

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 121[1,058 words]

Tan's hands froze around Ava's cheeks when he heard her. He was kind of in disbelief.

"What did you say?"

Ava removed his hands away from her cheeks and replied,

"You heard me right. I don't need to repeat it."

He frowned at her. "Why are you asking something impossible?"

She laughed at him. "Something impossible? The boy who did not consider the possibility of destiny before breaking the mate bond now speaks of impossibility. Nice joke, Ian."

Ian stared at her for a while without saying anything, as if he were processing her words in his mind.

"Are you asking me to lose the match so that Luke can win it?", 1

Ava's brows lifted by his question. Though Luke needed to win the match, she did not have this intention before saying that.

She just did not want to trust Ian. That was why she asked him something that he would not do.

It was really impossible to lose the final match for Ian Dawson. It would destroy his reputation on campus.

Ava believed he would not do that for her. In fact, no one would risk their drs for her.

She just wanted him to push away from her. She had realized that they were not made for each other. He had rejected her, so it was over right then.

Ava thought for a moment and folded her arms, then nodded her head at him.

"You were talking about proving yourself. I just asked something to prove your love. If you think I am asking this for Luke, then why not?"

Ian's expression changed as he became enraged. He held her hand and asked,

"So you really love him, huh? The boy you are in love with was actually Luke. Last night in the game, you were talking about him, right?"

Ava looked away from him and chuckled at him. "Yes, you are right. It's him."

Ian's hand trembled. He loosened his grip on her hand. His face appeared to be confused and hurt.

"Then..." he paused as he backed away from her.

He was finding the words to say something.

"Then everything that happened between us last night... Was that nothing to you?" he asked, fixing his gaze on

her.

She looked at him calmly. She took a deep breath and replied,

"I told you this before. Now I am saying this to you again. I don't want to be with you. It's better to keep your distance from me. I am not after you."

He took another step back. As if he ignored her every word, he asked her again,

"I asked you something. Did you feel like nothing at all last night?"

1/3

She tightened her fists, trying to compose herself, and replied,

"No. Why are you reacting like this? It is not like you have never been this close to another girl. I am sure you went to clubs to be around girls and do more things than that. I don't think your reaction is legit."

Ian shook his head and muttered,

"So it's Luke Katz."

Ava recalled how he hit the boys when they went to save Stephen. She immediately let out,

"Don't you dare hurt him, Ian. He is very special to me."

He sneered at her and turned around, heading back to his bike.

"Yeah, I have seen how special you both are to each other. He came to fight for you after I rejected you. So you two's love began before I was even a part of your life," he muttered as he walked.

Ava looked at his back. She did not try to break the misunderstanding. She was afraid that she would become weak for him once again. So it was the best time to part ways.

She saw him getting on his bike. She thought he was so mad that he would leave her there.

However, to her surprise, his bike approached her and stopped next to her. Without looking at her, Ian said,

"Get on."

Ava felt nervous because of his cold tone. Before she mentioned the basketball match, he was soft toward her.

She got on his bike since she had no way to return home except to go with him. "Hold me if you want to get back home as soon as possible," he said coldly.

She glanced at his jacket. With a slow move, she put her hands on his shoulder. When he rode the bike at high speeds, she had to wrap her hands around his torso tightly.

Ian did not say anything during the whole ride.

It was a very long ride, and it took hours for them to reach their city and Ava's house.

Ian's bike came to a stop in front of her house. Ava got off the bike.

She glanced at his face. She could see he did not look in a good mood. She gulped and was about to invite him to her house since it was also Stephen's house.

But before that, Ian took something out of his pocket and grabbed her hand.

When she looked at her hand, she noticed her phone. He gave her phone back to her.

She was stunned to realize she had almost forgotten about her phone while she was with him.

He let go of her hand. She gripped her phone tightly.

She looked at him and said,

"If you want to come-

"No, thanks," he replied without looking at her.

326 BONUS

She watched as he started his bike and rode away from her house.

She stared at the road. The distance made her heart beat slower. She shook her head and told herself,

"He is not serious about me. He can't be serious. I am just one of the girls on his list who he finds appealing right now. He will not be the same after I agree to get close to him."

She was lost in her thoughts until she heard her mother's voice from behind.

"Ava."

She turned around and noticed her mother waving at her from the doorway.

She walked toward her house and hugged her mother.

"What happened, baby?" her mother asked.

"Nothing, Mom," she replied, breaking the hug.

1

She entered the house with her mother. As soon as she walked inside, she saw many things that looked like gifts.

"What's this, mom?"

Gamma Stephen and Harper were seated on the couches. Harper looked at Ava and replied,

"Alpha Martin and Luna Carolina have just issued a royal announcement. They sent us presents because it's Ian's birthday."

Ava glanced at Stephen, who looked really happy. She then looked back at Harper and asked,

"What is that announcement, Dad?"

Harper stood up and replied,

"They announced that they will hand over the throne to lan next year."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 122[1,040 words]

122

Ava was stunned. One year was too early for lan to rule the pack. She wondered whether lan was aware of it.

Would he be able to run the pack at this young age and with a lifestyle where he did not follow any rules?

"That means Stephen is going to be the Gamma of our pack next year as well. We are celebrating this good news," Angela said with a cheerful voice.

"Thanks, Mom," Stephen said.

Ava looked at her brother and smiled at him. "Congratulations, brother. Soon you will be our gamma."

Stephen patted her head and replied,

"Then your brother will protect you forever."

Harper and Angela smiled when they saw how love there was between the brother and sister.

Ava spent some time with her family. They sat at the table to have dinner together. Harper and Angela told them many things that they needed to know about their house.

Angela stated that she had told the maids everything and that they would be at home all the time. Harper said they would try to come back soon.

"You are going to be the Gamma of the pack very soon. I hope you will start cleaning up your image," Harper said, looking at Stephen.

Stephen paused eating and glanced at his father. "Yes, Dad."

"I heard you were into some fight a few days ago." Harper inquired, giving Stephen a serious look.

Stephen gulped as if he were afraid to get scolded by his father.

Ava noticed his situation and cleared her throat. She knew what had happened some days ago. She was present there. It was her responsibility to clear the misunderstanding between them.

"Dad, actually he was not fighting with anyone. It was some boys from the Thunder Howl Pack. They were doing some illegal things, and Stephen, as the future Gamma of our pack, showed some bravery to stop them."

as ie

Everyone at the table turned their heads at her. Stephen's brows lifted he were in surprise. Ava assured him that everything would be alright by blinking at him.

At that time, everyone heard a noise throughout the dining room.

It was Angela whose spoon dropped on her hand to her plate, and it made a noise.

"Mom?" Ava said.

Angela looked at her and asked,

"Thunder Howl Pack? How do you know about them?"

Ava was stunned by her reaction. She tried to figure out why she appeared so tense all of a sudden.

"I was there at that time."

Angela's eyes widened. "You what? When did this happen?"

Ava glanced at Stephen, who let out a sigh and shook his head.

425 BOKUS

He leaned close to her and whispered,

You shouldn't have said that."

"I-I was trying to save you"

Before she could finish, Harper's angry voice echoed.

"Stephen!"

Stephen lowered his head and explained,

"I am sorry, Dad. I didn't know she would come there. I was in a cage, and Ian came to my rescue. That time she overheard him and came as well."

Ava hurriedly nodded at Harper and said with a pleading tone,

"Yes, he is right. Please, Dad. Don't scold him. He has no fault.",

Harper looked at Ava, then shifted his gaze at Stephen. "I am happy to see you

both together in a good bond. But that doesn't mean you two will end up in danger together. Stephen, I told you to protect her, not put her in danger. And what did you say? Ian was there too?"

Stephen nodded his head. "Yes, Dad."

"What were they doing?"

"They were selling drugs to our university's students," Stephen explained.

Ava paid attention to his words. She remembered Ian telling her that they were doing something extremely wrong, which they protested.

"You know their head Alpha. You should not mess up with him," Harper warned Stephen.

Ava frowned at him when she heard him. But then her gaze moved to her mother, who was in a daze.

She did not ask anything to Harper and fixed her focus on her mother.

After the dinner, Angela took Ava to the balcony and held her hands tightly.

"Did any of those boys see you?"

"You mean the boys from the Thunder Howl? Yes, they did. Why?"

"Did they ask you anything?"

Ava was surprised to hear her mother's questions.

"Why would they ask me anything?"

Angela let out a deep breath as though she were relaxed.

Ava gave it a thought and recalled everything related to Thunder Howl Pack..

"Oh, yes. I met a very strange boy. He had green eyes. Stephen said he is a wizard. He wanted to talk to me."

Angela's hands trembled a little. Ava looked down at her hands and rubbed them gently.

"Mom, what's wrong?"

Angela shook her head and asked,

3/3

25 BONUS

"Tell me. What did he say?"

"Mom, that time Ian came to stop him. I don't know what he wanted to talk about. It looks like Ian, Steph, and others do not have a good relationship with that pack's people."

As if Angela was at ease, she exhaled deeply. She murmured in a low tone,

"So Ian came between you and that boy? That's good."

Ava was confused about her mother's words and behavior.

"I think Harper did great when he asked Stephen to stay at home. I think you should thank Ian and stay close to him as well. He is going to be our head Alpha soon. He can be there for you anytime you want him."

Ava stared at her mother without letting out a word. She was just observing her mother, who looked worried as hell.

She could not help but say,

"Mom, I am not a kid anymore. I can protect myself."

Angela shook her head and cupped her cheeks.

"My love, promise me that you will stay away from the people who are from the Thunder Howl Pack. That pack is the only reason why I always hide you from others. This is Gamma's house, and you are now Gamma's daughter. It is the best thing for you and your safety."

"Mom, why do I need to hide from that pack's people? Why is my relationship with them?" Ava asked as she did not want to be more confused.

Angela gave her a worried look as she replied,

"You know about our past. I told you about it. But I never told you which pack we escaped from years ago."

Ava's eyes widened as she spoke.

"Y-You mean..."

Angela nodded her head and replied,

"Years ago, we managed to flee from the Thunder Howl Pack. Therefore, it would be best if you avoided that pack and its members."

Today's Bonus Offer

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 123[992 words]

123

25 BONUS

After hearing her mother, Ava was taken aback. Her memories of the past were limited to dreams. Her mother always tried to avoid telling her about it. She only knew that she was from another pack, and this pack's Alpha and Luna saved them by giving them shelter here.

"But, Mom, it was a war, and we were trying to save our lives. Because of the war, we lost dad..."

Ava paused as she reflected on her father's death. She closed her eyes and bit her tongue, fearing that she had reminded her mother of him.

Angela lowered her head, clearly upset. Ava hugged her mother and mumbled,

"Mom, I am sorry. I didn't mean to-

Angela stopped her and said,

"It's okay, my baby. He was a beautiful part of my life. I can never forget him."

She broke the embrace and looked into

"But you have to listen to me." 11

a's eyes, then uttered,

Ava did not understand why her mother was so concerned about her. The war was over, and who would remember them? Even if they remembered, what was the problem? They were not the only family that fled from the pack to save their lives.

Angela could read her mind when she said,

"Don't think much. Just listen to Mom, okay?"

Ava let out a deep breath and nodded her head at her mother. She did not want to ask so many questions to her mother. If her mother told her to stay away from the pack and their people, she might have thought something before saying it.

"Okay, Mom. Don't worry. They are kind of creepy anyway.

Angela smiled at her and stroked her head. "That's my girl. By the way, I saw Ian dropping you here. What's going on?"

Ava noticed her mother's doubtful eyes. She immediately shook her head to deny her.

"Nothing, Mom."

Angela chuckled as she saw how her daughter avoided meeting her gaze.

"You are very young, Ava. This age is an age where people make mistakes, and

at the same time, they learn from them. I can only tell you not to make any mistakes because am a mother. I don't want to press you for anything. But I don't want you to end up like me."

Ava lifted her gaze to look at her. "Mom."

Her mother smiled at her sadly. "I didn't know the matebond would pull me here in another pack. I was someone else's wife and a mother of a child. When my husband died, thought I would have to live my whole life as a widow. But my mate was there, and he kept reminding me that he was the one the Moon goddess had chosen for me. I never regretted marrying your father or having you. You two are her blessings to me. But, there is something called mate bond, right? So I can only pray for you to get your mate as soon as possible. Because he is the one who is destined for you."

Ava listened to her mother without saying anything. How could she tell her mother that her mate had broken their mate bond and she was now mateless?

When it was time for Harper and Angela to leave, they hugged Ava.

"I hope you will return with a happy face and healthy body Dad," Ava said to Harper.

"I will, my child."

Stephen also hugged them. He told Angela that if they needed any help, they could contact him anytime.

Ava stood at the main door as she watched her parents get into their car. They waved at Ava and Stephen while setting their destination to another pack.

Ava waved her hand slowly while looking at them.

When they drove away, stood there unmoved. Her head was leaned against the frame of the door, looking at the empty road.

Stephen turned his head to look at her. He furrowed his brows and moved toward her.

"What happened to you? Are you alright?"

Ava blinked her eyes and stood straight. She glanced at Stephen and replied,

"I am fine, Steph."

He wrapped his arm around her shoulder and asked,

"Then what's with your sudden mood change?"

They walked inside the house together.

"Nothing, bro. Just feeling a little sleepy."

Stephen turned her to face her and asked,

"Did Ian do something? Where were you two the whole day?"

Suddenly something came to Ava's mind as curiosity developed in her head.

"We went somewhere. But I want to ask something. Will you answer me?"

Stephen smirked at her. "I can see you want to ask something about Ian. Your excitement seems enjoyable to me."

Ava hit his arm.

"Ouch!"

"Be serious, okay?"

Stephen raised a brow and nodded his head.

"Okay, okay. You can ask me anything. You tried to save me today. You are my best sister."

He said that and hugged her before kissing her on the head

Ava smiled at him and then came back to her question. She did not know if Stephen would answer her. But she gave it a shot.

123

"Steph, can you tell me about the Thunder Howl Pack?"

Stephen's expression changed as soon as he heard about that pack. He frowned at her and asked,

"Why do you want to talk about that pack?"

Ava gulped as she noticed a sudden change in his behavior. She could see that there was some kind of rivalry between the two packs.

"I mean, why don't you all like them?":

"Didn't you hear what they had tried to do? They are the most ridiculous people. Especially their head Alpha. We just don't like him."

Ava raised her brows, not knowing why they despised the Alpha.

"Why?"

Stephen stared at her for a while then looked away.

"Ian and him are on a beef. They can't get along with each other well. Something happened in the past, so they just can't."

His response was making Ava even more confused. What could have happened to spark a rivalry between two Alpha boys?

Stephen thought for a moment as if he were collecting his words. Then he said,

"He is also a bad boy. He is doing a great job of managing his top-level position. But I bet when Ian Dawson starts ruling, he will not stay like this. His position will definitely shake."

3/3

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 124[969 words]

124

In the morning,

+25 BONOS

Ava's sleep was disturbed by her phone's loud ringtone. She reached over to the nightstand and grabbed her phone. She tried opening one of her eyes to see who had called her.

It was Debra's call.

She closed her eyes and pressed her phone to her ear.

"Debra," she let out in a sleepy voice.

"Where are you, babe?"

Ava's brows furrowed. "Where am I? In my house, in my bedroom, in my bed," she mumbled in a sleepy tone.

"What! Babe, today is the final match. It's close to 10 am. The match will start soon. How can you be on your bed at this time?"

Ava's eyes flung open, and she sat up on her bed.

"Oh! Shit!"

"Exactly!"

"Do I have some time to take a shower and get ready?" Ava asked, turning her head left and right.

"You have thirty minutes. Come on, hurry up!"

"Okay, I'm coming; bye."

Ava hung up the phone and rushed to the bathroom. She took a quick shower and came out in a bathrobe.

"Why didn't Steph wake me up? He might have gotten up early and left," she murmured.

She hurriedly opened the closet door and chose to wear a white t-shirt and black tight jeans.

She quickly dressed up, applied light makeup, wore white sneakers, and left the room.

She went downstairs. The maids rushed behind her.

"Don't you want to have breakfast?" a maid asked.

"I don't have much time. Today is Brother's final match," Ava replied and walked out of the

house.

1/4

124

+25 BONOS

Ava told the driver to hurry up and get to the university.

When Ava arrived at her campus, she was already ten minutes late.

She got out of the car and started to walk faster. At that time, her phone rang, and she noticed it was Abigail.

"I am on the way," Ava said the moment she received the call.

"Okay, okay. We are in the front row. We are waiting for you," Abigail said.

"Got it."

Ava glanced at the students passing her. She wondered why they didn't go to watch the match.

Then she realized that not everyone could get the tickets. All of the tickets sold out in less than twenty minutes, so not everyone had the opportunity to purchase one.

Ava remembered Luke had reserved front-row seats for her and her friends in advance.

Today was an important match for not only Luke but also his brother's. She did not know whom she should root for. Luke was her close friend, and Stephen was her brother.

She had known Luke for a long time. He came into her life and supported her that time when no other boy was there for her. Because of him, most people avoid bullying her. He was her friend when she used to be a nerd.

She reached the basketball court and paused. She could see so many people sitting there. She looked around and found Abigail and Debra.

They were waving at her.

She walked up to them. They patted the seat in the middle of them for her. She sat on the seat and huffed.

"You are late," Debra said.

"I know, I know," Ava murmured.

She looked at the scoreboard, which displayed the game's current state.

She noted that Team Black Diamond had already scored. Her gaze slowly shifted to the players.

She saw Stephen giving his best in the field. She smiled at him. She had never had a conversation with Stephen about basketball. It looked like he was very passionate about the match, or she could say it was the final match, so he was doing his best.

She moved her gaze, and she saw Luke looking at her.

+25 BONOS

She waved at him with a smile. He smiled at her back and then focused on the match.

"Who are you rooting for today?" Debra asked Ava.

Ava furrowed her brows and turned to her. "Of course, Luke."

"Really?" Abigail asked.

Ava turned to Abigail and asked, "Why? Any doubt?"

Abigail grinned at her and motioned her to the field. "Maybe there is another desires your rooting as well. That's why he is looking at you."

Ava turned her head and found Ian looking at her.

Their eyes met, and Ava's heart started to beat faster.

She looked away from him and cleared her throat, then replied to Abigail,

"I don't care. He is a stranger to me anyway."

Both Abigail and Debra asked together,

"STRANGER?"

Ava ignored their gazes and murmured,

"I talked to him, and we decided not to see each other again."

"We? Or only you?" Abigail asked.

person who

Ava glanced at her, then lowered her head. Debra wrapped her arm around her shoulder.

"Babe, you know you love him."

Ava shook her head. "No, I don't."

"How long do you keep telling lies to yourself, Ava?" Abigail asked.

She moved closer to Ava and mumbled, "You know you still love. Why don't you just give him a chance?"

The game was going on, but the three friends were busy talking to each other while looking at the match. Their focus paused when lan tossed the ball into the basket.

"And again, the Black Diamond!"

The announcement and cheering were loud. The cheerleaders were dancing. While looking at lan, they were chanting his name.

3/4

124

+25 BONOS

Ava scoffed at lan when he glanced at the cheerleaders.

"I don't trust him. If I give him a chance, he will break my heart again. So I decided to push him away from myself."

"That's impossible! He is lan Dawson. He can't stay away from what he wants," Debra said, staring at lan.

Ava rolled her eyes and glanced at Luke, who looked worried for his team.

She felt bad for Luke. She just hoped that Luke would win the match. It was more important to him than any

other.

"Ava, what did you say to lan?" Abigail inquired from next to her.

Ava let out a deep breath and replied,

"That's not important. I asked him to lose this match so he could prove to me that he truly loves me. But as we all can see, he can't do that. So..."

Abigail and Debra exchanged a quick look, and both yelled.

"YOU DID WHAT?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 125[954 words]

Ava shook her head and mumbled to her friends,

"Let's pay our attention to the match. Let's pray for Luke to win today. I don't have about Ian. He will not give in."-

Abigail and Debra fell silent.

any

doubt

Ava fixed her attention on the game. She could see how the crowd cheered for Ian whenever he scored points for his team.

Ian seemed quiet but focused. He was not looking anywhere as his eyes were fixed on the basketball. While his friends conversed during the game, he was not communicating with any of them.

Ava observed that he did not glance at her again. It was like he finally decided not to look at her again.

"May the best team win," Ava mumbled in a low tone.

Her friends heard her, but they did not say anything.

When Stephen put the ball in the basket, Ava jumped and clapped for her brother.

Stephen looked at her and gave her a flying kiss. Ava smiled at him and sat down again.

Others looked at her, realizing they shared a strong bond, and Stephen adored his new sister.

"You said you wanted Luke's team to win," Abigail said.

Ava nodded her head and replied,

"Of course I want that. But come on. Stephen is my brother.'

"So? Now who are you cheering for?" Debra inquired.

Ava rubbed her forehead. "What's wrong with both of you? Why are you talking like my wish is important here? Whoever plays well will win the game."

"If your brother loses the game, will you feel upset?"

"Yeah, I will. But he will be one of the officials. He will have other goals. But Luke..."

Ava paused as she remembered what Luke had said to her yesterday.

"Luke what?" Abigail asked.

"If he fails to win this match, his father will send him abroad."

1/4

125

+25 BONOS

"What are you saying?" Debra asked with a shocked tone. Abigail was equally shocked.

Ava nodded her head. "Yeah."

"Then he should win the match," Abigail said, glancing at Luke.

The game was going one way. The Black Diamond was going to win the game single-handedly.

Team Red Flamor looked upset. Luke gave them encouragement and told them not to give up. Although they scored points as well, it was not enough to win.

When it was halftime, all the players went to the restroom.

The audience in the arena went out to buy some popcorn and drinks.

Ava and her friends also went outside.

"Did you talk to Luke yesterday?" Abigail asked Ava while walking together.

"No, I couldn't. He was busy with his practice."

"Oh shit! You know what he plans to do about the proposal thing..." Debra muttered.

Ava's steps paused. She almost forgot about it. Luke mentioned to her many times before that he wanted to propose her officially to be his girlfriend and then start their relationship.

"But only after he wins. It doesn't look like his team can win," Abigail said.

Abigail and Debra also wanted Luke to win. Luke was their close friend. However, they were afraid of Ava's decision. They knew that Ava was in emotional turmoil. She did not understand her situation and could not make sound decisions in her life.

Suddenly, Ava's eyes fell on someone. She looked at her friends and said,

"You can go get some popcorn. I am coming in a few minutes."

"But where are you going?" Abigail asked.

"I have something to do," Ava replied, heading toward someone.

Abigail and Debra were about to continue walking, but their eyes followed Ava, so they paused.

"That's Luke's dad, right?" Debra said.

"Yes. He also came to watch his son's match."

"I guess Ava was right then."

"Let's hope Luke wins. We don't want him to go abroad. He should have his own say in her

2/4

125

+25 BONOS

life's decision."

On the other hand,

Ava walked toward Luke's father.

"Uncle."

Luke's father was talking with another man. When he turned to Ava, his brows lifted.

"Uncle, I am Ava, Luke's friend."

He smiled at her and replied,

"Hello, dear."

Ava glanced around and saw many people around them. So she said,

"Uncle, can we talk? I have something to talk about."

The man agreed, and they walked in a less crowded area.

"I heard about you from Luke. He attended your mother's wedding. You are Gamma Harper's daughter."

Ava lowered her head while nodding her head.

"You seem like a really nice girl."

"Thank you, Uncle."

Finding the right words to begin the conversation, Ava scratched the back of her hand a little.

"You wanted to talk about some-"

Ava interrupted him and said,

"Uncle, please don't send Luke out of the pack."

The man was stunned. Ava looked at him and gulped. She could see he was not pleased.

"Luke wants to be with you and his mother. Basketball is his life. He will have to give up his dream if you send him overseas. Please reconsider your decision even if he loses today. If you understand him and give him the right to choose his way to live his life like he wants, even if he loses the match, he will win in his life." The man gave her a long look. Then he asked,

"Why are you saying this? Did he tell you about this?"

3/4

125

+25 BONOS

"No, I overheard him speaking with you on the phone," she lied.

She did not want Luke's father to misunderstand him.

"Your brother is on the opposite team. Luke is clearly losing the game. Is that why you came to talk to me?"

Ava remained silent. She genuinely cared about Luke. They had been friends for a very long time.

How could she not want to help him? He was there for her in every bad time.

"Lose or win, I think you should accept his wishes. He respects you a lot. But he also has a big dream. He wants to be a big basketball player. Don't break his dream. If he loses, he can stand up again. But if his dad doesn't support him today, he will feel the loss at every turn in his life."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 126[1,093 words]

126

The half-time was over. The game began once again. Everyone started to cheer for their favorite team.

The teachers, students, and guardians were all there to watch the game.

There were only two quarters left to get the result.

Black Diamond was leading to victory.

Ava was watching the game with a distressed mind. She remembered Luke's father and her conversation a while

ago.

He said he would think about what she had told him. But he would do what was good for Luke.

Ava did not know what Luke's father would decide for him. She could only hope that it would be on Luke's side.

Team Red Flamor seemed to change their strategies. They began to concentrate more on defense than attack. They attempted to divert the opposing team's attention and seize scoring opportunities.

When Luke scored, Ava jumped up with a big smile on her face.

She was happy for Luke. She believed if he played well, he could win the match.

In her heart, she was guilty.

She did not want to use Luke. She liked Luke, but she was wrong when she assumed she could be with him as more than friends. She liked him only as a friend. So she felt guilty about talking about dating him a few days ago. She should not have done that. Even though they didn't start dating, it gave hope to Luke to plan for their relationship.

But today, Ava would tell him that she could not be with him. However, she feared that if he were to lose the game, he would experience even more heartbreak.

While cheering on Luke with her friends, Ava's gaze shifted to Ian.

He did not look calm anymore. His mood darkened, as if he had noticed how she reacted to Luke's goal.

Ava settled into her seat. Unexpectedly, she fixed her eyes on Ian.

As time passed, the Red Flamor began to score, hoping to match Black

Diamond's score.

Everyone crossed their fingers as Ian snatched the ball from an opposing player and moved toward the basket.

126

+25 BONOS

Ava was shocked when she saw almost all the players of the Red Flamor gathered around Ian to stop, but he crossed them and headed toward the basket once again.

The girls in the audience arena began to cheer his name.

Ava's eyes widened when he jumped in the air and shoved the ball in the basket.

"What a Dunk!"

Ava could hear the reporter's stunned voice on the speakers.

"What a tremendous shot by Ian Dawson!"

The chief crew also cheered for Ian after watching what a wonderful player he was.

"I must say no one can beat him in basketball," Debra said, almost cheering for Ian.

Abigail looked at Debra and asked,

"We are on Luke's team. Have you forgotten that?"

Debra shook her head immediately and replied,

"No. I was just saying. Don't mind me."

Meanwhile, Ava's eyes were on Ian. He glanced at him, looking at her reaction.

It looked like he was not pleased by her reaction. His face fiercer in rage.

Ava averted her gaze away from him. She looked down at her lap.

Last night's memory reflected in her mind.

She remembered how he finished his practice before her class ended and then spent the whole day with her. Once more, he had confessed to her, but she rejected him, telling him to do something he would never be able to.

"Team Red Flamor!"

Ava turned to look at the field and saw that Team Red Flamor had scored again.

At that point, her heart was filled with confusion. She somehow did not feel good about the

score.

She wanted the Red Flamor to win, right? Then why did she start to feel different?

"TIMEOUT."

It was time when the coaches got time to discuss their strategies with their team's players.

126

+25 BONOS

Ava noticed that Luke's coach was patting his shoulder. On the other hand, Team Black Diamond's coach looked angry. He was saying something serious to his team players.

Ava focused on them and noticed that Stephen and Ronald were saying something to Ian.

But Ian shrugged his shoulders and ignored them. He walked back to the field.

The coach placed his hands on his waist and shook his head at Ian.

"The final quarter begins."

When the referee blew his whistle, the match resumed.

It was the last twelve minutes. The score was close to each other. The Black Diamond was a few points ahead of the Red Flamor.

It was a miracle for the Red Flamor, or game changers, to get so close to the Black Diamond.

As the clock ran out, Team Red Flamor kept scoring goals.

It was the last five minutes.

The score was changing every minute. While eating popcorn, everyone appeared anxious.

The game was going tough, and the competition was neck-to-neck.

Ava's eyes went here and there on the field. She could see the ball in the Black Diamonds' hands the majority of the time. Despite this, the Red Flamor continued

to score. Debra and Abigail looked happy since Luke was winning.

"THE LAST ONE MINUTE."

Ava did not know why, but she felt her heart was beating faster.

The score was a tie.

The hosts continued speaking into the microphone, informing listeners of the state of affairs in the field.

"And Ian Dawson now has the ball in his hand. It is a big opportunity for the Black Diamond. Everyone is doing their best to stop him. Let's see if he can win the game by scoring for his team and breaking the tie. Even Luke, the Red Flamor's captain, is moving from his spot to get the ball from him."

Ava stared at Ian, watching him get closer to the basket.

He seemed unstoppable in his quest to win the game and score points for his

team.

Luke rushed to Ian, trying to stop him. But it did not look like work at all.

126

+25 BONOS

Ian grabbed the ball tightly and was about to throw it into the basket.

Everyone held their breaths.

Ava clenched her fists while watching.

At that moment, she saw Ian turn his head in her direction, and their eyes locked.

It was only for a second, but to Ava, everything stopped around her with just that one glance

at him.

Ian averted his gaze and tossed the ball towards the hoop.

Everyone jumped to scream but froze when they saw the ball did not make it into the basket.

"Ian failed to hit his target! How is that even possible? It was a very clear shot!"

Luke seized the opportunity by grabbing the ball and moving to the opposite side.

It was as if the Black Diamond players were too shocked by their captain's missed shot to react to the

game.

Cyrus and Paul tried to stop Luke. But it was too late. Luke had already approached the basket and tossed the ball inside.

The hosts then made the announcement to the speakers.

"The victory belongs to Team Red Flamor!"

Don't Leave Me, Mate

Oh Really 127[1,008 words]

127

+25 BONOS

127

The people who came to support the Red Flamor were basically the family of the team. members. So they cheered for them in happiness.

Debra and Abigail got up and rushed down the stairs to reach Luke to congratulate him.

Meanwhile, Ava was sitting on the seat.

She was unmoved. She was confused about the thing that had just happened in front of her

eyes.

"I can't believe lan missed the target."

"Exactly!"

"He intentionally missed the goal."

"We all witnessed that."

"Why did he do that?"

"How could he serve the victory to the team on the plate?"

"That wasn't even hard for him. He had already crossed all of the opposing players. Then why did he not score?"

Ava heard other people's voices. They all were surprised when they observed the same thing.

Ava's eyes were fixed on the field. She noticed lan looking at Luke.

His eyes slowly moved to Ava. He did not break eye contact.

From far away, she could still see that he was staring at her. It was as if his gaze was mocking her for testing him.

Her heart shook inside when she realized what he had just done.

He proved himself to her!

He proved that he loved her!

He gave up his victory in the final match just as she asked him to prove his love for her.

Ava could not believe he could do something like that for her.

Ava's gaze moved when someone was waving at her. She shifted her eyes saw it was Luke.

and

She got to her feet and walked down the stairs. She walked over to him and gave him a small

1/4

127

+25 BONOS

smile.

"Congratulations, Luke," Ava said to him.

He did not reply, but rather than that, he pulled her into a hug.

Ava was surprised by the hug, but she patted his back as she could see how happy he was.

"I did it, Ava. I won the match," Luke said, hugging her tightly.

She felt a pang in her heart.

She wanted Luke to win the match. But how could she not be pleased when he won it?

Ava's gaze was drawn to Ian. His friends were talking to him. They looked enraged at him.

Luke broke the hug and cupped her cheeks, causing her to look away from Ian. "Are you happy?" he asked.

Ava looked at Luke and nodded her head slowly. She lied to him. For some reason, she was unable to feel happy.

Luke smiled at her, but Abigail and Debra noticed Ava's changing behavior. They silently observed her.

"Ava, I wanted to say something to you," Luke said, getting down on one knee.

Ava's eyes widened, as she did not expect him to do that at the moment. She recalled what he had mentioned before.

He held her hand and looked into her eyes.

"Lu-Luke, don't-"

Luke interrupted her and asked,

"Ava, will

you be my girlfriend?"

Ava was stunned. The people around them began to scream with cheering.

Looking at Luke, Ava blinked. She slowly moved her eyes.

Her gaze shifted to Ian. He was also looking at her from afar.

Ava's heart trembled when he looked away from her and turned around. She watched him leave the field with his head lowered.

Ava felt something was itching her eyes. Her lips quivered. Blinking her eyes, she inhaled

2/4

127

+25 BONOS

deeply.

She realized that tears dropped on her cheeks. She immediately wiped her tears and moved her eyes back to Luke.

With an embarrassed expression, she gazed into his eyes and uttered,

"I am sorry, Luke. I can't date you. I tried, but it's just that I can never feel for you more than a friend. You are my closest friend, and I promise you will always be

the same in my heart. But I don't want to use you to move on in my life. I really apologize. I can't be your girlfriend." 2

Luke's smile froze. Everyone around them went silent.

Debra and Abigail were staring at Ava. They felt very sorry for Luke.

Luke loosened his grip on Ava's wrists. He let go of her hands and tightened his fists tightly.

"What are you saying?" he said in a low tone.

Ava could not move her eyes away from him.

"I-I am sorry," she mumbled.

This was all she could say to him.

He slowly got on his feet and backed away from her. "You still love him, don't you?" he asked, stepping back.

After hearing his question, she looked away from him.

She could not help but realize in her heart that she still had feelings for Ian.

Luke let out a chuckle and shook his head. "You know your answer can ruin my victory; you still did that to this day."

Ava gazed at him and shook her head. "No, I just didn't want you to be in the dark. I didn't want to-"}
}

He raised his hand to stop her. "Just leave me alone, Ava. I got what you want.

You never wanted me. You... you gave me hope of something that I can't ever get."1

Ava closed her eyes, allowing tears to flow down her cheeks. Abigail and Debra approached her and stood beside her.

"Luke, calm down. She wanted to talk to you. But you were busy."

"Talk about what? Isn't she the one who asked me to date? Why is she taking a step back?"

Luke's questions shocked everyone as they began to gossip.

3/4

127

+25 BONOS

"She asked him to date her!"

"How unabashedly confident can a girl be?"

"She thought she could seduce the captain of Red Flamor, but then realized she did not deserve him."

"Does that mean Nova was right about her?"

Whispers spread throughout the field as everyone fixed their gazes on Ava.

"You all shut the fuck up before I break your bones," Stephen said from a side as if the whispers reached his ears.

He glared at everyone and walked off the field.

"I am sorry again, Luke. If you can, please forgive me," Ava said, lowering her head before dashing out of the field.

Luke clenched his jaw and stared at Ava's back.

"That girl cheated you, bro," one of his teammates remarked, patting his shoulder.

At that time, Luke's father approached him, who was watching everything from a little distance.

"Luke"

"Dad."

His father took a quick look at where Ava had gone. With a smile on his face, he

said,

"She is a mysterious girl. That little girl taught me a few things today."

Today's Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - eally 128[1,038 words]

128

Ava was crying unexpectedly. She had no idea why she was crying. Was she crying because she had broken Luke's heart?

Or she was crying for someone else?

She began to search for the person. She wanted to know why he did that.

He not only proved himself by intentionally losing the game, but he also made her feel guilty.

She had never imagined he would give up his victory for her.

While thinking about him, her steps came to a halt at a gate of her campus.

She peered at the boys from behind a tree. Ian was about to leave campus, but his friends stopped him.

She could hear Ian's friends' furious voices.

Her brow furrowed in surprise as she saw Ronald grab Ian's collar.

"How can you throw water in our four years' hard work?"

Cyrus was trying to break free Ian's collar from Ronald.

Ian appeared unfazed. He did not reply to Ronald.

"I can't believe it. How could you be so stupid, Ian? You deceived us. You know that, right?" Stephen asked.

"Say something. Why did you do that?" Paul said.

Cyrus shook his head and muttered,

"Bro, we have been looking forward to this day for a long time. Everyone knows no one can beat us. We have always been the winners. Why did you deliberately lose the game?"

Roland pushed Cyrus away from his side and looked at Ian. His hands were still holding Ian's collar. He said,

"Do

you know what they are going to call us? Losers. How could you miss that simple shot? You gave them so many chances to score. You even blocked your own players so that they could score every single time to match our score. Is this how a captain should play?"

Ian's gaze was fixed on the floor. It was as if he knew what he did really hurt his friends.

"Your friend is selfish. Always keep that in your mind," he uttered in a low tone.

1/4

128

+25 BONOS

Ava bit her bottom lip to control her tears. She could see Ian looked helpless. She took a long breath and wiped the corner of her eyes. She continued to watch them.

"But why did you have to do such a thing? You have a good chance of winning. You said you don't like that Luke guy. Then why did you let that boy win? Do you have any explanations?" Stephen asked with a disappointed look.

Ian lifted his gaze and looked at his friends. "I don't want to talk about this."

He grabbed Ronald's wrist and removed them from his collar.

"And don't dare to do that again. I am your friend, but that does not mean you will forget who I am."

Ronald gave him a sarcastic grin. "So now you will discipline us? By how? You have already made us lose a game. Is this how you plan to run our pack?" Ronald asked.

Anger was audible in his voice. He was hell mad at his best friend. He did not expect him to do something like that. After all, it was not just his loss, but every player would have to suffer for it. He shattered their dream of winning the championship.

Ian looked at Ronald. His eyes were cold.

"Next year I will be your head Alpha. You will have to follow my every command, and you won't be allowed to oppose any of my decisions. So start to prepare yourself from now on."

>>

His words were directed not only at Ronald, but also at all of his friends who would serve as

his officials.

Everyone became silent. But there was fury in their eyes.

Ava saw Ian leaving the campus. She turned around and leaned her back against the tree.

She held back her tears as she looked up at the sky.

Because of her, he lost the match, lost his friends' confidence over him, and almost got into a fight with his friends.

Ava felt terrible in her heart. She did not know why she was feeling pain in her heart.

Was it because she could not see him in pain or she could not see his downfall?

As Ian's friends head inside, Stephen's eyes fell on Ava.

He walked over to her and grabbed her hand.

"Ava? What are you doing here?"

2/4

128

+25 BONOS

The other boys stopped and looked at her.

"Wait, are you crying?" Stephen asked, touching her chin to look at her face closely.

Ava lowered her head and sobbed.

"B-Brother, h-he-"

"I know Luke proposed to you. Did you accept him? It totally depends on you, Ava. But as your brother, I still believe you should think before stepping forward," Luke said, placing his hand on her head. 1

Ronald sneered after hearing Stephen. "Don't think that boy has won over us. Our captain showed some sympathy to him. That was why he won today. If our own captain had not betrayed us, Luke would not have been in a state to show his face. We would have defeated him with scores he had never imagined."

Ava gazed at him and said,

"I-lan...." she paused as she tried to collect words to explain.

At that time, Debra and Abigail came there.

"You are here! We were searching for you," Abigail said to Ava.

"lan, what?" Ronald asked, ignoring Ava's friends.

"Did you not accept Luke's proposal? Have you changed your mind?" Stephen asked.

Ava let out a shaky breath and replied,

"Don't misunderstand, lan. He did that because I asked him to do that."

lan's friends were confused.

"You asked him for what?" Paul asked.

Ava glanced at her brother and replied,

"Brother, I was the one who asked him to lose the match."

Stephen's hand froze on her hair. He immediately frowned at her and removed his hand from her head.

"What are you saying, Ava? Did you do that for Luke? Your brother is also a member of lan's team. Don't you know that?"

Ava could feel the anger coming from Stephen and his friends. She closed her eyes and tightened her fists.

3/4

128

+25 BONOS

"I am sorry, brother. I never thought he would actually do that. I was just-"

Ronald interrupted her while moving toward her.

"Listen, girl, Ian Dawson is not a joke. He loves you, but you have no right to play with his heart. He rejected you and deeply regretted it. Now what do you want him

to do to prove himself to you? He sacrificed his dream for you. Basketball was the only thing that brought him peace. You took that away from him too."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 129[1,025 words]

129

+25 BONOS

Ava left the campus with her friends. They had been consoling her for hours. She was feeling guilty that she made Ian do this thing.

"Don't think about it. Just think about how much he loves you," Debra said.

Abigail nodded her head and hugged Ava's arm. "Please, don't be upset. You are not at fault. Who thought his love was unconditional for you? A bad boy like him has a really bad reputation. So no one can trust him easily."

Ava was listening to her friends while sitting in the car. They had been telling her not to feel stressed.

However, her heart was desperate. She wanted to go to Ian and talk to him.

She could reflect on the moment in her mind when Ian left the campus. He did not even change his jersey when he left.

She arrived at her house. Her friends decided to give her company since she did not look good to them.

While spending the whole day with her friends, she realized that nothing could ease her mind.

When her friends left, it was evening time.

She waited for Stephen while sitting in the living room. She kept looking at the main door, but Stephen had not returned.

So she decided to call him. She was afraid that he would stop talking to her. After what she had done, anyone would do that out of anger.

Just as she was about to call Stephen, he entered the house.

Ava rushed to him.

"Brother."

Stephen paused and looked at her. She looked away and mumbled,

"I am sorry, brother."

Stephen stared at her for a long time, then asked,

"Have you gotten your answer?"

"Huh?"

1/4

129

+25 BONOS

"You asked him to prove it. Now have you gotten your answer?"

She avoided his gaze and mumbled,

"Where is he?"

Stephen sighed and muttered, "He is not picking up any of our calls."

She immediately looked at him. "Not picking up your calls? Why? Is he okay?"

Stephen looked at her carefully. "Do you care for him?"

"Where is he?"

Stephen walked toward the staircase while saying,

"You don't need to know."

Ava ran to his brother and held his hand.

"Please, Steph. Where is he? I need to talk to him."

He turned to her and replied,

"Don't go to him. He is in a really bad mood. No one knows what he will do in anger. Tonight there is going to be a car race. Maybe he will participate in it. If you really want to talk, you can talk to him tomorrow."

After saying that, Stephen went upstairs.

Ava was perplexed. "Car race?"

She remembered that Luke had said to her that Ian liked to go to car races. She recalled Stephen saying that they all had sports cars. She assumed every one of them liked to race with their cars.

Ava sat down on the couch. She was in emotional turmoil. She wanted to see Ian.

But she had no idea if they met, what would she tell him.

His last look that he gave her before leaving the field was pierced in her mind.

She decided to meet him no matter what. She had to talk to him.

She unlocked her phone and went to check on their university group. She searched for the place where Ian usually went for car races.

As usual, the girls had all the ideas about it. Ava saw some photos of Ian. They all posted about a month ago. That meant Ian stopped going there for a while.

2/4

129

+25 BONO

Ava's heart trembled when she saw some posts about how dangerous the races were.

She checked the location and went back to her bedroom.

She had something on her mind. She took a deep breath and opened the closet.

She pulled out a leather skirt and black crop top.

She could not cheer for him in the match, but she could do that for his race.

She dressed up and applied some makeup to give her a confident look. She put on a pair of boots and left her room.

While getting down the stairs, she glanced at Stephen's bedroom. She was afraid that if he noticed her, he would not let her go there.

She felt sorry for Stephen and all of his friends as well. She thought to say sorry to every one

of them.

But right now, she only wanted to apologize to the person who had proved his love to her.

She hurriedly walked out of the house and noticed the cars.

She was about to call a driver but stopped herself.

"Stephen will learn about it. I should not take any cars," she mumbled and moved toward the road.

She hailed for a cab and told the cab driver the location.

The driver turned his head to her and asked,

"Miss, are you sure?"

Ava nodded her head. "Yeah. Please take me there as soon as possible."

The location was far from her house, so she believed if the driver did not go faster, she would miss the race.

The driver started the car. Ava leaned her back against the seat.

She was nervous. She did not know how he would react to him. It was genuine that he was mad because he had lost the winning game.

During the long ride, she thought about yesterday. She and Ian had spent the entire day together. He was gentle with her, being both careful and caring.

When Ava arrived at the location, it was past 8:30 p.m.

3/4

129

+25 BONOS

It was an open space with people gathering here and there.

After paying the cab driver, Ava got out of the cab.

She looked around, not knowing where to go.

The cab left, and she started to walk. She noticed there were many boys and

girls. A few of them sat on the car trunks sipping alcohol.

She ignored them and walked ahead. The boys were smirking at her as if they could understand that she was new to this place.

She saw a few girls who were laughing. She approached them and asked,

"Excuse me, could you please tell me where the car race is taking place?"

The girls looked at her from head to toe. With a raspy voice, one of them motioned her to the left side and said,

"That way."

Ava smiled at her. "Thanks."

She started to walk in the direction that the girl had said. She heard the girl from behind.

"But the race has already begun. You have to stick to the crowd, girl."

Today's Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 130[966 words]

Ava heard a loud sound, as if someone had fired a gun. She flinched in that sound and covered her ears.

"Upps, I meant the race has just begun," the girl said, smirking at her.

Ava slowly removed her hands from her ears and rushed toward the way where the crowd began to cheer.

She felt herself nearly trip over while running. But then a boy took hold of her hand and straightened her out.

"Thank you," she mumbled.

When she raised her head, she noticed a boy eyeing her body. She immediately pushed his hand

away and said,

"Don't touch me."

The boy rolled his eyes and walked past her. She swallowed her breath, thinking that this place was strange. People around her were very different from her.

Since she did not have much time to think about other things, she started to walk again. She entered the crowd and pushed people to go further.

As she reached the edge where the audience was protected by a safety line, she turned to look for the cars.

"Are you new? Is this your first time?" A girl asked beside her.

Ava nodded her head and turned her head to look at her. She saw the girl had tattoos on her hands and neck. She was smoking while looking on the left side.

She turned to Ava and pointed with her hand that held the cigarette to the left, saying, "They are coming from that side."

Ava realized that most of the people had tattoos there. Some of them had tattoos on their hands, neck, thighs, and other places she couldn't even see.

She could smell alcohol and different scents. She understood that people around her were taking something. Looking over to the other side, she noticed some boys and girls smoking something.

"That's cannabis. Do you want some?" the tattooed girl asked.

Ava immediately shook her head in response. The girl chuckled while looking at her.

1/4

130

+25 BONOS

At that time, a boy leaned in Ava's ear from behind and said,

"Hey, babes. Can I stand behind you? Why not give me some rub while waiting for the cars?"

Ava was startled. She immediately turned around and pushed the boy.

"Wow. What's there to get mad about? Just asking for a rub, babe," the boys said, looking offended by her push.

Ava felt uncomfortable standing in the crowd. These people were really weird. They talked like nothing mattered to them. They were openly doing everything they wanted, and there was no one to stop them. They were becoming shameless as there were no restrictions for their

actions.

"Bro, just fuck off. She doesn't look interested," the tattooed girl said.

The boy moved to another girl as if it was just normal help that he wanted from girls. Ava returned her focus to the road.

As time passed, her mood was getting worse. She was feeling awkward.

"Don't worry. You will get along with all of this very soon," the tattooed girl said.

Ava shook her head. "No, I don't want to."

"And who are you supporting, by the way?"

Ava was just about to answer when the girls from both sides began to scream.

She turned her head to the left side and saw two cars coming.

One of them was red, and the other one was black in color.

She stared at the cars. They were coming at an unbelievable speed from a far distance.

Ava's heart started to beat fast as it heard the sounds of the engines of the cars. The black car was ahead of the red cars. The red car tried to cross it, but it was as if the black car was playing with the indicators. So even if the red car wanted to, it failed every time.

As the cars came close to where Ava was standing, the black car suddenly slowed down.

Ava's heart skipped a beat when she caught a glimpse of Ian inside the black car.

As if time stopped, his gaze locked with hers. His brows furrowed as if he did not believe that she had come to watch a car race.

"IAN."

2/4

130

"IAN"

"IAN"

+25 BONOS

The girls were cheering for Ian. They were stunned by watching his car slow down.

"What happened to you, Ian? Go faster!" the girls shouted in frustration.

Ava broke eye contact and turned to look at the other car, which was close to the finish line.

She shook her head because she did not want the other car to win. She looked at Ian.

"Come on, Ian!" she yelled so he could hear her.

The boys and girls thought she was one of his fans. So other girls were also saying it loudly.

Ian looked away from Ava and gazed at the red car.

He switched gears and pressed the accelerator hard. The car sped past Ava, like

a gust of wind.

"That's dangerous! What if he would lose the balance?" The tattoo girl said from beside Ava.

Upon hearing her, Ava's heart started to race. She had no idea about car races. She was afraid that lan would lose his balance.

She prayed inside her heart while watching the cars.

Just as the red car was about to touch the finish line, the black car drove past it and crossed the line first.

Everyone gasped in shock as it was almost impossible because the red car was also very fast in speed at that time.

The whole crowd broke into cheers.

However, lan didn't stop the car or slow down. Instead, he drifted the car in a circle.

Looking at the black car, Ava's eyes grew wide.

"Oh my god!"

"He is so hot even when he is driving!"

"Look at his master skills!"

"Let's go to him!"

The girls rushed toward lan's car and stopped in a distance to give him space to come out.

3/4

130

+25 BONC

lan pressed the brake, causing the tires to screech loudly.

The car stopped, and lan got out of the car.

"Congratulations, lan.

The girls ran up to him.

11

Ava watched him from afar. She was relieved in her heart. Not because he won, but because he was safe and did not lose his balance.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 131[950 words]

131

+25 BONOS

The girls surrounded lan with screaming. They tried to hug him. Through a glare, he pushed them away from him. They took a few steps back, but they did not move away from him because they were aware of his demeanor. He was an arrogant boy, and why would he not be? He would soon become the leader of their pack and their head Alpha.

Ava noticed how girls wanted to get close to lan. She was not pleased with it.

She cast a quick glance at their hands. Every single one of them was wearing black bands. It indicated that they all supported lan, who had a black sports car.

Her gaze shifted away from them, and she took a quick look at her hands. She had nothing on her hands and was not wearing anything. In fact, she did not even have any idea about these car races. Did that mean she could not support him properly?

She glanced over at lan for a moment. A group of young men approached him. They handed him a bundle of money. She recalled that Luke had mentioned that lan had been gambling in car races and making money from it.

She gulped, looking at lan. She was scared of these things.

It was not a good thing. The race was an even more dangerous thing itself.

She was too nervous to go to lan. How would she approach him?

She could see how he was glaring at the boys when they said something to him.

He gave a slight shake of his head, and they walked away from him.

At that moment, lan turned his head, and his eyes locked with hers.

She was about to approach him, but he turned around and headed to another side. It looked like he did not want to see her.

Thinking that he was upset with her, Ava bit the bottom of her lip.

She walked ahead and decided to go talk to him.

While passing the people, she felt very uncomfortable. Every single boy appeared to be lustful, as if they were waiting for the opportunity to take girls with them.

Suddenly she heard loud music playing. She turned her head to get a better look at what was going on over there.

She saw people dancing there while drinking. All of the kids belonged to wealthy families. They were here with their expensive cars.

As Ava was watching them while walking, she lost Ian from her sight.

1/3

131

+25 BONOS

Upon coming to that realization, she paused for a moment. She looked around and could not find Ian.

She felt lonely in the crowd.

'Ian? Where are you?'

With a disheartening look, she walked forward.

"Are you looking for someone?"

Ava turned around and found the tattooed girl. She nodded her head and replied, "Have you seen Ian?"

The girl's brows rose up. "Do you want to meet him personally? Girl, I can tell you are innocent. He is a bad boy. Are you aware of it?"

It was like an alarm from the girl to Ava. As though she wanted to alert her to stay away from

Ian.

"I know him," Ava said.

"He is well-known to everyone. Girls are madly in love with him. But let me tell you. He is dangerous. Do you still want to put yourself in danger despite knowing this? Girls are all here only for him. He always picked one and threw them away the very next day."

Ava inhaled as she was aware of it. But she also knew that Ian had tried to prove his love for

her. He claimed that he loved her.

Now, even though she was afraid of her broken heart, she wanted to give him an opportunity.

Her voice trailed off, "He has changed."

The tattooed girls stared at her for a while then broke into laughter.

"Not bad. A good girl is in love with a bad boy! Well, hi. I am Monica, the organizer of these car races," the girl said, extending her hand to Ava.

Ava shook her hands with her and replied,

"Ava."

Monica looked around and stopped her gaze at a place.

"You can go and sit there if you don't feel good here. Maybe you can find Ian from there."

Upon taking a quick glance at the location, Ava noticed that there were a few empty cars parked there. She thanked Monica and walked toward the cars.

2/3

131

+25 BONOS

She sat on the bonnet of a car while looking at the boys and girls who were enjoying the night.

She wanted to see Ian and talk to him.

When she was busy in her thoughts, she heard a sound beside her.

She turned her head and was stunned.

Ian was there, and he was leaning against the car that was next to hers. He lit a cigarette and closed the lighter.

After taking a long, deep puff, he turned his attention to her.

Moving the cigarette away from his lips, he asked,

"What are you doing here?"

The rhythm of Ava's heartbeat began to quicken. She could not keep eye contact for a long time. Her gaze averted, and she responded,

"I heard from Stephen that you are participating in a car race.'

"So?"

His question sounded so obvious as if she had no connection with it.

Her eyes briefly met his. He was wearing all black. Combined with the black jacket and black boots, the black leather pants exude an air of darkness.

She realized that she had matched with him tonight.

She noticed his eyes were moving from her face and moved down to her dress. She averted her gaze from him, feeling shy.

His eyes were unmoved on her body for a while. It was like he could not just tear his eyes off of her.

He bit the cigarette between his teeth, making his mind distract from her.

After looking away from her, Ian said,

"Go back to your house. This is not the right place for you."

Today's Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 132[991 words]

"I am not here to go back home. I want to enjoy the place," Ava replied, looking at the people.

Ian arched his brows. He did not like what she had just said. However, he decided not to argue with it.

Ava noticed him pulling out his phone.

"What are you doing?" she asked when she caught a glimpse of a contact name.

"Calling your brother to take you back from here."

She frowned at him and asked,

&

"Wait, what? Why would he take me away? I am here by myself."

Ian took a pause. Without looking at her, he started to scroll through the contact number. He found a number and dialed a number.

"I am calling Cyrus to tell your boyfriend to come and take you from here then," he said, taking a glance at her.

Ava froze at his words. "Boyfriend?"

She hurriedly stood straight and went to him. She snatched his phone away from his ear and cut the call.

"No need to call anyone. And what do you mean by boyfriend?"

Ian gave him a cold look and said,

"What did I mean? You know what I am saying. Last night you yourself said that to me."

Ava was stunned. She recalled that she let him think that she would accept Luke. But it was only because she wanted to push him away from her.

Her eyes fell on the cigarette between his fingers.

"Why do you smoke so much?" she mumbled.

He followed her gaze and looked at the cigarette. He scoffed at her and lifted his hand to bring the cigarette closer to his mouth.

Just as the cigarette was about to touch his lips, she grabbed his wrist to stop him.

His eyes darkened as he looked into her
eyes.

Ava swallowed her breath. She was feeling nervous under his dark gaze. His eyes were looking

1/4

132

+25 BONOS

so mad that if gaze could kill anyone, she would have died.

Her hand loosened her grip, and she lowered her head.

"I was just telling you to stop smoking too much," she said in a low tone.

He yanked his hand away from her grip and grabbed his phone from her hand.

She backed away by his actions. She was afraid that she would make him angrier.

"You lost your right over me. Now I also want to keep my distance from you."

Ava was shocked. His cold tone almost broke her heart.

She slowly lifted her head and gazed at him.

"lan..."

"Don't say anything. Why did you come here? To ensure that I also lose this one?"

Her heart shuddered. She shook her head. "No, I came here to-"

"Oh, please. Don't tell me you came here to cheer for me. Or did you come here to show me some sympathy for losing today's match?"

Ava stared at his furious face. She believed she deserved his anger. Because of her foolish condition, he abandoned his dream.

"Why are you quiet now, Ava?"

His calling her name frequently caused her heart to tighten. She realized he did not call her by her name quite a lot. After the rejection, he was the one who always approached her.

"You must be very happy that your boyfriend won, right?" he asked, sneering at her.

"Boyfriend?" she mumbled again.

She did not know why he kept calling Luke her boyfriend. She did not accept Luke. Was he not aware of it? 1

"Yes, your so-called close friend now turned to your sweet boyfriend. I have seen how he proposed to you today."

Ava could feel his chilly tone whenever he mentioned "boyfriend" in his sentence. She remembered that he left the field when Luke proposed to her. He did not see what she had responded to Luke. Her answer was no, which he did not hear. "It's not what you are thinking, Ian," she said, trying to explain to him.

2/4

132

+25 BONOS

However, he did not look interested in her explanation.

"It's okay. I don't need to think about it anymore. I realized last night that you always wanted me to stay away from you. I was the one who always ran after you. Maybe the rejection made me realize my mistake. But I was never in your heart; it was always Luke."

She shook her head. "No, you are- "

Ian cut her off when he noticed her distressed expression.

"Relax. You don't have to be afraid."

&

He took a pause to take a puff of the cigarette. Then he let out the smoke out of

his mouth and continued,

"He is a good guy. You will be happy with him."

Ava noticed he was not looking mad anymore. It hurt her heart.

He should be mad at her for choosing another boy over him if he thought she had chosen Luke.

Ian took a long breath of the smoke and blew the smoke out of his nose.

Then he dropped the cigarette bud and crushed it with his boots.

"You can enjoy the night. I will send someone to drop you home safely. I am leaving," he said without looking at her.

He turned around without giving her one last glance. He was hurt. She could see that clearly.

Her heart kept shaking for hurting him. Even her wolf was angry with her.

When she saw him moving away from her, she said,

"I didn't accept Luke. I rejected his proposal."

Ian's steps halted after hearing her. But he did not turn around.

Tears welled in her eyes when he still did not turn around to see her.

"Ian-"

He interrupted her as he turned his head to the side and said,

"It doesn't matter to me anymore. It's your choice. Your heart never belonged to me anyway."

She heard his cold tone, which shook a little. She knew he loved her, and he had already proved it. She did not want to give him any more punishment.

3/4

132

+25 BONOS

He had already saved her wolf, taking her out of the consequences she was bearing for the rejection. He had already redeemed himself.

Ian started to walk again.

She clenched her fists together and ran after him.

She stopped him by hugging him from behind.

"Don't leave. You were wrong when you said that my heart never belonged to you.

Because the person who was in my heart was always you, Ian."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 133[933 words]

Ian froze when Ava hugged him from behind. But when he heard her words, he was shocked.

Because of what happened last night, he was in a really bad mood. Because he wanted to show her how much he loved her, he even gave up the championship that belonged to him.

He had come to the race to ease his desperate mind, which refused to let go of thinking about her. The only thing he wanted was a distraction.

However, when he noticed Ava during the race, he was confused. When he saw her, he believed he was hallucinating.

He thought he had gone insane. However, he did not realize that she was actually present until he had won the race and had drifted into the car in a circle.

Although he did not approach her, his gaze was constantly focused on her. He did not get very

close to her.

The reason he came to her was to know why she had come there.

When she said to him that she did not accept Luke, he felt something move inside him. But then he thought he could never be the person she would choose for herself.

However, he had never expected that Ava would confess to him like that.

"Ian, I-I am sorry. Today, I witnessed you losing the game that you were supposed to win. I shouldn't have asked you to do something like that."

Ian lowered his head to look at her arms, which were encircling his torso. It looked like her life depended on holding him tightly.

"Ian, please, don't leave."

He grabbed her hands and unwrapped them from his body. He slowly turned around to face

her.

As soon as he made the observation that she was crying, his eyebrows raised. It was impossible for him to see tears in her eyes. It dawned on him that it was his weakness. She was

his weakness.

Looking directly into his eyes, he inquired, "What did you say?"

"I said I saw you lose the game today to prove your love to me."

In response, he shook his head. "Not that. What did you say before that?"

Now that her eyes were locked with his, Ava was unable to control her tears any longer. Tears

1/4

133

+25 BONOS

rolled down her cheeks, and she sobbed.

"T-That night you asked me about the person I was in love with..."

She paused for a moment in order to gather herself. After taking a few deep breaths, she uttered,

"That person was yo-

She could not complete her sentence as Ian grabbed her waist to pull her toward him and smashed his lips on hers.

Her eyes widened in response to the sensation of his lips brushing against hers. Her body began to shift backward and eventually came to press against a car.

Ian moved his hand from her waist to the back of her neck.

Ava shut her eyes as he began to move his lips on hers.

She experienced that sensation again, which was truly electrifying. The rhythm of her heartbeat became as rapid as a marathon. She felt a chill run through her entire body.

She slowly lifted her hands and placed her hands on his waist. She fisted his jacket when he sucked her lower lip.

He tilted his head to deepen the kiss.

He pressed his body against hers, which caused her to open her mouth to gasp.

He pushed his tongue inside and kissed her as if there was no tomorrow.

Ava rested her head against the car and responded to the kiss.

As if her response fueled his feelings from inside, he groaned in the kiss.

Without breaking the kiss, he moved her head to the right to make space and kissed her roughly.

It was not gentle anymore.

It was the hunger he had been feeling for her.

All these times, he thought it was one way, but when he realized that she also loved him, he lost all of his control over himself.

It was a long kiss.

When Ava felt breathless, she patted his arms.

2/4

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+25 BONOS

He broke the kiss and rested his forehead against hers.

Both of them huffed together.

Ava's eyes were closed, but Ian's eyes were open. His gaze was fixed on her. He was looking at

her face.

His eyes were observing her. The way she looked was causing him to lose even more control.

She opened her eyes and locked her gaze with him.

Her open mouth and teary eyes looked fascinating to his eyes.

He stuck out his tongue to run them over his lips. He bit his bottom lip, revealing his mole under his lip.

There was a smile on his lips, which caused Ava to feel lost.

"You know what you said, right? You were not lying to me, right?"

It was as though he was reconfirming what he had heard. He almost could not believe his ears.

Ava's cheeks heated as she looked away from him.

It was their first kiss after her confession to him. It felt so different and blissful that she could never describe it.

"You heard right. I was not lying."

Ian cupped her cheeks and asked,

"How long?"

Ava was confused by his question. She could not understand it.

"Huh?"

Ian caressed his thumbs on her cheeks and said,

"How long have you been in love with me?"

She looked into his eyes and replied,

"B-Before learning about our matebond."

Ian stared at her for a while. There was an emotion of regret visible in his eyes.

"I regret rejecting you. Will you give me a chance to be with you?" He asked her the same question he had asked her last night.

3/4

133

+25 BONOS

His eyes were filled with love for her. It did not go unnoticed by her.

She remembered how she used to be crazy over him. She felt the exact same way again.

She gave him a smile and nodded her head.

"I will. Because I still love you, Ian."

Today's Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 134[959 words]

Ian smiled at Ava. He leaned close to her lips and muttered,

"I love you too."

He was about to kiss her again, but a voice interrupted them.

"I was like how- what the fuck!"

When Ava and Ian turned their heads, they saw Monica standing a little far from them.

"Oh my my!"

Monica moved closer to them and took a close look at them as she approached.

"By looking at her state, I think you are going to bang her tonight," Monica said to Ian while smoking. 2

Ava's eyes grew larger by her words. Ian rolled his eyes and turned to Monica, hiding Ava behind him.

"Stop teasing her. What are you doing here?" Ian asked her.

"Bro, you were literally making out against my car," she said, motioning him to the car where Ava's body was pressed.

As quickly as she could, Ava moved away from the car. With a chuckle, Monica asked,

"She is cute. How long will you keep her with you?"

Ian glared at her and replied,

"Forever."

Monica appeared to be shocked.

During this time, Ava turned her gaze to Ian's back. He was so tall that he was standing in front of her like a shield.

The sound of him saying "forever" caused her heart to leap inside of her chest. "Bro, are you serious?" Monica said, peering at Ava with a shocked face.

Taking Ava's hand, Ian began to walk away from Monica. Monica looked at Ava with a surprised expression on her face as she walked beside her.

It was really tough to believe that Ian Dawson was going to be with a girl forever.

In fact, hearing him say such things sounded so unfamiliar and strange.

1/4

134

+25 BONOS

"What about the next race?" Monica asked.

"I am not sure. Maybe when I will be in a bad mood again. But I don't think that day will come very soon," Ian replied without looking back at her.

Ava blushed, realizing what Ian had meant.

When they had resumed their walk, Ian released his grip on Ava's hand.

People were looking at them with curious glances. Some of them began to talk about how they thought Ava was a fortunate girl to have Ian's attention by her side.

"Steph and your friends are furious with me," Ava said, looking at the ground while walking.

&

"It's okay. They will calm down soon," Ian muttered, walking together with her.

She raised her head to look at his side profile. He was very handsome. She could not stop smiling as she recalled him telling her he loved her.

She glanced at his hand. Her right hand slowly touched his left hand.

As they were passing a less crowded area where no one was looking at them,

Ava lifted her hand and held his arm.

Ian glanced at her hand and then at her face.

She felt embarrassed. She scolded herself for doing that. Did he not like her touch?

But she felt his hand over hers.

Ian placed his hand on hers for a moment, then tucked his hands into his pockets.

Ava moved a little closer to him while walking together.

She felt the cold breeze touching her face. She could feel a muddy smell as if it were going to

rain.

She was liking everything around her. It was as if everything had changed.

She forgot every pain and struggle in her life. There was a weight in her chest from not getting the boy she had loved, but it lifted today, bringing her peace.

"Where are we going?" she asked in a low tone.

"I don't know," he replied with a smile.

He was in a very good mood. Her confession made his anger break and gave him something that he had never thought of. He thought he had lost her, and she was in love with Luke.

2/

134

+25 BONOS

But he was wrong. He could finally prove his love to her.

In his heart, he did not lose today, but he won her heart and got back the person who the moon goddess made his mate.

"Do you want to go for a ride?" he asked, taking a pause.

Ava saw him motioning her to his sports car. She glanced at the car.

She noticed girls were taking pictures with it, and some of them were leaning against it.

So Ava shook her head and replied,

"No."

Ian tried to understand her thought. He assumed she did not like to go for a ride,

so he nodded his head and said,

"It's okay if you don't like to..."

She immediately looked at him and said,

"No, I would love to. But I don't want to go there."

Ian raised a brow and glanced at his car again. He let out a chuckle and asked,

"Are you jealous that they will surround me if I go there?"

Ava looked away and shrugged her shoulders.

"That depends on you. If you won't let them come close to you, then you would not dare."

She felt him putting his hand on her head. "Not bad, Nerd. You know how to push people away then."

She glanced at him. But the next moment she took a step back. Because he leaned down to her level and said,

"Take it as a warning or an alarm. If any boy will dare to touch you again, I will beat him to death. So don't let them get close to you."

For once, she saw the very serious face of Ian Dawson. However, seeing her frightening face, the next moment he grinned and winked at her.

"You should know your lover doesn't like it."

Her heart skipped a beat when he called himself her lover.

She stared at him with lost eyes. Her heart began to beat faster.

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+25 BONOS

He tilted his head. She closed her eyes when his nose brushed against her cheek. His lips touched her ear, which caused her to let out a shaky breath. He kissed her earlobe and whispered in her ear,

"If you keep looking at me like that, I swear I will not be able to control myself tonight."

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**Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 135[
1,022 words]**

135

+25 BONOS

Ava gulped when she heard him. She blushed hard. She took a deep breath and opened her eyes. She lifted her hand to touch his arm and pushed him lightly.

Ian was stunned. He thought he did something that she did not like.

"What happened?" He asked, cupping her cheek..

His eyes were curious and worried. It was like he was afraid that she would turn her back to

him.

He had finally gotten her; he did not want to lose her again.

She looked into his eyes and said,

"C-Can we start everything slowly?"

For a moment, Ian was confused. But then he realized what she meant.

For Ian, having sex or making out was nothing. It was just part of his daily routine with different girls. Whenever he needed to satisfy his desire, he chose a girl to do that. He never forced a girl to do something. Girls always wanted to be with him, despite the fact that they knew his intentions were only for one night.

But in his eyes, Ava was totally different from them.

She was someone he wanted to be with. She was the one for whom he backed away from sleeping with other girls. He had also abandoned his desire for her.

So if that girl asked him to be slow with her, it was nothing for him. If he could be patient with her till now, he would do that in the future too.

Ian examined her nervous face. He stood straight and removed his hand from her cheek.

"Okay, we will take the moves slowly."

His words made her smile at him. "Thank you for understanding me."

Ian grabbed her hand and started to walk in a direction.

Ava noticed that they were going toward his car. She wanted to stop him but then she stopped herself from doing so.

People around them looked at them with curious eyes.

Ian came to a halt in front of his car door. He took out his remote keys and pressed them to unlock the car.

1/4

135

+25 BONOS

As soon as the car's headlights lit up and the car made a loud sound, the girls who were sitting on the hood and trunk hurriedly came down.

"Move," Ian said to them.

When they backed away, Ian opened the door for Ava and motioned for her to sit inside.

Ava noticed others' shocked faces.

"He had never let any girl sit in his sports car!"

"That car is just like his baby!"

"What's going on?"

"Isn't she just a fan girl like others?"

"How could she manage to persuade him to let her sit inside?"

Whispers broke out from the girls. Ava was also shocked, learning that she was the first girl whom Ian offered to enter his sports car.

She got inside the car, and Ian closed the door. He came to the driver's seat.

He suddenly moved closer to her, causing her to hitch her breath.

He smiled at her softly. "Don't worry. I am just fastening the belt, baby."

She heard him then a sound of a click.

People outside the car were looking at them with wide eyes. They could see what was going on inside with the open window.

Ian backed away and started the car.

Ava glanced at the jealous faces of the girls. She rolled her eyes at them and thought,

'He is my man. You all should stop looking at him like he is some food and you want to taste him, huh!' she thought in her head.

The cold breeze touched her face as the car moved faster.

"Long or short drive?" Ian asked, glancing at her.

She liked it that her opinion mattered to him. He was showing her a new Ian who became soft and gentle.

"Lo-"

2/4

135

+25 BONOS

Ava was interrupted by a ringtone. She pulled out her phone from her bag and saw her brother's number.

"Oh, shit!"

"What happened?"

Ava gulped, looking at the screen, then said,

"It's Stephen!"

"Receive the call; what's wrong?" Ian asked while driving.

"No, no. I can't receive it. He will scold me."

"What? But why?"

Ava was silent. Ian's brows shot up. "Wait a minute. Don't tell me you didn't let him know that you were coming to the car race.

She bit her bottom lip and lowered her head.

"I didn't tell him. He told me not to approach you today since you are in the race," she tried to explain.

Ian let out a sigh, then said,

"Baby, it was a dangerous place, you know. You shouldn't have gone there without notifying anyone. But it's okay. You are not a kid that you need to tell him before leaving your house. I will go with you if you want to go there again."

Ava blushed upon hearing him. She looked at her phone again, which began to ring after a brief pause.

"He must be worried," she mumbled.

"Receive the call and put it on the loudspeaker. I will talk to him."

She did what he had told her.

As soon as she received the call, Stephen's angry voice roared throughout the car.

"AVA, WHERE ARE YOU?"

Ava cleared her throat and replied,

"B-Brother, I"

"Do you know how worried I was? When did you become so careless?"

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+25 BONOS

"I am so sorry, Brother. I will not do it again."

"No, your sorry won't work. I told you not to-"

Ian cut Stephen off as he spoke out,

"Will you just shut up? She said sorry, didn't she? Now will you take her life away for going out of the house?"

Stephen was quiet for a moment. He exhaled and asked,

"So she is with you?"

"Hmm," Ian replied.

"Take her back home."

"Why?"

"What do you mean by why?"

"Bro, I just want to take her for a long drive," Ian said, glancing at Ava.

She turned away from him, looking outside the window. She was hearing the conversation of both of the boys.

"Long drive at this time? No, no. Mom and Dad will kill me. They said I have to be at home to protect her. So she must be at home too. Otherwise, whom will I protect?"

"Will you argue with your Alpha?" Ian asked with a deep tone.

Ava glanced at him to see if Ian got mad. But she found him calm.

"Right now, I am not your soon-to-be Gamma but her brother. So get her back home as soon as possible, bye." 1

Stephen cut the phone. Ian shook his head and muttered,

"Your brother is very strict when it comes to you."

Today's Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 136[975 words]

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Ava could not disagree with Ian. Indeed, her brother was very protective of her.

"Yes, he is the best brother. I am very lucky to have him in thy life."

Ian raised a brow and gazed at her.

"Yeah, that's true. But what about the restrictions he is going to place in front of our path?"

"Our path?" she asked with a confused look.

Ian sighed and turned his head back to the road. His eyes were focused on the road. His lip curved a little.

"Baby, you are really innocent. I am worried that I will ruin your innocence."

Ava's cheeks flushed when she heard him. She looked away from him.

The fresh wind touched her face, making her feel refreshed.

She could not believe that everything was starting to get better.

The sky was cloudy. The smell of the ground was giving an indication that it was going to rain soon.

Ava raised her gaze and looked at the beautiful sky. Even though it was nighttime, the white clouds were visible. The black clouds were slowly moving to hide the white clouds.

Ava was busy with the beauty of nature.

"Don't worry. I will send you home before the rain."

She heard Ian's assured voice, which caused her to move her gaze away from the sky.

She looked at him and fixed her gaze at him for a long time. Her eyes were observing his handsome features.

Her gaze slowly moved to his tattooed hands. His jacket was hiding his new tattoo.

She took a deep breath and asked,

"Can I ask you something?"

"Anything."

He sounded so serene and collected. It was as if he turned into someone else, someone who was very good in attitude and manners.

"Your new tattoo... I want to know the meaning behind it."

She noticed him glancing at his hand. He nodded his head and replied,

"Sure. When we arrive at your house, I will tell you."

Ava's lips broke into a smile. "Okay."

Later, during the whole ride, there was a sweet silence throughout the car.

When they arrived at Ava's house, Ian stopped the car.

He got out of the car and came to open the door for Ava.

Ava blushed when he extended his hand in front of her. She placed her hand on his and stepped out of the car. He

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closed the door and leaned against it without letting go of her hand.

She also did not try to remove her hand from his grip. She lowered her head and

stood near him. "Do you know how hot you look today?"

Her heart started to beat faster. Her cheeks turned reddened

She blinked her eyes and assumed her cheeks looked like tomatoes because they were heated.

Ian let go of her hand and lifted it. He held her chin and lifted it to make her look at him.

Her eyes locked with his. He stared into her eyes and said,

"Remember when I told you that I would like it if you dressed up for me?"

:

She remembered the night when she went out with Luke, and later she had to go

with Ian for Stephen. That night, he had told her about it.

"Do you know that every time I see you, my heart only says one thing?"

She gulped and asked,

"W-What?"

He smirked at her and leaned down to her face. His mouth moved to her ear, and he whispered,

"Mine."

She closed her eyes. The way he said "mine," it was quite attractive.

"You said you would tell me about your tattoo," she reminded him.

He moved back and uttered,

"I see, you are quite interested in tattoos."

She shook her head and replied quickly,

"No, it's not like that. I don't really like tattoos."

His one eyebrow shot up. "So you mean you don't like my tattoos?"

After saying that, he glanced at his hands.

"I never said that," she replied.

"Oh, yes. You were implying that you dislike me because I have tattoos. Basically, you don't like me at all." Her eyes widened. When did she say that? She scolded herself for saying what caused a misunderstanding.

"No, I really like you. In fact, I lov-"

She paused in the middle when Ian broke into laughter.

"You are so cute," he said while laughing.

Her eyes moved to his lips. The way he smiled was very charming.

Suddenly they heard a sound of thunder.

She flinched and immediately hugged him.

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+79 BOS

He stopped laughing when her body touched his. He lowered his head and looked at her.

His hands moved to wrap his arms around her waist.

Her eyes were shut tight.

There was a cold breeze that began to flow. She embraced in tightly.

Putting his chin on her head, he questioned, "Are you afraid of thunder?"

She opened her eyes and realized that they were really close to each other. There was no distance between them.

Her breasts were pressed against his hard chest, and his strong arms were tightly encircling around her waist.

She tried to move, but he tightened his grip.

She raised his head to look at him. He lowered his head.

Their noses brushed against each other. He tilted his head and moved closer to her lips.

She closed her eyes once again.

The moment his lips touched hers, she tightened her fists against his shirt.

It was a short kiss for a moment.

He loosened his grip around her waist and said,

"The tattoo symbolizes pain, the pain of being separated from your love."

Ava was taken aback. She stared at him for a while. He did not break eye contact until he let out a deep breath and kissed her forehead.

"I was really upset when you were away from me. I almost lost hope and felt like I was losing myself. I really love you, Ava."

Her heart was jolted by his confession. She felt that he never stopped himself from confessing his love for her.

"AVA?"

They could hear a voice calling her from behind. Ava turned her head to see her brother approaching them.

She pushed Ian and stepped back. She blushed, thinking that his brother had seen them like that.

She looked at lan, who was smiling at her, and said in a low voice,

"G-Good night, bye."

137

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 137[1,020 words]

137

"Have a good night," lan said with a soft tone.

Ava lowered her head and made her way to the front door of her house.

In the middle of the way, she stopped beside Stephen.

Stephen's steps came to a halt as he looked at Ava.

She gave her a pleading look.

"I am sorry, Steph. I know you care about me. You must be really worried. But..."

She paused and turned her head to glance at lan, who was leaning against his car.

She returned her gaze back to Stephen and continued,

"I had to go to him. It was really important."

Stephen stared at her for a while. Then he let out a sigh and nodded at her.

"I hope you have solved everything."

She smiled at him and nodded her head in response.

Stephen patted her head and said,

"I am happy that you are safe. Though when I heard his voice on the phone, I was relaxed. No one can hurt you when he himself is with you."

Ava looked away from him and agreed with his words. Ian was the future Alpha of this pack. So he was the safest person in the whole pack.

After talking with her brother, Ava walked past him and headed to the house again.

When Stephen saw her go inside the house, he turned to Ian.

Ian's eyes were fixed on the front door of the house. Stephen walked toward him and said, "She's gone."

Ian let out a chuckle and shook his head. "No, she's not gone. I finally entered her heart. Or maybe I was always there."

Stephen's brows shot up as he stared at Ian's good mood.

"Bro, we lost the championship. Have you forgotten that?"

Ian's brows arched. He turned to him and asked,

"You don't like seeing me happy, do you?"

"No, that's not the case. But how can you be so relaxed? Because of you, we lost the game."

Ian rubbed the back of his neck and muttered,

"I just tried to prove my love, you know."

"By wasting our so many years of hard work?"

1/3

137

Ian really felt guilty inside. Not because of himself but for his friends.

"I am really sorry, Steph. I know what I did was wrong. I did something really selfish. This is not what a captain or leader should do. I don't know what has gotten over me. At the time, all I wanted was to grant her wish, even if it meant losing in front of someone else."

Stephen raised his hand and put it on Ian's shoulder. "I think you should talk to others as well. You know the situation. Their anger is valid."

Ian gave him a nod, assuring that he would talk to others.

"What about her?" Stephen asked while motioning his head to the house.

Ian got that he was talking about Ava. He smirked while gazing at the front door.

"She loves me."

"Did she say that to you?"

"Hmm."

Stephen was surprised. He thought Ava went to Ian to apologize. He could not believe that his little sister had finally gotten some brain and confessed to the right man who deserved her.

"That's why you look thrilled."

"Yeah, bro."

Ian talked to Stephen for a while then got inside his car to head to the pack house.

While he was driving, his mind kept replaying the kiss between him and Ava.

Her voice was screaming in his head, telling him that she loved him.

Since he was in a great mood, he turned the wheels and went for a long drive. He was thinking about how slowly he should take steps with her.

After the long drive and refreshed mood, he went to the pack house.

When he entered the pack house, he noticed his parents were sitting in the living room, just like other days.

He slowed down his steps while looking at them.

His mother, Carolina, stood up and walked toward him.

"Ian."

She approached him and held his hand. "My son, where were you? We were so worried. Why did you turn off your phone?",

Ian realized that he had switched off his phone after leaving the campus.

"I am okay, Mom," he replied.

He glanced at his father, who was staring at him with a gloomy mood.

"Mom, I am going to my room."

As he took a step forward, his father, Alpha Martin, got up from the couch.

"You can't do one thing right. I wonder how you will run this pack."

2/3

137

Ian froze in the state. He lowered his head while listening to his father.

Alpha Martin came toward him and stopped in front of him. He grabbed Ian's jaw lightly and lifted it up. Observing his face, he asked,

"Why are you avoiding my gaze? You don't look like this at other times. Are you afraid of facing humiliations?"

Ian remained silent. He looked into his father's eyes calmly

"You could not even win a basketball championship. How would you win a pack during a war?"

His father's words stung his heart. He looked away from his father and muttered,

"Time will tell."

His father released his jaw and sneered at him.

"Young people's blood is very hot. But your achievements rather than your lofty rhetoric-justify your actual ability. Today, you lost it."

Luna Carolina grabbed her husband's hand and said,

"Martin-"

Alpha Martin glared at her to cut her off. Ian noticed it and closed his eyes tightly

in anger.

He would have to bear his father's insults now, which he disliked the most. He shrugged his shoulders and said,

"What does my basketball match do with you? You didn't come to watch it anyway."

Alpha Martin frowned at him. "You wanted me to come and watch your match? What did you plan to make me feel? Embarrassment from others' parents whose sons won the match?"

Ian stared at his father. Luna Carolina looked at them and shook her head.

"You both calm down. And Martin, please. Let our son take his time. He must be very upset."

Alpha Martin raised a brow. "Upset? He doesn't look upset at all. It seems he came back after wasting himself somewhere."

Ian walked past him, ignoring his bitter words. Alpha Martin spoke out again from behind.

"You are good for nothing. So now nothing will go with your choice. I have chosen a girl for you. You will have to meet her tom-"

Ian turned around and looked at his father, interrupting him.

"Neither of you should be concerned. Because I have found my Luna." 1

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 139[956 words]

139

Ava was surprised to hear Stephen.

Seeing her surprised look, Ian cleared his throat.

"It looks like your sister doesn't like it."

A chuckle came out of Ronald's mouth, and he muttered,

"Maybe he doesn't want you to stay here."

Ian raised a brow while looking at Ava and asked, "Is that se?"

After giving Ian a quick glance, Ava immediately shook her head. "No, no. I didn't mean anything like that."

The corners of Ian's mouth turned up in a smirk. He looked into Ava's eyes, giving her a look that made her feel shy.

She averted her gaze from him as she blushed.

Stephen noticed them and said, "If you don't want it, I can throw them out, Ava. What's your say?"

"You can do what?"

The question was asked by Cyrus in a shocked tone.

Paul laughed and said, "She is your sister. Who do you want to impress now?"

After giving them a look that told them to be quiet, Stephen turned his attention to Ava. "Are you fine with it? If you don't then-"

"No, Steph. I don't have any problem with it."

Ronald nodded his head and murmured, "Of course, you would be fine."

It caused Ava's cheeks to flush. Ian was silent, but she could feel his gaze on her.

She ignored Ian's friends' remarks, which were for teasing him, and went upstairs to her room.

The moment she arrived at her bedroom and closed the door, she leaned against the door and let out a long breath. There was a smile on her face. She bit her lower lip in an effort to suppress her smile.

'So he is going to stay here for a while?' she murmured.

She could not believe they would live under the same roof.

Her heart was filled with the same craziness that she had felt for him in the past. She yearned to spend more time with him and admire him. There was a hidden desire in her heart to be by his side always.

She refreshed and changed her dress. She wore comfortable baggy clothes since she was in her house.

When she was combing her hair while thinking about Ian, someone knocked on the door.

"Young Miss, come downstairs to have dinner. Young master is calling you."

She heard a maid's voice.

She shouted as she looked at herself in the mirror.

1/3

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"I am coming."

She took one last look at herself before leaving her room.

Descending downstairs, she tried to look for everyone. When she walked toward the dining table, she saw everyone except lan were there.

After making her way to the table in a leisurely manner, she took a seat close to Stephen.

He smiled at her and said,

"Let's eat."

Ava glanced around. Her gaze was trying to look for the boy she wanted to see all the time.

'Where is he?' she thought.

Ronald gazed at Ava, which she noticed, and lowered her head...

"Don't be shy, dear. We are all lan's friends, including your newly found brother."

Ava looked at Ronald and said, "No, I was just..."

She paused when lan entered the dining area while holding his phone near his ear.

"I will talk to you later, Mom."

He hung up his phone and looked at the people sitting at the table.

Ava saw him gazing at her. She heard Stephen's voice.

"My sister was looking for you."

Everyone laughed while Ava was thinking about how to hide her face.

lan took the chair across from Ava and sat down.

"That's good. She should always be looking for me," Ian replied, smirking at her.

Ava felt that she was trapped among these bad boys. They would not let her live the next few days without teasing her.

She thought to apologize to them for what she had done. She cleared her throat and said,

"I am sorry, everyone. Because of my foolishness, you all had to lose the game. I am feeling guilty about it. I don't know if you can forgive me, but please accept my apology.

Her calm tone indicated to them that she was really upset about everything. Everyone turned silent after her apology. Ava glanced at everyone, thinking that she had brought up the topic and it wasted their good mood.

However, when her eyes locked with Ian's, he gave her an assuring look.

"It's okay. Let bygones be bygones. Everyone knows we are the real winners, anyway," Ronald said, shrugging his shoulders,

The others nodded their heads in agreement. Ava let out a deep breath, feeling relieved.

The whole time, she avoided Ian's gaze in shyness. She felt his eyes were on her all the time

2/3

28 BONUS

139

"Let her eat, bro. You look like you will eat her alive right now," Paul said to Ian. Hearing that, Ava stopped chewing her food. She felt the food stuck in her throat, and she started to cough.

Ian stood up before anyone could do that. He walked around the table and stood behind her chair.

Ian reached for a jug and poured a glass of water for her. As he lowered himself, he put the glass on the table, closer to her.

"Drink," he said in a low tone close to her ear.

Ava's cheeks turned red, and she quickly grabbed the glass, she chugged down

the whole glass of water and took a few deep breaths to calm her throat.

Ian turned his head to look at her face. The tip of his nose came dangerously close to making contact with her cheek.

Everyone at the table looked at them in awe.

"Bro, are you going to... We are here just to let you know," Cyrus uttered. 1

Ava gulped as she froze in her state. If she were to turn her face ever so slightly, it would come into contact with his.

"T-Thank you," she mumbled.

A grin ran across Ian's face as he looked at her. It was as if he was enjoying it.

"Don't mind them. You should not react to their words. Whenever I am with you, you should consider everyone to be invisible."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 140[972 words]

140

Ava lowered her head. It caused his nose to brush against her cheek. She felt shiver, but she did not react in front of others.

The situation was something she could not react to.

She was feeling embarrassed. She scolded Jan in her head for coming this close and made her feel like this in front of others.

Ian let out a chuckle and moved away from her. He stood up straight and put his hand on her head.

She felt him patting her head.

"Now eat calmly. If any of them tease you again, I will beat him, okay?".

Ava did not know what to say or react. He sounded caring and concerned.

He removed his hand from her head and walked back to his chair.

"Such a caring man you got!" Stephen muttered to Ava while shaking his head.

Ava did not know if she had gotten a new disease because her cheeks had been getting heated frequently recently.

How could she blush all the time?

2 ose

Ava finished her food hurriedly and rose up from her chair.

Before leaving the table, she glanced at others and said,

"Goodnight, guys."

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Everyone said goodnight to her except Ian. He was looking at her while sitting on his chair.

She took a quick glance at him before rushing upstairs.

While heading to her room, she heard Ronald's loud voice from downstairs.

"Eat something, dude. You look like a fool in love who doesn't know anything except staring at his woman."

Ava chewed her lower lip and rushed to her bedroom.

She fell on her bed and looked at the ceiling with a bright smile.

"This boy is killing me," she mumbled to herself.

She twisted on the bed and covered her face with her palms

For her, everything changed drastically. Before last night, she was trying to avoid all the feelings she had for him. But after confessing to each other, she started to feel shy in front of him. She became soft again, just like before.

However, that did not mean she lost her self-confidence. She was strict from the start. She would not give in so easily, even if they had confessed to each other. She would take time to learn him and understand his lifestyle.

She wanted to be in a relationship that would be long-lasting. She wanted to be with him forever.

Since they were no longer mates, she was afraid to step faster.

She sat up and reached out to her bag. She pulled out her phone.

She went to her friends' Messenger group. Her smile faded when she realized that Luke was in the group.

1/3

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25 BONUS

She stared at Luke's name for a while.

She remembered how he got mad at her. But what she did with Luke was also bad. She should not have asked him to date. Though she apologized to him yesterday, she thought as a friend, she should talk to him again.

It was midnight.

Ava was still awake.

There were so many things roaming in her mind.

She had been using her phone for a long time. So she was feeling sleepy.

As she was about to close her eyes to go to dreamland, she heard a knock on her door.

Her eyes widened. She sat up on the bed and looked at her door,,

She heard another knock.

She thought it was one of the maids, so she got out of bed and said,

"Coming."

She went to open the locked door with a yawn.

However, as soon as she opened the door, her mouth remained open as she froze.

Ian was standing outside the door.

He was in casual clothes. He was wearing black sweatpants and a loose black t- shirt.

With a wide open mouth, she shifted her gaze to his clothing.

Even with casual clothes, he looked hot.

Ian chuckled and moved closer to her. He placed a finger under her chin and closed her mouth.

She immediately moved back and pursed her lips.

After composing herself, she said,

"Y-You!"

"You don't like to see me?" he asked, folding his arms against his chest.

Ava glanced at his biceps, which bulged because of the folding arms.

"I-I mean..."

She paused, not knowing what to reply.

"I was feeling bored. Everyone was asleep. So I thought, Why not go to see my nerd?"

She lifted her gaze, and their eyes met.

She saw his eyes slowly move down to her body.

That time she realized that she was in her pajamas. She changed out of her baggy clothes and into pajama shorts an hour ago.

2/3

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She saw Ian's eyes move to her legs. His gaze almost made her rub her legs against each other.

He drew his lower lip between his teeth. She gazed at his mole, which was located in the middle under his bottom lip.

She looked away from him and said,

"I-Ian-"

He interrupted her and asked,

"Do you know how difficult it is for me to live under the same roof as you but in a

different room?"

She looked at him again. His eyes were back to hers.

His eyes were digging on hers, making her feel like hiding herself.

He took a step slowly, causing her to step back.

She thought he had come to stay the night with her.

She kept stepping back. He also did not stop moving forward.

Her back almost touched the wall behind her when he grabbed her hand and pulled her to him.

Her body pressed against his. She gasped and looked at him with wide eyes.

He leaned in close to her face. She closed her eyes, thinking that he was going to kiss her.

But instead of kissing her, he moved his mouth to her ear and whispered,

"I remember about the slow step thing. So don't worry, my Nerd."

She opened her eyes. But she had to close them again because his scent was so appealing that she almost sniffed his neck.

He moved his head back to look at her closed eyes.

"Open your eyes," he said with a commanding tone.

She immediately opened her eyes, as if her wolf had submitted to him.

"Will you go on a coffee date with me?"

She was dumbfounded.

"N-Now?"

He smiled at her and nodded his head.

"Yeah, right now."

Don't Leave Me, Mate

Oh Really 141[944 words]

141

Ava blinked her eyes to understand what Tan meant to say.

'Coffee date? Right now? Where?' she thought.

She had no idea where Tan would take her. She remembered last night Stephen saying to her that she should not stay out the night before their parents' return. It was only because of her safety.

Ava gave it a thought. She made up her mind and thought about going out with Ian.

"Then let me change my clothes."

"No, need."

"What?"

Ian grabbed her and started to pull her out of her room.

She closed the door behind her and followed the way that he was leading.

While walking with him, she glanced at his tattooed hands,

Her gaze went back to his face. His hair cut was giving him such an attractive look. His fair neck was even more appealing.

'What are you doing, Ava?' she asked herself and looked away from him.

She shook her head and said,

"Control yourself."

Ian paused walking and turned to her.

"When did I lose control?" he asked her.

Her eyes widened as she realized she had said it out loud. She almost slapped

herself. She shook her head and replied hurriedly,

"No, no. I... Don't mind me. Where are we going?"

Ian started to walk again. "You will see soon."

Ava noticed that he brought her to the staircase from where they could go to the rooftop.

"Isn't the rooftop always closed?" She asked with a shocked look.

Ian smirked and replied,

"For me, everything is open."

He brought her to the rooftop and uttered,

"Now look."

Ava stepped onto the roof and turned her head to see what he was talking about.

But she let out a loud gasp.

"T-This!"

1/3

2141

"This is only for my nerd, fan replied, releasing her hand,

Ava could not believe her eyes. Ian had made the rooftop in a beautifully decorated place.

She could see dim yellow lights in the trees. In the center of the roof, there was a round table that was white in color, and there were two chairs that were also white.

A kettle and two coffee mugs were placed on the table. She could see a small pot containing sugar and a silver teaspoon.

She could not help but mumble,

"So beautiful!"

She felt Ian leaning behind her. He leaned down to her ear and whispered,

"Not more than you."

She turned around, only to find her face closer to her own.

Her breath hitched. Her heart almost stopped beating.

She saw love in his eyes for her.

She felt emotional that he made such an effort for her. He cared for her.

She did not think much and wrapped her hands around her neck.

She hugged his neck and said,

"Thanks, Ian."

Ian's arms wrapped around her waist, removing the distance between them.

She gulped when he stood straight, causing her legs to hang in the air. She tightened her grip around his neck, realizing how tall he was.

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He moved his hands from her waist to her bare thighs. She felt a shiver run through her entire body.

He grabbed her thighs and wrapped them around his waist before returning his hands to her waist.

She glanced at the ground and realized that she was hugging his body like a Koala.

Her cheeks reddened in embarrassment.

She moved her head from his neck and looked at him.

While holding her waist, he walked back to the roof's door and closed it.

She stared at his face while he was walking. He gazed at her and said,

"I love it when you blush. It should be only for me."

His voice was calm yet demanding. It was as if he were declaring his possession. She nodded her head shyly.

She hissed when his hands moved to her thighs and he ran his hands on them.

He moved to the table while murmuring,

2/3

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"If you keep wearing these types of night dresses, I don't know when I will part your legs to hunt what's between them."

Her legs tightened around his waist. Her heart started to beat faster after hearing his words.

He came to a halt in front of the table and bent down to sit her in a chair.

She sat on the chair without moving her gaze away from hi

He went in another direction. She furrowed her brows, not knowing where he was going.

He stopped in front of a wall where a small bouquet of red roses was placed on a white stool beside the stand lamp..

Her eyes lit up when he turned around and approached her

He gave the small bouquet to her and said,

"This is for my beautiful nerd."

She blushed and accepted it. He took the chair across from Her and sat down.

He brewed coffee in both of the mugs.

"You made coffee?" she asked, smelling the perfect aroma.

"Only for you," he replied with a grin.

Ava did not know how to smile more. Ian was doing something she had never thought of.

Who would have thought that Ian Dawson would plan for a midnight coffee date on the rooftop for her?

When he moved the coffee mug toward her, he said,

"I can't guarantee how it tastes. Because I have never made coffee for others

before."

Ava grabbed the handle of the mug and looked at the coffee. She took a small whiff of it and then tasted it. When she took a sip of the most delicious coffee she had ever had, her eyes widened in surprise.

"Wow!"

Ian looked impressed by her expression. "I am happy you like it."

"Like it? I loved it."

Ian smirked at her and murmured,

"And I love you."

Hearing him, she could no longer keep eye contact with him. She covered her face with her hands and said, "Ian, stop making me feel like this."

He laughed while looking at her. As if he thought her reaction was cute, he leaned his chin against his palm and stared at her intently.

"That night, if you had told me to burn down the entire world, I would have done it for you. Do you know that?"

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 142[990 words]

3/3

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Ava heard him and slowly moved her hands away from her face. She saw him looking directly into her eyes.

She gathered all her courage and asked,

"Ian, do you love me this much? Will we always stay together like this?"

He glanced at her hands and reached out to touch one. He held her hand and gazed at her.

"I will always be beside you. But....."

Ava was startled.

"But?"

His eyes darkened, causing Ava to be taken aback. She couldn't understand his sudden change.

"But what?" she asked again.

Ian's gaze shifted to her hand. He caressed the back of her hand with his thumb and muttered,

"Never think about cheating on me."

Ava froze upon hearing him.

Cheating on him? Why would she cheat on him? Wasn't she supposed to be the one telling him that? He was the bad boy of the campus who used to be with girls, so she should be the one asking him not to do it.

However, she realized that, just like her, he was also insecure deep down. Because he had been waiting for her for a long time. He had told her how he saved his heart for his mate. Though he rejected her, his heart still belonged

to her.

She smiled at him.

A man only feels insecure when he is in love.

"I will never cheat on you. I promise, Ian."

Ian lifted her hand and brought it close to his mouth. He kissed the back of her hand while looking at her.

"I believe you won't. I promise, from my side, I will never let you complain. I am all yours."

The two people talked under the open sky for a long time. They tried to know each other and their likings.

Ian made her blush every single time. He showed her that he did not have any ego against her. He liked to express his love whenever he got the chance.

The night was long.

After a few hours, they decided to go back to their rooms.

Ava stood up from the chair and sniffed the fresh air. The cold breezes touched her body, giving her chills.

She was surprised that she was so engrossed in the conversations with Ian that she could not even feel that cold before.

However, now, when it was time to leave, she was feeling cold.

Ian walked her to her room.

1/4

142

She opened the door and went inside. Ian stood outside.

She gazed at him, holding the doorknob.

"Goodnight, Ian," she said.

He furrowed his brows. "Where is my goodnight kiss, nerd

"G-Goodnight kiss?"

She realized that he liked to call her nerd. So she let him be. She did not stop him.

Today she realized that he was not an easy-going person to understand. Sometimes he was soft, sometimes he was demanding, and sometimes he was dominant. But with his every look, she had seen love and care for her.

She knew he was an Alpha. His blood could not let him stay calm all the time. He

was a short-tempered boy. But he had great control over himself too.

When Ian moved toward her, she gripped the doorknob tightly.

He bent down to her level and asked,

"Don't I deserve a goodnight kiss?"

She observed his face, seeing how desperate he was to get close to her.

He moved closer, almost touching her lips with his. But she placed her fingers on his mouth to stop him.

He closed his eyes and kissed her fingers.

She was stunned. She immediately removed her fingers and said,

"No kiss."

He opened his eyes and asked,

"Are you trying to play with my patience? I am not very good at it, by the way."

Ava moved toward him, getting too close to him.

"I know you. You won't lose your control."

She wrapped her hands around his torso and pressed her head against his chest.

"Goodnight, Ian."

Ian let out a sigh and rested his chin on the tip of her head.

"Goodnight. Love you, baby."

When she broke the hug, he moved back.

Ian stepped back while looking at her. After waving at her, he turned around and left.

Ava stared at his back until he disappeared from her sight.

"I love you, too," she mumbled while closing the door.

Her happiness had no bound today. She did not know how everything had turned out like this, but she thanked the moon goddess for returning her destiny to her.

Ava woke up a little late in the morning. It was because of last night. She slept late since she was with fan on their coffee date.

Ava took a quick shower and dressed in a blue dress. She quickly put on a pair of sneakers and left the room.

She hurriedly descended the stairs.

The maids who were working there looked at her with a surprised look.

"Miss, slowly. You will fall down," one of them said.

"No, I am getting late for my classes," she said.

"What about your breakfast?"

"Where is everyone!"

"They left early in the morning. But-"

She did not wait for the maid to end her sentence as she rushed toward the front door.

"Okay, okay. I am leaving."

She did not continue the conversation.

However, she paused when she heard a deep voice from behind.

"Where are you going?"

She was stunned. It was lan's voice.

She slowly turned around and noticed he was sitting on the couch.

Her brows shot up. Didn't the maid say everyone left?

"lan? You were there? How could I not notice?" she mumbled.

The maids sighed and said,

"Master lan was waiting for you for a long time. I was about to say that to you, Miss. But you didn't listen to me.'

Ava blinked her eyes, scratching her head. She gave the maid a small smile.

"Oh, okay."

She turned her gaze to Ian once again.

He was seated on the couch, directing his gaze towards her. One of his legs was crossed over the other. He looked like a charming prince. His dark attire always exuded an air of authority.

Ian got up from the couch and walked toward her.

She turned around when he did not stop but walked past her. He walked out of the house, and at that time she noticed his bike outside.

She followed him behind quietly.

He got on his bike and signaled her to get on it.

3/4

"Let's go."

He

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 143[975 words]

Ava put her hand on his shoulder and got on the bike.

Ian grabbed her hands and pulled her closer. He then wrapped her hands around his chest and turned his head at her.

"I am your man. Hold me tight."

His voice was deep. His gaze was intense. She bit her bottom lip and nodded her head at him.

He smirked at her and turned back to the road.

After putting on his helmet, he started the bike.

She glanced at the black helmet. She recalled that when he had offered her his helmet, she refused it. So he had thrown his helmet on the road.

'Did he buy a new one?' she thought, examining it.

She gasped when her body pressed against his back while the bike moved on the speed breaker.

"Told you to hold me tight," he reminded her.

She exhaled and shook her head.

'Did he do that intentionally?' she thought and smiled.

She held him tightly despite the fact that her chest was pressed against his back.

She rested her head against his shoulder and enjoyed the ride.

When they arrived at the university, she sat up straight. His bike came to a halt. She got down from the bike and said,

"Thanks."

Everyone around them stopped what they were doing. Their gazes fixed on Ian and Ava.

When Ian took off his helmet, a few girls screamed as if he were their favorite hero and they were his fangirls.

Ava ignored them. She knew if she wanted to be with the future Alpha of this pack, who was really hot and handsome, she would have to bear all of this.

Ian looked at her and said,

"No need to thank me. Make it your habit. Because from now on, I will be around you most of the time."

Ava blushed and turned away.

"See you later," she said and started to walk.

She could hear Ian's chuckle from behind.

While passing the boys and girls, she noticed their shocked faces.

They could not believe their eyes. Though Ian had declared that his eyes were on

her, they thought she v Luke, and lan might have lost his interest in her.

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"When she rejected Luke's proposal in front of everyone, they thought she had some guts. But who thought she was always after our lan?"

1/3

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Ava heard a girl's voice. The blush on her face faded.

She stopped her steps and turned to look at the girl who had just spoken.

She approached her and asked,

"Excuse me? Did you just say something?"

The girl folded her arms and nodded at Ava.

"Yeah. I said you have eyes on our Alpha."

Ava stared at the girl but then smiled at her and said,

"You are so right. I am after your Alpha."

The girl was taken aback by her response.

Ava looked confident. She glanced at the other girls and said,

"Not just that. Let me tell you guys something. I have been after him for a very

long time. So don't try to become my competition. Because you can't compare my love with your fangirly things.'

"Love? Every girl loves him," the girl spoke again.

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Ava raised her brows. "By how? Spending one night with him? No way, dear. Do you know why he stopped roaming around with girls? It's because of me. So stop bothering him and dreaming about being with him. He is my man." 1

The girls were shocked and offended. They could not just accept someone telling them to stop dreaming about lan

Dawson.

Ava heard another girl's voice.

"You! How can you say that?"

Ava rolled her eyes and ignored her question. "I don't need to explain anything more. If you have any questions, then ask him directly. If you dare, of course."

After that, she started to walk again.

She felt free and confident today. There was no one who could make her lose. She was the queen of Ian's heart.

She went to attend her class. Unfortunately, her and her friends' schedules did not match for today's classes.

So she had to attend classes alone. In all the classes, she had to endure the girls' judgmental gazes. She was sure everyone had gotten the news that today she came to the campus on Ian's bike.

During break time,

Ava's friends called her to meet her in the cafeteria.

But before going to meet them, Ava decided to meet Luke first. She looked for him. People said he was on the basketball court.

She went to the basketball court and found him all alone. He was playing with a ball. He was throwing the ball in the basket and grabbed it when it fell to the ground.

"Luke."

He paused when he heard her voice.

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Ava was nervous. She was upset, feeling sad for breaking his heart. Though she knew he was mad and he could say something to hurt her, she decided to take it.

Luke turned around.

"Ava," he murmured.

Ava slowly walked toward him. Breaking eye contact, Ava came to a halt in front of him.

"Luke, how are you?" she asked.

Luke stared at her without replying to her.

Ava slowly raised her gaze. She thought to meet a pair of angry eyes. However, she was surprised to see a guilty

gaze.

"Luke? Is everything okay?"

Luke remained silent. Ava lowered her head. "Luke, I am sorry. I know I hurt you.

What I did with you was really wrong, and I am guilty about-" 1

She was interrupted when Luke pulled her into an embrace

She was stunned with her hand in the middle of the air.

"L-Luke?"

"I am sorry, Ava. I said so many things to you that day. I was selfish and tried to make you mine..I should have known that if you love someone, you can't force it on them. I even tried to brainwash you about lan so that you can never go after him."

Ava was shocked to hear him. "W-What?"

"Yeah, I am sorry. I lied to you about gambling things. Whatever I told you about

lan in the cafe were lies. I knew you loved him from the beginning. I had always seen love in your eyes for him. But I was envious."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 144[1,017 words]

Ava was silent. She had no idea what to say. Slie recalled that she started to

think that lan was not that bad at how he pretended or how he got the reputation. But later, after hearing about him from Luke, her mind had changed. In fact, because of Luke's statements, she could never dare to accept lan's apologies.

"I know I did wrong. Yesterday I won the match, but I lost your love. I realized that I was never in your heart."

Ava lowered her hands and rested them on her sides. She did not hug him back. He realized it and hugged her tightly.

"I am confessing all of this because I really want to stay close to you. I don't want our friendship to be over, Ava. I said wrong to you that day. I was mad that you chose him over me, forgetting the fact that you were never mine." Ava felt emotional. She did not know who was wrong now. In this situation, she decided to maintain her silence.

"I am a man, and I could see how other men look at girls. I have seen something in his eyes for you the day after he rejected you. When he was beating me and you came to stop him, I saw envy in his eyes that day. I knew a boy like him could never resist a girl like you. You are an innocent and good girl who no boy can ever get. But I always hide the fact and try to get close to you. Because I really have feelings for you, Ava. Please forgive me."

Ava bit her bottom lip when tears scrambled in her eyes.

Luke broke the hug and held her arms. He looked at her eyes and wiped the corner of her eyes.

"Please don't misunderstand my feelings."

Ava smiled at him sadly. "Loving someone is not making them yours in any situation, Luke. You could have guided me as a friend. But you chose to be a lover."

Luke lowered his gaze. "I am sorry."

She let out a deep and long breath. She nodded her head and said,

"Leave the past behind. I also broke your heart, though I had no intention to hurt you. Let's just end this topic here."

He gazed at her again. "I misunderstood you that day, Ava. I even insulted you and our friendship. But in truth, you were so kind that you talked to my dad for me. I owe you."

Ava shook her head. "As a friend, it was my responsibility. I just tried to lessen your problem a little. I tried to make him understand your thoughts. Nothing more." He smiled at her and said,

"You don't know your one effort changed my dad's mentality. You did something that I could never do."

Ava felt relieved that Luke's father understood him. There were upset feelings in her heart that she hurt him, but she could do something to make him happy as well.

"I am happy that he accepted your choices."

Luke let go of her arms and asked,

"Are we still friends?"

She was shocked when he asked her that. When did she break their friendship?

Although he had confessed many things to her, she could not ignore the times when Luke was there for her. He

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never failed to protect her from bullies. He was her friend, and she could never break their friendship,

Ava shook her head. Luke's eyes widened.

"Our friendship is over?" he asked, thinking that she meant it.

But she chuckled and shook her head.

"No, idiot. I mean, our friendship is not over. We are friends and will always be."

Luke's eyes lit up. He was so happy that he pulled her into a hug.

Ava could feel that he was relaxed. She hugged him back and rubbed his shoulders.

"I hope you will find your mate soon, Luke."

Luke nodded his head while hugging her. "I hope Ian and you become mates again."

His words made her smile brightly.

After talking with Luke, Ava felt at ease.

There was no burden in her heart left. She thought that today was the happiest day ever.

She took her leave from Luke and went to the cafeteria to meet Abigail and Debra.

"Ava"

They called out her name when she arrived at the cafeteria.

"Hi, guys," Ava said with a big grin.

"You look happy."

"Yeah, I am."

Debra pulled her own seat close to Ava and said,

"I know why you are so happy."

"Why?" Ava asked while looking at her.

"Because today you came to the campus with your dreamy boy," Debra said, winking at her.

Ava chuckled when she heard Debra. Abigail raised her brows and asked,

"Is that so?"

Ava shook her head and said, "No. I am happy because Luke and I solved everything between us."

Abigail and Debra looked stunned..

"How? Wait, have you talked to him?" Abigail's sked.

"Yeah. We said sorry to each other and decided to remain good friends."

Abigail and Debra glanced at each other and then gazed back at Ava. "Really?" Abigail asked again.

"Yes, babes," Ava replied to them with an assuring tone.

"Oh my god! That means we are back together now!" Debra said.

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"That's so relieving!" Abigail added.

Ava smiled while nodding her head. But her eyes drew to the gate of the cafeteria.

She noticed her brother and all of his friends walking inside the cafeteria.

Stephen gave her a nod, and she returned it. They took their fixed table, which was in the corner.

Ava's eyes went to Ian, who grabbed a chair to sit on the table. He did not look at her for once.

Ava frowned at him, thinking that he looked different.

"Your lover boy is here," Debra said with a singing tone.

Ava's eyes fixed on Ian. She rested her chin while staring at him.

But her expression changed when she saw a girl walk to Ian and hug him. She

took a seat next to him. He talked to her like they were really close. 1

She froze when she noticed him wrapping his hand around the girl's waist.

The girl blushed while saying something in Ian's ear.

Ava tightened her fists and looked away from them.

Abigail and Debra looked at Ava with worried eyes.

Ava rose up from the chair and said with a low tone, "Guys, I am leaving for the next class."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 145[962 words]

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Ava walked forward, ignoring her brother's table.

She was mad at Ian. Not even one day passed, and Ian started to wander around with girls. She laughed at herself in her heart for what she had said to the girls this morning. They might have laughed at her too.

She did not care about what others would say, but what about her heart?

Did he get so bored with her in just one day that he needed a new girl now?

When she was walking past Stephen's table, she heard him.

"Hey! Ava."

She stopped and turned to look at him.

"Yes?"

"You can join us," Stephen said.

Ronald nodded his head. "Yeah. I think someone needs your company right now.'

His gaze directly went to Ian after saying that.

Ava did not look at Ian. Ignoring him, she said to Stephen,

"Brother, I don't want to."

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"What do you mean? There is still some time left for the classes. Do you have other stuff to do?" Stephen asked while observing her hard expression.

Ava almost rolled her eyes at his brother.

'What can I expect from him either? He is also a part of the Power Gang. The playboys, just like their leader. Can't he see what his friend is doing while sitting there?' she thought.

"Lily, move to another seat. Let Ava sit next to Ian."

Ava interrupted Paul when she realized that the girl's name was Lily and he was trying to move her from Ian.

"No, need. I am not interested in sitting with anyone."

Everyone gave her a shocked look. She could feel Ian's dark gaze on her. But she chose to ignore him.

There was no way she would pretend not to see what he was doing. She would not accept him continuing to do what he used to do in the past with other girls.

She was Nova but Ava. She might be soft but not a fool. 1

didn't care what they thought and just walked out of the cafeteria.

She was sad. Her happy mood was ruined by Ian's actions.

She attended the classes in a bad mood. She got emotional in every class, trying to control her shaky heart. She realized that she had softened toward Ian.

She noticed Abigail and Debra kept sending her texts, but she ignored them as well.

She did not want to talk to anyone right now. She was a fool who believed she was the queen of Ian's heart,

'Maybe I had become overconfident about myself,' she scoffed at herself.

When all of her classes were over, she thought about going back to her house.

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She was heading to the locker room while checking her friends' messages.

She called them and told them to stay where she was. They told her to wait for them. They came to meet her in a minute.

"Are you getting pleasure by making us worried?" Abigail asked.

"I am sorry, guys. I couldn't reply to you both. I was just..."

Ava paused as she knew she did not have to tell anything more. They had already known the reason behind her sulky mood.

Abigail and Debra hugged her arms.

"Babe, don't be upset. You know the girls. They want your man's attention," Debra said.

"But he shouldn't have given it to them, right?" Ava asked angrily

Abigail chuckled awkwardly. "You are right. But maybe you should talk to him."

Ava shook her head. "No way. I won't talk to him."

At that time, her phone vibrated. She checked her phone and saw a message from an unknown number.

She read the message.

"Where are you?"

She locked her phone, ignoring the message. She knew who that could be. It was Ian.

"You two haven't shared numbers with each other yet?" Debra asked with a shocked face.

"He is trying to reach you," Abigail said to Ava.

"Maybe he understood his mistake that you didn't like it," Debra uttered.

Ava gave them a poker look. "And?"

Abigail let out a sigh and asked,

"Do you want to look upset all the time? If you have a problem, then just go and talk to him."

Ava looked away and remained quiet.

Her phone vibrated once again. Another message from the same number popped up on her phone's screen.

"You are going back home with me."

She stared at the screen until the display light turned off.

"Wait a minute! Going back home? What did he mean?" Debra asked, letting go of Ava's arm.

Abigail's also gave Ava a questioning look.

Ava avoided their gazes and replied,

"He and the other boys are staying at my house for a few days. Stephen called them yesterday and asked to stay there."

Abigail and Debra were shocked after hearing that.

Debra blinked her eyes and mumbled,

"Can't believe how supportive your brother is!"

"It's not like that.'

Abigail grabbed Ava's hand and smirked at her.

2/3

"So? Living in the same house, huh?"

Ava faked a smile and said,

"As you can see how things are going, don't ask me anything else

They shut their mouths and nodded at her.

"Okay, we won't ask anything," Abigail said.

Ava glanced at the books that she was holding. Then she said to them,

"I am going to the locker room to put them inside my locker. Are you guys leaving?"

They shook their heads and said,

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"We will wait for you outside."

"Okay."

After saying that, Ava made her way to the locker room. While walking past the

people, she felt their gazes on her.

She assumed those might be mocking gazes for her overconfidence.

She entered the locker room and opened her locker. She put her books down and

was about to close the locker.

But she paused when her phone started to ring.

She saw it was the number from which she got messages a while ago. She realized it was lan's number.

She did not want to talk to him right now. So she cut the call and put her phone inside her bag.

However, as she was about to close the locker, a hand came from behind and shut her locker door.

She flinched in shock but froze when she heard a cold voice from behind her.

"Are you ignoring me?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 146[1,000 words]

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Ava turned around and her back immediately pressed against the locker.

Ian was looking at her. His eyes were sharp and cold.

She glanced behind him and noticed people who were there, staring at them..

Ian followed her gaze and turned his head to look at others.

"What the fuck are you looking at? Leave."

His voice was so cold that everyone shook inside. They hurriedly left the locker room, leaving them all alone.

Ava looked at Ian and asked,

"What are you doing

Ian returned his gaze to her and asked,

"Are you ignoring me?"

She averted her gaze from him and replied,

"No

She tried to move aside to leave. But he placed his hands beside her to cage him between his arms.

"Then why did you cut my call?"

She took a deep breath and met his gaze.

"Because I don't want to talk to you."

Her answer was blunt. She did not want to hide her anger.

He furrowed his brows and asked,

"What did you say?"

"You heard me. I don't want to talk to you, Ian."

His frown eased as he scoffed and moved back. "I see. You changed your mind."

She gave him a perplexed look. "What?"

"You didn't want to sit next to me at the cafeteria; now you don't want to talk to me. I see you change your path."

She was dumbfounded.

'Is he putting all the blame on me now?' she thought.

She shook her head in disbelief.

"How cheap you are!"

He arched his brow. Anger was clearly visible on his face.

"I am cheap? Who is expensive? That Luke?" 2

Ava was confused. Where did Luke come into their conversation?

"What are you saying?"

"You didn't meet that boy today?" he asked.

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"Yeah, I did."

"What did he say? Did he confess his love again? Did he successfully change your mind?"

His questions shocked Ava. She blinked her eyes, not knowing what he was saying.

"Ian, what are you talking about?"

Ian gave her a disdainful look and retrieved his phone from his pocket.

He clicked on something and turned his phone's screen at her.

Ava was surprised to see a video of herself and Luke from this morning.

In that video, they were hugging each other.

Ian turned back his phone and watched the video.

"I can see who you want to talk to. Is this why you are ignoring me?"

Ava stared at him without replying.

When he did not find any answer from her, he moved his eyes from his phone's screen and looked at her.

"No answer?"

"You are stalking me?" she asked.

"Is it even a question?" he asked furiously.

"Yes, it is," she retorted back.

Ian looked into her eyes and muttered,

"People are sending me photos and videos of you. I never thought of sending spies on you. Now I think I should change my mind about this. What if I fix some people?"

Ava looked away from his mocking gaze and mumbled,

"It's just one day passed since you confessed to me and you started to mess with girls. But you have a problem with me hugging my friend?"

Ian placed his one hand on the locker beside her head and moved closer.

She leaned her head back against the locker. His eyes were fierce, reminding her how short-tempered he was.

"Your friend? That friend of yours has feelings for you. Are you not aware of it?" he asked, trying to calm himself.

Ava was also mad at him. So she replied with a cold tone,

"So what? That doesn't mean I will break my friendship with him. He is still my friend."

He moved closer to her, almost getting close to her face.

"And who am I to you?" he asked.

She stared into his eyes for a while, then looked away and mumbled,

"You should think about it before holding that girl's waist."

He grabbed her jaw lightly and made her look back at him.

"So you have a problem with me holding another girl, but you don't have any problem with another man touching you?"

Ava was shocked when she heard him.

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She pushed his hand from her jaw and glared at him.

"Ian, do you even know what you are saying? How can your mentality be so cheap? He is my friend. He was just apologizing to

1. me. I know his intentions."

He laughed at her. "Of course. I also know how holy his intentions were toward you."

Ava could not understand what reason she would get mad at him. He was making everything twisted.

"Wait a minute! Are you justifying your physical contact with girls by comparing it to my hug with Luke? Ian, I thought you had changed. But what can I expect from you? You never had good intentions with girls, so every man's intention is wrong in your eyes."

Ian appeared to be frozen by her words.

She pushed his chest, moving him away from herself.

"You said you loved me. Is this how you show me your love? You don't even trust me. You are questioning a simple interaction of mine with my old friend. What are you thinking? You can match my hug by roaming around with girls? If you are so eager, you can go to them. I am not stopping you."

Ian stared at her. His jaw was clenched, and his fists tightened.

She walked past him and paused. She turned her head to look at him.

"I never changed my mind or path. But maybe it is you who are longing to get back to yourself. That's why you grab an issue and go back to your old self." After saying that, Ava left the locker room, leaving him in there alone.

Her eyes wailed in tears. She could not stop them. When she had just thought that everything was becoming right, something had to happen to break her dream.

(1)

She wiped her tears and left her department's building. She looked around to search for her friends.

She pulled out her phone from her bag and noticed her friends' messages.

"We are leaving since you are with lan."

"Best of luck, babe."

They gave her heart and thumbs-up emojis, thinking that everything would be fine between her and lan.

Ava decided to take a bus to go back home.

But when she arrived at the bus stop, it started pouring.

She went to her house on foot, drenched in rain and emotionally distressed.

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Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 147[960 words]

147

When Ava returned home, it was afternoon.

The maids rushed toward her when they saw her clothes were drenched.

"I am fine," Ava said to them.

She went to her bedroom and changed her clothes. She rubbed her hair with a towel and sat on the bed.

She was very upset. Her eyes were red after crying for a while.

"I am a crybaby," she murmured to herself.

Why would she not cry? Just when she thought fan was hers, he once again went back to himself. For what? Thinking that she would accept him doing anything?

She was not like other girls who would stay quiet and let him do anything he wanted, just to gain the position next to him. She did not want anything except pure love.

She remembered how special Ian had made her feel last night. Then why did all of this happen today?

It felt like whatever happened last night was a dream that he had broken today.

She spent the whole day in her room. The maids kept telling her to eat something, but she rejected their requests.

She was lying in her bed when her phone rang.

She received the call without looking at who had called her.

"Ava?"

"Mom!"

Ava sat up on the bed after hearing her mother's voice.

"Mom, are you okay? What about Dad? Is he fine?"

"We both are alright. How are you, Ava?"

Ava bit her bottom lip. If her mother had called her yesterday, she would sound like the happiest girl ever. But today, she was not happy.

"Just fine, Mom."

After a brief pause, her mother asked with a worried tone,

"Ava, are you hiding something from me? Are you really okay, my child?"

Ava took a long breath and tried to ease her mother's worry.

"Mom, I am fine. You and Dad left the future Gamma to protect me. He is protecting me well."

"Stephen is really a good child."

"Yes, Mom. By the way, how about Dad's treatment?"

"We are processing the treatment. He will be fine, but it can take some time."

"I hope he will be alright. About time, you both have time for your whole life. No worries about other things."

"You sounded like a mature girl. Not bad."

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She chuckled and mumbled, "Thanks, Mom."

"Ava, since we are not there, please try to stay closer to Stephen."

Ava sighed and replied,

"Mom, he always stays at home. In fact, he invited his friends at home. So they are also here for a few days."

"Oh, yeah. He talked to me about it. I told him that it's a great idea

Ava lowered her head. "Mom, why are you so worried about me?"

Her mother remained silent. Ava could understand her silence. So she said,

"Are you worried about the Thunder Howl Pack?"

She remembered how her mother warned her about that pack. She specifically told her to stay away from that pack's people.

"Mom, I am assuring you. No one is going to harm me. I am totally fine and good."

"Yeah, that's a relief," her mother replied after a while.

Ava ignored the topic of that pack and talked to her mother for a long time.

When it was night,

The maids came to ask Ava for dinner. But she opened the door and refused to eat like before.

She sneezed when she tried to talk to the maid.

"Miss, are you having a cold?" they asked.

"No, I am fine."

She closed the door and went to lay on her bed.

Her eyes were getting close slowly. She felt a headache. She began to feel a shiver in her entire body..

After a while,

The door of her room opened. Ava glanced at the door and saw Stephen.

"My little sis, are you okay?" Stephen asked with concern in his voice.

He sat beside her and reached out to touch her forehead.

"Shit! You are running a fever!"

"Fever?" she mumbled, coughing a little.

"Did you get wet in the rain?" he asked.

Ava nodded her head, realizing that she got a fever because of it. She closed her eyes, trying to sleep.

"You should eat something. You haven't eaten anything the whole day," Stephen said, stroking her hair.

"No, I don't want to," she murmured.

"You will have to take medicine to get rid of this fever. But you have to eat something before taking it."

"Brother, plea-"

She was interrupted by another voice.

"Call the doctor. I will stay here."

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Stephen turned his head only to find Ian, who entered the room. Ava ignored Ian, and her eyes remained closed.

"Brother, tell him I don't want him to be here."

Stephen gave her a confused look. He got up from the bed and said

"But why? You two were good yesterday. Hey, you went to uni with him, right? So, what the heck just happened?"

Ava coughed and replied,

"Tell him to be with the other girl."

After saying that, she turned her back to Ian,

"The other girl? Wait what? Are you talking about Lily? Bro, come on. She is Paul's girlfriend."

Ava's eyes flung open. "She is Paul's girlfriend?"

Stephen shook his head with a laugh. "You two! I can't believe it. I bet he did that out of jealousy. This man! And you? How could you get jealous so easily? Do you even know how loyal he is to you, sister?"

Ava wanted to slap herself right now.

'So she is not one of the girls who Ian... Oh sh*t!' she thought and felt regret.

Stephen bent down and patted her head.

"We don't hit on our friends' girlfriends. You can rest assured, okay?"

Ava blinked her eyes, not knowing how to react. She misunderstands Ian.

She could not ignore the fact that Ian was standing near the bed, watching and listening to everything.

"But he doubted me. He doesn't trust me," she said to Stephen.

Stephen frowned at her. "It's not the case. He trusts you but not-

Ian cut Stephen off as he approached the bed and said,

"Stop wasting time on this. Now call the doctor and go tell the maids to prepare her food. I am here to see about the matter."

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 148[1,129 words]

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Stephen gave Ian a nod and left the room. He did not forget to close the door behind. Ava glanced at Ian for a second, then immediately closed her eyes,

Ian was standing next to the bed. He was looking at Ava without saying anything.

After a while, he reached for the blanket on the bed and covered her body.

The moment Ava felt the warm blanket cover her body, she felt relaxed. She felt comfortable and warm.

She did not open her eyes, feeling losing consciousness slowly. It was due to her fever and headache.

She felt the bed dip slightly beside her. She could smell Ian's scent,

Suddenly, she started to feel good inside. Maybe it was because of him.

Her heart skipped a beat when she felt Ian's hand on her head.

His hand slowly moved to her forehead, checking her fever.

She wanted to sleep with his touch. It was so calming that she wanted to pull him toward her and sleep in his arms.

Ian lowered his head and muttered close to her ear in a low tone.

"Are you mad at me?"

Her breath hitched when his breath touched her ear. She had no idea how this boy had such the ability to make her feel like this even when she was ill.

"So mad that you won't talk to me?"

His question and soft tone caused her to open her eyes.

She turned her head to look at him. He was very close to her face.

She pushed him lightly and took a deep breath to compose herself

"You doubt me," she murmured.

Ian looked into her eyes and replied,

"I can't tell you how my blood boiled when he hugged you. I could see how you hugged him back. I was upset. You didn't even want to sit with me. You were ignoring me the whole time. I thought he changed your mind."

Ava shook her head. She was about to say something but the door opened. She and Ian turned their heads and saw Stephen with his friends entering the room.

Ronald looked at Ava and said,

"Heard you are sick."

Ava glanced at Ronald and shook her head. "No, I am fine."

Cyrus smirked and asked,

"No, you were not. But after getting this close with our future Alpha, you look definitely fine."

Ava blushed. She was already red with a fever.

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Ian glared at Cyrus and said,

"Stop teasing her. Can't you all see how sick she is?"

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Cyrus raised his hands to surrender and uttered,

"Okay, okay. Sorry, bro."

Paul walked toward the bed and asked,

"I heard you were mad at Ian because of Lily."

Ava felt embarrassed. She was so silly that she felt jealous of just a simple thing.

That girl, Lily was actually Paul's girlfriend

"I thought..."

Paul smiled at her and said in an assuring tone,

"He can never think about any other girl because he really loves you."

Ian cleared his throat and scratched the back of his neck.

"If you are all done with being my advocate, you can leave now. Let her take a rest."

Stephen moved toward Ian and handed him some medicines.

"I talked to the doctor. He told me to give her these. She is fortunate because we had these medications in our home. It's because our mom is a doctor so we don't need to worry I guess."

Han raised a brow. "If we had not had them, I would have called my family doctor to have them delivered here personally."

He sounded really dominant. All of his friends nodded their heads and decided to leave the couple alone.

Stephen turned his gaze at Ava and said,

"Maids are preparing porridge for you."

Ava shook her head, refusing to eat anything. She pulled her blanket up to cover her head.

Others chuckled at her reaction, except Ian.

Stephen left the room along with others. He knew Ian would take care of Ava.

When everyone left, Ian waited for Ava to move the blanket away from her face.

However, a few minutes passed, and Ava did not move. Ian realized she had fallen asleep.

He slowly shifted the blanket and looked at her face.

He raised his hand and gently caressed her cheek. His fingers moved up to her eyelashes. He stroked her face with his knuckles and whispered,

"I am sorry, baby."

Ten minutes later,

A few maids came into the room. They were shocked to see Ian in Ava's room.

"I will help her to eat," a maid said to Ian while holding the tray of Ava's food.

Jan gestured for her to put the tray down on the bedside table.

When the maid did what she was told, Ian signaled the maids to the door.

"Leave."

They hurriedly left the room, as they had no intention to offend Ian Dawson.

As soon as the door closed, Ian patted Ava's shoulder.

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"Wake up."

"Hey!"

"Baby, you need to eat."

Ava slowly opened her eyes. He helped her to sit up. He fed her with a spoon. Her fever was rising, and she was feeling very uneasy. After eating 'Don't want to,' she mumbled.

Ian tried to persuade her to eat more. But she refused to eat anymore. Ian gave her the tablets and poured her a glass of water. As she swallowed

Ian helped her to lay back on the bed and covered her body with the blanket.

Ian got up and grabbed the tray.

He left the room after glancing at Ava. He handed the tray to one of the maids to change his clothes and return to Ava's room in a few minutes.

When he entered the room, he noticed that Ava's body was shaking.

He closed the door and walked toward her. He checked her pulse and realized

"What the hell!"

He shut all the windows and blinds in the room.

He glanced at Ava while taking off his t-shirt.

After moving the blanket and slipping inside, he drew her closer to

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"Wake up."

"Hey!"

"Baby, you need to eat."

Ava slowly opened her eyes. He helped her to sit up. He fed her with a spoon.

Ava ate while blinking her eyes.

Her fever was rising, and she was feeling very uneasy. After eating a couple spoons, Ava pushed Ian's hand.

'Don't want to," she mumbled.

Ian tried to persuade her to eat more. But she refused to eat anymore.

Ian gave her the tablets and poured her a glass of water. As she swallowed the water, she glanced at Ian.

Ian

Ian helped her to lie back on the bed and covered her body with the blanket again.

Ian got up and grabbed the tray.

He left the room after glancing at Ava. He handed the tray to one of the maids and

told them not to disturb Ava. He then went to change his clothes and return to Ava's room in a few minutes.

When he entered the room, he noticed that Ava's body was shaking.

He closed the door and walked toward her. He checked and realized that her fever was increasing.

"What the hell!"

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After moving the blanket and slipping inside, he drew her closer to him.

Don't Leave Me, Mate

Oh Really 149[1,054 words]

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When Ava opened her eyes, she felt a tingle on her face. She had to shut her eyes immediately. She turned around, twisting her body on the bed.

Trying to sleep soundly, she tried to cover her face.

However, something caught her nose, and that was Ian's scent."

She slowly opened her eyes and sniffed her blanket. Her eyes widened when she found Ian's scent all over her blanket.

She sat up on the bed and looked around. She found herself alone in the bedroom.

She lowered her head. She was startled when she noticed she was wearing pajamas.

"I-I clearly remembered I was not wearing this before going to bed," she mumbled in a shocked tone.

She tried to remember everything that had happened last night.

She recalled Stephen coming to her room. She remembered his words, his

friends' words, and Ian's presence in the room.

She scratched her head, realizing she had misunderstood Ian. At the same time, he also misunderstood her about Luke.

She gazed at her pajamas and asked herself,

"Who changed my clothes?"

She raised her head to check her fever. She was relieved that the fever had gone.

She took a warm bath and got dressed. In the dress code, blue was her favorite color. She liked to wear blue most of the time.

She let her hair down and put on a pair of high heels.

She went downstairs. She thought she would meet Ian, Stephen, and others. But no one was there.

She walked to the table as she noticed breakfast was served.

"Miss, have your breakfast," a maid said.

Ava took a chair and sat down.

While she was eating, she got a call from Stephen.

"Steph."

Ava said as soon as she received the call.

"How are you feeling, Ava?"

"I am good now, Steph. Are all of you at the university?"

Stephen let out a chuckle, which caused her to frown.

"What?"

"Do you want to ask about Ian? Then yes, he is here with us in the university."

Ava blushed, ignoring his answer.

"Brother, last night..."

"He was with you. He took care of you."

Ava's eyes widened. "W-What? He was with me?"

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"Well, if he had not insisted and you were not sick, I would not have allowed him to stay with you."

Ava gulped, reflecting on how she discovered her changed clothes after waking up.

"Are you coming today?"

"Yeah, I am coming."

"Okay."

Stephen cut the call. Ava was in a daze.

Did lan change her clothes? She felt a little self-conscious and angry.

Why did he change her clothes? It was very embarrassing to her.

lan should not have one that.

Thinking about lan seeing her naked body, she felt shivers all over her body.

When she was done eating her breakfast, she got up from the chair

She was about to leave the dining area when a few maids came to ask her about her health.

"I am fine," she replied with a polite smile.

"Last night your whole body was burning and sweating," one of the maids said.

Ava froze as she heard her. She looked at her and asked,

"At what time?"

"Midnight."

"Did you go to my room?"

She nodded her head at her and said,

"Master lan called one of us to change your clothes. He looked really worried about you."

Ava was stunned. She bit her bottom lip, realizing that she misunderstood lan again.

'So he did not change my clothes?' she thought.

She let out a deep breath and cleared her throat. She noticed the maid's cheek was red. She frowned at her and asked,

"What happened?"

The maid shook her head and mumbled,

"Master lan was shirtless. He stayed in your room last night."

Ava's lips quivered. She blinked, listening to the maid.

'Shirtless? she thought.

Her cheeks had turned redder than the maids'. The heat rising in her cheeks made her want to pat them. But she controlled herself and said,

"Don't talk about it to anyone."

The maid lowered her head and nodded before glancing at her.

Ava hurriedly walked out of her house.

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She told one of the drivers to take her to the university.

After getting inside the car, she patted her cheeks.

'What happened last night?' she thought.

Thinking about shirtless lan, she gulped, shaking her head.

His thoughts caused her to lose her innocence day by day.

There was no way lan had done anything without her consent. Otherwise, she would feel that.

When she arrived at the university, she got out of the car.

With slow steps, she started to walk.

She felt well today. She did not think she had a fever anymore. She was relieved that it had subsided in one night.

However, she was feeling too shy to meet lan's gaze. She could not tell him last night about what was on her mind.

As she stepped forward, she noticed people were looking at her.

She stopped moving and looked around. She frowned when she noticed they were talking to each other while fixing their gaze on her.

She felt awkward. What did she do now?

Every single person was staring at her.

She blinked a few times to understand the situation.

A boy walked toward her and said,

"What are you doing here? You should go to the basketball court."

"W-Why?" she asked, feeling nervous.

The worst thought that came to her mind was that Ian and Luke were fighting again. "You should go and see. But hurry," the boy replied.

Ava's heart clenched in fear of the fight, as she assumed the boy confirmed it.

She rushed toward the basketball court. She started to pray in her heart that everything would be fine.

As soon as she reached the basketball court, she found many people around. They all stopped what they were doing when they noticed her.

The silence shocked Ava.

She walked slowly while trying to find Ian and Luke.

She stopped in her steps when he found Ian standing in the center of the court.

She was about to approach him but came to a halt in the middle of the court when he noticed her.

He himself began to move toward her. She stood unmoved in her place when he came to a halt in front of her.

They were the center of attention. Ava glanced around her, not knowing why they were staring at them.

She found Stephen and his friends there too. Surprisingly, her friends were also there, waving at her.

She was about to wave back but froze when she realized that the boy in front of her was getting on his knees.

Her eyes widened when she slowly moved her head to look down at Ian.

She realized that he was holding a bouquet of red roses.

With a smile on his face, he asked,

"Ava, I love you. Will you be mine?"

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Oh Really 150[1,041 words]

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Ava's heart started to beat faster. She could not let out anything. She almost lost her mind.

She could never describe her feelings to anyone.

It was something she had never thought of. It was true that she had never thought of this day about how she would react when Ian proposed to her.

Ian's eyes were bright with a smile as if he were the happiest person in the world. His handsome face, illuminated by the sun, fell on his face, shining brightly.

His voice was loud as if he wanted everyone around them to hear everything he said.

"I was so foolish to ask the people if you deserve me."

Ava realized that he was talking about the day when he found her as his mate.

"The reality is that I don't deserve you. But you still gave this bad boy a chance to get into your heart."

Ava bit her lower lip to control her tears.

"I am sorry for everything that I have done with you. I am sorry for every single time when I could not realize how important you are to me. I am sorry for not acknowledging this love before you. I am sorry for every second you were around me and I failed to

notice the girl who would become the only girl in my heart. I am sorry for everything, my love."

Ava's hands trembled as she slowly lifted them to accept the bouquet.

When Ian saw her holding the flower and bringing it closer to her nose to smell the roses, he grinned.

But it was not the end.

She had not accepted his proposal yet, and neither was he done.

Ava smiled at Ian, but her expression froze again when he reached into his pocket and took out a black velvet box.

He opened the box right in front of her.

The screams from the girls around them could be heard.

Ava's eyes shifted to the ring inside the box. The size of the stone was not so big, but surely it was a diamond, glistening under the sunlight.

"I didn't buy the ring with my dad's money. I bought it with the money I earned from the car races I have won."

People around them gasped.

"He is so caring!"

"Oh my god!"

"I can't believe Ian Dawson actually loves someone this much!"

"People say right. When a bad boy falls in love, he becomes the best lover for his girl."

"I can't accept that he loves someone else."

"What about us?"

"Does that mean we won't get an opportunity?"

"Look at him. He looks so serious about her."

"Yes, I also don't think he thinks of her as Nova."

"Remember how he broke up with Nova because he said he never loved her."

"He said he loves Ava. So it's the love he had been searching for?"

"Who thought this girl would become this lucky?"

People started gossiping. They could not believe in their eyes and ears.

The Ian Dawson they knew was someone very arrogant and dominant. They could not believe Ian got on his knees and apologized to the girl, told her he loved her, and proposed to her with a ring he bought with his own money.

Ava was frozen in her state after hearing Ian until she heard Abigail's loud voice.

"COME ON, AVA."

She blinked and moved her gaze from the ring to look at Ian.

"Will you be my girlfriend?"

His voice was so calm yet pleasing as if he were waiting for this day only.

Ava could not help but sob. She covered her mouth to control more tears to flow out.

Man's expression changed as it turned from happy to worried.

He thought he had done something wrong, and that was why she was crying.

He was about to get on his feet, but Ronald walked toward him and put his hand on his shoulder to make him get on his knee

again.

"Stay like that. She is just getting emotional," Ronald muttered to Ian.

Ronald was shocked that his best friend had turned to a guy who was madly in love with a girl. He could not even look into Ava's eyes for a moment. That was why he forgot about the proposal and wanted to ask her why she was crying.

Stephen and their other friends chuckled at Ian.

Ronald moved back and said,

"Ava, reply in a hurry. My best friend is a little impatient."

Ava broke into a soft laugh. She wiped her tears with her hands and nodded her head.

She extended her left hand and said,

"I will be your girlfriend, Ian Dawson."

Ian's eyes lit up as his worried face changed into a thrilled one.

He pulled out the ring and threw the box aside.

His friends laughed when they noticed how desperate he was. On the other hand,

Ava's friends were relieved that Ian really loved their friend.

Ian held Ava's hand softly and put the ring on her ring finger.

Everyone around them cheered for them, except for the girls who were envious of Ava. However, when Ian's friends gazed at them, they faked their smiles and cheered for Ian and Ava like others.

Ian got on his feet and pulled Ava into his embrace. Ava hugged him back.

It was like a dream that she had become Ian's girlfriend.

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Ian moved his head lowered and kissed her cheek while hugging her

She blushed and tightened her arms around his torso.

"Look at there," Ian said, pointing in a direction.

Ava broke the hug and looked at it.

When some students moved aside to reveal a wall covered in flowers

Something was written there beautifully and that was,

"I Love you,

Ava."

Ava got so emotional that she hugged lan again.

"I love you too, lan. am sorry for yesterday."

He rubbed his palm against her hair and said,

"It's okay, baby. By the way, you can apologize to me in another wa means of escape."

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"I love you too, lan. Lam sorry for yesterday."

He rubbed his palm against her hair and said,

"It's okay, baby. By the way, you can apologize to me in another way. Now I am your boyfriend. You are aware that you have no means of escape."

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