

# Claimed by the Alpha's Love

Chapter 41

Tocacy POV

I closed the doors to Tori's hospital room quietly behind us, giving Morganome time alone with her

I kept my expression neutral as Matthew and I stepped into the hallway

How is she really? I asked once we were out of earshot

4.59%

Matthew leaned against the wall, running a hand through his disheveled hair

Physically? The injuries aren't too serious. The leg fracture is clean, nothing serious.

"But?" I prompted, sensing he was holding something back.

But during my examination. I noticed some concerning issues with her stomach lining. Matthew's professional demeanor took over and he continued. It shows signs of prolonged malnutrition, Lucas. The kind you see when someone's gone hungry for years."

My jaw clenched involuntarily.

"Can it be treated? I kept my voice level.

"With time and proper nutrition, yes. But I'm not a specialist in this area.

Matthew pulled out his phone, scrolling through his contacts.

I've taken the liberty of contacting Dr. Elena Bennett. She's the best gastroenterologist in the city and has experience treating wolves who have been through similar situations."

I nodded, taking the information he offered. "Thank you, Matthew.

He waved his hand dismissively.

Please, we're way past formalities After all these years and everything we been through? I've lost count of how many times you've helped me out

Auschvous grin spread across his face "Though if you really want to your gratitude, you could share some details abhings are progressing with your little Omega"

The memory of Turis distulering face when I bet I liked her my mind.

The was the hooked at me as it ial grow second beel, the absolute vints in her rolex when shot bed it was messing with her

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He'd known me long enough to recognize when I was avoiding a tople.

59%

Just professional curiosity. The mighty Alpha Grayson spending the night an uncomfortable hospital chair, holding the hand of an Omega That's front page news

1 freed him with a cold stare

Speaking of personal lives, I ran into Cecilia Grayson yesterday. She mentioned the heen trying to reach you about dinner."

The effect was immediate.

Matthew's teasing smile vanished, replaced by an expression of pure horror  
'Cecilia?' he repeated, his voice rising an octave. "Ethan's sister Cecilia?"

I allowed myself a small, satisfied smile.

The very same. She seems quite determined to see you. If you're not too busy with your professional curiosity, I could give her a call right

now and let her know you're available.

"This is how you repay me? Matthew gasped, his eyes widening in horror  
After all I've done for you? This is betrayal of the highest order

Lucas

I reached for my phone and began to pull it out of my pocket, my expression neutral.

Matthew immediately backed away, hands raised in surrender, shaking his head vigorously.

"Suddenly, I remember I have three surgeries scheduled back-to-back. Very complicated procedures. Can't possibly reschedule

I thought you might say that," I replied, enjoying his discomfort.

Those patients need me, Matthew insisted, already backing down the hallway.  
Life and death situations, Lucas. I should really eng

Of course," I said smoothly. Tar be it from me to keep you from your important work

Matthew glanced nervously over his shoulder as if expecting Cecilia to salize in the hallway

11 send Dr. Bennetty information to your phone Shell help you

With that, he turned and practically sprinted down the corridor, his while at Bapping behind him like trender flig

I don't help the small chuckle that escaped me

Matthew had been avoiding Cacha o years, she died a couch on him doing a gathering

My amusemen tasted as the phone seated to my pock

Jack name flashed in the mapen

What you hear? and without tambéc

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Chapter 41

59%

“We found the car, Alpha,” Jack y vested west tight with controlled ingen pers shankomad in the productstét diesset, bet tas for the

accident kite. Black sedan, matching the description from with

I stepped farther away from The’s room, lowering my vide

And the driver?”

Cone, but careless. Left their distinctive scent all over the steering when we’ve ramning it through the Park regitry

There was a pause before lack continued There’s something else, Alpha The brake lines were intact. This won’t a mechanical fallersTM

My grip on the phone tightened. “It was deliberate

Yes, Alpha. And hased on the trajectory and witness accounts, the driver ecifically targeted Ms. Sullivan and M. Raken: This wasn’t rendes

Cold fury settled in my chest. Someone had deliberately tried to harm To

Find them, I ordered, my voice deadly calm. I want a name within the

And keep me updated.” I said, ending the call

I glanced back at Ton's door, where Morgan's animated voice could faintly be heard through the wood

My mate was safe for now, but someone had tried to take her from me here I could even claim her property. Before she even there withd

meant to me.

That was unacceptable

Whoever was responsible would learn exactly why I was called the Frost.

And this time, there would be no mercy

Comments

## **Claimed by the Alpha's Love - Love Demands Real Courage Author: Michael Anderson 42**

Chapter 42

Lisa's POV:

\* 3.59%

The phone vibrated in my hand, displaying a number I didn't recognize ho immediately knew when it beforget ra

I took a sip of my coffee before answering, keeping my voice low despite being alone in the hall

"Hello? My tone was clipped, professional.

"It's done, the gruff voice on the other end said without preamble. The car's been abandoned exactly where your arggested. No me caw me

leave.

I felt a surge of satisfaction warm my chest like the coffee in my hand.

Finally, someone who could follow simple instructions.

"Good," I replied, glancing at the framed photo of Noah on my desk-my beautiful son, forever frozen at nineteen.

“Any complications?”

“None that concerns you,” he said, his tone shifting. “What concerns me is when I’m getting paid. The job’s done, and I need my money

I frowned, annoyed by his impatience.

“The full amount will be transferred once I confirm the effectiveness of your work.”

What do you mean by effectiveness? I did exactly what you asked. I drove the car at them, made it look like an accident.”

“From what I’ve heard, the injuries weren’t that severe,” I said, my irritation growing. The Omega is already awake and recovering. That hardly what I’d call effective

There was a pause on the other end before the man’s voice returned, now tinged with anger.

Listen, lady, I did my part. It’s not my fault that the girl has quick reflexes. You’re not planning to back out of a deal, are you? These would be a very unwise decision

Are you threatening me?” I asked, my voice dropping several degrees.

I’m just stating facts. he replied, unimpressed look. This is this job for you. There’s some force vesting with I’m close to being identified

> Buskines passed through me a mystery was that. That was needed.

Had Tui amshire bettonded someone with actual statut

det i spackle dismissed the thing he was dregs, wind of wastong in mot deles. We pass the way

Your insting a few che state in fedders with the wing my col

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Chapter 42

trouble.”

“You sound awfully confident, he said, his voice bitter. Easy for you to shark and rotax when I’m the one in the first seat, not you

Relax. I assured him, my voice smooth as ice.

“Even if they somehow manage to catch you and throw you in Silver Fang have enough connections to get you not

I could almost hear him weighing my words, calculating the risk versus the reward

59%

Fine, he eventually conceded, though reluctance laced his tone. But I want at least half the payment now. Consider it insurance for both of

“I’ll transfer it to your account today,” I agreed, knowing it was better to keep him placated. The rest will come when the dirt settles.

“It’s better, he warned before the line went dead.

As soon as the call ended, I opened my encrypted messaging app and sent brief note to my most trusted assistant.

“Driver becoming a liability. Clean the situation by the end of the week. No traces.”

I smiled coldly at the screen. I wasn’t about to let some amateur threaten me and live to tell about it. Threats against me always come with consequences, and I never left loose ends that could lead back to me.

I placed my phone on the desk and took another sip of my coffee, which had grown cold during the conversation.

The bitter taste matched my mood.

Tori Sullivan might have survived this attempt, but it was only the beginning.

I still remember the day I saw her at that café, sitting there as if she had destroyed my life. As if she had the right to live peach, di

my son rotted in the ground.

The rage I d felt had nearly consumed me. It still burned inside me, a constant flame that would only be extinguished when she suffered as 1

had suffered.

I had already arranged for people to take care of her during those four years she spent in Silver Fang if I could reach her behed these secured walls, I could certainly do the same now that she was out

The prison had its limitations, but out here? My options were limitless

What was that old saying? An eye for an eye? No, that was enough wed Fort bear in hell every single day

The memory of Noelia smile flashes in my mind, strengthening w

My hand unionacinaty sightened around in ing wew mo kakles white

The wound the boat or closing pulled no wa Monophis

My daughter Supine zinah in the mer of the Moving her intimate redung when the six miluje,

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Chapter 42

Her eyes darted to the photo of Noah 1 held, and she became even more ld, like prey sensing a predator

“Where have you been? Lasked, my voice sharp

Just school project,” she mumbled, clutching her backpack tighter

I felt the familiar imitation rise within me

59%

“All you ever do is run around outside. I snapped, the bitterness I’d been using all day finding a target. School project the study group

that. Always an excuse to be somewhere else.”

Sophia flinched, her shoulders hunching as if trying to make herself smal

“If you had been watching out for your brother four years ago instead of running off with your friends, he would still be alive My voice rose

with each word.

“He... he told me not to come with him,” Sophia whispered, her voice so fant I barely heard her.

She couldn’t even look at me as she spoke, her eyes fixed on the floor.

“You dare talk back to me?” I snapped, rising from my seat.

The stinging slap across her face echoed in the quiet room.

“That’s enough, Lisa.”

I turned to see David standing in the doorway, his expression a mixture of weariness and disgust.

He moved forward, pulling Sophia behind him protectively.

“Haven’t you caused enough damage?” he asked, his voice steady despite the anger I could see in his eyes. “It’s been four weeks for me this endless rage. Noah’s death wasn’t Sophia’s fault.”

“Then whose fault was it? I demanded, feeling my control slipping. “Min For spoiling him, for letting how think he could day

wanted?”

Comments

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Write Comments

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Chapter 43

Bea’s POV:

59%

That wasn’t anyone’s fault. Lisa. We need to let it go-the living have to d a way to move forward David said, his voice weary as he stood

in our living room.

I stared at him, this shell of a man I once called husband.

How dare he tell me to let go when our son was rotting in the ground?

“Let it go?” I laughed, the sound hollow even to my own ears.

Move forward? Like you two?” I gestured between him and Sophia, who was still cowering behind him. Is that what you call bring cold-

blooded? Forgetting about Noah like he never existed?”

David’s jaw tightened.

“That’s not what I meant, and you know it. We haven’t forgotten Noah. We’re just trying to-

Trying to what? Replace him?” I spat the words like poison, my voice dripping with contempt.

“You’re barely even home anymore, David. Always at the damn office, always too busy for us. I wouldn’t be surprised if you had a whole other

family stashed away-one that doesn’t remind you of your failures.

The moment the accusation left my lips, I knew I’d struck a nerve.

David’s face hardened, his eyes flashing with a fury I rarely saw in him.

“If I’m never home,” he said, his voice dangerously low, it’s because you’ve turned this house into a war zone. Not anything else

His words hung in the air between us, heavy with years of unspoken resentment

Without waiting for my response, he turned away, placing a protective hand on Sophia’s shoulder

“Come on, Sophia Go to your room

I watched as they climbed the stairs, David not even sparing me a backglance. The sound of Sophia’s door closing echoed through the

empty house

I stood alone in our living room—the same room where Noah’s graduation photo still held the place of honor on the mantle, his favorite Rover

frozen in time

I’d been too into wealth, married well, and for decades, everything had in place for me. Until I met Sullivan Hooker.

My heart hardened

but David and Sophie couldn’t understand if they kept trying to hit the cases a day and night, they would

pursue it alone

1/3

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Chapter 43

The next morning. I was in a surprisingly good mood as I tended to the plants in our sunroom.

I had dreamed about Noah last night—one of those rare, peaceful dreams where he was smiling, alive, and whole again.

These fleeting visits in my dreams were precious gifts, leaving me with a bittersweet warmth that lingered into the morning.

My phone vibrated in my pocket.

When I saw my brother Dustin’s name on the screen, I answered immediately.

“Hello, Dustin. How are the contract negotiations going?”

Not well. Lisa,” he said, his voice tight with frustration. “We’ve hit a major roadblock.”

I frowned, setting down my watering can. “What?”

"It's Alpha Lucas," he said.

My blood ran cold.

4.59%

Alpha Lucas was interfering with our family business?

"That can't be right," I said, my mind racing. "We've never had any direct dealings with the Grayson. Why would he target us specifically?"

"I don't know," Dustin sighed. "I tried going through the proper channels-sent formal requests for a meeting, even tried reaching out through mutual business contacts. Nothing."

"His Beta assistant, Jack Green, said that if we want to discuss the issue, you should come to the Grayson headquarters personally."

"Me?" I nearly dropped the phone. "Why me specifically?"

"That's what I'm trying to understand," Dustin replied.

"Do you have some connection to Grayson that I'm not aware of? Have you crossed paths with him before?"

I racked my brain, trying to think of any connection I might have had with Alpha Lucas,

The only possible connection was Tori Sullivan, the Omega who had killed my brother, had once been involved with Ethan Grayson, Lase

Don't panic yet, I said, trying to keep my voice level

Let me think through this strategically. I'll look into our recent dealings with Grayson Enterprises and see if there's anything that might explain this. Send me all the details of the application and exactly what

After hanging up, I immediately dialed my assistant Sara

Bata, have we had to recently discuss deals with Fixer Targon

block

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## Chapter 43

"Mrs. Mortis, Sara replied with her usual efficiency. "Actually, I was just out to call you. We just received word that our bid for the commercial development on the north side was rejected. Cole Industries on the contract instead

"What?" I gripped the phone tighter.

That can't be right. Our proposal was superior in every way-hefter designs, more competitive pricing, faster completion timeline

I thought the same thing, ma am. The decision came directly from Alpha ucas himself, according to our contact.

I felt my stomach drop. This was no coincidence. First, Dustin's eastern strict project, and now this?

"I see. I said slowly. Thank you, Sara."

59%

After hanging up, I stared blankly at the orchids.

There was no doubt now-Lucas Grayson was targeting me specifically. But why? What had I done to earn the ire of the most powerful Alpha in

Moonhaven?

A meeting with Alpha Lucas seemed inevitable now, regardless of how mach the prospect unsettled me.

Two hours later, I sat in the immaculate waiting room of the Grayson Pack headquarters, my hands clasped tightly in my lap to stop them from

trembling.

Despite my family's considerable influence in Moonhaven, we were nothing compared to the Alpha.

I could only wait quietly for judgment from Alpha Lucas, like a subject before a king.

However, I'd been waiting for hours, the entire afternoon slipping away with no sign of Lucas.

Though irritation simmered beneath my skin, I didn't dare express it openly.

Finally, as daylight began to fade outside the tall windows, Lucas appeared.

When Lucas finally entered, my wolf instinctively lowered her gaze.

It was a primal response I couldn't control—the ingrained submission to an Alpha, especially one as powerful as Lucas Gaya,

Comments

Chapter 44

Lucas's POV:

3.59%

I stared at the surveillance footage on my laptop, my jaw clenching as the rainy video showed a black sedan deliberately swerving toward two female pedestrians—Tori and Morgan—before speeding away.

Jack had called me earlier with the news I'd been waiting for.

"We found the driver, Alpha," he'd said, his voice tense. But someone got him first.

"Dead?" I'd asked, my voice dangerously calm.

"Yes, Alpha. Professional job—quick and clean. We checked his phone records. His last call was to a number registered to Mrs. Morris, approximately two hours before his death."

My hands clenched into fists, rage coursing through me like ice fire. Someone had eliminated the driver before I could question him—

deliberately cutting off my investigation at its source.

"Get Mrs. Morris in here, I ordered, my voice dropping to a dangerous pitch. I don't care what excuse you have to make. I want her sitting in

our reception area today.”

“Understood. I’ll make the arrangements immediately.”

A knock at my office door interrupted my thoughts.

Alpha, Jack said as he entered, “Mrs. Morris has been waiting in the reception area for nearly eight hours now.”

I didn’t look up from my screen. I’m aware.”

“She’s becoming... restless,” Jack added carefully. “Her scent indicates increasing anxiety.”

“Good,” I replied, my voice cool and detached. ‘Let her wait a while longer

It was almost dusk when I finally rose from my desk and made my way toward the reception area.

When I finally pushed open the door, Lisa’s head snapped up, her eyes instantly lowering as her wolf recognized my dominance,

I didn’t speak as I walked to my desk, the silence stretching between us a physical thing

Alpha, she finally said, her voice steady despite her obvious nervousness Thank you for sewing me

I remained silent, studying her

She was well preserved for her age, her features expensive beauty. The churn of a stable are a grand hannya

Nothing in her appearance suggested she was capable of

Understanding there love teen sur bath Alyx yalipena was she continues, filling the situation There following discuss what Seems to be understanding

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Chapter 44

I leaned back in my chair, deliberately casual

“Is that what you think this is, Ms Morris? A misunderstanding?”

She swallowed, her confidence wavering.

59%

1... I'm not sure what you mean, Alpha. If I've done something to offend you, I would appreciate knowing what it is so I can make amends.”

I let her words hang in the air, watching the uncertainty grow in her eyes

Why don't you think about it? Consider who you might have had conflicts with recently

Lisa's brow furrowed in concentration. I could almost see her mind working, sorting through possibilities.

“I truly cannot recall any significant conflicts, Alpha,” she finally said, her voice taking on a placating tone. If I've done something wrong, I'm

more than willing to make amends. Financial compensation can be arranged if-\*

“Compensation?” I cut her off with a cold laugh. “What exactly do you think is an appropriate compensation for deliberately hitting someone

with a car, Mrs. Morris?”

The effect was immediate.

Lisa's eyes widened in shock, pupils dilating with unmistakable recognition. For a split second, her carefully constructed facade crumbled

completely.

Lisa's POV:

My heart nearly stopped when Alpha Lucas mentioned a car accident.

Had he discovered my involvement in the hit-and-run targeting that Omega girl? Impossible. I'd been so careful, using multiple pas

eliminating the driver...

Wait. I needed to think clearly through the panic clouding my mind.

That couldn't possibly be Tori Sullivan-there was no way a disgraced Oga like her would have connections to tie as powerful as pha

Lucas.

Comments

Chapter 45

Besides, I'd been assured no evidence could lead back to me.

Even if someone suspected foul play in the hit-and-run, they could never love my involvement

Then it hit me.

59%

Last week, I'd been backing out of the Golden Moon Restaurants parking lot-a place known for hosting Alpha gatherings-and I'd scidentally

bumped into a young woman.

I'd barely registered her at the time, assuming she was just another normal server.

Watch where you're going! I'd snapped at her. "Are you blind?"

When she was lying on the ground, hissing in pain, I'd let out an exaggerated sigh.

I'd pulled out my wallet, extracted a few small bills, and tossed them at her feet where they scattered on the wet pavement.

"There's your precious compensation, I'd said loudly enough for everyone watching to hear.

"Pick it up quickly before it blows away. And next time, pay attention to your surroundings instead of looking for someone to blame.

With that final barb, I'd driven off without a backward glance.

Could that server have been important to Alpha Lucas?

I studied his face carefully as I spoke, searching for any confirmation.

"Alpha, could this possibly be about an incident at the Golden Moon Restaurant's parking lot? With a server girl?" I ventured tentatively

His expression remained impassive, revealing nothing

The silence stretched between us, heavy with unspoken tension. I took his lack of denial as confirmation and was relieved to have identified

the issue.

I lowered my head in deference, playing the part of the remorseful one perfectly

I sincerely apologize for it, I continued. 'I had no idea she was someone under your protection. Please accept my deepest apologies and let

me know how I can make amends

Alpha Lucas's brow furrowed slightly, but he didn't press further

Since you are willing to make amends. I am not he said evenly, his betraying nothing. You may u

I nodded guckly, hardly believing my back at being dismissed by mail

As I stood. I struggled to keep my relied to swingers favo

This would be simple to handle aux family had stays the stagh nc al prodesis

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Chapter 45

Ten times, even a hundred times, whatever that server girl was worth would be nothing to us.

However, fate had other plans.

Halfway home, my car suddenly swerved as the steering locked up.

The last thing I remembered was the sound of metal crunching against the guardrail and the sharp pain as the airbag deployed.

59%

I woke up in Moontouch Medical Center with a concussion, fractured ribs and the doctor's assurance I'd need to remain hospitalized for at

least three to five days.

That's when realization dawned.

This was Alpha Lucas's idea of compensation-not money, which he certainly didn't need, but a matching injury.

He'd deliberately arranged this accident.

Worse still, by the very next day, rumors were spreading wildly.

"Did you hear about Lisa Morris? Apparently, she insulted some girl at the Golden Moon who turned out to be under Alpha Lucas's protection."

I heard he's severed all business connections with the entire Morris family  
Terminated contracts worth millions overnight!"

"Who's this woman who managed to capture the ice-cold Alpha's heart?  
Whoever she is, I'm green with envy-imagine having Alpha Lucas

defend your honor like that!"

My carefully cultivated reputation in Moonhaven's elite circles was shattered overnight. I was now just another punchline at cocktail mirties.

It was beyond cruel-it was calculated to destroy not just my body but my spirit.

I clenched my fist tightly, breathing heavily through clenched teeth.

My wolf paced beneath my skin, snarling and snapping, wanting nothing more than to tear something to pieces

But we both knew better than to challenge an Alpha of Grayson's stature.

Comments

Chapter 46

Lucas's POV:

59%

I leaned back against the plush leather of the private booth at Golden Moon Club, nursing a glass of single malt whiskey.

The amber liquid caught the low lighting as I swirled it, watching the patterns it created against the crystal.

Around me, the exclusive members-only establishment hummed with the quiet conversations of Moonhaven's elite.

"So Lucas, Dylan said, leaning forward with a mischievous glint in his eyes.

"Everyone's talking about how you went absolutely ballistic on the Morris family. Lisa Morris's convenient car accident, the canceled contracts worth millions, the social exile-all over some waitress she insulted?"

His tone was light, but I could smell his curiosity, sharp and probing.

I kept my expression carefully neutral.

"I don't know what you're talking about."

He sipped his bourbon, snorted.

"Come on, Lucas. You don't make moves like that without a reason."

From the corner of my eye, I noticed Matthew Howard entering the private section of the club.

He spotted our table and made his way over, sliding into the seat beside me

"Sorry I'm late," he said, dropping into the chair beside me. "Some of us actually work for a living."

More laughter. Matthew had always been popular in these circles, his easygoing charm a perfect counterbalance to my more reserved nature

"We were just discussing Lucas's display of chivalry," Dylan explained, clearly enjoying himself.

Matthew's eyebrows shot up, and he turned to me with unconcealed interest

"It's refreshing, actually."

Dylan's enthusiasm grew as he noticed Matthew's curiosity.

The ice-cold Alpha Lucas, who's never shown interest in any she-wolf, finally going scorched earth over one felly, with Clark that finally melted the Frost King's heart?

"Clara," Matthew repeated, nearly choking on the drink-waitress had handed him.

His eyes snapped toward me in confusion and excitement as he recognized the girl who is Clara!

I took another sip of my drink, betting the wonder how his dog throat

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Chapter 46

"I have no idea," I replied coolly.

Matthew's shoulders visibly relaxed, relief washing over his face

Thank the moon, he muttered. "I thought you'd moved on that quickly."

I shot him a sidelong glance.

"Why don't you correct them?" he asked, leaning closer.

59%

I didn't answer, just silently lifted my glass to my lips again. Matthew studied my face for a moment before understanding dawned in his eyes

“Ah,” he said, a slow smile spreading across his face. “You clever bastard.”

“You’re using this woman as a smokescreen, aren’t you? To keep attention away from Tori.”

I didn’t answer immediately, swirling the remaining whiskey in my glass and watching the light refract through it.

“A shield serves its purpose best when everyone’s eyes are fixed upon it.”

Matthew shook his head, a mix of admiration and disbelief on his face.

“That’s brilliantly devious. But what happens when Tori hears this rumor? Aren’t you worried she’ll get the wrong idea? Maybe even

jealous?”

I paused, considering his words. The thought hadn’t occurred to me.

Would Tori be jealous? The thought was... intriguing. I hesitated, finding myself genuinely curious about the answer

“Would she be?” I asked, my voice softer than intended.

Matthew rolled his eyes.

For someone so strategic in business, you can be incredibly dense about men.

Matthew glanced at his watch, a subtle platinum piece I’d given him years ago.

1

“Speaking of Tori, she’s being discharged this afternoon. Around four Hisps curved into a teasing smile. Don’t say I date? searm you

I checked my own watch, realizing I had just enough time.

Without another word, I rose from my seat and grabbed my car keys from the table

Leaving a soun?” Dylan called from across the rows

Business, replied curtly, already heading for the d

Driving through downtown Munshaven, I spotted a small shop in  
impulsive con

The middle aged shopkeeper looked up as the bell rang when she besigtet  
der

2/3

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Chapter 46

“Alpha! How can I help you today?”

“I need flowers,” I stated.

59%

“Of course,” she nodded, professional despite her obvious surprise. “Mayk  
who they’re for? Family, colleague, romantic interest??

I frowned slightly. “Does it matter?”

She smiled patiently. Different relationships call for different flowers, Alpha.  
Red roses for passionate love, lilies for family, sunflowers for

friendship...

I realized I’d never purchased flowers before. The concept of flowers having  
specific meanings hadn’t crossed my mind.

After a brief consultation, I settled on an arrangement of white tulips with  
subtle greenery.

Twenty minutes later, I stood outside Tori’s hospital room, flowers in hand

I raised my hand to knock when Morgan’s animated voice filtered through the  
door.

...and then Alpha Lucas literally crashed Mrs. Morris’s car to get revenge! The  
whole city is talking about it, Tori.”

“Why would he do something like that?” Tori’s voice sounded confused.

“Apparently, he was getting revenge for a girl named Clara, Morgan explained excitedly.

“You should’ve seen Megan’s face when she heard! She was practically foaming at the mouth, saying she needed to find out whos Clara person was and see what she had that Megan didn’t. After pining for Alpha Lucas for years, I think she’s about to lose her inen”

I waited, straining to hear Tori’s response to this revelation. But the room fell silent, and I couldn’t make out any reaction from he

The sudden opening of the door caught me off guard.

Morgan stood in the doorway, her eyes widening with surprise.

“Alpha Lucas!” she exclaimed, looking between me and the flowers in my hand. “Were you just standing out here?”

Comments

Chapter 47

Tori’s POV:

I nodded absently as Morgan continued her animated retelling of Megan alous reaction

My attention was caught by a shadow passing across the small window in the hospital room door.

Someone was standing outside, listening.

My pulse quickened. I nudged Morgan’s arm and subtly tilted my head toward the door.

Her eyes widened as she followed my gaze.

Without a word, Morgan grabbed the small fruit knife she’d been using to peel apples and held it behind her back.

She approached the door cautiously while I tried to sit up straighter.

Morgan yanked the door open, knife hidden behind her.

“Alpha Lucas!” she exclaimed, hastily tucking the knife into her back pocket.

Lucas stood in the doorway, holding a bouquet of white tulips. His blue eyes flickered between Morgan and me, then to the knife poly concealed behind her.

“Were you... just standing out here?” Morgan asked, her voice pitched higher than normal,

“I just arrived, Lucas replied smoothly, stepping into the room as if he owned it.

He walked directly to my bed and extended the flowers. “Congratulations on your discharge

Morgan still looked confused, opening her mouth to question him further but Lucas interrupted.

“Your brother called. He said there’s something urgent at home that requires your attention.”

Oh! Morgan’s eyes widened. “In that case...” She turned to me with an apologetic smile.

Would it be okay if Alpha Lucas takes you home after discharge? I should probably check what’s happening

“Of course,” I nodded, though Tracy growled suspiciously inside me.

Thanks, Tori. Fil call you later! Morgan grabbed her purse and hurried the door.

After Morgan left, the hospital room fell into an uncomfortable silicon

Lucas atud by the window, his tall frame rating long show at the Exhitched the flowers, suddenly award at how diskove

That woman Clara, they re talking about was and what he bang with ms.

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Chapter 47

I blinked, surprised he would bother explaining this to me.

“Oh... well, even if she did have something to do with you, it wouldn't matter, I said.

However, Lucas's face immediately darkened, his expression shifting from neutral to gloomy in an instant. His jaw tightened visibly, and something dangerous flashed in his ice-blue eyes.

His mood seemed to shift like quicksilver, and a sudden unease crept up my spine.

59%

Maybe it was best to get out of here as quickly as possible. My leg still hurts when I put weight on it, but it wasn't unbearable anymore. The doctor had said I was healing well.

I should probably get going, I murmured, setting the flowers aside and carefully swinging my legs over the edge of the bed.

I pushed myself up, testing my weight cautiously. The bandaged leg trembled slightly, but I felt steady enough.

Then, as I took my first step forward, my injured leg buckled unexpectedly

I pitched forward with a startled gasp, bracing for impact with the hard floor- but instead, I collided with something solid and warm

Lucas had moved with impossible speed, his strong arms wrapping around me to prevent my fall. My hands reflexively clutched the front of his shirt, my face pressed against his chest.

His scent enveloped me completely-pine and winter air and something uniquely him.

I could feel the steady rhythm of his heartbeat against my cheek, unexpectedly calm compared to my own racing pulse

When I dared to look up, Lucas's earlier dark expression had softened.

He steadied me with a firm grip on my elbows, his touch surprisingly gentle for someone with his strength.

Clearly, you're not ready to be on your own yet," he said, his voice low. "Before I take you home, there's somewhere we need to go first.

It wasn't a request. His tone left no room for negotiation.

Twenty minutes later, I found myself in the passenger seat of his sleek black Maybach, watching the cityscape of Moonhaven gradually give way to dense forest.

Anxiety coiled in my stomach as we ventured further from familiar territory

"Where exactly are we going?? I finally asked, breaking the silence that had stretched between us since leaving the hospital

Lucas lips curved slightly, amusement flickering in his eyes. You're on sking now? bent that a hit late?

I frowned, not appreciating his humor I didn't realize we'd be driving to nowhere"

Were going to see someone," he replied vaguely turning the artist path, "Suqrone what can help sask?"

The car jostled slightly as we navigated the wave gi

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After several minutes of winding through increasingly thick forest, an ancient stone structure appeared through the trees.

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It looked like a cross between a small castle and a cave entrance, with weathered gray stones covered in climbing vines. Moonstone crystals embedded in the archway glinted even in the daylight.

Lucas parked the Maybach in a small clearing nearby.

As the engine quieted, the door to the structure creaked open, and a slender figure emerged, seemingly drawn by the sound of our arrival

A woman with flowing silver hair and striking silver eyes walked toward us her movements graceful despite her apparent age

She wore simple linen clothes in earthy tones, adorned only with a moonstone pendant around her neck.

“Alpha, she greeted with a respectful nod to Lucas before her piercing gaze settled on me.

“Is this the one who required my attention so urgently?”

Comments

Chapter 48

Tori's POV:

I looked at the silver haired woman standing before us.

Her piercing silver eyes seemed to strip away every pretense, studying me as if she could read the very secrets of my soul.

I glanced questioningly at Lucas, wondering why he'd brought me to this remote location.

“This is Elena Bennett, Lucas explained, his deep voice breaking the silence.

“She's a retired wolf healer and Matthew's mentor. She has rarely seen anyone these years.”

A pause, then he added with quiet confidence, “There are a few problems she can't solve.”

I blinked in surprise. After all this trouble, all the mysterious driving through the forest, he had brought me to see... a doctor? I hadn't expected that.

"It's an honor to meet you, Dr. Bennett," I said politely, extending my hand

The silver-haired woman smiled, the expression softening her stern features

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"The honor is mine, young one. Please, call me Elena."

Her voice carried the gentle rasp of age but maintained a clear strength beneath. Other than Matthew's occasional visits, it's for some

time since I've had new faces at my door."

She motioned for us to follow her inside the stone structure.

The interior was surprisingly warm and well-lit, with shelves lined with ancient-looking books, dried herbs hanging from wooden beams, and

various crystals catching the light from small windows high in the walls.

A fire crackled in a stone hearth, filling the space with the scent of cedar and something herbal, I couldn't identify.

Lucas and I followed Elena through the main room into what appeared to be a treatment area.

Simple wooden furniture occupied the space—a padded examination table several chairs, and cabinets filled with jars of various

sizes.

"Please, sit here," Elena instructed, indicating a chair near the center of the room.

I obeyed while she gathered several items from the cabinets—a small silver bowl, various herbs, and what looked like motum dot.

Elena worked methodically, preparing whatever and dugt wurde into toe. Finally, she preached me with the silver

bowl, which now contained a mixture of herbs and cold crystals.

Hold out your hands, palms up shy dicanted

I did as instru test, and she sprinkled a small and the pity. The predict tool aged my \$id, das elestre

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Elena closed her eyes and placed her hands over mine without touching them, hovering just above the mixture.

After several minutes of silence, she frowned and shook her head.

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I see Matthew's skills have deteriorated somewhat. This is why we shouldnt completely abandon the old ways in favor of modern medicine.

Lucas stepped forward slightly. "What do you mean?"

Elena's silver eyes opened, her gaze sharp and penetrating.

Matthew only mentioned severe stomach damage, but that's not the complete picture. She looked directly at me. Your wolf and your spirit

have suffered significant damage as well."

My heart clenched in my chest.

During my four years in Silver Fang prison, both my body and spirit had suffered severe damage.

The harsh conditions there had left wounds that ran deep, but there had been no chance for proper treatment behind those walls.

Since my release, one crisis had followed another, leaving me no time to address my deteriorating health.

More importantly, I simply didn't have enough moonstones for medical care. But damage to Tracy and my spirit? That sounded far more serious than I had allowed myself to acknowledge.

I turned instinctively toward Lucas, seeking... what? Reassurance? Explanation? I wasn't sure, but when I looked up, I realized he had moved to stand directly behind my chair.

From my seated position, his tall frame seemed to envelop me, creating the illusion that he was cradling me in his embrace.

Something strange happened in that moment.

The fear that had begun to coil in my chest suddenly dissipated, replaced by an inexplicable sense of safety.

I didn't want to admit it, but the feeling was undeniable. Real. With him standing there, I wasn't afraid anymore.

"Can this condition be treated?" Lucas asked, his voice calm.

Elena tilted her head, studying us both with those knowing silver eyes

"Yes, it can be treated," she said finally. But it will take time—more time than you might expect. The damage has accumulated for at least years, I suspect, and healing will not happen overnight."

"What should we do?" Laras asked.

Elena moved to one of her cabinets, pulling out small sets of herbs and pullera,

For the stomach Jesus, 13 prepare some medicine that pools to be takais the measured ingredients with practiced prestabes eget male vial. The hole est consistent murishment to heal-

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## Chapter 48

She paused, looking at me directly. "As for your wolf and spirit... if I'm not mistaken, you've experienced severe trauma."

Her voice softened with understanding. This kind of spiritual damage is reversible under normal circumstances.

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She glanced briefly at Lucas before returning her gaze to me. The only remedy is an equal measure of love to counterbalance what was taken from you. That part, I'm afraid, depends entirely on your own fate."

Lucas nodded, absorbing her words. Thank you, Elena."

Elena smiled warmly. I should be the one thanking you, Alpha. Those moonlight herbs you sent will keep me experimenting for quite some time.

I stole a glance at Lucas, and the familiar ache of indebtedness washed over me. Hour by hour, what I owed him grew more impracticable to repay.

The drive back was noticeably more somber than our journey there.

I was lost in my own thoughts when the car slowed and pulled into the parking lot of an upscale restaurant.

"I'm not hungry," I said quickly as Lucas turned off the engine.

He didn't respond. Instead, he stepped out of the car, walked around to my side, and opened the door.

"Get out," he commanded, his tone leaving no room for argument.

I remained seated, my gaze meeting his in silent defiance. I didn't want another debt, another meal to add to the growing list of things I could never repay.

Lucas studied me for a moment, his jaw tightening at my stubbornness.

Then, without warning, he leaned into the car, one arm braced against the door frame near my shoulder, the other hand gripping the

on my opposite side.

"You..." I widened my eyes, unable to hide the startled reaction.

Lucas's sharply defined face was mere inches from mine. His blue eyes were so intense, I felt I might drown in them.

"Why are you being so disobedient? Hmm?"

Comments

Chapter 49

Tori's POV:

Lucas bent at the waist, his gaze level with mine.

"Have you already forgotten what Hena said?"

He was so close that I could feel the heat radiating from his body, see the light stubble along his jawline, and count each dark eyelash

The scent of winter pines and something distinctly him filled the confined space of the car, making it hard to breathe.

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My heart hammered against my ribs as I pressed back against the seat, trying to maintain whatever distance I could.

You could just bite him, Tracy suggested unhelpfully in my mind. Or kiss him. Either works.

Shut up, I mentally hissed back at her.

I swallowed hard, finding my voice. "I'm really not hungry."

"I can eat when I get back to the dorm," I insisted, my voice weaker than intended.

Lucas's eyes narrowed slightly. "And what would you eat there? Instant noodles? Crackers?"

He shook his head. "That's not going to work for your condition."

Before I could argue further, he straightened up and extended his hand to me. Now, are you going to get out on your own, d

carry you?"

The thought of being carried by him scared me quite a bit.

"I can walk!" I blurted, practically lunging for my seatbelt buckle.

Before he could make good on his threat, I ducked under his arm and scrambled out of the car with a speed that belied my injured leg.

I nearly stumbled in my haste, acting as though another second's delay would result in him throwing me over his shoulder.

Lucas's expression shifted from surprise to amusement, a soft chuckle escaping him as he straightened up and closed the car door.

The restaurant was elegant but understated, with soft lighting and tasteful decor.

The hostess recognized Lucas immediately, her eyes widening as she hurried to greet him.

Alpha Lures! It's an honor to have you with us this evening.

Lavar nodded in acknowledgment. My usual table, please.

We followed her to a secluded point th

Order whatever you want, he said, sliding more “The chat knows how to prepushes table the verili

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I opened the menu and nearly choked at the prices.

The cheapest appetizer costs more than I made in half a day at the coffee shop.

“This is too expensive,” I said quietly.

Lucas barely glanced at his own menu. The price is irrelevant.”

59%

When the server arrived with our water and asked for our orders, Lucas getured for me to go first. I hesitated, scanning the menu for the most modest options.

“Um, I’ll have the vegetable soup and the steamed rice with seasonal greans, please,” I finally said, choosing dishes that seemed gentle enough for my stomach.

After I finished ordering, he turned to the server.

“We’ll also have the braised lamb with ginger and herbs,” he added smoothly. “Tell Chef Ming to prepare it the way he does for stomach ailments.

He paused, scanning the menu briefly. “And add the pan-seared sea bass with the light broth, the roasted vegetables with mountain herbs, and a side of the medicinal rice congee.”

Our food arrived quickly, and I was immediately overwhelmed by the array of dishes between us. Everything looked and smelled delicious, making my stomach growl despite my earlier protests.

I started with the soup, taking small, careful sips.

After just a few bites of the various dishes, I felt my shrunken stomach protesting. Four years of prison rations had severely limited capacity.

I set down my cutlery, hoping he wouldn't notice.

However, Lucas immediately glanced up, his sharp eyes catching the movement.

He reached for a small bowl in front of him and ladled some rich chicken soup with delicate seafood treasures into it,

The fragrant steam carried the scent of ginger and herbs specifically selected to soothe digestive issues.

"Drink more," he encouraged, his deep voice somehow both gentle and impossible to refuse.

Finally, after what felt like a carefully orchestrated feeding ritual, Lucas med satisfied and signalest for the check

As we prepared to leave, I realized my normally fat stomach was actuallightly distended heath us shirt.

Frealized with a start that this was probably the first time to four years ten woof was truly hill. Even after resuming ina kives Sele I'd been careful with my listed funds, often going to bed with a growing onget

After dinner, Laas drove me back to the dormitory

The ride was mostly silent, with me daring at try to go the mangs evening weak shad

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Chapter 49

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When we pulled up outside my building, he turned off the engine and turned slightly in his seat to face me.

“Elena’s herbs will be prepared tonight. I’ll have it picked up and prepared he stated matter of factly, as though any arrangement was

perfectly reasonable.

Jack will bring the first dose to your dorm tonight.

That’s not necessary, I protested weakly. “I can prepare them myself or

The preparation is complex, he interrupted. They need to be simmered for hours at specific temperatures with precise timing. You are not

convenient at the school dormitory.”

I sighed, recognizing the futility of arguing.

“Fine, I conceded, but then found myself asking the question that had been burning in my mind all evening.

“But why? Why are you doing all this for me?” I met his gaze directly. “And please don’t give me some nonsense about love at first sight of

anything like that.”

Lucas looked at me for a long moment, his expression unreadable in the dim light of the car.

The silence stretched between us, becoming almost unbearable. I reached for the door handle, assuming I wouldn’t get an answer.

“Because you’re important to me,” he said suddenly, his voice low and sincere.

The words froze me in place, my hand still on the handle.

I didn’t know how to respond. Without looking back, I pushed open the door and stepped out, mumbling a quick “Goodnight” before

behind me.

ing it

I stood motionless on the sidewalk as his sleek black Maybach pulled away from the curb, its taillights eventually disappearing and the

corner.

Important to him? What does that even mean?

I shook my head, letting the winter chill clear my thoughts.

This was dangerous territory. I’d already started to notice something shifting inside me—a cuticulous, faint impulse to lean on Lux Crayon

to trust his support, to believe in his protection

The thought was absurd. Laughable. Completely insane.

Comments

Chapter 50

Matthew’s POV:

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Golden Moon Restaurant was buzzing with its usual evening crowd.

I’d arrived early for my meeting with Lucas.

Two waitresses passed behind me, their whispers perfectly audible to hearing.

“Look at her holding court, one muttered.

“Three months ago, Clara was serving drinks, and now she’s accepting gifts from half the business community.”

“I heard she got a girl sent to enforcement this morning, the other replied “Poor girl tried to confront her about Alpha Grayson, and Clara had her hauled away.”

I observe the spectacle unfolding at the center table.

Clara, a pretty brunette, sat surrounded by a circle of admirers—mostly business wolves eager to gain favor with Alpha Lucas.

I watched as someone slipped an envelope across the table.

Clara’s manicured fingers made it disappear into her designer purse without interrupting her animated story about “her Lucas

This was the third “gift” I’d seen in the past ten minutes.

“Enjoying the show?” Lucas’s cool voice came from behind me.

I didn’t bother turning around. “Quite the enterprise she’s running. Using your name as currency.

Lucas slid into the seat across from me, his expression impassive as he glanced briefly toward Clara’s table,

He took a sip of his coffee, completely unconcerned. “Let her.”

“You’re really not going to do anything about this?” I pressed, genuinely surprised by his indifference.

Lucas shrugged slightly. “If I’m using her as a shield, she deserves some compensation. Everyone gets something they want.

“Well, if you don’t care, I suppose it’s not my business either. I leaned back, changing the subject. “I heard you book Town Home that go? What’s her condition?”

Something dark dashed across Turan’s face

Elena mentioned something about psychological trauma and physical she

I straightened in my seat. Whatever happened during those you waves from  
sched males betwe

Loras nodded asdemnity.

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Chapter 50

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59%

“Have you considered looking into where she was during those year47 1 aged  
carefully

The school records only show she withdrew, but not why or where she wr,  
Medical history might help with her treatment plan.”

He reached for his phone, his thumb hovering over Jack’s contact. I could see  
the calculation in his eyes, the Alpha instinet to gather intelligence and  
eliminate threats.

For a moment, his expression shifted microscopically the slight narrowing of  
his eyes, the barely perceptible tightening of his jaw

Then, unexpectedly, he set the phone back down without making the call

“No,” he said with quiet finality. “Ill wait until she tells me herself.”

I raised my eyebrows, genuinely surprised. “That’s not like you at all.”

“If I want her to trust me, I need to demonstrate that I respect her boundaries.  
Lucas’s mouth tightened slightly. Whatever happened to her...

it’s her story to tell. When she’s ready.

Id known Lucas since we were boys, but I’d rarely seen this level of  
consideration from him.

'She's changing you, I said softly..

He didn't deny it.

Hours later, I pulled into the circular driveway of the Howard family estate, expecting to find everyone already retired for the

As I stepped through the front door, however, the atmosphere inside was anything but peaceful.

Muffled crying reached my ears before I even closed the door behind me.

Following the sound to our formal living room, I found Megan huddled on one of the plush sofas, her face streaked with me and tears

Our mother Betty sat beside her, one arm wrapped protectively around Megan's shoulders.

"What happened?" I asked.

Megan looked up at my voice, and her crying immediately intensified. Mother shot me a disapproving look at the same time she patted Megan's back.

From the corner, my father Arthur stepped forward, his expression preveath his salt and pepper. halt.

Your sister had a confrontation today, he explained carefully with waitress everyone talking about-Clara

I pinched the bridge of my may feeling a bradare building so that's the waitresses hat het groeiping all

Please tell me you didn't. I said to Megan

She couldn't find Alpher Janas u father sondinud ko king in a box din approves of borgarenas. So she decided t

Cafe instead

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## Chapter 50

The nerve of that woman, my mother interjected, her voice cold. "Having our daughter detained by enforcement!

The Howard name carried significant weight in Moonhaven we were connected to the Sullivan Pack through my mother, who was William

Sullivan's sister.

Being detained by enforcement would indeed be a public embarrassment Megan.

We just brought her home, Arthur added quietly. The enforcement offices were apologetic once they realized who she was, but the damage is done."

I sank into an armchair across from them, suddenly exhausted.

What were you thinking? I asked, unable to keep the exasperation from my voice.

"I just wanted to know if it was true," Megan defended weakly. About her and Lucas. She's not good enough for him.

I groaned internally. My sister had been infatuated with Lucas Grayson for years, despite my warnings that he would never return her feelings.

"Megan," I said as gently as I could, I tell you again-Lucas isn't for you. He never has been."

Her lower lip trembled. "You don't know that."

"Actually, I do." I kept my voice firm but kind. "I've known him since we were pups. Trust me on this. You need to let this go before you embarrass yourself further."

Matthew! My mother's voice cut through the room like ice. "How dare you speak to your sister that way!"

I turned to face Betty, whose perfectly coiffed hair and designer outfit seemed at odds with the fierce maternal protectiveness, in

“I’m trying to protect her,” I explained. “Lucas will never-  
yes.

‘Are you suggesting my daughter isn’t good enough for Alpha Lucas?’ Betty interrupted, her back stiffening. That she’s somehow nigripe to  
that... that serving girl?”

“That’s not what I meant,’ I said, fighting to keep my voice level.

I ran a hand through my hair in frustration.

How could I make them understand without revealing what I knew? I cot just blurt out that Lucas had found has fated mate TAS

Then I suddenly realized how much Lucas’s thoughtful intentions had a difference

The old for had played it perfectly

White werryune obsessed over flare and speculated this love life, could heal in peace, protected by the very unsen designed b

obscure her importance

I just hoped my other didnt figure it sal op M Belly wird begin wallet who was was truly interested in, pass. Roxi woulda E

know what hit her

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Editorial board