

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 101

Chapter 101

Ethan's POV:

13%

I took another swig from my glass, relishing the burn of whiskey as it traveled down my throat.

The private room at Gold Moon buzzed with celebration around me-my old college roommate James had just won a major lawsuit, and everyone was in high spirits.

"Ethan! Come join us!" James called from across the room, waving enthusiastically.

"I need some air," I muttered, raising my glass in acknowledgment before slipping through the glass doors onto the rooftop terrace.

The cool night breeze was a welcome relief from the stuffiness inside.

I leaned against the railing, looking out at the city lights of Moonhaven.

These escapes had become my lifeline lately-any excuse to get away from Fiona and her suffocating presence.

Business meetings, pack duties, friends' celebrations-I'd grab at any reason to be somewhere else, anywhere else. Even a few hours of freedom felt like coming up for air after nearly drowning.

I closed my eyes, trying to push away thoughts of Tori's silver eyes and the way they used to light up when she smiled at me.

"Just a little longer," I whispered to myself, taking another sip of whiskey. Soon everything would fall into place. Soon I could be with Tori without hiding, without pretending.

The plan was coming together-I just needed patience.

As I tilted my head back to finish my drink, I caught sight of a familiar silhouette on the far end of the terrace.

My uncle Alpha Lucas was standing at the nearby terrace, his powerful frame silhouetted against the night sky as he smoked a cigarette, the ember glowing bright with each inhale.

I hesitated, unsure whether to approach and greet him. Our relationship had been strained lately, and I wasn't in the mood for another lecture about responsibility and bloodlines.

Deciding against it, I turned to head back to the private room for another drink.

That's when I saw her.

Tori stepped onto the terrace, her silver-gray dress catching the moonlight as she approached Lucas. My breath caught in my throat. What was she doing here? With him?

Before I could process what I was seeing, Lucas extinguished his cigarette and pulled Tori into his arms in one fluid motion.

My stomach dropped as I watched her not only allow it but lean into him, her head resting against his chest with a familiarity that made my blood run cold.

The implications were unmistakable.

!!!

1/3

<

17.53 Wed, Feb 11 G D G

Chapter 101

I stood frozen, unable to move, unable to breathe.

I should look away. I should return to the party. But I couldn't tear my eyes from them.

"What the fuck?" I whispered, my glass nearly slipping from my fingers.

They disappeared inside, and I stood frozen, trying to process what I'd just witnessed.

<13%8

My initial shock quickly gave way to a burning rage that surged through my veins. Without thinking, I lurched forward, intent on following

them.

“I need to go, I announced, returning to the party just long enough to grab my jacket and keys.

“But we haven’t even cut the cake!” James protested.

“Family emergency,” I lied, already heading for the door.

I took the stairs instead of waiting for the elevator, my heart pounding in my chest as I raced down to the ground floor.

Bursting through the exit doors, I scanned the parking lot frantically, just in time to see Tori sliding into the passenger seat of Lucas’s sleek

black Aston Martin.

My uncle closed her door with a gentleness I’d never seen from him before then walked around to the driver’s side. Neither of them noticed me standing there, half-hidden in the shadows.

As their car pulled away, something inside me snapped.

Without conscious thought, I found myself jogging to my own vehicle, fumbling with the keys as I slid behind the wheel. Some force beyond reason compelled me to follow them, to see where they were going, to confirm what I already feared was true.

“What are you doing, Ethan?” I muttered to myself, even as I started the engine and pulled out of the parking space. But I couldn’t stop. I had

to know.

The drive was a blur. I followed Lucas’s car at a distance, my mind racing with possibilities, each more painful than the last.

They turned onto the private road leading to Lucas’s residence, but his personal property where he lived alone. I pulled over before the security gates, watching as they drove through and disappeared up the winding driveway.

“This can’t be happening, I muttered, gripping the steering wheel until my knuckles turned white.

I sat there for what felt like hours, memories flooding back.

“The Grayson bloodline cannot be tainted by an Omega who might end up in prison,”

“A Grayson cannot mate with someone who has been incarcerated,”

These phrases had become like a mantra in our family, repeated so often they might as well have been carved into the walls of the Grayson

estate.

And I had listened. God help me, I had listened and stayed away from the only woman I'd ever truly loved.

2/3

<

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 G D G

Chapter 101

14%8

Every time I tried to reconnect with Tori, someone from the family would remind me of the “Grayson standard.” My father. My grandmother.

Lucas. Always Lucas.

And now, watching his car turn onto the private road leading to his personal residence, a horrifying thought struck me.

Had Lucas wanted her for himself all along? Had he deliberately kept us apart, waiting for his moment? The betrayal cut deeper than any

wound I'd ever suffered.

“Why her?” I whispered, gripping the steering wheel until my knuckles turned white.

“Why Tori? Of all the women in Moonhaven, why did it

have to be her?”

My vision blurred with rage. I slammed my fist against the dashboard, accidentally hitting the horn.

The sound blared through the quiet night, startling me back to awareness. Before I could think better of it, I drove through the open gates, following the driveway to Lucas's house.

I parked haphazardly and stormed up to the front door. I pounded on the door hard enough to hurt my knuckles.

The door swung open, revealing Lucas in just his shirt and pants, his normally perfect hair slightly disheveled.

“Ethan,” he said coolly. “What’s wrong with you.”

Comments

2

Write Comments

<SHARE

3/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 G D G

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 102

Chapter 102

Lucas’s POV:

14%

I stared at my nephew standing in my doorway, his body radiating fury, eyes wild with a mixture of desperation and alcohol.

The scent of whiskey clung to him like a second skin.

“Ethan,” I repeated, keeping my voice level despite the tension crackling between us. “What’s wrong with you?”

“What’s wrong with me?” He let out a bitter laugh, pushing past me into my home.
“That’s rich coming from you, Uncle.”

I watched him pace my entryway like a caged animal. His wolf was close to the surface- I could sense it in the way his shoulders hunched, the slight elongation of his canines.

Whatever had triggered this midnight visit had pushed him dangerously close to losing control.

“You’re drunk,” I stated flatly. “Whatever this is about, we can discuss it tomorrow when you’re sober.”

“We’re talking about this tonight!” Ethan’s voice rose to a shout.” After years of telling me I couldn’t be with my girlfriend because she was an Omega who’d been incarcerated, because the ‘Grayson bloodline cannot be tainted, because ‘a Grayson cannot mate with someone who has been to Silver Fang’-all those fucking lectures!”

I stared at him, suppressing a sigh. This wasn’t the first time Ethan had brought up his old girlfriend after drinking. The alcohol was clearly making him emotional about the past again, dredging up old resentments.

“All this time,” Ethan continued, his voice breaking, “I obeyed. I stayed away from the only woman I’ve ever truly loved because you said our family couldn’t accept her. And now what? You want her for yourself?”

I narrowed my eyes, the implications of his words suddenly crystallizing.

‘Who exactly are you talking about?’ I asked carefully, a sense of foreboding rising in my chest.

Ethan’s laugh was hollow. “Playing dumb doesn’t suit you, Uncle, I’m talking about Tori Sullivan. The woman you were holding tonight.”

The name hit me like a physical blow.

Tori-my Tori, my fated mate-had been Ethan’s girlfriend? The girl I’d advised him to stay away from years ago was the same woman who now wore my family ring?

I took a deep breath, centering myself. ‘I didn’t know she was the same woman.’

“Bullshit!” Ethan’s fist slammed into the wall beside him, leaving a small crater in the plaster. ‘You knew exactly who she was. You kept us apart so you could have her.’

“That’s enough. My voice dropped an octave, laden with Alpha authority.

“Four years ago, I didn’t know Tori then. I didn’t even know her name.”

“And now?” Ethan’s eyes glittered dangerously. “Now that you know who she is, you’ve decided the rules don’t apply to you? The mighty Alpha

1/3

17.53 Wed, Feb 11 G D

Chapter 102

gets whatever he wants, while the rest of us suffer?”

I stepped closer, my patience wearing thin. “Tori is my fated mate.”

The words hung in the air between us. Ethan froze, his expression cycling through disbelief, anger, and finally, crushing realization.

“No,” he whispered. “That’s not possible.”

“It is, I stated firmly. “I didn’t choose this, Ethan. Neither did she. But I won’t deny what she is to me.”

3.14%

“What about me?” Ethan’s voice rose to a roar, fury distorting his features. I’ve been miserable! Trapped in this engagement with Fiona while

my heart belongs to Tori! It’s always been Tori! ONLY Tori!”

He slammed his fist against the wall again. “I don’t want anyone else I never have! *

“I’m not discussing this while you’re drunk and irrational,” I said, my tone leaving no room for argument. “Go home. Sleep it off. We’ll talk

tomorrow.”

“I don’t want to talk tomorrow. I want to talk to Tori-now. I need to tell her the truth. That I never stopped loving her. That I never wanted

Fiona.”

My wolf Duke surged forward at the possessive way Ethan spoke about Tom

A low growl escaped my throat, the sound primal and warning.

“You’re engaged to Fiona,” I reminded him sharply. “She’s carrying your child. And Tori is my mate. Whatever you felt for her in the past needs

to stay there-in the past.”

“You don’t get to decide that!” Ethan shouted. “You don’t get to ruin my life and then take the one good thing in it!”

“Enough, I commanded, letting my Alpha power flood the room. “As an Alpha, I order you to go home now.”

For a moment, the Alpha command seemed to work.

Ethan’s shoulders slumped slightly under the weight of my authority. The with visible effort, he straightened, defiance burning in his eyes.

I pulled out my phone and dialed his assistant. “Steve? I need you to come pick up Ethan at my residence immediately. Hes in no condition to

drive,”

I kept my eyes fixed on my nephew as I spoke, making it clear this wasnt suggestion.

“You’re not my Alpha anymore,’ he said quietly. And you’re certainly not the man I thought you were.”

Before I could respond, Ethan turned and stormed out the front door. I heard his car engine start outside with a violent roar.

‘Damn it,’ I muttered, grabbing my keys and rushing after him.

By the time I made it outside, Ethan’s taillights were already disappearing down the drive.

I jumped into my car and followed, keeping a distance but never letting his erratic driving out of my sight. His car weaved dangerously across

r

2/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 GDG

Chapter 102

the road, the alcohol clearly affecting his coordination.

14%

As we approached the sharp curve on Moonlight Boulevard, I saw the oncoming headlights of a truck just as Ethan drifted into the wrong lane.

His brake lights flashed too late-he was moving too fast and heading straight for a collision.

My heart lurched into my throat.

Without hesitation, I floored the accelerator, pulling alongside Ethan's car and swerving into the truck's path. The impact was violent-metal screaming against metal as my car absorbed the blow meant for Ethan.

Ethan's terrified scream pierced through the chaos of crunching metal and shattering glass.

My head snapped forward against the steering wheel, then back against the headrest. Darkness edged my vision, and a high-pitched ringing filled my ears as the world began to tilt and spin around me.

Blood trickled warm down my temple as I fought to stay conscious.

Comments

1

Write Comments

SHARE

3/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

**Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real
Courage Author: Michael Anderson 103**

Chapter 103

Tori's POV:

14%

The sound of a car horn broke through the night. Lucas paused mid-sentence, his hand still warm on mine where the family ring now sat.

"I should check that," he murmured, reluctantly pulling away. "Wait for me here. I won't be long."

I sat alone on the moonlit terrace of Lucas's home, legs tucked beneath me as I stared up at the moon hanging in the night sky.

My fingers absently traced the warm silver band on my finger-his family ring.

Lucas had actually confessed his feelings for me. The Alpha of the Grayson Pack had given me his family ring.

Would he mark me tonight?

The thought sent a shiver of anticipation and fear down my spine.

I'd heard stories about marking-the intensity, the permanence, the bond created between mates.

Part of me yearned for that connection, to truly belong to someone after years of isolation. Yet another part trembled at the vulnerability it would require, opening myself completely to another being after I'd spent so long building walls.

Tracy, my wolf, lay curled in contentment deep in my consciousness, unusually quiet and peaceful. Even she seemed affected by the tranquility

of this moment.

However, the thought of my past-the history I still hadn't confessed to him-sent a ripple of anxiety through me. How could I accept his mark when he didn't know the whole truth about who I was, what I'd done?

"When he comes back," I whispered to myself, "I'll tell him everything."

The decision settled in my chest with surprising certainty. Lucas deserved to know my whole history.

Although I savored the warmth Lucas had shown me, I would accept whatever came after my confession. No matter what happened, I'd experienced this tenderness-and that alone was enough.

The sudden sound of raised voices from downstairs interrupted my thoughts. I shifted closer to the balcony's edge, straining to hear.

Through the ornate railing, I caught fragments of an intense argument-Ehan's voice, slurred with alcohol and raw with emotion.

"What's wrong with me?' I heard him say with a bitter laugh. "That s rich coming from you, Uncle."

My body tensed at the sound of Ethan's voice. What was he doing here? I could hear Lucas's measured tone in response, though I couldn't make

out his exact words.

"We re talking about this tonight!" Ethan's voice rose to a shout. "After years of telling me I couldn't be with my girlfriend because she was an Omega who d been incarcerated, because the Grayson bloodline cannot be tainted-all those fucking lectures!"

My hands gripped the railing so tightly my knuckles turned white. They were talking about me. Ethan was confronting Lucas about me.

1/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 103

14%

More heated words followed, Ethan's voice breaking with emotion. I obeyed. I stayed away from the only woman I've ever truly loved because you said our family couldn't accept her. And now what? You want her for yourself?"

I couldn't breathe. The world seemed to tilt beneath my feet as Lucas's reply came, his voice now carrying clearly through the night air.

"Tori is my fated mate."

The words hung in the silence that followed, making my heart stutter.

Fated mate? Was that why he had been so drawn to me, why he'd given me his ring?

The sound of something crashing against a wall made me jump. I heard Lucas order Ethan to leave, followed by more shouting. Then came the slam of a door and the roar of an engine starting.

My heart hammered painfully against my ribs. The fragile peace I'd felt moments ago had shattered completely.

I stood frozen, completely at a loss for what to do next.

My legs suddenly felt weak, and I sank to the floor of the terrace, wrapping my arms around myself. The ring on my finger caught the moonlight, a stark reminder of promises just made that now seemed to hang in the balance.

The emptiness of the house pressed in around me.

Minutes stretched into what felt like hours as I remained there, trapped between hope and dread, replaying the fragments of argument I'd

overheard.

When my phone rang, the sound was jarringly loud in the silence. Jack Green's name flashed across the screen. My hand trembled as I

answered.

"Hello?" I managed, my voice barely above a whisper.

"Tori!" Jack's voice was breathless and tight with tension. "There's been a terrible accident!"

My body went cold, as though someone had replaced my blood with ice water.

"What happened?"

Alpha, he- Jack paused, and I heard the wail of sirens in the background. He tried to save Ethan from a crash and drove right into the path

of a truck. He's in critical condition at Moontouch Medical Center. They're working on him now."

The phone nearly slipped from my suddenly nerveless fingers.

My vision tunneled, darkness creeping in from the edges as Jack's words hoed in my mind. Critical condition Accident. Lucas.

"I'm on my way," I managed to say, though my voice sounded distant to mown cars.

I grabbed my jacket from the back of the chair and rushed toward the door. Just minutes ago, I had been contemplating our future together,

and now-

Please be okay. Please be okay. Please be okay.

2/3

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 104

Chapter 104

Tori's POV:

14%

My heart pounded against my ribs as I rushed through the sliding doors of Moontouch Medical Center.

The antiseptic smell hit me immediately, mixing with the underlying scents of pain and anxiety that always lingered in hospitals.

I barely noticed the curious glances from the staff as I hurried to the reception desk.

"Alpha Lucas," I said, my voice cracking. "He was brought in after a car accident."

The receptionist's eyes widened slightly at the name before she typed something into her computer. "Fourth floor, east wing surgical ward. The

elevator is-

I was already moving before she finished.

Every second felt like an eternity as the elevator climbed, my mind racing with terrible possibilities. The family ring Lucas had given me just hours ago felt heavy on my finger, a reminder of promises that might now hang in the balance.

When the doors finally opened, I spotted Ethan immediately.

He sat hunched over in a plastic chair in the waiting area, elbows on knees, head in hands. Even from a distance, the scent of guilt and alcohol

emanated from him.

He looked up as I approached, his eyes red-rimmed and haunted.

“Tori...” His voice was barely more than a whisper, rough with emotion.

Before I could respond, Matthew Howard emerged from a set of double doors, still dressed in surgical scrubs. My body went rigid with fear.

“How is he?” I asked, the words rushing out.

“The surgery is still in progress,” he said, keeping his voice measured. “Welle doing everything we can, but I can’t give you a definitive

assessment just yet.”

Seeing the raw anxiety on my face, Matthew’s professional demeanor softened slightly.

“Don’t worry, Tori. Lucas is an Alpha – his constitution is far stronger than most. His healing abilities are exceptional, and his body is already fighting back. He won’t have any serious problems.”

Anxiety still twisted in my stomach.

“How much longer will the surgery take?”

“Another hour, at least. We want to be thorough.” He glanced at his watch. “Why don’t you sit down? I’ll come find you as soon as we’re done.”

After Matthew disappeared back through the doors, I reluctantly took a seat beside Ethan, leaving one chair between us.

The silence stretched uncomfortably until he finally spoke.

1/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 104

星辰14%8

"This is my fault, Ethan said, his voice hoarse. "I was drunk. I confrontedim about..." He swallowed hard, glancing at me. "About you."

I stared down at my hands. "Jack told me Lucas tried to save you."

Ethan let out a bitter laugh. "Save me? I was driving like a maniac. He saw was going to crash and... he positioned his car to take the impact

instead. His voice broke.

"After everything I said to him, he still..." He shook his head, turning to fade me with remorse etched across his features. "Tori, I'm so sorry.

This never should have happened."

I didn't answer. My gaze remained fixed on the operating room doors, my Hody tense with anticipation.

The fluorescent lights buzzed overhead as midnight approached. The hallway had emptied except for us and an occasional nurse passing by.

"If it had been me in there," Ethan said suddenly, breaking the silence, "would you be this worried?"

The question caught me off guard. I looked at him directly for the first time since sitting down.

"No," I answered honestly. "I'd be concerned, but not like this."

Ethan's expression hardened, pain flashing in his eyes. "You're really cruel to me, Tori."

After a brief silence, he continued, "You're in love with him, aren't you?"

My chest tightened. "I don't know." I twisted the ring on my finger. "But yes, I... I care for him deeply."

"He gave you his family ring," Ethan observed, his eyes lingering on my hand. It wasn't a question.

"Tonight," I confirmed. "Right before you arrived.*

Ethan leaned back in his chair, eyes fixed on the ceiling. "You haven't told him, have you? About the four years you were exiled for allegedly

attacking Noah Morris?"

I felt like I couldn't breathe. "No," I whispered. "I was planning to tell him onight, but..." The words hung in the air, everything left unsaid.

Ethan gave a self-deprecating smile.

"When he wakes up, make sure you tell him everything, Tori. Don't hold anything back." He shook his head, resignation evident in his voice. "You're his fated mate after all. You two are destined to be together, wheter I like it or not."

I looked at his face, recognizing the complex emotions warring behind his eyes.

"But I can't bring myself to wish you both happiness," he admitted, his vole strained. "I should, I know that, but I just can't."

I sighed softly, feeling a mixture of sympathy and frustration.

"Ethan, you need to let go of the past. It's time to move forward."

The hours crawled by until finally, around 3 AM, the double doors opened again. Matthew emerged, looking tired but relieved.

2/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 104

"The surgery was successful, he announced. "We've moved him to recovery He'll be unconscious for a while, but his vitals are strong."

The tight band around my chest loosened slightly at the sight of him breathing.

Ethan and I rose simultaneously, following the medical team as they transferred Lucas into his recovery room.

I pulled a chair close to his bed, sitting where I could easily reach his hand. Without thinking, I entwined my fingers with his, as if the connection might somehow speed his recovery.

Ethan stood at the foot of the bed, watching my movements with a pained expression.

After several minutes of silence, he said quietly, his voice rough.

“If things had gone differently, Tori,” he asked quietly, “would you have blamed me forever?”

Comments

♡ 1

Write Comments

<SHARE

14%

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 105

Claimed by the Alpha's Love

Chapter 105

Tori's POV:

Ethan's question hung in the air between us, but I couldn't bring myself to answer.

The very premise of his question was unbearable.

“No such assumption exists,” I said firmly, my voice barely above a whisper

I refused to entertain any other possibility, refused to let my mind wander down that dark path.

“He's going to be fine,” I whispered, more to myself than to Ethan. “He has to be.”

Ethan looked at me for a long moment, then down at Lucas's still form. The guilt etched across his features seemed to deepen with each passing second.

“He probably won’t want to see me when he wakes up,” Ethan said finally, his voice hollow.”

He stood up, hesitating at the foot of the bed. “I should go.”

I didn’t argue or try to stop him. Part of me was relieved he was leaving, allowing me to focus solely on Lucas without the tension Ethan’s presence created.

14%

“Tell him...” Ethan started, then shook his head. “Never mind. It doesn’t matter what I say now.”

With one last pained look at his uncle, Ethan turned and walked out, the door closing softly behind him.

Once alone with Lucas, I pulled my chair even closer to his bedside, gently taking his hand in mine.

I sat in silence for a while, simply watching him breathe, memorizing the lanes of his face relaxed in unconsciousness.

“I was going to tell you everything tonight,” I continued softly. “About what happened four years ago, about Noah Morris and why I was sent away. I should have told you sooner. I was afraid...”

I swallowed hard. ‘I was afraid you’d look at me differently once you knew

The steady beeping of the heart monitor was my only answer.

I leaned forward, resting my head gently against his arm, careful not to disturb any of the tubes or wires.

“When you wake up, I promise I’ll, tell you everything,” I whispered. “No me secrets.”

I must have dozed off eventually, still holding his hand, because I awoke the sound of the door opening. Blinking sleepily, I straightened up to see Matthew entering the room.

“You slept the whole night like this,” he said, sounding surprised. “How is ?

“The same,” I replied, stretching my stiff neck. “He hasn’t moved.”

1/3

17:53 Wed, Feb 11 G

Chapter 105

G

多14%日

Matthew checked the monitors and made some notes on his tablet. “Everything looks good. His healing abilities are already working overtime.

He glanced at me with professional concern. “You should get some rest, Toi. He’s going to be fine.”

I shook my head. “I want to be here when he wakes up.”

Matthew studied me for a moment, then nodded. “I understand. But at least get some coffee or something to eat.”

“I’m not hungry,” I said automatically.

“Elizabeth Grayson is on her way,” Matthew added casually. “She received the news and is driving in.”

I tensed at this information.

Lucas’s mother was coming. While she had been kind to me at the party, defending me against Garrett’s accusations, I wasn’t sure how she’d react to finding me at her son’s bedside, wearing his family ring.

What made it worse was that I had no idea how to explain what had happened between Lucas and Ethan. How could I tell Elizabeth that they had been fighting over me? That Ethan’s jealousy and Lucas’s protectiveness had led to this accident?

Matthew seemed to read my anxiety, his professional demeanor softening as he placed a reassuring hand on my shoulder.

“His condition is stable. The sedation will wear off by morning, and he should regain consciousness sooner.

I nodded, feeling a small wave of relief wash over me.

After Matthew left, I reluctantly stepped out to use the restroom and splash some cold water on my face.

When I returned to the corridor leading to Lucas’s room, I stopped in my tracks.

Elizabeth Grayson was hurrying down the hallway, her elegant figure unmistakable even from a distance. Before I could decide whether to approach or hang back, she disappeared into Lucas's room.

I stood frozen, suddenly unsure of my place. Should I go in?

'You're here to see Alpha Lucas, too?'

The smooth, honeyed voice startled me. I turned to find Vivienne Blackwod standing behind me, looking flawlessly put together despite the

early hour.

I nodded, somewhat dazed by her sudden appearance.

'I thought I recognized you from Elizabeth's gathering,' Vivienne said, stepping closer with a smile that didn't quite reach her eyes. 'You and Lucas seemed... friendly.'

I shifted uncomfortably, unsure how to respond.

'Lucas and I go way back,' she continued smoothly, filling my silence. 'We were practically inseparable for years. Did he mention that to you?' She didn't wait for my answer. 'We were actually on the verge of becoming mates at one point.'

2/3

23

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 105

My stomach clenched. Tracy growled softly in my mind.

成含14%量

'But I chose to accept an exchange position with the Northern Packs instead, Vivienne sighed, as if recounting a bittersweet memory. 'Career over love-such a modern dilemma, isn't it?'

I felt a strange hollowness spreading in my chest.

Had Lucas pursued Vivienne the way he pursued me? Had he looked at her with the same intensity, spoken to her with the same tenderness?

Tracy growled low in my mind. Danger. This female threatens our bond.

“Why are you telling me all this?” I asked, finding my voice at last.

Vivienne’s perfect smile never faltered, but her eyes hardened slightly.

“Because,” Vivienne continued, lowering her voice to a confidential tone, “ve come back specifically for Lucas. We have unfinished business, he

and I.”

Her eyes lingered meaningfully on me. “It’s sweet that he’s been... entertaining himself while I was away. But I wouldn’t get too attached to things that don’t really belong to you.”

The subtle threat hung in the air between us.

My wolf bristled at the challenge, but I remained silent.

Vivienne checked her watch—a delicate, diamond-encrusted piece that probably cost more than a year’s worth of my grandmother’s medical

bills.

With a practiced smile that never reached her eyes, she added, “It was lovely chatting with you... Tori, was it?”

Without waiting for my response, she turned and walked away.

I stood there feeling shaken, when my phone suddenly vibrated in my pocket.

I pulled it out and saw my aunt Janet’s name on the screen. My stomach dopped. Janet rarely called, especially not at this hour.

Comments

61

Write Comments

SHARE

3/3

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 106

Chapter 106

Tori's POV:

14%

I answered quickly. "Aunt? Is everything okay?"

"Tori, thank goodness," Janet's voice came through, tight with worry.

"It's your grandmother. She fell and injured her leg badly. The doctor says he needs surgery."

My heart, which had just begun to settle after Lucas's surgery, plummeted again. "Surgery? How bad is it?"

"They're not sure yet. The doctors are prepping her now."

"I'm at the Silver Moon medical facility with her now, but I don't know what to do. Anna's with me, and I can't manage both of them."

I closed my eyes, feeling torn in half.

Lucas lay unconscious in one hospital while my grandmother faced surgery in another. The two people I loved most in the world, both in danger at the same time.

"I'll be there as soon as I can," I promised, ending the call.

Hanging up, I turned toward Lucas's room. Through the small window in the door, I could see Elizabeth sitting by his bedside, her elegant posture betraying her exhaustion. Vivienne stood near the window.

Lucas had people-powerful people-who would ensure he received the best care possible.

My grandmother had only Janet... and me.

I took one last look at Lucas's still form, my heart aching with the knowledge that I wouldn't be there when he woke up. But I had to go. I couldn't abandon my grandmother now.

The vehicle rumbled through the dark forest, each mile taking me further from Lucas and closer to my other life—the one full of struggle and

uncertainty,

The Silver Moon medical facility was nothing like Moontouch. Where Moontouch gleamed with state-of-the-art equipment and polished floors, this place was humble and worn. The scent of wolf herbs hung heavy in the air, a traditional remedy for pain that more advanced facilities had long abandoned.

"Tori!" Janet rushed toward me, little Anna clinging to her hand.

My five-year-old sister's eyes were puffy from crying, her small body trembling.

"Where is she?" I asked, following Janet down a narrow hallway.

Grandmother Eileen lay on a simple bed, her gray hair spread across the low. Her leg was propped up, the swelling visible even under the

thin blanket.

Her normally bright silver eyes were dulled with pain.

O

1/3

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 106

"Tori, she whispered, reaching out a trembling hand. "You shouldn't have come all this way."

"Of course I came." I took her hand, noting how cold it felt. "What happened?"

14%

Janet explained as I sat by Grandmother's side. "She was on her way to pick Anna up from school when she slipped and fell down the stairs. The doctor says she needs surgery, but—" She hesitated.

“But what?” I pressed.

“But Hannah refused to help with the medical costs.” Janet’s voice hardened. “She said that with Alexander considering cutting ties with her after her gambling losses at a high-society wolf party, she can’t afford to help.”

I shook my head, unsure if this was just another of Hannah’s convenient excuses or the truth-not that it mattered anymore. I’d long since stopped expecting anything from my mother.

“Don’t worry about the moon stones,” I said firmly. “I’ll handle it.”

Janet barely makes enough to keep the household running. I did a quick mental calculation of my savings from my tutoring job and what remained of my scholarship money. It would be tight-very tight-but I could just manage it.

“I have some moonstones saved,” I assured them, forcing confidence into my voice.

Janet’s eyes filled with guilt. “I’m so sorry, Tori. I should be able to handle this, but between rent and Anna’s school fees-*

“Hey, I interrupted gently, “you’re already amazing for supporting this family on your own. You’ve been taking care of Grandma and Anna without any help from Hannah. That counts for something.”

“But-

‘I’m not just being stubborn, Janet. I really can afford it, I insisted.

Janet studied my face for a moment before finally nodding, her shoulders relaxing slightly with relief.

A small tug at my sleeve pulled my attention away.

Anna looked up at me with those innocent eyes that somehow hadn’t been poisoned by Hannah’s bitterness.

“Tori, I missed you,” she whispered, wrapping her arms around my waist and burying her face against my stomach. “Are you staying this time?”

“Of course I am, sweetie,” I said, smoothing her hair. “I’ll stay with you.”

Janet gave me a tired smile. “Tori, why don’t you take Anna home? You must be exhausted from the journey. I’ll stay here with Mom tonight.”

I didn’t argue. The truth was, I was exhausted and needed to shower and sleep.

'Call me if anything changes,' I told Janet, gathering my things. "Come on Anna. Let's head home."

The little girl slipped her hand into mine, her warmth a small comfort in the chaos. I gave my grandmother a gentle kiss on the forehead before leading Anna out of the medical facility.

2/3

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 106

At home, I helped Anna change into pajamas and tucked her into bed, reading her favorite story until her breathing deepened into sleep.

She clung to my hand even in slumber, as if afraid I might disappear.

Poor thing-she must be terrified with everything happening to our family

14%

I gently stroked her forehead, then lay down beside her, too exhausted to make it to my own bed. My body ached with fatigue but my mind

raced with chaotic thoughts.

Had Lucas woken up yet? Would he be disappointed not to see me there?

The phone's sudden ring cut through the quiet room.

I reached for it reflexively, my tired brain barely registering the action.

Comments

1

Write Comments

< SHARE

3/3

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 107

Chapter 107

Tori's POV:

14%8

The screen showed an unfamiliar number, but at this point, I was too exhausted to care who might be calling past midnight.

"Hello?" My voice came out rough from fatigue.

"Is this Tori Sullivan?" A crisp, professional female voice responded.

I sat up straighter, suddenly alert. "Yes, this is she."

"Wonderful! This is Amelia Crawford from The Lunar Herald." Her voice brightened considerably. "I'm delighted to inform you that you've won

first place in the Lunar Phase Competition! Congratulations!"

For a moment, I couldn't process her words. "I... what?"

"You're the champion!"

Despite the thrill of victory fluttering in my chest, I couldn't shake the nagging suspicion about this unexpected call.

"How did you get my number?" I asked, glancing at Anna's sleeping form beside me.

"Oh, the competition organizers provided it. We'd love to feature you on our front page- the brilliant Omega who outshined everyone! Your photograph alongside an exclusive interview would make a wonderful stor

My stomach knotted. Public attention was the last thing I needed-especially now, with my past constantly threatening to resurface.

“I appreciate the offer,” I said carefully, “but I prefer to keep a low profile for personal reasons. I’d rather not have my photo published.”

“Oh. Her enthusiasm dimmed slightly.

‘Well, perhaps just the interview then? Our readers would be fascinated by your achievements.’”

I hesitated, then conceded, “I can answer a few questions about the competition, but nothing personal.”

She seemed to accept this compromise, asking about my mathematical approach and future aspirations. I kept my answers focused on the competition, maintaining a polite but distant tone.

After a few minutes, I thanked her and ended the call, a genuine smile spreading across my face for the first time in days.

First place! Tracy howled with pride inside me, and I couldn’t help but feel a surge of satisfaction.

The reporter had mentioned a substantial cash prize that would be transferred to my account within days-enough to significantly ease the burden of Grandmother’s medical bills.

I sank back into the pillow beside Anna, the weight on my shoulders lighting just enough to let exhaustion finally take over.

The twin worries of Grandmother’s surgery and Lucas’s condition still lingered at the edges of my mind, but for now, the immediate financial pressure had eased.

1/2

17:54 Wed, Feb 11

Chapter 107

GDG.

With one last glance at Anna’s peaceful face, I let my heavy eyelids close, deep finally claiming me.

< 314%#

Morning arrived with harsh fluorescent lights and the antiseptic smell of the Silver Moon medical facility.

I sat in the chair beside my grandmother's bed, watching her chest rise and fall in sleep.

The surgery had gone well, according to the doctor who explained she would need several months of rehabilitation.

"The bone has been set properly," he'd said, "but at her age, healing takes time. She can recover at home, but she'll need regular therapy and

proper care."

I nodded, giving the doctor a grateful smile. "Thank you for everything you've done for her," I said sincerely, rising from my chair to walk him

to the door.

"Just doing my job," he replied kindly, pausing at the threshold.

"We'll have instructions for her home care ready before discharge. Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions."

I thanked him again as he left, watching his white coat disappear down the hallway.

My phone vibrated with a notification.

I opened it to find a message from Morgan with a link.

My breath caught when I saw the HowlSpace post trending across moonhaven.

"Lunar Phase Competition Champion: Skill or Beauty? Omega Academic Stuns the Pack!"

The post featured several photos of me—one answering questions in class another walking across the Moonridge campus, and a third that looked like it had been taken through the window of the café where I'd be tutoring Morgan.

Comments

61

Write Comments

<SHARE

2/2

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 GDG

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Chapter 108

All clearly taken without my knowledge or consent.

14%

My jaw clenched as I stared at the images.

Just last night, I had explicitly told the reporter I didn't want my photo published-yet here I was, plastered across social media for everyone to see.

I scrolled through the comments with growing unease:

"How does an Omega even understand advanced calculations? Someone must have helped her."

"Silver eyes AND brains? Is this girl for real?"

"My brother got second place. He's furious he lost to an Omega."

"She's beautiful. Definitely got special treatment from the judges."

But there were others, too:

"I was at the competition. She finished the problems in half the allotted time. Pure genius."

"Moonlight Goddess! Beauty and brains!"

"About time an Omega showed those arrogant what real intelligence looks like

My fingers tightened around the phone as I kept scrolling, searching for any mention of Silver Fang or my past.

A knot of dread formed in my stomach with each swipe, but to my relief, there was nothing about the incident four years ago. Just speculation, admiration, and the inevitable prejudice.

“What’s wrong?”

I looked up to find my grandmother awake, her silver eyes watching me with concern.

“Just some nonsense about the competition,” I said, putting my phone away and taking her hand. “How are you feeling?”

“Like I’ve been kicked by a moose,” she replied with a weak smile.

I returned her smile, squeezing her hand gently. You gave us quite a scar

“I’m sorry, sweetheart.’ Her voice softened. “You have enough burdens without me adding to them.”

“Don’t say that,” I chided gently. “You’re never a burden.”

Her eyes filled with tears. “You should never have had to go through what you did.”

I looked away, uncomfortable with her sympathy. After a moment, I changed the subject. “The doctor says you can recover at home. I’ll arrange everything.”

1/2

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 GDG.

Chapter 108

‘But your school-

“I’ll manage,” I assured her. “Right now, you need to focus on getting better

She nodded reluctantly, and we sat in companionable silence until she drifted back to sleep.

My phone vibrated again-Morgan calling this time. I stepped into the hallway to answer.

“Hey, have you seen what they’re saying about you online?” Her voice bubbled with excitement. “You’re like, totally famous now!”

“I saw,” I said, less enthusiastically. “It’s... a lot.”

<3.14%#

“A lot? It’s amazing! Everyone’s talking about you. The mysterious silver-eyed Omega who’s a math genius!” She paused. “Are you okay? You sound off.”

“Just tired. My grandmother had surgery last night.”

“Oh no! Is she alright?”

“She will be. The surgery went well, but recovery will take time.”

“I’m so sorry, Tori. Let me know if there’s anything I can do to help.

I appreciated her concern but knew there wasn’t much she could do. “Thanks, Morgan.”

There was a brief pause before she spoke again, her voice suddenly dropping to a conspiratorial whisper.

“But...I can’t believe you didn’t tell me about you and Alpha Lucas! Some friend you are, keeping secrets that big. But despite your betrayal, I’m still nice enough to let you know he was in a car accident the other night.

My heart stuttered. Before I could even respond, Morgan barreled on.

“But he’s already awake and supposedly fine. That’s not the issue.”

Her tone turned urgent.

“The problem is Vivienne has been circling him. She’s at the hospital practically every day, bringing flowers and food and whatever. Mom says she barely leaves his side.”

She paused dramatically. "If you don't show up soon, your man's going to get snatched right out from under you. Just saying."

Comments

E

1

Write Comments

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 109

Chapter 109

Tori's POV:

414%

I hung up the phone, Morgan's words echoing in my mind like an incessant drumbeat.

"He's already awake and supposedly fine... Vivienne has been circling him... you don't show up soon, your man's going to get snatched right out from under you."

The knot in my stomach tightened as I stared at the ceiling.

Had Lucas awakened and simply not bothered to find me? Was I just deluding myself, thinking he'd care whether I was by his side or not? Or worse-perhaps after hearing Ethan's words, he'd finally realized what everyone else already knew: that an Alpha of his standing had no business with an Omega who'd killed someone and spent four years in Silver Fang.

The thought pierced my heart, but I forced myself to accept it.

He might just be angry you weren't there when he woke up, Tracy whispered in my mind. Alphas can be temperamental when their wolves feel

abandoned.

Stop that, I scolded my wolf. You're being ridiculous. He's probably relieved wasn't there making things awkward.

Maybe Ethan had been right all along. Maybe Lucas could never accept someone with my past becoming his mate.

Accept the reality, Tori, I told myself firmly. You have other priorities right now.

Three days later, the doctors finally declared Grandmother stable enough to be discharged.

Janet needed to work and manage Anna's school schedule, so I'd requested leave from my classes to focus entirely on Grandmother's care.

Between arranging her medication schedule, preparing the house, and coordinating with physical therapists, I barely had time to think about anything else.

'I can manage the stairs if you help me,' Grandmother insisted as I wheel her into Janet's small house.

"Not a chance," I replied, navigating the wheelchair through the narrow hallway. "You're staying in the downstairs guest room until you can walk properly."

After settling her in, I grabbed the trash bag and headed outside.

The spring afternoon was cool, moonlight casting long shadows across the yard. I inhaled deeply, savoring the momentary solitude.

Only when I'd completed a full circle did I reluctantly turn back toward the house.

Then I froze.

A sleek black SUV was parked across the street, its polished surface gleaming under the streetlight. I'd recognize that vehicle anywhere-Lucas Grayson's car.

"

<

1/3

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 G D G

Chapter 109

My heart slammed against my ribs, my palms instantly clammy.

What was he doing here? Was he looking for me? Had something happened? Maybe he came to tell me he never wanted to see me again.

My thoughts collided and scattered like leaves in a windstorm, each possibility more confusing than the last.

I dropped the trash into the bin and hurried back inside.

“Tori?” Grandmother called as I closed the door. “Come meet Alpha Lucas.

My stomach plummeted. I followed her voice to the living room and stopped dead in the doorway.

Lucas Grayson, Alpha of the Grayson Pack, sat perched on our threadbare couch like a wolf among sheep.

14%

His imposing frame made our small living room seem even tinier, his designer clothes a stark contrast to the worn furniture. Beside him on the couch, little Anna was chattering excitedly about her stuffed wolf collection.

His gray eyes met mine, and for a moment, I couldn't breathe.

His expression revealed nothing, but his eyes couldn't conceal the emotions swirling beneath the surface.

“There you are,” Grandmother said, her wheelchair positioned across from Lucas. “Alpha Lucas was just telling us how he was in the area for work and thought he'd stop by to see us. Such a thoughtful young man.”

Just in the area for work. Something deflated inside me. I pushed down the unexpected disappointment and forced a neutral expression.

Lucas stood, his movement fluid and powerful. At his full height, he nearly brushed the ceiling.

“Ms. Sullivan,” he greeted with a formal nod, his tone carefully neutral and professional.

I swallowed hard, forcing my face to remain composed despite the sting of his formality.

“Alpha Grayson,” I replied with equal distance, though my wolf whined at the coldness between us.

“You must stay for dinner,” Grandmother insisted, patting Lucas's hand with familiar ease that surprised me. After all, I haven't had the chance to properly thank you for what you did when Ethan saved Tori, and how you looked after her at the hospital. The least we can do is feed you a home-cooked meal.”

A ghost of a smile softened Lucas's features.

'I'd be honored, thank you,' he replied, some of the earlier formality melting away.

"Wonderful! Janet, dear, would you mind running to the store? We'll need a few more things," Grandmother called. Janet appeared from the kitchen, nodding when she saw our guest.

"Come on, Anna," Janet said, grabbing her purse. "Let's go get groceries for dinner. They slipped out the front door, leaving just the three of us in the suddenly quiet living room.

Before any of us could break the silence, a sharp knock sounded at the door.

2/3

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 G

GDG

Chapter 109

美勿14%售

I excused myself to answer it, finding Mrs. White standing on the porch with a small basket of homemade cookies.

"Oh, Tori dear, I just wanted to bring these over for your grandmother, she said, stepping inside before I could properly invite her. 'I heard she was back home and-'"

Mrs. White froze mid-sentence as her eyes landed on Lucas.

"Oh, I didn't realize your uncle was visiting," she whispered to me, her voice trembling as she glanced nervously at Lucas.

Lucas's jaw tightened almost imperceptibly at being mistaken for a relative though his expression remained controlled. The subtle shift in his posture radiated authority, making the already uncomfortable situation even more tense.

"Mrs. White, Lucas acknowledged with a slight nod, his face impassive.

The older woman quickly placed her basket on the side table and turned toward my grandmother with renewed purpose.

“Eileen, I’ve been meaning to ask you-have you given any more thought to what we discussed last month? About Tori and my nephew

Andrew?”

I stiffened, heat rushing to my face. I couldn’t believe she was still pushing this match after I’d politely declined twice already.

The temperature in the room seemed to drop several degrees as Lucas stood perfectly still, his attention now fixed on me with unnerving

intensity.

Comments

2

Write Comments

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.

Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 110

Chapter 110

Tori’s POV:

14%8

Mrs. White continued gushing about Andrew, completely oblivious to the dangerous drop in Lucas’s mood.

Her voice grew more enthusiastic with each syllable.

“He would be perfect for you, Tori. When do you think would be the best time for the mating ceremony? Spring is always lovely for these

occasions, don’t you think?”

The temperature in the room plummeted.

I felt Lucas's gaze grow increasingly intense, almost burning a hole through me where I sat.

"Mrs. White, please," I interrupted hastily, "my grandmother needs her rest. And as I've mentioned before, I'm not interested in-

"Nonsense, dear," Mrs. White waved dismissively. "These important matters require the wisdom of elders. Young people these days rush into decisions without proper guidance-*

Lucas rose to his feet in one fluid motion, his presence seeming to fill the entire room.

"I believe I qualify as an elder, Mrs. White," he said, each word precise and glacial. "And let me be clear-this match will never happen. Not now.

Not ever.."

When I dared glance at Lucas, my breath caught.

To anyone else, he might have appeared perfectly composed-his expression neutral, his posture relaxed. But I could feel it. The rage simmering just beneath his controlled exterior, like magma beneath a seemingly dormant volcano.

Mrs. White's mouth opened and closed like a fish out of water. The confidence that had carried her through her matchmaking attempts evaporated instantly.

"Oh my, look at the time," she stammered, rising shakily to her feet. "I should... I should let Eileen rest." She backed toward the door. "Well continue this another time, perhaps."

She practically fled from the room, not even waiting for a response.

Grandmother looked between Lucas and me, her brow furrowed in confusion. Decades of life experience had taught her to recognize tension

when she saw it.

"I think I'll rest in my room for a while," she said carefully, beginning to wheel herself away from the tension.

"You two clearly have things to discuss. She offered a gentle smile. "Take our time, dear. Don't worry about me-these old bones need the

extra rest anyway."

With remarkable intuition, she maneuvered her wheelchair down the hallway toward her bedroom, closing the door softly behind her and leaving Lucas and me alone in the suddenly quiet living room.

Lucas took a step toward me, then another. My back hit the wall before I realized I'd been retreating.

1/3

<

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 G D G

Chapter 110

"Are you considering it?" he asked, voice dangerously soft.

"Considering what?"

"A match with Andrew. He spat the name like it was poison.

"That was just Mrs. White being... Mrs. White," I said, trying to keep my voice steady. "I have no interest-

14%8

"Then where is it?" he cut me off, eyes narrowing dangerously. "The ring. you're so uninterested in other matches, why aren't you wearing

it?"

My hand instinctively went to my neck, fishing out the silver chain hidden beneath my sweater. The platinum band with its gemstone center dangled between us, catching the light.

"I keep it here," I explained, my voice softer than intended.

"Wearing it on my hand isn't practical," I explained softly. "And... my grandmother and others don't know about us yet. I didn't want to invite questions I'm not ready to answer." I hesitated, fingers curling protectively around the ring. "But I keep it with me. Always."

Lucas's eyes fixed on the ring, following its gentle sway.

Something in his face changed—the hard lines of anger gradually softening. The dangerous energy radiating from him diminished, not disappearing completely but receding like a tide.

“Why did you leave?” His voice was low, controlled, but I could hear the hurt and anger simmering beneath.

I met his gaze, refusing to cower despite the Alpha authority bearing down on me.

“My grandmother fell and broke her leg. She needed emergency surgery.”

“You could have left words,” he pressed, stepping closer. “Do you have any idea what it was like to wake up and find you vanished?”

“I didn’t have time, and your mother was in the hospital room,” I replied, eeping my voice down. “My grandmother needed me.”

“And I didn’t?” His jaw tightened,

“I didn’t know what you would think of me,” I said, my voice catching as the vulnerability I’d been hiding finally surfaced. My eyes dropped to the floor, unable to meet his gaze,

“You found out about what happened four years ago. About everything the accused me of. My fingers tightened around the ring until the edges bit into my palm. “How was I supposed to know if you still... if you even wanted me around anymore? If I was still-

I swallowed the lump forming in my throat. “I didn’t know if I still had a place in your life after you learned the truth.”

Lucas sighed deeply, a sound that seemed to release some of the tension that had been building between us. In one smooth motion, he reached

for me,

pulling me against his chest. His arms enveloped me, strong and sure.

“If you can’t bear to let me go,” he murmured against my hair, “then hold tighter. Don’t run.”

I hesitated only for a moment before wrapping my arms around his waist, feeling his warmth seep into me. My face pressed against his chest, I could hear the steady rhythm of his heartbeat.

2/3

17:54 Wed, Feb 11 G D G

Chapter 110

‘Aren’t you angry?’ I whispered, my voice muffled against his shirt.

“About what?”

‘About my past. About what I kept from you.’

He pulled back slightly, tilting my chin up so I had to meet his gaze.

“Yes, I’m angry about that.”

Comments

1

D

Write Comments

<SHARE

3/3

Editorial board

Editorial Board: Our editorial team works behind the scenes to refine each chapter, maintain consistency, and deliver the best reading experience.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters. Tap the middle of the screen to reveal Reading Options.