

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 11[985 words]

I turned to my mother with a confused look. What did she mean by saying

we were going to the pack house? Why would we go there?

"But why, Mom?"

"What why, Ava? He is our head Alpha. He can call us anytime."

"But, Mom. There must be a reason. I've never gone there before," I replied to my mother.

Actually, I had no problem with going there. But that was Ian's house. How could I go there? I did not want to see him again.

My mother held my hand and said,

"Years ago, when I ran away from our old pack, I came here to take shelter. Luna Carolina was very sick at the time. When I went to ask for help from Alpha Martin, I noticed Luna and identified the symptoms of her illness. It was not an easy disease to treat, so I promised them that I would treat her. In return, he promised me to let me and you stay in their pack as their pack members. It took me four years to cure Luna Carolina. We did not stay in contact afterward. However, I ran into Luna Carolina today at the pack hospital. When I returned home, I received a call from Alpha Martin. He invited us to the pack house next week."

I carefully listened to my mother. So our stay in this pack was a give-and- take deal. But, anyway, if Alpha and Luna had not helped my mother at the time, where would she have gone? She was young, only twenty-five at the time. For that, I was grateful to Alpha Martin and Luna Carolina. I should thank them as well.

"Okay, Mom."

The whole night, I thought about Ian and his rejection. No matter how much I tried to forget that moment, I could not just remove it from my mind.

"I will always stay away from you," I muttered while staring at a blank wall while lying on my bed.

I wanted to laugh at myself. How hilarious my fate was! My mate rejected me, and I could not even share my pain with anyone.

He was the future Alpha of this pack, so powerful that even I started to doubt if he was right about my rank.

Did I not really deserve him? My rank was really something he neglected. My face made him feel disgusted. Was I ugly?

Because of him, I started to lose self-confidence.

"Congratulations, Ian Dawson. You broke me completely. I hope you will get a high-ranking girl who will stand beside you and give you competition neck to neck," I said, wiping the tears from my eyes.

I did not know when I fell asleep that night.

Because when I opened my eyes, I saw my mother patting my shoulder.

"You'll be late again. Come on. Wake up," she said, and she walked to the small couch close to my bed. My clothes that I would wear were lying there.

I was so upset that I forgot to tie up everything.

I went to do my morning routine and went downstairs. My mother was already sitting on the table, waiting for me to take my seat.

"Morning, Mom."

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"Morning, dear. How are you feeling?"

"I'm good, Mom. What happened to me?"

"I'm your mom. You can't hide anything from me. I saw how upset you were.

Is everything okay?" She asked me the question again.

For once, I wanted to run to hug her and tell her everything. But I prevented myself because there would be no use for it. It would only hurt her.

"I am fine, Mom. I know you are with me. I want you to know that I am also with you."

We had a little conversation, and I left my house to head to the bus stop.

I noticed a few messages when I unlocked my phone. My friends were asking me about my health. I replied back that I was fine.

I boarded a bus and went to the university.

When I entered our university, I felt gazes on me. I almost forgot that before the rejection, Ian humiliated me in front of the students. All the students now knew about it.

I avoided their gazes and walked to the locker room. I retrieved my books and proceeded to my class.

Abigail met me on the way. She hugged me and told me that I should have taken some rest at home.

I said I did not want to take a rest anymore. All I had to do was study to shine in the future. My mother needed me.

We headed to our class together; however, before we could enter our class, we heard girls talking about me.

"Look at this shameless nerd. How can she even walk around like this? She dared to propose to our Alpha."

"It's good that Ian showed her her real place. By the way, he chose Nova over everyone. It's surprising that Nova has become his girlfriend. Does it mean she is his mate?"

My legs froze when I heard the girls passing me, talking loudly to make me hear all of their taunts and gossip.

'Nova is his mate?' I thought and felt perplexed. (1)

Did he lie to everyone, or did other people just assume that? What were they saying? Nova had become his girlfriend.

I felt a tug on my arm. "Ava, don't listen to these girls. They are talking bullshit."

I turned my head to Abigail and asked,

"What are they talking about? Nova and Ian?"

Abigail looked away from me. "I don't know the truth, but today when Nova entered the campus, the first thing she said was that Ian accepted her as his girlfriend."

It broke my heart again. He had just rejected me yesterday. He did not even take time to make another girl his girlfriend and move on in his life.

"Ava, please control yours-"

Abigail was trying to console me, but another voice cut her off in the middle of her sentence.

"AVA"

We turned around and saw Debra rushing to us.

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"What happened?" I asked Debra.

She paused to take a deep breath and replied,

"Ian and Luke are fighting outside."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 12[1,257 words]

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Third POV

Jan was out of the pack house the whole day after rejecting Ava. He was unhappy with his fate and kept grumping about the decision of the Moon Goddess.

Instead of going back to the pack house, he went to the club His intention was to have sex with some hot girl to shove this rejection away from his mind. But he ended up loading himself with alcohol. His friends did not leave his side and tried to make him understand that what he did was wrong. He argued with them and asked them to leave him alone, He stuck with his decision.

Nova, the current beta's daughter, approached him in the club and tried to lure him. He was so drunk that he told her everything and then fucked up

even more.

When he woke up in the morning, he found himself in his father's beta's house. Nova told him that last night she proposed to him, and he accepted her, but they did not have sex.

Ian rolled his eyes upon hearing that; he knew he did not accept her at all. Everything from last night was still fresh in his mind. He remembered how Nova expressed her feelings for him, but he rejected her. But he did not expose her.

Because he knew who Nova was. Her father was a beta, and she was a beta in rank. She was beautiful and hot- maybe the most beautiful girl in the university she never dated anyone but only reserved herself for him.

He thought for a moment and accepted her proposal in his mind.

He was now mateless

anyway.

Now he did not need to focus on the mate thing. Since he rejected his mate, he could make any girl his girlfriend.

He went back to the pack house early in the morning.

When his mother, Carolina, noticed him, she stopped him.

"Where were you the whole night?"

He stopped and turned to his mother. "Mom, good morning."

Carolina was forty years old but fit and powerful. Moving toward him, she swept a lock of hair off his forehead.

"That's not my answer, Ian."

"Mom, I was at a party and fell asleep in my friend's house," he lied, averting his gaze from her.

"You know your dad. He doesn't like you staying outside."

"I'm not a girl that he needs to protect from hungry men."

"But you're a bad boy from whom we have to protect other girls," she muttered while glaring at him.

He frowned at her. "Now, what have I done wrong?"

"The girl named Lara came here last night," his father, Alpha Martin, said as he descended the stairs.

Ian shifted his gaze to his father. He let out a sigh when his father came to stop in front of him.

"Why?" he asked.

"To tell me how you used her and all," his father replied.

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"Really? That's a trap. She's a bitch! When did I use her? She herself came to me to spend ni-"

SLAP!

Ian shut his eyes tightly when his father slapped his left cheek.

"How many times do I have to tell you that you will soon become the Alpha of this pack? When are you going to listen to me? You are the only son I have. If you continue like this, how will I give you my pack to handle? I thought I would hand my pack to my son next year. But what exactly is he doing? Sleeping around with girls?"

Ian tightened his fists and stared at the floor without letting out a single word.

"Martin, calm down," Carolina told her husband, gesturing for him to let her handle the situation.

She touched her son's cheek to check, but he moved his face from her hand.

"Ivan, your dad is not your enemy. He is concerned about your well-being. How will you feel if you keep working hard to protect your pack members but a few of them come to you and accuse your son of using girls?"

Ivan looked at her with a pair of cold eyes. "She is not a kid but an adult girl. Did I force her? She seduced m-"

His father interrupted him again. "So what if girls seduce you? You will be the head Alpha. Will you turn this pack house into a brothel?"

"Dad, please. I have never taken a girl into your house."

"Look at you. What have you done to yourself? Wear some casual clothes, hide these tattoos like a normal man, join me in my office, meet with other Alphas, and-"

This time, he cut off his father and smirked at him.

"You don't have to worry about it, Alpha Martin. I will handle everything. When your pack members witness me on the battlefield, they will undoubtedly obey me. Before then, I don't need to prove myself to anyone." After saying that, Ivan went to his bedroom, leaving his parents stunned. He took a shower in an annoying mood. He got ready and left his

room. When he walked past his parents in the living room, his father spoke out, "You will turn twenty-two in a few months. You still haven't found your mate."

"I'm mateless," he said while heading to the main door.

Both of his parents were shocked to hear that. Martin cleared his throat and muttered,

"Then you should choose a girl as your future Luna, or we will handle this matter."

Ian did not turn around to face his father. He turned his head slightly and replied,

"I've made up my mind. Very soon, I'll take her to meet you both." Ian left his parents speechless and walked out of the pack house. Martin shook his head, and Carolina rubbed his arm to ease his stress.

Martin sat on the couch with a disappointed look and stared at his wife. "No one can tempt him. Who will make this boy a better man?" On the other hand,

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Ian's driver bowed to him and opened the back door for him. He snatched

the car key from his driver and said,

"I'll drive the car."

"As you wish, young master."

Ian gave him a nod and got inside the car, then drove to the university.

When he reached the university, he heard what was today's hot topic.

He rolled his eyes when girls began to talk about him and Nova. He could not believe how desperate she was! She spread the news to the whole university.

His friends joined him at the entrance and asked him the same question.

"Are you even serious?" Ronald asked angrily.

"Bro, I'm already so done with everything. Now you don't start with giving

me lectures," Ian said with an annoyed look.

"Is Nova telling the truth? Is she your girlfriend now?" Stephen asked.

"Yeah, she is."

"What about Ava?" Cyrus asked.

Ian shrugged his shoulders. "What about that nerd? Who cares about he-"

Someone interrupted him by grabbing his arm, turning him around, and punching his face.

Ian was stunned at first. When he saw who it was, he chuckled and brushed the blood from the corner of his lips.

"Of course Luke Katrz will come to beg for his friend," Ian muttered before punching Luke in return.

Within a few a few seconds, both of them began to fight.

"How could you do that to her? You did not even consider how she would

feel when you made another girl your girlfriend!" Luke uttered those words

furiously.

"Why do you care, huh? Don't tell me you like that nerd. Because no one would dare to do what you are doing right now," Ian said, slamming his head against Luke's, causing Luke's head to bleed.

Luke fell to the ground as blood gushed out of his head.

"Y-You will regret everything," Luke said, holding his bloodied head.

Ian reached down to punch him once more, but his hand was stopped in

midair by a scream.

"STOP."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 13[1,037 words]

Ava rushed outside the university, leaving Abigail and Debra behind. She got a glimpse of two boys fighting each other.

She began to push the crowd and try to peek at them.

She was startled when she saw Ian hit Luke with his head, and Luke fell to the ground.

Her body froze when she saw Luke lying on the ground, and blood was coming out of his head.

A flashback to the past came to her mind.

Her father was lying on the ground like that; he was trying to save himself, but those wolves ran to attack him and killed him.

"Hit him."

"Ian"

"Ian."

She heard other people's voices.

She came back to her senses and noticed Ian raise his hand to punch Luke again.

So Ava screamed out loud,

"STOP."

To her surprise, Ian stopped and turned his head in her direction. He slowly stood up and glared at her.

But she pushed him and crouched down to Luke, which shocked everyone in the crowd.

She patted Luke's cheek and mumbled,

"No, no, no. You can't die. I can't let you die. Please open your eyes."

Even though her eyes were on Luke, her thoughts kept going back to when she was five years old and she was staring at her father, who was lying in a pool of blood on the ground.

Luke opened his eyes and coughed blood. He looked at her and gave her a slight smile.

"I'm okay. Relax, Ava."

Abigail and Debra both ran to Luke. They said they had already called the doctors and that they were on their way.

"You will be fine. Nothing will happen to you," Ava said to Luke, but it was like she was convincing herself by saying that.

She was crying, and everyone witnessed it.

Meanwhile,

Ian did not move after Ava pushed him. He was staring at Ava with his furious eyes.

Her reaction caught him off guard. He had been in so many fights before. But he had never seen a girl behave this way for him as she did for Luke.

"Ian, you almost killed the boy," Ronald said as he came to stand next to him.

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Though his friends wanted to stop him, Luke was the one who started the fight, so they did not come in Ian's way. But they did not expect Ian to be so angry.

Ian did not respond to Ronald. His gaze remained fixed on Ava as she spoke with Luke, who looked fine even with the wounds.

All of his friends followed his gaze.

"The way he came to fight for her. It looks like he really likes her," Stephen muttered.

"Did you notice how she reacted? It is obvious that she also likes him," Ronald said, lighting a cigarette. Then he started to walk to his car, which was parked close to that area.

Ian glanced at his other friends before approaching Ronald. He snatched the cigarette that Ronald had just lit for himself and leaned against his car.

His other friends joined him in smoking while he was trying to understand his mood.

Ronald lit another cigarette for himself since his best friend's mood was really bad right now.

Ian glanced at Ava again, who was helping the doctors take Luke to the clinic.

Ava was about to go with them, but she turned her head toward him. Ian was about to move his gaze away since he thought he had no interest in this girl.

But for some unknown reason, he could not move his eyes. She looked at him through her large glasses. He scoffed at her when she turned around and left with her friends to be with Luke.

"I think you have some misunderstandings. She doesn't want to be with you forever." If you had not rejected her, she would have done it on her own," Cyrus said.

Ian slowly turned his head toward him. "What did you just say? She would have rejected me. Are you crazy? I could read her eyes. She was dying to be with me."

"But now she's with another guy. Maybe you couldn't read it properly, you know." Ronald mocked him and then chuckled while puffing out the smoke. Ian's eyes turned darker. 'How can she move on overnight? thought she would not face me in one year. It looks like she has some guts,' he thought. Suddenly, Ian frowned at himself. 'I don't care if that nerd shows concern for anyone.'

Ian and his friends went into the lobby. They were directed to the cafe and took their table.

"Ian, I heard you had a fight with Luke," Nova said, approaching their table with a worried expression.

Ian glanced at her. She was in a hot dress, showing her curves perfectly. She was as prepared as if today were her birthday.

He responded by nodding his head at her. She sat next to him and cupped

his face. She touched the corner of his lips, which had already healed, but the blood tint was still there.

Ian moved her hand away from his face.

"What are you doing here, Nova? Don't you have any classes?" Ian asked her.

His friends were observing both of them as they listened to their conversation.

"I have classes, baby. But I was very worried for you, you know. That's why I rushed out of the class before it was over." Nova replied with a smile.

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"Hmm."

That was all Ian's response.

A cafe employee brought five cans of iced cola and set them on the table. "Ian, I thought you would introduce me to your friends," Nova munnured, playing with the ribbons on her dress.

"She is Nova Wilson, my girlfriend," Ian said to his friends simply.

His friends raised their eyebrows at his introduction.

"For real?" Paul asked.

Nova's lips parted in surprise. She turned her head toward Tan. "Why are they reacting as if you are not serious?"

Ian sighed and wrapped his right arm around her shoulder,

"I'm damn serious, baby. Don't mind their weird looks. They are not used to it."

Nova's cheeks flushed hard. Ian had never talked to a girl like that. She was the only one, and she would always be the only one in his life. She glanced at the whole cafe.

'All the students were looking at them. It was proven that Nova was not lying at all. Pretty soon, she would be their Luna.

Ian saw the satisfying look on Nova's face, but he was indifferent. He could not help but think,

'Is she really my girlfriend? Do I really want this?'

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 14[1,042 words]

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The whole week passed, and Ava still could not move on from the rejection.

It was because of her broken heart and her wolf.

First, lan made Nova his girlfriend. Then they roamed around the whole university together, hand in hand, and she tried her best to avoid them. Students did not forget about her and started to pick on her, saying that she should watch who deserved lan.

Second, her wolf became so weak that she was unable to shift. She tried to shift several times, but her wolf howled inside in pain each time. It became difficult for her to come out.

Ava did not know what to do or who to tell her problems to She talked about her wolf with Abigail. She said she would take her to the pack hospital. However, Ava was concerned that her mother would find out about it.

It was the weekend.

So she did not want to go anywhere. Her life had turned into hell. She became the center of attention, something she did not want. People started to bully her without any reason, especially girls. The boys did not try anything because Luke had scolded them.

That day, after the fight, Luke was injured badly. The doctors had advised him to rest for a few days.

Ava felt sorry for him. It was all because of her. She learned that he was fighting with lan for her. She apologized to Luke, saying that he had to bear this. But she also thanked him for being her friend.

Ava could only hope that Luke recovered quickly because there would be a basketball match next month. She would never forgive herself if he failed to perform well due to the wound. Doctors said he would be fine soon. So that was a relief.

Even though it was the weekend and Ava wanted to stay at home all day, she had to go outside today.

It was finally time to visit the pack house and meet Alpha and Luna.

Ava's mother, Angela, bought a dress for her to wear tonight.

Ava was looking at the dress while observing it. The dress was long and lemon grass-colored, with black sleeves. It also had a ribbon around the waist to help the dress fit the body.

She made up her mind to wear it since her mother had bought it for her.

She looked at herself in the mirror. She recalled what her mother had told her at lunch.

She wanted her to be decent. She did not want her to wear the glasses. When Ava asked why she could not wear it, Angela replied that Alpha and Luna were not the ones she should hide herself from.

Ava pulled her hair back into a high ponytail. She thought for a moment not to wear the glass. But she then wore it.

If she changed her appearance slightly, that boy would assume she did so to attract his attention. She did not need to look perfect.

She did not touch her makeup. She used a nude colored lip tint to give a natural look to her lips. She then walked out of her room wearing black sneakers.

She noticed her mother was already ready. She smiled at her beautiful mother.

"Mom, why are you so beautiful?" Ava said that and hugged her mother. Her mother was dressed in a simple white gown. She put on light makeup and looked stunning. She was in her

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late thirties, yet she looked like she was in her early thirties

Ava called a cab to go to the pack house. When they arrived there, Ava looked at the house carefully.

She tried to recognize the house. But she had no memory of this house, despite the fact that her mother had taken her there several times as a child.

"They are very kind people. Don't say anything that will offend them or their son, who is our future Alpha. Because of their gratitude, we are still alive, living like normal pack members here." Her mother reminded her when they were heading inside.

"Got it, Mom," she assured her.

She entered the pack house and looked around at the stunning decorations. It was a massive house with numerous maids and servants. There were guards here and there.

Since the Alpha and his family lived there, it was the most secure and well- guarded home in the entire pack.

"Angela"

She heard a female voice calling her mom, so she turned to the owner of it.

She noticed a gorgeous lady was coming downstairs. Beside her was a handsome middle-aged man. Anyone could say he was a powerful man by just giving him a glance. Ava understood that they were Alpha Martin and Luna Carolina.

She immediately bowed to them when she saw her mother doing that.

"All hail to our Alpha and Luna," Ava said while bowing.

Alpha Martin chuckled as he and Luna Carolina walked to them.

"I must say, Angela. You brought up your daughter really well," Alpha Martin remarked.

Luna Carolina placed her hand on Ava's head and ordered,

"Raise."

Ava stood straight and looked at them. Both of their faces had warm smiles.

"Let's have seats." Alpha Martin said this and walked to the couches. They all went to join him.

"I can't believe that little brave girl has grown so big. I still remember how she used to talk," Luna Carolina said. Ava's mother nodded her head. "Yeah. But she has changed a lot now. She speaks less now."

"Don't be shy, little girl. We are like your family," Alpha Martin said as he tried to make her comfortable around them.

"Yeah. You both are really family. Your mother has done so many things for me. I can't even repay her," Luna Carolina said. She recalled how Angela worked so hard day and night, just to nourish her good health.

"That's nothing, Luna. You both let me and my daughter stay here as your pack members. That's enough for us." Ava's mother, Angela, ensured her.

Luna Carolina smiled at Angela, but then her gaze fell to the door. "You are back!" She said that and stood up.

Ava became curious as to who she was speaking with, but her eyes froze when she turned to look at the person, who was dressed in a black full- sleeve shirt and black jeans had no brow or ear piercings, and looked like a

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gentleman.

She then heard Luna Carolina's pleased tone,

"Here is my son, Ian."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 15[961 words]

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Ian made his way to the couches where his parents and the other two people were seated.

"Meet your mom's life savior, Angela Adle, and her sweet daughter, Ava Adler," Carolina introduced them to him.

Upon hearing the name "Ava Adler," Ian was taken aback,

He glanced at Angela, and then his eyes shifted to the girl whose head was down.

'What is she doing here?' he thought.

Angela pulled herself to her feet and extended her hand to him. "Doctor Angela"

"Ian Dawson," Ian said as he shook hands with her and introduced himself.

"Ava, stand up," Angela said to Ava in a hushed tone.

Ava got to her feet without looking up. Angela smiled awkwardly. "She is a little shy. Just recently, she turned eighteen. I'm hoping that she will find her mate soon."

Ava held her mother's hand and muttered, "Mom."

Luna Carolina chuckled at Ava's action.

Alpha Martin smiled at Ava and remarked,

"She is a lovely girl. Otherwise, today's kids have no shame. They can talk to their parents as openly as if privacy does not exist."

Ian rolled his eyes. Carolina patted the seat next to her and said,

"Ian, join us."

"No, Mom. I have some work."

"Where is Stephen?"

"He is on his way with Gamma Harper."

"Then sit down with us. You can work after they leave. Your friend will be here, but you will be absent; it does not look good."

Ian knew his mother would convince him, so he sat next to her.

However, Ava was seated in the opposite position. He could see her quite clearly. She also sat down with her mother.

He checked her over. She looked different today. It was not like she put on makeup. He realized that it was because of her hair. It was always the case that two thick strands of hair covered her facial features. But today she did a high ponytail. Even though she was wearing large glasses, he was able to make out her face.

After the fight that he had with Luke, she did not come into contact with him in the past week. He was off base in his assumption that she would approach him and beg him to give her a change, but he was wrong. It seemed as though she did not care in the least. Her reaction to the rejection was completely unfazed.

Meanwhile,

Ava felt nervous for no apparent reason. She was mad at herself. She should not have come to this house in the first place. She could have made an excuse about being sick.

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In front of her was her ex-hate, who did not let go of any chance of doing her insult after finding out about their matebond. The way he humiliated her, it was unacceptable. He did not just break the bond; he also broke her self-

respect.

Because of him, her wolf had become so weak that she could not even shift.

She could feel his gaze on her. But she tried her best to ignore the devil's scheming eyes,

After a while, Gamma Harper arrived with his son, Stephen who was Ian's closest friend.

Luna Carolina introduced me to Gamma Harper and Stephen.

Gamma Harper was a middle-aged man. Just like his rank, he appeared to be very strong. In a short time, his son would become the gamma of this pack.

"You two are good friends. So there is no need for me to introduce the two of you," Luma Carolina said to Angela and Harper.

Ava shifted her attention to her mother, who did not look at her. Ava did not ask for anything and kept listening to

their conversations.

The dining table was set up by maids, and they informed everyone that it was time for dinner.

Everyone sat down together for dinner. Gamma Harper gave Ava a friendly smile and asked,

"You like to study a lot, right?"

She was surprised to learn how much he knew about her. But then she assumed that he also thought that she was a nerd. Or perhaps his son told him about it.

"Yeah."

"What about mythology?"

"I like to read old books."

"I have some old, ancient books. Actually, I have a small library in my home.

You are welcome to visit at any time."

Her eyes brightened when she heard it. "Really?"

But a voice cut short her excitement.

"What is there to be so excited about? It's just a library. A house of lifeless books," Ian remarked while chewing food. 1

Ava paused eating and turned to him. Not only she but also everyone, turned their attention to him.

"What? Did I say something wrong?" Ian asked Stephen.

Stephen was about to shake his head and say, 'No,' but his gaze fell on his father. So he changed her reply and said,

"No, they are not lifeless, buddy," Stephen defended while laughing lightly.

"Exactly. Books are not lifeless. It came to life, brimming with emotion, as its readers read it." Ava said to Stephen.

Ian stared at her, frowning. Angela noticed it and apologized to him.

"Please, forgive my naive child." (1)

Alpha Martin looked at Angela and then at Ian. "Say something."

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"It's okay, Dr. Angela. As you said, she's naive," Ian replied with a fake grin.

Ava tightened her fists around the fork and spoon.

Later, no one spoke, and everyone ate quietly. After dinner Ava tugged on her mother's arm.

"Mom, we should leave now. It's already late."

"That is impolite behavior. You can't just eat and leave. We will leave after some time."

Ava nodded at her mother and was about to sit down on the couch when Luna Carolina said,

"You two boys, take this sweet girl on a tour of our pack house. Till then, let me and your Alpha speak with her mother about something."

Ava was perplexed about what they would say to her mother. More than anything, she wanted to avoid Ian. She did not want to go with him.

She expected lan to reject his mother's order.

But she was proven wrong when lan responded to Carolina.

"Sure."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 16[1,018 words]

Ava's POV

I was shocked that lan agreed to show me around. But it was not something I wanted.

I glanced at my mother, who nodded her head as a signal to go with him and Stephen. I heaved a sigh.

"Okay."

lan and Stephen walked ahead while I followed them behind. I noticed lan and Stephen returning to their casual moods as we passed through the living hall. They seemed to be masking themselves in front of their parents, but now that they have moved away from them, they are more relaxed.

My eyes focused on lan. I frowned as my wolf howled while looking at him..

'Why do you still feel for him? He's no one'to us.' I told my wolf, trying to calm her down.

"By the way, Ava, I heard you just turned eighteen," Stephen asked while walking in front of me, beside lan.

lan looked uninterested, and I also moved my eyes away from him and shifted them toward Stephen.

"Last week," I replied in a lower tone.

All thanks to my introverted nature, I was not used to chatting with others.

I noticed lan had halted his steps for a moment but then he continued to walk again.

"What is your hobby? Reading books? You must have a large collection of books, right? My dad also enjoys reading books," Stephen said.

Before I could answer him, Ian spoke out,

"When did you start to get interested in these things, Steph"

His voice was full of mockery.

I paid no attention to him and glanced around the hallway that we had just entered. It was a very large gallery. Or I could describe it as a hall with many artworks on display for people to see.

I saw many pictures of wolves, including oil paintings of their canines, eyes, and other features.

The decorations impressed me as well.

The sound of a ringtone reached our ears. Ian reached into his pocket and took out his phone. Stephen peeked at his phone and smirked at him.

Ian gazed at me while receiving the call. I was confused by his actions. "Hello, baby."

I turned my head away from him. He was talking to his girlfriend, Nova. His soft tone really broke my heart. I wanted to leave right now.

"Yes, baby. Why not? I can go anywhere with you."

Stephen looked at me. I believed he understood my uneasiness. He patted Ian's shoulder and said,

"Bro, you can talk. I'm showing her around."

He rolled his eyes and replied in an annoyed tone, "I didn't have any interest in showing her around either. It's

1/3

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just because of my parents that I had to agree with it."

I felt really awkward at that moment. It was like I was an uninvited guest in

his house. How could he insult me all the time like that?

What did I do wrong to him? In fact, he rejected me, and I did not say anything to anyone about it.

He walked past me while talking on his phone.

"No one is at my home, baby. It's just some unimportant guest."

I tightened my fists on my dress. My glass slipped down my nose. I pushed it up.

How many more times was he going to break my heart?

"Don't mind him. He is just a childish boy," Stephen said that and started to walk again.

I gazed at his back and thought for a moment. Should I trust this guy? Because he also belonged to that power

gang.

What if Ian left this hall because the two of them were planning a prank on me? I started to have trust issues.

"Where are you lost? Come here. I will show you the back door."

I went after him. He brought me to the back side of the pack house.

I noticed many men walking back and forth, as if they were guarding the area. Some of them glanced at Stephen and nodded their heads at him.

Since Stephen was their future Gamma, they all knew him really well. He may have come to the pack house almost daily to have training as the soon-to-be gamma.

A gamma was the commander of the pack fighters. With a single gesture, he could turn the entire battle upside down. But Gammas were always loyal to their Alphas. They could sacrifice their lives for them, just like the pack's beta.

Stephen turned to me when I was looking outside the pack house. The forest area was perfectly visible to me. The pack house was close to the woods.

"You must be very upset over what Ian did to you."

The question caught me off guard. "I don't want to talk about it."

"Oh, okay. Then tell me something about your life. How is your life at home? Does your mother spend a lot of time- in the hospital? Do you think she should give her time to you? Or do you want to get a better life?"

I was perplexed by his inquiry. I had no idea why he was asking these types of questions to me. We had just met today.

"Don't mind me. I heard about your father and wondered if you were okay with your life."

My eyes turned wide when I heard him. I blinked a few times. No one had ever asked about my father because I never told them about him. How did he know? Then I realized Alpha and Luna might have something to say because they knew everything about us. 1

"I think I should leave now. My mom is waiting for me."

I turned around to return to the living room.

I did not want anyone's sympathy. I was okay with my life, and my mother was trying her best for me.

2/3

16

"I apologize if my question hurt you in any way." I heard Stephen's voice behind me. He strode over to walk next

to me.

"It's okay," I mumbled.

I assumed my mother was pleased to see Alpha and Luna after such a long time. Thinking about it made me happy, even though seeing Ian today broke my heart all over again.

When I entered the living room, my steps came to a halt when I noticed my mother shaking her head. She appeared to be outraged.

"My daughter has just turned eighteen. I believe she will find her mate soon. How can you all even think about it? It's not possible!"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 17[1,108 words]

I went to my mother and asked,

"What happened, Mom?"

She was shocked as she looked at me. But then she grasped my hand.

"Bow to your Alpha and Luna. We are leaving now," she said with a hurried tone.

I bowed to Alpha Martin and Luna Carolina in puzzlement glanced at Gamma Harper, who was also there.

"If you want this, then okay. We won't force you," Alpha Martin said this to my mother.

Luna Carolina looked upset. She turned to me and said,

"Come here again."

I nodded my head. My mother bowed to Alpha and Luna before quickly dragging me outside the pack house.

"Mom, what's wrong?"

"Nothing. You don't have to know."

I was about to call for a cab when a guard came out to inform us that Alpha had instructed his driver to send us

home.

It was already night, so my mother decided to accept his offer to go back home with Alpha's car.

The driver opened the back car door for us. My mother got inside the car. But when I was about to get inside, my eyes met the pack house for the last time.

However, when I looked up, my eyes froze.

Ian was standing on the second-floor balcony. The sleeves of his shirt were rolled up, and three of the buttons on his shirt were also undone. Leaning on the railing, he was smoking a cigarette.

Nevertheless, the main fact was that he was looking at me.

I felt my breath hitch. He did not break eye contact with me while puffing on smoke.

"Ava"

When I heard my mother's voice, I immediately averted my gaze from him.

I hurriedly got into the car. When the driver closed the door, I closed my eyes as well.

My heart was beating so loudly that my mother could also hear it. I tried to calm myself.

'No, no. I can't think about him. He rejected me. He never failed an opportunity to hurt my feelings. There is nothing between us. He broke our mate bond the day he learned about it. The way he moved on, I will have to do the same. I can't be like this forever.' I reminded myself.

As I arrived at our home, I noticed that my mother appeared to be becoming anxious.

I held her hand and asked, "What are you hiding from me, Mom?"

She stroked my hair and replied,

"You don't have to know about it, Ava."

1/3

"But, Mom. I heard you were talking about me."

She averted her gaze from me. I cupped her cheeks. I had never seen my mother avoid my gaze before.

"Mom"

"Ava, can you please don't ask me about it? It's just something they proposed, and I disagreed. That's it."

"What did they propose?" I asked with wide eyes.

"Nothing."

"Mom, please tell me."

She turned around and said,

"T-They asked me to go to another pack and treat some of their relatives. I refused."

After listening to it, I did not know what to say. For some reason, I felt that there was something more that she' was not telling me. 1

I walked to her and hugged her.

"That's it? It's about treatment. Do you want to go?"

She turned around and hugged me. "No, Ava. They have the best doctors.

They don't need me at all. I want to be with you forever."

I smiled and embraced her back. "I know. You are the best mom in this world."

The next day,

I made it to university on time. I attended my classes and felt that my days were turning back to normal day by day,

"We are going to visit Doctor Levi today. He is epsilon in rank. He can treat wolves," Abigail reminded me.

"Okay," I replied.

Debra sent a text.

"Luke resumed basketball practice today. It's a practice match. Let's root for him. Are you all in?"

I looked at Abigail; she also got the same text from Debra.

"We are rooting for him," I said to Abigail.

"Are you sure?" She asked me while looking at me carefully

I understood why she was asking me that. Both teams would be on the court.

"I'm sure. He got hurt because of me. I should at least cheer for him." "Okay, let's go then."

We both headed to the basketball court. I saw girls looking at me as if I had committed some sin,

I spotted Debra sitting on a staircase near the field. Many students came to watch the practice match and took

seats in the audience area.

2/3

Abigail and I went to Debra, She looked at us and patted ne to her. "Sit down. Chips?"

We sat down and grabbed a packet of chips from her hand.

I noticed Luke pushing the ball into the basket. I clapped as saw that he looked totally fine.

My gaze shifted to another team wearing black jerseys. My gaze wat drawn to one boy who grabbed the ball and was surrounded by the opposite team, but he continued on without fear and eventually jumped to shove the buff into the basket.

"IAN. IAN, IAN."

The girls began to cheer for him. I averted my gaze from him.

During the match, I heard someone calling out to me.

"Hey! Ava."

Stephen was also practicing under the Black Diamond tearn

I looked at him. From there, he gave me a wave.

Everyone noticed it and turned to me in surprise, and I felt awkward.

Tan and Luke's eyes also fell on me. Both of them realized that I was there.

One of their eyes was filled with delight, while the other appeared annoyed, as if my presence bothered him.

I gave Stephen a nod and lifted my glasses from my nose to my eyes.

"Oh, hello? What was that? Do you guys know each other?" Debra asked me about Stephen. Abigail's eyes were asking the same question.

"I met him in the pack house. I went there last night."

"YOU WENT WHERE?" Both of them asked at the same time.

I thought about telling them about last night. So I started.

"Last night, I-"

However, I was abruptly interrupted when a ball flew at my face and hit my glasses. Fortunately, my glasses did not break. But it startled me. I got a little hurt on my forehead too.

I was about to see who threw it at me, but before that, I heard a familiar voice, which I did not want to hear.

"Hey, you nerd. Pass the ball."

It was lan's voice. I looked at him, and he smirked at me. Everyone in the audience, except my friends, began to laugh at me as if it were a funny act.

I could not control myself anymore. How much more would this boy insult me?

I looked at the ball, which had rolled a little away from me. I went over to the ball and picked it up.

I looked at lan and spoke loudly,

"I thought you were the captain of a team. But you seem to have forgotten that this is not a football game but a basketball match."

3/3

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 18[1,044 words]

18

Third POV

Loud gasps could be heard around Ava. She ignored them and threw the ball in lan's direction. His eyes were fixed on her as he caught the ball. His eyes turned dark in anger.

"How dare you talk to my boyfriend like that?" Nova's angry voice echoed throughout the area.

Ava turned around and saw Nova coming towards her with her friends. Abigail and Debra got to their feet and stood behind Ava to support her.

"What do you think of yourself? Do you even know what he can do to your sudden overconfidence? He can break you in a second and throw you away from this pack," Nova warned Ava.

At that time, the referee blew a whistle and told the players to get back to the match as time was running out.

He looked at the girls and made an announcement. "If any of you try to distract the game again, I'll throw all of you."

"Let's sit, Ava."

Abigail grabbed Ava's hand and sat in their earlier place. Debra joined them.

Nova glared at Ava for a moment, then stomped her leg to the ground. "The referee should not have stopped me. I would have taught her a lesson today."

Her friends persuaded her to sit down in a place so that the match could continue.

In the meantime, on the court,

Luke approached Ian and uttered,

"I'm telling you again. Stop messing with her."

Ronald patted Luke's shoulder and gave him advice. "You better focus on your team more than what our captain should do or not."

"You all get back to your positions," The coach shouted from his place. The game resumed again.

However, Ian's mind was not focused on the game. He felt insulted by how Ava talked to him in front of others. It was very disrespectful to him.

He kept glancing at Ava, who was cheering for Luke. He frowned and turned his attention to Luke.

Luke was giving his best. Every time he tossed the ball into the basket, he looked at Ava, who smiled at him back.

"Ian, you are not concentrating. We are losing the game," Cyrus alerted him.

But Ian did not know what had happened to him. Suddenly, he began to experience feelings of rage. The things that were going on around him were not to his liking.

"Time's up! Red Flamor won the practice match." After blowing the final whistle, the referee announced the results.

Ava jumped with Abigail and Debra when Red Flamor won. She was happy and enjoyed watching the match.

Nova looked at her and said loudly,

425 BONUS

"Look at the nerd. She looks so happy, as if it's the final match. She doesn't

even know the difference between a practice and a real match."

Ava avoided Nova's remarks. Luke came to Ava and others.

"Thank you all for coming here to support me

"That's nothing, bro" Abigail said and chuckled.

"When did you become so emotional?" Debra asked.

"You did really great. I hope you won the final as well." Ava said to him.

"Thanks, Ava,"

Abigail glanced at them and laughed.

"Okay, okay, Now go take a shower, you stinky boy,"

Then They all burst out laughing Luke told them he would meet them after he took a shower. Abigail told him to hurry because she had some work, so she would take Ava with her.

Ava and Abigail planned to go visit a doctor, but they did not want anyone to know about it. So Abigail lied to Luke and said that she had some work outside,

When Ava was talking with her friends, she was unaware that a dark gaze was fixed on her.

"Why are you not saying something, baby?" Nova asked Ian, wiping his sweat from his neck with a white towel. She was deliberately touching his neck. She rubbed her fingertips against his hot Adam apple.

Jan snatched the towel from her hand and asked in a low voice,

"How many times do I have to tell you not to touch me?"

"But we are girlfriend-boyfriend. How can I avoid touching you?"

Jan looked at her with his cold eyes. "If you wish to be my Luna, then keep your distance until I ask you to get close to me."

His warning was like a law. She lowered her head and nodded at him.

Jan scoffed at her as he noticed the desire in her eyes to become the Luna of this pack.

'As usual, everyone is after the position,' he thought, and he walked out of the court.

On the other hand,

Ava was chatting with her friends in the cafe. Luke came to join them, as he said earlier. He looked fresh and delighted.

"I can't believe we won today's match," he said while sipping his coffee that he had ordered after sitting at the

table.

"You are a good captain. So your team has to be the winner, Ava said, cheering him on once more.

"My friends were also saying that I did well today. They appreciated me really well," Luke replied. But he thought about something and asked Ava, "What about that math I solved two days ago? Did you take a look at it?"

2/3

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Ava was not able to study these days. Her wolf was sick, and she became depressed about the rejection.

She remembered that the math notebook was not in her bag. She stood up and said to her friends,

"Guys, I'm coming in a few minutes. My notebook is inside the locker." They nodded their heads, and Ava left the cafe. She walked to the locker room to retrieve her notebook.

But at that moment, a hand grabbed her wrist.

She was stunned by the touch. She raised her head and saw that it was Ian.

Without allowing her to utter a single word, he entered another hallway and began to drag her along with him.

"W-Where are you taking me?"

He did not reply to her and brought her to the faculty, where all the rooms were locked. But he did not enter any of those rooms.

In fact, he drew her into a storeroom and opened the door.

"What are yo-"

Ava tried to ask, but he pulled her to him. The pull caused her phone to fall to the ground.

He opened the door, and a dark room came into Ava's sight. Her eyes widened. She was afraid of the darkness.

Ian pushed her into the dark storeroom.

He then closed the door from the outside and said,

"You were brave enough to show your audacity outside. Now I want to see how long you can survive here."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 19[990 words]

"Open the door"

Aya banged on the door for five sales, are most

"Please open the door I did's do anything to you. Why Guy Ma?" The vet hudly hinging that even if lan did not open the do, oras os contic holly her.

However, no one came to help her. She tried to own the area sing window decal inte sunlight into the room.

She lifted her hands and tried to find a swivard, Bout dates find mything

Outside the roon,

Lan was leaning against the opposite wall, staring at

"Week Omega," he muttered under his breath

He was listening to her screams, but he didn't open the day

It was her punishment.

She needed to know who she tried to mess up with

A ringtone played in the hallway, lan lowered his head and fotices Aud's phote on the floor. He gathed it and noticed the caller's name.

ABIGAIL

He did not receive the call. Messages popped up on the screen after fire ringtone was turned off

He came up with an idea to unlock the phone. He was shocked that this girl did not even lock her phone with any passwords. All he had to do was sweep the screen.

He read the last message from Abigail.

"We are all waiting for you in the cafe. Where are you? Why are you not answering my calls?"

A smirk reached the left corner of lan's lips as something carne to his mind.

He went to the message option and replied to Abigail.

"Mom called, so I am going home. See you tomorrow."

Abigail replied to that message immediately.

"We had planned to go to the hospital. What about that?"

Jan raised an eyebrow while reading the message. "Hospital?" he murmured.

But then he nodded his head. "How can I forget? Her mother is a doctor."

He did not respond and locked the phone, assuming Abigail was talking about going to visit Ava's mother in the hospital.

He glanced at the door. The shouting and screaming stopped a few minutes ago and did not resume.

"Ian, you have forgotten to bring the key," Ronald said as he came there with Paulo.

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+25 BONES

Ian looked at them. His eyes shifted to Ronald's hand, which held the keys to the storeroom. He was the one who helped him open the locked storeroom.

"I don't need it," Ian replied.

Ronald's eyes went to the lock on the door. "Yeah, right."

"What are you doing here, by the way?" Paulo asked.

"Punishing that nerd," Ian replied with a proud smirk.

His friend's brows shot up. "You what?" Ronald asked.

"Why do you always ask me questions that I've already answered? Are you deaf?" Ian asked.

"Why is she not reacting? Is she okay?" Paulo asked Ian.

"Why do you care?"

"Of course I care. You are my friend. Do you have any idea what's

happening to you? You never gave a damn about any girl before. But now you yourself go to this girl to pick on her. Have you forgotten that you rejected her?"

Ian ignored Paulo's questions and kept staring at the door.

"You should see if she's okay," Ronald said.

"Why would I?"

"You are her future head Alpha. She is your pack member. At least as an Alpha, go and see her." Ronald tried to convince Ian with a gentle tone.

Ian had his doubts after hearing his sweet tone. He was his best friend. They knew each other very well.

Ian also felt weird when Ava stopped banging on the door or shouting. So he tossed Ava's phone to Paulo and opened the door after grabbing the key from Ronald.

He went inside to check on Ava. But the moment he stepped into the room, he heard the door slam behind him.

He turned around and yelled,

"What the hell!"

Ronald laughed from outside the door. "Because of you, we lost today's practice match, Alpha Ian. Now it's your punishment to stay with your rejected mate."

Ian could hear the sound of footsteps fading. He tightened his fists in fury.

"Damn!"

He ran his fingers through his hair in the dark, trying to find Ava.

"Nerd? Where are you?"

He called her. But he got no response.

He thought about using his phone's flashlight, but then he realized that his phone was in the changing room. He was planning to punish Ava while plugging his phone into the charging port. He used their mind links to contact his friends at that time, after he took a shower. So he did not have to use his phone before coming here.

Suddenly, he heard a sound of sobbing..

His keen ears detected the sound, and he moved in that direction.

The storeroom was neither too small nor too large. It was a medium-sized room where so many papers of past students' were piled up on the floor.

When his legs came into contact with a body, he found Ava

Ava flinched at his touch. She began to sob aloud in fear.

Ian was baffled by the situation. He was aware of the room's embellishments. While he was looking for the switch board, he discovered that the switches were not working.

He walked to the window while passing the papers in the darkness. However, shifting in the dark and running were entirely different things. At the time, they could see around them because their wolf possessed the

ability.

Ian grabbed the dark blinds that blocked the light from entering. He opened the small window and turned around.

As a glimpse of the sunlight entered the room, the room lightened up.

Ian's eyes fell on the girl who was burying her head in her knees as they pressed against her chest.

He unknowingly stepped toward her and crouched down. He sat on his knee and patted her head slowly.

"Are you okay?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Ava was so scared that she had no idea who had come inside.

She believed that someone had come to her rescue.

She moved her head from her knees and directly hugged him without opening her eyes or looking at his face.

Ian was stunned by her action. His entire body froze.

His thoughts drifted back to the girl he kissed in the dark. He slowly wrapped his arm around her waist and thought,

'Why does it feel so familiar to me?'

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 20[991 words]

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20

In order to reach her neck, lan deliberately lowered his head. He could smell her. She somehow smelled really good, which he did not expect.

But she did not smell the way that unknown girl did. It was not her scent. That was something different and alluring.

He was so angry the day he found Ava as his mate that he could not even remember how she smelled that day.

But he could not forget that unknown girl.

'How could I even think like that?' He said this to himself and backed away from the hug.

Ava came back to her senses when she opened her eyes and saw who was in front of her.

"Y-You!"

lan glared at her. "Then who did you expect here?"

Ava glanced at the whole room. She was surprised that a window was there. But it was a little far because she could not find it.

She began to feel relaxed after watching the light in the room. She exhaled deeply.

"Such a weak omega you are!"

She heard lan. She got to her feet right away and looked at him, who was still crouching down and now looking up

at her.

She turned to the door and rushed to it. She grabbed the doorknob and tried

to twist it. But, to her surprise, it was

locked.

Ian sighed and stood up. "You can't go out."

She turned her head toward him. "W-Why are you doing t-this?"

He examined her nervous look and smirked at her.

"It's your punishment. Didn't you dare talk back to me in front of others? Now where has your daring mood gone?"

His eyes darkened as he walked toward her. She gulped and turned back to face the door. She started banging it out of fear.

She screamed for help while saying,

"PLEASE SOMEONE HELP."

Ian chuckled as he came to a stop right behind her. He leaned in close to her ear and whispered,

"No one will come to help you here. Even if they do come, after seeing me here, they will back off."

Ava lost her cool. She turned around to yell at him, but gasped when she found him closer to her.

She looked into his eyes while clenching her jaw. His handsome face with that wicked grin looked sinful to her.

Ian saw her angry look and asked,

"What? Nerdy is getting mad?"

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"Let me leave this room," she murmured.

"I have no interest in you either. But how dare you speak to me like that in front of others? Just because your mom helped my mom in the past and my parents invited you for dinner, that doesn't mean you will start to get your wings. Because I know how to cut other people's wings really well."

Ava stared at him. He was talking to her with such a rude tone, as if she were his enemy.

She did talk back to him, but wasn't it his fault? Why did he throw the ball at her in the first place?

"L-Listen, 1-la-"

"Stop stuttering, nerd."

He scolded her in a cold voice, and she flinched.

She lowered her head and mumbled,

"I-I just want to tell you that I'll never come your way again. Let me go."

Ian's eyes remained on her as he tried to inspect her expression.

He was stunned that he did not feel disgusted by the closeness.

In fact, he found her interesting.

His eyes fell on her glasses, then her wet cheeks. He wondered how she would look without the glasses, which almost covered half of her face.

'No, no. What am I thinking? What's wrong with you, Ian? He asked himself, taking a step back.

Ava lifted her head to look at him. She felt calm as she watched him take a step back.

"Please open the door. My friends are waiting for me."

"Friends? I think they have already left the campus. I sent them a text about you. So don't be concerned about it, nerd." Ian said to her.

Ava was shocked to hear him. She realized that her phone was not with her. She recalled that when Ian was pulling her, her phone fell to the floor.

"What did I do to offend you? Why are you treating me like this?" She asked, feeling emotional.

"Don't you know why? Because I just hate you. Because of you, I missed out on the opportunity to find the perfect mate for me. Moon Goddess did so wrong to me by choosing you as my mate. If it were someone else, I would never have rejected my mate."

Ava did not believe that this guy was putting all the blame on her head.

"So your rejection was also my fault? Then what do you want from me? What should I do? Do you want me to die? Because you have already made my wo-" Ava paused when she realized what she was going to say.

Ian frowned at her. "Your what?"

Ava looked away from him. "N-Nothing."

Ian felt doubtful about it. However, he assumed that she was trying to get sympathy from him,

"I don't care about you. But never dare to show your audacity to me again. Otherwise, it will be the end of you," he warned her while pointing his finger at her.

2/3

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She bit her lower lip as she tried to control her tears. She did not know why this boy always made her cry. Why could he just not let her live peacefully?

Her eyes were on the floor. She could not stop her tears as they fell on her cheeks.

All of a sudden, her wolf started to react. Her eyes widened as she felt stabbing pain in her heart.

"Aahhh!"

She put her hand on her heart and clenched her white dress

Gazing at her, Ian's eyes narrowed. He thought she was acting in front of him.

"Stop pretending, nerd."

Ava screamed once again as she fell on her knees while holding her chest.

"IT'S HURTING!"

Ian was shocked.

His eyebrows shot upward as he hurried over to her and knelt down.

""Hey! What happened to you?"

Ava grabbed his shoulder, tightening her grip on his black shirt.

She looked at him with wide eyes as she replied,

"M-My wolf-"

Before she could say anything more, she fainted in his arms. 1