brushed Lucas back, and it did.

There was charcoal everywhere until it simmered into nothingness. I turned over to the witch and I could see her shock as she stared at the whole thing.

“I can’t believe this,” she muttered in a voice above a whisper, but I picked it up at once.

She took several steps back, and then tried to leave, but I easily set a spell to stop her from leaving. It was at that same moment that more people stepped in. They didn’t look like witches, but more like rogues.

Caleb and Tristen went at them in force. I could barely follow their movements. All these while, I assumed that Lucas was the only one who had killer instincts, but I was wrong. His brothers were even more brutal, especially Tristen. He didn't think much before slitting throats.

"Let me go!" The witch ground out in panic.

I turned to her then and noted that she was doing something with her fingers. It was evident that she had been playing me. She attempted to take me unawares. I thought hard about how I could stop her magic from creating chaos, but nothing was coming to my head.

"Oh, Goddess!" I cried as I looked up at the moon.

It was at the same moment that a force hit me right on the chest, and I was knocked up my feet and tossed to the other side. Lucas tried to come to me, his eyes were red in tears, but I shook my head 'no'.

"I can't leave you alone by yourself. You need me right now, and I understand how this can be more horrifying than ever, and I need you to breathe. I would fight her for you," he said softly.

I sighed weakly, unable to rise to my feet. "You would do only one thing, and that is to help your brothers to win against those rogues. I have to do this on my own. It's in my destiny, and no one else can fight this battle for me, Lucas. Don't worry about me," I said softly.

His eyes misted, but he blinked the tears back. "Is this what you really want?" He asked once more.

I nodded slowly. "Yes! Now, go!" I cried.

He wasted no time in getting to his feet. I turned to Caleb and Tristen, and they were fighting with everything they had. For a second, our eyes connected, and I could see the passion in them. They wouldn't pause until they eliminated all that hurt me. Lucas soon joined them as he knocked a rogue out cold.

I turned over to the witch and saw she had broken out of my spell, and was turning the leaves into swords to harm me. They flew in my direction. I groaned as adrenaline shot through my veins, and I placed my hands in front of me defensively, mentally willing them to return to her. Halfway through, they turned towards her.

"What the hell?" The witch cried.

I smirked as I raced, and she ordered the leaves to fall to the ground. They did. I ignored that though as I kept running towards it. She chanted harder, but it was slightly too late as my knee connected to her lips, breaking her fine-tooth into pieces. She screeched as she moved back.

Without wasting time, she made a halo of colours to go around me. Their work was to stifle my powers.

“You thought you knew how to win, but no. You’re going to fucking die. Just like that, she was in my space as she slowly turned my face to the side. I closed my eyes as I tried to remember what my father always told me.

'You can't give up when the world is watching you.'

The world was my mate, and they counted on me to win this battle. And, I would not fail them. With a howl, I found myself rising, and I slowly opened my eyes to see the look of horror on the witch's face. “I command you,” I snapped coldly. “Be turned into ice.”

“No!” She cried.

But, it was too late. Her hands went into blocks, and I was released. I kept chanting the spell, and wouldn't stop until she was completely ice. I gasped as my feet hit the muddy ground and I sank weakly.

'Let's help our boys,' my wolf said inwardly.

I sighed as I turned a bit to their direction, and noted the blood dripping from their fangs, and hands. The whole field was dissipated in wolf and human remains. I blinked in shock.

“Mates,” I called slowly.

They responded in kind and dropped all their weapons. Lucas and Caleb were in their wolf form and shifted mid-run into their human forms. Lucas met me first, and he pulled me into his hands, brushing my hair away from my face as he stared right into my eyes.

“You're ok,” he said in a voice that was filled with disbelief.

“You turned her to ice,” Caleb said with a teary grin.

“You're a fucking badass bitch,” Tristen completed.

“We did it,” I said softly. “We destroyed the evil from taking my life.”

They chuckled lightly as they all sort of embraced me. My first kill was for survival, and still, it left me so weak that I wasn't sure I could breathe again.

But, the sound of Lucas's steady breathing was all I needed to be fully alive. I was not going to die after all.

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Somehow, we were able to get home, but I noted that the pack members were still in their somber state, which was so weird.

“Aren’t they supposed to be fine by now?” Lucas queried.

I shrugged. “I have no idea what is going on, but I would fix it. Though, I would have to go up the stairs first to do that. I don’t want anything to go wrong right now, or it might end up being a colossal disaster, and we all wouldn’t be able to handle it.”

Tristen slapped me on the ass, and I turned to glare at him. “You know that no matter how you try to hide things, a father would definitely know that something went wrong. He is not stupid.”

I groaned. “Do I have to handle that part?”

He shrugged in response. “I’m afraid that there is no way around it. We have to come clean, and inform him about half of what went down right here.”

“We would handle it,” Caleb said suddenly.

I looked at him, and he nodded in encouragement. “Go, fix this and enjoy your beauty sleep.”

“Are you...”

He gave Tristen a meaningful look, and that seemed to sort out the worst of the arguments at that moment. There was nothing to worry about anymore, and all would be fine. I blew the boys a kiss, and slowly turned to Lucas, who was still staring at his family.

‘I would make things right,’ I promised softly through the mind-link.

He turned to me, and then, a smile touched his lips lightly. I returned his smile with one of my own, and quickly dashed up the stairs. There was a yellow imprint on the stairs, and I realized that the boys were right. There would have been no way to hide this. The way we had tumbled around in the dirt was enough proof that something wild had happened, and I don’t have the gift of erasing memories of people. So, there was that.

At the top of the stairs, I took a deep breath as I looked at all the bodies at weird angles. Oh, Goddess, help me, I thought inside of me.

Closing my eyes, I thought of good things and slowly lifted my hands in front of me. I could feel the power surge through me, and when I mumbled the words, it only made me feel more energetic. My eyes swept open, and I noted that the whole members of the pack seemed to be waking up from sleep as though nothing happened, but it was just an illusion.

My eyes met Lucas, and he signaled for me to walk back to the inner sanctum. I wasted no time to make things work out, super glad that I was finally able to breathe and be alone. I needed that a lot since my life was not actually moving as it should at the moment.

Inside, I closed the door and stripped off the dirty outfits. I was beyond sad that everything had ended the way it did, and there was still no sign of my mom. Did she even care that I had won the battle?

How could someone be so nonchalant with her child?

I just...

I slid down to the ground as I cried in my hands. My emotions were barely there, and I just wanted to be somewhere else. It would make me feel better about myself, even if it were for a few seconds.

"I hope the worst is over," I mumbled to myself.

"Come out, Ember," came the voice,

I sighed as I looked at myself in the mirror once more. No one had questioned me about what had happened earlier, but I knew that it might come soon.

"I don't want to come out there," I said as I slid my diamond earrings on, and turned to see the shape of my black pants and white shirt. I felt like I dressed too rigid today, but I just couldn't help it.

"What are you saying? I need you to come out in five-seconds seconds, or I would break down the door, and come right in there," Lucas pointed out.

Just like that, I made my move out of the room and swung the door open. He was grinning at me as he held a flower in front of his face.

"What are you doing?" I asked softly.

He sighed as he looked at me deep in the eyes. "Can you come out on a date with me this morning?" He asked softly.

I sighed. "Just you?"

He nodded. "Just me," he emphasized.

I smiled lightly at him as I took the flowers from him. I felt the pain on the side of my neck, reminding me that I had been marked by the most handsome man in the world. I sighed as I looked at him, feeling his breathing like it was a part of my skin.

"Is this how it feels to be newly mated?" I asked him softly.

He smirked. "I believe so. I mean, I feel like holding you in my hands and never letting go. I feel like kissing you until my teeth fall off, and I feel like being inside of you until you can't hold up. So, that is how new mates crave each other," he emphasized.

I couldn't help but laugh as he took my hand in his and helped me down the hall. He was looking so immaculate in a cream pantsuit. It was against his normal outfit, reminding me that he was a man through and through, and I would rather not get away from him.

We turned a decoy and walked to the garden. It was not just a garden anymore. There were all of beautiful flowers, and chairs in the middle. I could see tall glasses of cups and such a hearty breakfast that I doubted would be finished by the both of us. As I drew closer, I noted the bacon, cheese, and some toast on the plates. There was also no shortage of bread and chocolates.

At the table, there was a letter, and its words were, 'You are mine forever, Ember,' and that made me sniff.

When I turned around, Lucas wasn't standing anymore, but was on his knees, a foot from me, with a flowery ring in his hands.

"You shouldn't do this," I said softly as I tried to raise him up.

He wouldn't bulge and simply sniffed. "Be still, woman. I had to think so hard for this."

I smiled. "Ok, I won't say anything," I teased.

He smiled at that. "You know," he started. "I have said a lot of confessions and most of the time, it looked like I didn't mean them. But, this time, I want this. I want us to move through the sky and be the best version of ourselves. I want us to love hard, and I want you to be by my side. I have been crap, but you make me whole. Ember, I have not loved anyone like I have done you. And, this ring, is a promise that it would never stop. You would always be mine, and I would walk to the ends of the earth for you. You simply have to say it." He laughed then. "I'm smitten, and I know it. And, I'm not ashamed of it because you're magical and my soul."

I clasped my hands over my mouth as tears spilled over. "Luc..."

"Be mine, take the ring. Accept me," he said sweetly.

I knelt on the soft grass as I took his hands in mine. "I would be yours until the end of time!"

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EMBER

I stared at my reflection in the mirror, letting my fingers move lightly to the base of my shoulders. I wasn't just touching my shoulders, but the mark I had gotten from Lucas. It was healed now and looked so beautiful. A blue-eyed wolf stared back at me through the mirror, and

there were my hazel eyes shining around his wolf. It was beyond beautiful, and I just couldn't stop looking at it.

"It's beautiful," Lucas whispered softly against my earlobe.

I watched as he licked the mark slowly with his eyes closed. It caused every part of my body to go taut with need. Things had never been so intense before, and it drove me wild.

"We should get going," I said softly.

He moaned as he sucked on it. "Can't we just stay here and admire the tattoo>? It would be more fitting," he said softly.

I smiled lightly as I turned to face him. His eyes were hooded with desire, and I calmly leaned on my feet to kiss him lightly on the lips. His hands slid around my waist, as he deepened the kiss. I moaned lightly, reminding myself that I had to meet with school issues this time to avoid more misunderstandings.

"Lucas," I said softly.

He licked my lips. "You should call me honey," he interjected.

I had three mates, and it would be quite confusing if I did that, even though I had not made up my mind about the other two. I shook my head as I calmly stepped back from him.

"I would fondly call you Luc, instead," I said softly.

He smirked. "Sounds like Luke," he teased.

I tolled my eyes. "Don't push your luck, darling. Come on, let's get out of here. We have a whole day to act like lovers."

He pouted. "I feel like I have heard that before."

Laughing, I hooked my hand on his arm and steered him towards the door. "You're the sweetest, Luc," I said softly.

We both teased each other until we got out of the house and then, the boys stepped out with me to the parking lot. I decided to ride with Lucas on his motorbike. It would make a statement according to him, and he couldn't wait to tell everyone that he was mine.

My outfit also made it easier for my mark to be declared to the world. I looked at Caleb and Tristen and noted that they didn't seem to mind. I could sense jealousy from them, though all that Lucas was feeling right now seemed to be at the top of the mate bond. It was crazy.

At the academy, the students couldn't stop watching us as we walked into the class. They had their heads bowed, and even when Lucas pecked me with an assurance that he would catch me up later, they still had their heads bowed.

It took me a couple of moments to realize it was because of the mark. No one would be able to make jest of me because I was going to be the future Luna.

"Ember?"

I turned to the sound of my name, and I saw Zealina and Ernest waving at me, with a reluctant smile on their faces. I smiled back as I made my way over to them. Zealina pushed herself from the wall as she moved over to me.

"You have his scent all over you," she said as she nudged me.

I shrugged as my cheeks flamed with heat. "I guess I do," I said dryly.

Ernest rolled his eyes. "Why don't you leave the poor girl alone to breathe? She needs that space right now because her spot is still wet," he said with a wink.

"Ernest!" I groaned.

They both laughed as they teased me back to the class. The students lunging around bowed at me. It was such a sweet moment, and I didn't wish for things to change anymore. I loved how it felt to be free from the evil bullying. Even if for some time now, it had gone down considerably, at this moment, there would be no way it was going to come up.

"Sit down," Zea said as she dusted the chair for me to sit.

I shook my head. "I don't think it's necessary to do all these," I pointed out.

"Nonsense!" She said at once. "I have missed you insanely these last few days, and I haven't even been able to text you or do things with you. Now, you're here, I would treat you like the princess you are."

I hit her playfully on the arm with my bag. "Don't push me where I'm not."

She gave me a look of disbelief. "Do you even realize that you're the future Luna now?"

I sighed. "But, I'm not the Luna yet," I pointed out.

Zealina looked at Ernest in amazement, and that made me smile as I sat back down. Goddess, I had missed her theatrics too. She was just too much, and it was in a good way.

"Let our future Luna breathe, babe," Ernest teased.

I gave him one of my shocked looks. “You too?”

Just like that, Zealina and Ernest hugged me from nowhere. I gasped as they both told me how happy they were that I was going to be truly happy for once. My heart wanted to explode out of the happiness that I was feeling.

“It’s fine, guys,” I said softly.

Zealina sniffed. “I still can’t believe it,” she gushed as she released me a bit.

I was aware that a few of our classmates were looking at us in shock. I focused on my two best friends in front of me. “I can’t either. I mean, this morning, I was looking at my mark, and wondering how did I get so lucky? I never got the answer to that question,” I said softly.

Zea hugged me once more, before letting go. “It was not luck. The goddess was always there for you, and you trusted her to make everything beautiful in her time.”

I smiled. “I did.”

She held my cheeks and then, let it go. “You went through a lot from the pack, and the boys, and their exes. But, now, you’re here beaming with joy because you’re finally getting the love you deserve. I’m so glad that Lucas marked you, so you won’t have to suffer those insults anymore. You didn’t deserve to be tramped upon.”

I nodded as I cleaned the tears that slid off my cheeks. “I know that it’s over now, and it’s going to be up from here.”

“Yes, it would,” Ernest agreed.

We all laughed once more, and when the teacher stepped in, I had to rearrange myself with Zealina once more. The teacher smirked as she looked at me, and I knew that the talk about being mated to Lucas had traveled far.

I was glad that Zealina didn’t ask me about Caleb and Tristen. I was not sure that I would be able to have the right answer to that question because I have not brought myself to understand it either. It was a thought that I didn’t wish to grow.

Chapter 106 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

“I think your man is here,” Zealina whispered in my ears.

I blinked lightly as I turned over to where Zealina was pointing, and I could see Lucas as he leaned on the wall, looking so beautiful in his skin. I had not been one to pick the little things,

but I particularly liked how his hair was mused to the side, and he looked at me like I was the best thing in life.

“I would be back?”

Zealina smirked. "I doubt that, girl. Grab your things and follow the future Alpha. His patience is incredibly low," she said softly.

I smiled lightly. “I guess this is what I would have to do right now,” I mumbled.

I grabbed my bag quickly, and tossed it on my shoulder a bit. Then, I made my way over to my mate. He still had the smitten look on his face, and it only served to make my heart beat relentlessly in my chest.

“You look so good wearing my mark,” he said proudly.

I moved even closer to him, fighting the blush that stained my cheeks. “Maybe, but I don’t see you flaunting mine,” I teased.

He leaned into me then, and the temperature seemed to have come down a notch, causing my heart to flip like a vertical yoyo. “You want me to go shirtless right now, so they can see the numerous bite marks all over my skin as a result of your passion?”

“Don’t you dare,” I cried in horror.

He smirked in response. “I might think about it if you actually say it in love...”

I looked around and noted that all eyes were on us, and they seemed to be swooning. It was ridiculous, like something I would see in a fantasy book, but it was happening right now, so I had nothing to think about this.

“Ember, baby,” Lucas softly, drawing me to him.

I blushed sweetly at this. “Luc,” I managed. “I don’t want you to go shirtless,”

And, with that, I made my way out of there. Gosh! I never knew being in a relationship was so hard. I just couldn’t believe the way things were going and now, everyone had their eyes on me.

Ok, is there a way to just disappear?

A hand sneaked around my waist, and it was then I knew it was Lucas. His scent made my wolf excited, and she threatened to come out of her shell, but instead, I pushed her back in.

“You’re so shy,” he teased softly.

I closed my eyes, just in time to see a teacher move past. “I guess you bring that out from me so effortlessly, so it’s difficult to be anything else.”

He laughed against my ears as he turned me around to face me. “And, I love it. But, we need to eat right now,” he pointed out.

“You’re just a foodie,” I groaned.

He winked at me. “I can’t help it if I have to feed my wolf.”

“So, not me?” I asked with a pout.

He flipped my nose lightly. “I’m taking you there too, so that counts.”

Oh, Goddess!

Unable to talk thanks to the bell, we made our way to the lunchroom. There were a lot of people gathered there, and Lucas made a conscious effort to hold my hand. I felt more at peace with him right beside me, and I didn’t want anything to go wrong. He was the cutest soul ever, and I loved to be by his side.

“Let’s sit over there,” he said softly.

There was a vacant table close to where Caleb and Tristen sat with other people. They were women, and they were leaning onto them like they couldn’t imagine being elsewhere, and it was so annoying.

Why did it bother me?

Of course, it was natural that they would go for other people, since I was not bringing them into my folds. I would have to get used to all that right now and be as good as ever.

Lucas pulled out a pink chair for me, and I settled down on it. He went over to his side and held my hands in his softly. “Does it bother you that my brothers are with other women?” He asked at once.

I blinked. “What makes you say that?”

He shrugged lightly. “Well, we are mates now, and I felt a shift in your mood when you looked in their direction.”

I pulled my hands from his and caressed his cheeks lightly. “I chose you, Lucas.”

“It doesn’t mean you rejected them. They are still very much your mates, and we all know this. It doesn’t matter if they gave a stupid promise to stay away from you because I marked you first.”

I sighed as I brushed my fingers to his cheeks, looking at the other set of triplets on the other side of the table. They were whispering something in the girl's ear, which made them giggle. I tried to keep my expression bland as I looked back at Lucas, who was observing me lightly.

“You worry too much,” I said slowly. “The only person I actually see is you. It doesn’t matter what our history was. What matters is that we are here right now, and I love you so much to think about anything else. So, can we eat now?” I asked softly.

He smiled then, that made me believe that he was truly happy with my choice. I didn’t want him to think otherwise, and I never wished that he would have any form of insecurity. I had made my choice, and I would stick by it anyway.

The next few minutes were spent in laughter, with Lucas teasing me about everything, and we shared a kiss here and there. It was beyond amazing, and I liked it a lot. There was nothing more beautiful than knowing that I was loved and appreciated. I held on to him for the longest time.

Until the bell rang once more.

“I think I have to run along now. I would take you to your class,” he said softly.

I shook my head at him. “No, I doubt that is needed. I would make my way back.”

“But...”

I leaned over the table and pecked him on the lips. “I can manage, babe,” I said softly.

Just like that, I rose to my feet, grabbed my bag, and walked out of the café. I didn’t see Caleb and Tristen, which was good because it would have been so awkward otherwise.

There were slight bows as I moved, but I tried to ignore them. I wasn’t even the Luna yet, and all these greetings were mildly suffocating. With a sigh, I moved left, racing as fast as I could to the class.

“Is the teacher in class yet?” I mind-linked Zealina.

‘Yes, babe,’ she said back.

I groaned in horror as I ran through the hall towards the class. I was about to take a detour to the left when I bumped into a figure. She gasped as she moved back.

“I’m really so sorry,” I said.

The brown-haired girl looked at me then, and something in me felt as though I knew her somewhere but I just couldn’t click.

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EMBER

“Oh, I’m so sorry,” I said softly as I tried to help the lady with things, but she waved it off like it was nothing.

With a sigh, I pulled my bag closer to me, feeling bad, but not able to shake off the feeling that I knew her somewhere. The question was, ‘where?’

“I was thinking,” she said calmly as she drew my attention back to the present. “Since I’m a new student here, could you please show me the way to the classes I have?”

I smiled at her, and she smiled back. Gosh! She was beautiful. I was not into girls or anything, but her face stood out like an artistry, and it never left. Maybe, that was why I thought she looked familiar.

I covered my slight lisp of judgment with a light cough. “I don’t mind,” I said softly.

She beamed as she balanced her school essentials on one hand. “Thank you.”

I nodded lightly. “It’s nothing. Can you give me your schedule, so I can see the first class on your list?”

She nodded quickly and proceeded to fetch the school schedule from her backpack. I took it from her and noted that we were having psychology first. It was also the same class as Lucas.

“You’re so lucky because that is the same class I’m having now. We would just have to walk there.”

Her eyes lit up. “Really?”

I nodded enthusiastically as I led the way. “Yes, we can talk on the way there,” I said softly.

Our pace was not as fast as it should have been, but I didn’t mind much. I wanted us to be able to talk to each other a bit, so I might remember where I knew her. I believe I did.

At the edge of the hall, I noted that a couple of people were selling ice cream right there. It was weird because no one sold these things in the school building, but no one wanted to drive her away too, so they all flocked around her.

“I want to take some ice cream,” the new student said.

I shook my head nervously. “I don’t think that this is a good idea. We are in college and our lecturer is so strict. You can’t imagine what he would do if we came late to his class, and I would rather not live through that again. It’s a fucking nightmare.”

She smirked as she walked towards the direction of the stall. “Come on, it’s not a big deal. It’s my new day here, and we can always use that as an excuse, ok?” She said softly.

“I…”

But, whatever I wished to say got stuck to the roof of my mouth, and I had no choice but to follow her. At the stall, she jabbed me in the ribs like we were close friends.

“You want the strawberry, right?” She asked at once.

I shook my head. “No, the vanilla would do.”

That made her frown lightly. “You’re a woman, and this is what we drink all the time. There is no need to get something that is so bland.”

I rolled my eyes at her. “Come on, girl,” I said easily. “Vanilla is not bland one bit, and its natural flavor is to die for. I can’t imagine a life where we don’t get a spoonful of such sunshine.”

She leaned into my face as she tried to dissect if I was real. “Ok, you meant that. But, as long as I’m going to be in this school, I would gladly take you over to the other side, where there is bliss.”

This part made me laugh even more than earlier. This was so ridiculous. I had no idea where she got her ideas from. I couldn’t help but think that she and Zea were going to make my life hell on this academy.

“Ok, I would take the strawberry, but that doesn’t mean you’ve won. You’re going to take the vanilla instead.”

“But…”

I smirked. “Don’t be a chicken, and try to look for a means of escape. You would see none now.”

She groaned at this, and I was mentally aware that we had wasted 5 minutes out here as we tried to figure out the ice cream.

“Relax,” she soothed once more.

I smiled this time and picked up the strawberry, but I didn’t drink it. The new girl took the vanilla, and we both licked it as we made our way back to the hall. It was on the tip of my tongue to ask her how come she was schooling in our pack when she wasn’t a member. Or, was she?

Ugh!

I wouldn't ask or think about such things again. They were meaningless and slightly intrusive I would have to mind my business from now on, so things don't escalate.

"Ok, so, what do you think?" She asked as she pointed to my cone with her spatula.

I shrugged. "I'm thinking of eating mine in the class. It would be a great distraction."

She smirked.

"What?" I asked softly.

She shoved a spoon into her mouth calmly. "I don't think that is a good idea. I mean, we would not be able to get away from the teacher that way. My lies are not so inventive," she said softly.

"Got it," I said with a laugh.

There was nothing to lose anyway. The damn class was literally in front of us, and Lucas could scent my presence. He was my mate, after all. Decision made, I shoved more of the cream into my mouth.

The girl looked at me like I had gone crazy, and I smiled sheepishly in turn. "Oops..." I burped. "It was that delicious.

We laughed at the silliness of it all, and before we got into the class, we threw the cones at the nearby trashcan.

The first thing I noted was Lucas as he leaned by the window. There was no teacher, so I grinned and made my way to him, pecking him on the lips.

"Hi, this is my mate," I said as I stepped back.

Lucas moved forward, as he mumbled, "Priscilla," like he was in shock.

But, I was the one in shock...

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EMBER

'Priscilla'

I turned to Priscilla. I really looked at her, and that was when it clicked. I knew exactly who she was. She was Lucas's ex-girlfriend who left the pack three years ago because of her mother. I had no idea the exact reason she left, but now, she was here.

It was the most horrifying thing ever, and my heart lurched at it.

“Excuse me,” she finally said as she turned her back to us.

I watched her leave the class, and my heart almost broke into two. When I turned to Lucas, he looked dazed. They had a history between them...they had been childhood friends that progressed to lovers. While I was literally the woman that they couldn't stand. The thought of it was mildly suffocating.

“Hello class,” our psychology teacher called as he stepped into the class.

Lucas said nothing and rearranged himself to sit beside me. I wished that I was with Zealina this time because the awkwardness was over the bar, and I couldn't stand it. His legs kept touching mine, and he kept moving close to the other side.

I turned towards him, hoping he would look at me, even if it was once, but he remained dogged as he stared forward like he heard a thing the teacher was saying. She must still affect him so much. I suddenly wished I could talk to my wolf right now. It would help me to feel better.

Within an hour, the class was over, and he simply rose to his feet, walking away from me like I was not even there. I made no move to talk to him at all. He couldn't be treating me like this just because of his ex. I don't care if they had history, it was so damn disrespectful.

Ugh!

I rose too but didn't run after him. Instead, I grabbed my backpack and went searching for Zealina. There was one place she would be at this time of the day. I would have to disrupt her fun now. It was the only thing that I could do.

“Zea,” I whispered as I stepped into the music lab.

I saw her in front of the podium with her legs in the air, and a microphone stuck in her mouth as she tried to belt out soulful lyrics.

“Zealina,” I tried once more, this time a bit louder than before.

There was literally no one around here, not even Ernest. It was simply empty chairs and all, and I was glad. She still didn't hear me, or she pretended not to. Well, she would have to listen to me this time because I needed her. I walked over to where she was, placing a hand on my waist.

“I know you can hear me now, Zea,” I said softly.

Her eyes met mine, and she beamed before she did a triple somersault that landed her on both legs. “Ember, you're here,” she stated.

“Yes, since' like' an hour?” I teased.

She smiled lightly at that as she made her way down the podium to meet me. Looking around, I noted a dry towel and took it up, tossing it right at her. She caught it easily as she winked at me.

“You seem to be in a bad mood, babe,” she noted.

I groaned as I tossed my bag to the nearest seat. “Would you blame me? She is back.”

“Who is back?” She asked softly.

“Priscilla!” I called out.

She frowned lightly. “Who is Priscilla?” She asked softly.

I gave her a look, but it didn’t seem like she was joking. She had completely forgotten who she was, and it’s not like I could blame her. Priscilla had been pushed to the back since she left 3 years ago, and though, we weren’t exactly friends, I knew that many of the pack members had moved on like she had not been the most popular she-wolves of all time.

“Lucas’s ex-girlfriend,” I blurted out.

I took pleasure in watching as Zealina’s eyes went wild in shock. “You mean Priscilla Wolfe is back in this school?” She said in a high-pitched squeal.

I nodded lightly. “Yes, and Lucas met her through me. I had forgotten all about their history, and like an idiot, introduced them both thinking it was their first time.”

“How did Lucas react?”

I held my hair in two tight holds, feeling my stomach churn in panic. “Take a wild guess.”

“I’m not good at that, Ember,” Zealina said softly.

I sighed. “He was looking at her like he couldn’t believe she was there with him. I just don’t get it. Were they so serious? And, even if they were, he didn’t even try to claim me in front of her. I don’t know if I made a mistake thinking that Lucas was different from his brothers. How could he not say a word?”

Zealina moved quickly until she was in front of me. She placed her hands on my shoulders as she looked at me calmly, her eyes soft and kind. “You need to relax,” she said at last.

“How can I do that? My mate is conflicted right now, and he is not talking to me. This is supposed to be the best times of our lives, but he prefers to punish himself over a relationship that is doomed to fail.”

As the words slid out from my lips, I was starting to realize that things were really messy. What if Lucas still had feelings for that girl, what would I do then?

“When was the last time you let your wolf out?” Zea asked suddenly.

I groaned. “What is this question now?”

She pressed my shoulders softly. “Ember, please answer it.”

I sighed. “I can’t remember, but it’s because I’m scared of the predators out there. After what happened with those girls, I just don’t feel the urge to be out.”

“It’s one of the reasons that you’re overthinking everything,” she stated. She calmly released her hold on her. “Your wolf would have given you some peace of mind. Look, everyone knows that Lucas and Priscilla were very serious together, but she is not in the picture anymore, but you are.”

“Then, why did he react like that?” I asked slowly.

She sighed as she dried her sweat once more. “I believe he was just surprised.”

Her words made me pause and I remembered how Lucas had acted earlier. He had not been able to form a sentence. Even if Zealina was right, I still wasn’t comfortable with any of these. I watched as she shoved her things in her bag while looking right at me.

“You don’t need to overthink, Ember. You trusted him before you let him mark you, right?”

I nodded lightly.

“Good,” she said as she zipped her bag. “Then, hold on to that. If it’s too much, you can initiate the conversation. You would be able to know what he is thinking.”

That seemed like a natural thing to do, but it was so hard.

“Let’s go eat,” she said softly.

I gave my accent and stepped close to her. “I would try to do what you say,” I managed.

She gave me a small smile, and I returned it too. “It would be fine.”

I hoped so...

Chapter 109 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

I walked out of the music lab with Zealina hot on my tail. Her advice was still ringing in my head, and I hoped the moon goddess would give me the confidence to go through with everything. I hated feeling so insecure, but I couldn’t help it still.

“I’m starving,” Zealina said beside me.

I rolled my eyes. “I think we should go and eat then. It’s lunch break now,” I muttered.

Zealina held me by the hand, as she said, “You have to cheer up! There is no one who can take your mate from you. You will see it with your eyes soon and exclaim that I told you so,” she gushed.

I said nothing to this. I honestly wanted to believe what she was saying, but when I thought about the look on Lucas's face, it was difficult to do so,

Oh, Moon Goddess!

I knew I couldn’t suffer a major heartbreak when my life was slowly trying to come back on track. I loved Lucas more than I had let on, and I hoped he knew that too. We’ve gone through so much together, and it would break my heart if things didn’t work as planned.

“Stop worrying, already!” Zealina screeched.

I gave her a small smile as I allowed her to lead me to the cafeteria. Most of the students were around, and they bowed lightly at my entrance. It seemed that this behavior was not stopping anytime soon. I could see Caleb and Tristen with their new girlfriends at their spot, but no sign of Lucas.

To be honest, I still had great feelings of jealousy when I saw the boys with other people, and the fact that they had been making conscious efforts to avoid me, sort of hurt really hard. I would rather not be considered selfish, but I couldn’t help to feel some sort of way every so often.

“Zea, why don’t you order for the both of us? I would like to look for Lucas,” I said slowly.

She sighed as she dropped her bag on the nearest table. “You’re dumping me again,” she accused.

I shook my head. “It’s not like that, babe. I will be back soon,” I said slowly.

In that same vein, my eyes went around the table and noted that Priscilla was not here too. Maybe, she was dodging me or something. I had no idea.

“Ok, I would save a seat. Go, get your man,” Zea said with a slight shove.

I smiled at her lightly as I made my way out of there. I was so nervous, and my fingers lightly touched the mark on my neck to give me support. Where could he be? It was not like him to play games with his food, and it worried me so much.

I turned back to the empty hallways, peering into classrooms as I moved, but seeing no one. Just as I was about to turn to the right, I noticed a figure that looked exactly like Lucas standing by

the restroom's door. As I moved closer, he suddenly pulled someone close to his chest, as he closed his eyes.

That someone was none other than Priscilla. And, she was crying as she clung to him.

At that moment, I had no idea that pain could be so deeply felt. I turned my back to it all as I ran. Hoping I would be able to escape it, but it thawed at me in so many ways. I choked back a sob, as I placed a fist in my hand, but it still slid down my cheeks without a care in the world.

LUCAS

The moment I saw Priscilla, I was momentarily confused and had no idea what to do anymore. She was still as beautiful as ever, but I wasn't concerned about that. I was more conscious of the fact that Ember was right beside me, and she was worried.

Yes, I could tell that many thanks to the mate bond, but I still couldn't talk to her, or make her feel better. I was so glad when the class finally ended because I needed some space right now. I had to think about the best way to handle this situation without hurting my mate.

Ember had gone through a lot because of me, and I didn't wish for her to be sad anymore. I picked up my books and scurried out before Ember could even say a word. Outside, the students were out in folds. They parted the way for me as I walked through them.

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Caleb and Tristen were on the other side of the hall, and they were frowning. Did they also know that Priscilla was here? I knew that they had been keeping their distance because of the fact I had marked Ember, but it might not continue to be so.

"Hey, guys," I said softly.

Caleb glared right at me. "We stepped back because we believed that you could take care of Ember."

"Yes, I can," I said stiffly. Pushing my hair back, I asked, "What is this about?"

Tristen snickered as he walked over to the side of the wall, and we all followed him. I turned over to look right at them. "Out with it already," I gritted out.

"Don't use that tone on us," Tristen said at once. I rolled my eyes but said nothing. "We saw how you reacted when you saw that girl, and it wasn't right."

"I..."

“You need to put things in order now,” he said tersely.

I would have argued about it, but I knew that they were a bit right with what they said. “I would handle it,” I said as I walked away.

I used my senses to sniff out Priscilla. I could still remember how she scented from a distance, and in minutes, I caught her coming out from a restroom. She moved over to me, as she sniffed.

“Lucas,” she said softly.

I nodded. “I need to talk to you.”

“Same here,” she said softly.

“Ok, go first.”

She pulled her hair behind her ears and then looked right at me like she still couldn’t believe that I was right in front of her, and it only made me more self-conscious.

“Did you miss me?”

“Pricilla...”

“I want you to be honest,” I managed.

I sighed as I looked at her. “I used to miss you a lot, and it hurt that I lost my best friend at the time. I just didn’t understand why you had to go.”

“I missed you too,” she said softly, as she touched my cheeks lightly. “I spent time wondering what you were doing and how you were faring. If I could, I would have come back a long time ago, but it was against me.”

“It doesn’t matter anymore,” I said softly.

She smiled then. “It does,” she contradicted. “Do you want us to be together again? I saw how you reacted when you saw me in that class, though that girl was there. I feel that there is something worth saving.”

“It’s too late,” I muttered.

Her eyes looked glassy as they peered up at me. “You don’t mean that,” she managed.

I bit my lips then, feeling so sad. “I do.”

That was when the waterworks started, and it literally broke my heart to see her so broken, but it was the right thing to do.

“I don’t mean to hurt you, Priscilla. I loved you truly three years ago, but a lot has happened, and I’m satisfied with my mate now. She is the only one that resides in my heart,” I touched my heart then to show it to her. “And, I don’t want to change it.”

Her tears made me so sad, and unable to bear it, I pulled her to me, letting her head rest on my chest. I wished things were different, but it was time to move on...

Chapter 110 - Bullied Mate Of The Alpha Triplets

EMBER

“Oh, goddess!” I spat out in pain as I made my way to the girl’s restroom on the other side of the hall.

I was thankful the damn academy had so many of the stalls around here. The last thing that I needed was for me to get into the one Priscilla just used. The thought only made me cry harder, and before long I was in the restroom.

I couldn’t see a soul, not like it was possible to see anything beyond my hazy eyes. All I wanted to do was cry until there were no tears left to cry. It seemed strangely poetic, and fitting in times such as this.

‘I think you’re overreacting,’ my wolf informed me suddenly.

I gasped in shock as I stepped back from the sink. “Are you trying to give me a heart attack? Where did you come from now?”

‘This is one of the reasons I don’t try to make conversation with you,’ she snapped.

I went quiet at that as I took a shaky step forward, turning on the faucet, and letting the water slide down the sink as I pulled my head underneath it.

“I’m not in a good mood,” I said at last. Sprinkling more of the water on my face, I continued, “You saw what happened back there. I have finally decided to give it a try with one of the triplets, and they go ahead to break my heart. That’s why I snapped at you, and you always show up at the wrong time, and sometimes, I forget that I’m a she-wolf.”

‘You’re difficult to handle. I don’t know what to make out of you. I have been inside of you for so long, and you keep making bad decisions, knowing fully well that it would hurt you in the end.’

“So, what should I do?”

‘Talk to your mate, and don’t jump to hasty conclusions,’ she said automatically.

I pulled my head out of the water, as tears matted my cheeks without pause. “I won’t do that. I would rather not talk to Lucas. What if I was right? I mean, it’s barely a day since Priscilla, the love of his life came here, and he is all over her. I mean, who does that? What am I to him, exactly? A robot?”

‘You’re exaggerating things now,’ my wolf tried to reason out.

“I’m not,” I argued.

She scoffed in response. ‘Whatever,’ she grumbled. ‘I have told you what I can, and it’s left to you to decide. You keep calling the shots to them, and not even giving the boys the benefits of the doubt...’

“Just stop, please,” I cried as I placed my head in my hands.

Painful tears rocked my whole body. I knew my wolf would always take her mate's side as though I was a mad woman. Of course, I try to be reasonable all the time. But, no one would see the way Lucas had been affected by Priscilla and remain unbothered. I was a fucking human in the wolf body, and I have feelings!

I turned back to the sink and switched the faucet back on, as I allowed it to do its job. Scooping more water, I shoved it onto my face. I needed to stop crying. I was not a weeping widow or something. I was a fucking future Luna, even though my mate was an asshole.

“I should be more courageous next time, and pry her off him, so the bastard knows he can’t go around being touchy with his ex. I mean, they are the fucking worst!” I screamed in my mind.

I sighed as I took a nearby tissue to dry up my wet face, and then, I tossed the tissue at the nearby trashcan before making my way out of there.

With my eyes glued to the ground, I quickly made my way around the halls, only for me to bump into a hard body that made my heart sing. I looked up quickly to see Tristen looking at me. The fact that I had not acknowledged our bond, had not changed the bond. It was still as good as new. It was so fucking crazy.

“Ember,” he said softly.

I pulled my hair around, and he squinted even further at me. Ok, that was a bad decision. I had made his curiosity be spooked.

“Are you ok?” He asked softly.

I sighed as I said, “I’m fine, Tristen.”

He frowned at me. “No, you’re not. On the contrary, you look like you’ve been crying. Your face is all puffy and wet.”

I touched my skin as I felt the wetness on my fingertips. This was not meant to happen right now. What could I have done to deserve this? If Tristen found out that Lucas was the reason I was this messed up, I had no idea what he would do to me.

“Tell me seriously, what is going on? Why are you like this? You look so broken,” he said as he placed his hand on his arm.

I smiled nervously. “What are you saying?”

“This,” I said as I brushed the wetness from my cheeks. “I rinsed my face with water, that’s all. I’m truly fine and there is no need to sweat. I have to go, though. I think I have another class before the day is finally over.”

I tried to sidestep him, but he suddenly held my hand as he led me in the direction of the cafeteria. I blinked in shock. “What are you doing?” I managed, but he ignored me.

Instead of going into the cafeteria like I had expected, he took a detour and I noted that there was an empty classroom there. He took me in, and pressed my back against the door, leaning so close to me, that I thought I would not be capable of breathing.

“What... is this behavior?” I managed.

“I need to know the truth, Ember. I have to know who is hurting you. I’m not a part of your life anymore because you chose my brother, but I care for you. And, if I see you crying, it feels like I have stopped being able to breathe. It’s the worst feeling ever. And, I don’t want to ever experience that again. So, please, tell me what is really going on with you.”

His words stopped me cold, and I couldn’t help but stare into his eyes. He was the most amazing soul ever, and there was no way I could ever say no to those words.

“I would tell you,” I said at last.

He moved away from me, but not too far. I could see the fear in his eyes that I might break down again, and that made me speak up. “It’s Lucas...”

“I will go...”

“No,” I said quickly as I held his hand. “You would do no such thing. You have to promise me that you won’t discuss this with him or try to scold him.”

He gritted his teeth.

“Fine, I won’t tell you then,” I said as I turned my back to leave, losing my hold on him.

“Wait, I promise,” he said at last.

I turned to him with a sad smile. “His ex-girlfriend, Priscilla, is back, and they are so touchy with each other, and I don’t know where I stand. I’m so confused, and I hate it. That is why I was crying. I don’t want to lose him, but I’m nothing compared to Priscilla. She is so beautiful and all.”

He moved quickly, holding my face in his hands. “Don’t talk nonsense. You’re stunning,” he said softly as he pulled me close to his body. “Should we go home?”

I sniffed, feeling spent. I clung to him as I said, “Yes please, take me home.”