

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 201[1,052 words]

201

Ava's friends dropped her off at home. They tried to ask her what was going on between her and Jan; she only said he hated her, so she wanted to stay away from him.

When Ava entered her house, she saw her mother waiting for her with dinner.

"Mom? You haven't had your dinner yet?"

She shook her head and walked toward Ava. "No. I was waiting for you, my daughter."

Ava felt sorry for her mother. She should have come back sooner. She came back to the pack to spend time with her. So she should be with her.

She did not have an appetite to eat anything but still had dinner with her mother. She did not want her mother's patience to be

wasted.

The next morning,

Ava woke up in her old room. Moving the blanket away from her head, she reached for her phone, which was ringing loudly.

Her eyes were closed. Her brow furrowed when she could not find it. But when her hand found the phone beside her on the bed, she immediately received the call without opening her eyes.

"Mmmm."

She hummed as she tried to fall back asleep.

"Miss Taylor, you were supposed to be at the meeting, right?"

On the phone, she could hear the voices of the head of her department.

Her eyes flung open.

"Meeting? Oh, yes! I am coming!"

She hurriedly sat up on the bed. But she froze when she found herself in a familiar room.

‘Oh shit! I am in the Mystic Shadow Pack,’ she thought and sighed.

How could she forget that she came here yesterday? She rubbed her eyes and said,

“I can’t come.”

“What? What do you mean you can’t come? What about the models? They came to the company to—”

“I believe you did not check it or were not informed about it. I am on leave for a few days.”

“Few days? How many days? What about your work? What about the fabric you picked for the new costumes?”

Ava was caught off guard by a slew of questions. She felt a headache from stress.

She enjoyed putting in long hours. She was not a slacker who could simply take a day off and be carefree.

Her mother had called her at a time when she needed to be there in the company. Very soon there would be the annual party where she would have to display her projects.

“Let me see what I can do about it.”

“You have never been so unprofessional before.”

Ava lowered her head. “Throughout the past six months, I have never left a question mark on my work. If I am absent from work, there must be a reason, right? Now if you have any problem with my leaves, you can go and talk to Alpha.”

1/3

201

+25 BONUS

Ava hung up the phone and threw it onto the bed. She stood up from her bed and walked to the bathroom.

She did not need to explain her personal life to anyone. The person who should have known where she was was aware of it

When Ava went downstairs to have breakfast with her mother, she was stunned.

Gamma Harper and Stephen had returned home.

Ava came to a halt a short distance away from them.

“She is here,” her mother said.

Ava noticed Harper and Stephen looked at her. She lowered her gaze and stepped toward them.

“Dad,” she mumbled.

Gamma Harper looked surprised to see her. Her mother did not appear to have told him or Stephen about her.

“What a pleasant surprise, Ava!”

Gamma Harper pulled her into a hug.

Ava hugged him back. She experienced the warmth of the father’s embrace. She closed her eyes. After what seemed like an eternity, she finally felt the warmth. Gamma Harper was her stepfather, yet he always welcomed her so warmly. He never let her feel the absence of her own father.

“I miss you, Ava. Your mom missed you the most.”

Ava broke the hug and raised her head to look at him. “I missed all of you, too, Dad.”

Harper smiled at her and said, “I am glad you are back.”

Ava did not want to fade the smile on his face right now. So she did not tell him she would only be here for two weeks. She planned to leave the pack after her birthday.

Ava turned her head and glanced at Stephen, who was staring at her.

She wanted to see the same surprised look in his eyes that she had seen in Harper’s and her mother’s eyes. But Stephen looked different. Instead of looking surprised, he looked disappointed at something.

“Go and hug your brother. He missed you as well. He tried to reach you a lot when you left the pack,” her mother said.

Ava gulped, moving toward Stephen. Without saying anything, she wrapped her hands around him.

“Steph.”

Stephen did not hug her back.

Ava felt upset. She knew he also misunderstood her. That was why he never called her all these *years*.

“Stephen, now stop being angry with her. See. She is back,” Harper said to him.

Stephen raised his hands and hugged her back. Ava felt that he was forced to hug her. If they were alone, he would not have hugged her back.

“I am sorry, brother,” she uttered.

She felt emotional. She had another brother who she left in the Thunder Howl Pack. Though they were blood-related, Ava never felt the warmth she always felt with Stephen. Perhaps it was because they had accepted each other as real siblings in their hearts.

Stephen grabbed her arms and broke the hug.

Ava met his gaze. In a harsh voice, he inquired,

2/3

201

+25 BONUS

“Where have you been, Ava?”

Her eyes widened. She suspected right. Her brother discovered that she had not been a member of the City Moon Pack for all

these years.

“I-I...”

“What are you saying, Stephen? She was in the City Moon Pack. She directly came here from that pack,” her mother replied with a confused face.

Stephen stared at Ava. Though their parents started to ask questions, he did not move his gaze away from her.

“Did you really join the City Moon Pack?”

Today’s Bonus Offer

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 202[1,042 words]

202

202

Ava swallowed as she realized her secret could no longer be kept. But all she could do was try.

“Answer him, Ava,” her mother said.

“I was in the City Moon Pack. He went there while I was not there. He did not find me there, so he is asking this.”

Stephen shook his head. “That doesn’t make sen-

Ava grabbed his wrist and interrupted,

”

“Mom and Dad, I am taking Stephen with me. I have something to talk to him about.”

Harper stopped her as he said,

“But he was saying something.”

“Dad, he has a misunderstanding that I would like to clear up.”

Harper nodded his head. Ava looked at her mother, who was looking at her suspiciously.

‘I am sorry, Mom. I can’t tell you about it right now. Otherwise, you would not let me go out of this pack again,’ she thought and went to her room with Stephen.

Stephen quietly observed what Ava was doing. She closed the door and pressed her back against it.

Stephen sat on the bed with his arms folded against his chest.

“So?”

Ava lowered her head and mumbled,

“Brother, I have been lying to all of you.”

Stephen kept listening to her. But his brows arched when she said,

“I had been in the Thunder Howl Pack all these years.”

He got up from the bed and exclaimed in shock.

“What!”

Ava glanced at his angry face, then mumbled,

“Yeah. But trust me, they are not bad.”

Stephen gave her a stern look. “What do you mean they are not bad? That is our rival pack, have you forgotten that?”

She looked down and kept her eyes on the floor. “I know.”

“Then why did you go there?”

“I had my own reasons.”

The answer was obvious. She did not want to tell him about the reason.

The room turned silent. The cold breeze came inside the room, blowing the blinds, which gently touched Stephen’s body.

He stared at his sister, whom he had not seen in four years.

He had a question for her that he always wanted to ask.

“Why did you do that, Ava?”

1/3

202

+25 BONUS

Ava froze when she realized that he was talking about the incident from four years ago.

She closed her eyes, tightening her fists. She did not want to talk about it.

“Why did you cheat on him like that, Ava?”

Ava’s inner strength diminished. Her brother never had any faith in her.

She slowly raised her head and looked at him.

“Brother.”

“No, Ava, you have ruined everything. I...”

He paused, and the disappointment in his eyes was visible. “I thought you were a nice girl who should not be played. Because of this, I got into a fight with Ian too. But in the end, you were the one who played him.”

Ava was just staring at him. She was also disappointed by him. How could her brother not trust her? Did he not know her?

They both fell silent at that moment.

Stephen’s eyes conveyed his displeasure with her. Ava could see that clearly.

Somehow, she felt like she was by herself on the long way. How would she explain it to him?

How would she tell him that she had no idea how those hickeys got to her neck? She did not know how she ended up sleeping. She had no idea who had trapped her..

“You don’t trust me.”

That was all she could tell him.

Her words took him by surprise.

“I trusted you...”

She felt hurt that he did not trust her now. He continued to speak again.

“I entrusted you four years ago. That is why I tried to contact you when I heard you had left the pack. What did I not do to get you back into this pack? I even went to many borders to see if you had crossed paths.”

Ava was not expecting this. Did he really trust her? She felt guilty for causing him such concern.

“But why? I sent a message to you, Mom, and Dad. Didn’t you get it?”

“Yes, we did. Do you know that Mom became ill after receiving your single text message? She was completely shattered. You did

her.” not tell her why you left the pack. I was here to deal with the situation. But there was no way Dad and I could ha

Ava realized she had made her family very worried. As she thought before, she was selfish when she left the pack. But then again, it was her fate to make her leave the pack.

How would she have discovered her true identity if she had not left?

“I am sorry, Brother. Thank you for taking care of Mom. I am grateful to you,” she mumbled, fixing her gaze on the floor. Stephen breathed a sigh of defeat. He had the thought that when he met her, he would scold her. But after meeting her, he could not continue to be rude to her.

As a big brother, he approached her. He held her arms, causing her to lift her head.

Ava gazed at him with eyes that were filled with tears. When Stephen thought back to the old Ava, he recalled how she used to be

so emotional like this.

“I have always assumed that you are a completely innocent young girl. Why did you do that to him? You knew how much he

2/3

202

+25 BONUS

loved you, right?”

Ava averted her gaze from him and took a deep breath.

“He never loved me, Steph.”

Her reply made him furious. “What are you saying? You were the one who betrayed him, and now you claim he never loved you?”

She shut her eyes when he yelled at her. Anger was mixed in with his furious tone.

Stephen released her arms and took a step back.

“I can’t believe this!”

Ava opened her eyes because she could not take it anymore.

She looked at him and said,

“I never betrayed him. I never cheated on him, Stephen. It was he who never trusted me. His love was not real. He never loved me, Stephen. He never loved me the way I loved him.”

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 203[1,011 words]

+25 BONUS

203

u’s been four days since Ava returned to the Mystic Shadow Pack. These days, she wandered around the pack to see how it had changed over the previous four years,

Four days flew by as if she had just blinked. Ava grew closer to her mother, family, and friends. It gave her the unpleasant feeling that she would have to leave them soon.

She still had not told her family about her going back.

“Ava, good morning, my baby.”

Her mother, Angela, said when she saw Ava coming downstairs.

Ava walked over to the dining table to sit with her family. She settled into the chair next to Stephen.

She turned to face him, smiling.

“Good morning.”

He nodded and murmured,

“Morning.”

Ava’s smile faded away. She dropped her head.

When Stephen asked her why she cheated on Ian two days ago, she explained what had happened.

He was shocked. But one thing that she had seen in his eyes clearly was confusion. He was confused about whether he should believe in her or not. It hurt Ava.

However, she had no control over the situation.

If someone did not trust her, they could believe whatever they wanted. She was not going to convince anyone.

If it were four years ago, she would have done so. She would have cried, begging Stephen to believe her. But this Ava was different.

She had emotions, which sometimes took over her, but she remained calm and focused on her decisions. If she believed she did not care, that meant she really did not. That was the end of the discussion.

Angela sat in her chair after serving them breakfast.

“Today, come back early, Stephen. We will go together,” Angela said.

Ava gazed at her mother. “Where are you going, Mom?”

Angela looked at her and said,

“I was talking about the pack house.”

Ava frowned as she asked, “Why?”

Both Angela and Harper turned their heads at Stephen.

“Haven’t you told her yet?”

Stephen’s grip around the spoon tightened. He paused eating and raised his gaze to look at them.

Ava gazed at him, feeling confused. She uttered,

“Brother, is there anything I am supposed to know?”

Stephen put down the spoon on the plate and said,

1/3

203

+25 BONUS

“There is a family get-together today in the pack house. We all are invited.”

Ava was stunned. ‘Family get-together? In the pack house?’ she thought.

Pack House meant Ian Dawson's house. She had gone there even after the rejection, but at that time Jan's father was the head Alpha. However, at the time, he held the position of Alpha.

She did not want to go there. She did not want to meet her past again and again.

"I have some plans for today," she muttered, while eating.

"Yeah. She has some plans, It's totally fine if she doesn't want to go there," Stephen spoke out.

Ava glanced at her brother again. She gave him a suspicious look. But her brows relaxed when she realized her brother was thinking she did not want to see Ian.

"Carolina invited you specially. You can't just deny her. She will be upset," Angela said.

Gamma Harper looked at Ava and said in a gentle tone.

"Though they are our former Alpha and Luna, we respected them a lot."

Ava gulped, not finding any excuse to deny them. She exhaled and nodded her head.

"Okay, I will go."

Angela clapped her hands and continued eating while saying,

"So today, after four years, our full family will go to any party together."

Ava saw how happy her mother looked. She realized once she was her life. Her lips curved slightly as she watched her thrilled.

Ava left her house to meet her friends. Today they planned to go shopping.

Ava met them in the shopping mall.

"What are you saying? You are going to the pack house?" Debra asked.

"Hmm," Ava said, looking at some dresses.

"Did you say no? I mean, are you comfortable going there?" Abigail asked, grabbing Ava's hand to stop her from walking.

Three of them paused and decided to sit somewhere to talk.

"I tried. Mom and Dad were saying Aunt Carolina wanted to see me since I returned after four years. Dad said they respected her, so I should not say no."

Abigail and Debra stared at Ava, trying to understand what she was feeling.

“Are you nervous?” Debra asked.

Ava raised a brow and asked, “Why would I?”

Abigail held her hands. “I am afraid he will-”

Ava cut her off by saying,

“Come on,

Abi. I don’t care what he will do or say I know he hates me. If he does anything to humiliate me, I will return the

favor.”

Abigail fixed her with a hard stare. “Are you really okay?”

Ava laughed. “You will make me nervous if you keep talking about him to me.”

203

+25 BONUS

Debra ordered something for them to cat. She grabbed a drink and swirled it with a straw.

“You know he also has someone, right?”

Ava froze when she heard her. But her gaze did not move to react.

“I know.”

Abigail let out a long breath. She seemed concerned that it would break Ava’s heart.

Debra was up to something else. She continued pushing it deeper, saying,

“How do you know?”

“I read it in the magazines.”

“Are you aware who she is?”

Ava paused for a moment before realizing that she had never read the woman’s name. It was because Ian Dawson’s fiancée’s name never became public.

“No,” she replied.

Abigail looked away from her and said,

“We also don’t know who she is. But I have heard she is a beta’s daughter.”

Ava’s eyes shifted as she blinked a few times. She lowered her head as something came to her mind.

Who might it be?

It was not too hard to guess.

Without hesitation, a name came to her mind. She was the beta’s daughter.

She let out a sneer as she thought,

‘Of course, it’s Nova.’

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 204[1,152 words]

204

Ava returned home in the afternoon. She got ready in the evening and was ready to go to the party.

She was dressed in a long white cotton dress. The lace on her collar was beautifully adorned with white pearls.

She let her hair down and applied simple makeup. It gave her a very natural appearance.

Her parents were happy to see her when she came out of the house. They were waiting for her in the car.

“My beautiful daughter,” her mother said.

Ava kissed her cheek and said,

“My mom is so beautiful. So I had to look beautiful, you know.”

They chuckled at each other’s remarks. Stephen started the car while sitting in the driver’s seat; Harper sat beside him in the

passenger seat.

The whole family headed to the pack house.

Ava glanced at the streetlights as they passed the window of the car.

The yellow lights were making her nervous. Her eyes glowed emerald for a moment, then returned to black.

Ava's gaze was drawn to the trees as the car drove past the forest. She breathed in fresh air.

She closed her eyes, realizing it had been a long time since she shifted.

The car came to a halt in front of the pack house area.

Ava was the first to get out of the car.

Standing in front of the familiar place, her heart skipped a beat.

But she took a deep breath and said to herself,

'It's okay. You don't care.'

She heard Harper from behind.

"Let's go."

Everyone proceeded to the front door. Ava noticed that all of the cars were replaced with newer, more expensive models. Her eyes moved to the garage.

Unknowingly, her legs moved there. She spotted a familiar bike there.

Her steps slowed down. The memories of the last engulfed her, making her breath heavy.

She remembered Ian taking her for bike rides. The first time she rode the bike was the day before his birthday. He was desperate to spend the day with her. That was the day he confessed his feelings for her.

"Miss"

Ava recoiled when she heard a call from behind. She turned around and noticed a guard.

"Yes?"

“You are in the wrong area. The front gate of the pack house is there,” the guard said, pointing at the pack house.

“Oh, yeah. I am sorry.”

She turned around and walked toward the pack house.

1/3

204

+25 BONUS

The guard huffed as she dashed into the garage. There was another vehicle that might have looked familiar to Ava.

There was a sports car there.

The front bonnet was smashed. The windshield was damaged. The car appeared to be in bad condition.

The guard put his hand on the chest while closing the gate of the garage.

“Thank goodness the guest didn’t see this. Alpha would be furious if he discovered I had forgotten to close the gate. He does not like it when people see that car.”

Ava stood at the door, gazing inside. The interior of the house was the same. But the faces of the maids had changed.

Abruptly, she sensed a force drawing her in. She turned her head to the right and left and scowled.

Not finding anything wrong around her, she felt puzzled.

She lowered her head and looked at her leg. She inhaled and lifted her left leg.

She stepped into the house.

There was a chill wind that seemed to have been waiting for her. She closed her eyes and felt it.

She walked forward while glancing around. A maid led her to the living room, assuming she had never been there.

“Ava!”

She heard Carolina's voice. She paused her steps as she turned her head to see her approaching.

"Hello, Aunt."

Carolina pulled her into a warm embrace. It stunned Ava. She hugged her back.

"Welcome, Ava."

Ava smiled at her and replied,

"Thanks, Aunt."

They had already reached the living room. Ava noticed her parents were already seated on the couch since they tereed first.

Ava looked over at her brother, who was sitting with his friends.

How could she have forgotten that all of them were the pack's officials?

"She is here," Carolina said with a cheery voice.

Martin Dawson looked at Ava and smiled at her.

"Uncle," Ava greeted him.

"How are you, Ava?"

"I'm good. How about you?" She asked as she took a seat next to her mother.

"Very good."

Ava noticed that he appeared to be quite happy. What could be the reason? When she last visited the pack house four years ago, he appeared to be furious. It was because he was not happy with his son.

However, Ian's ability to boost the economy of this pack company astounded him. There was no doubt that it was the reason for his good mood.

2/3

204

+25 BONUS

Ava's gaze unintentionally met Ronald's eyes. She did not move her eyes. She stared at him.

"It's been a long time, Ava," Ronald said with a cold tone.

Ava rolled her eyes, which did not go unnoticed by him and his friends.

Why would she listen to any of their cold tones? She did not owe anything..

"Fine," she replied, averting her gaze.

Her attitude astounded the three boys. Stephen was quietly sitting on the couch.

Everyone's attention at that moment was drawn to the sound of cars screeching.

They turned their heads because they could see the outside.

A man in a black suit stepped out of the car.

Ava averted her gaze when she saw Ian.

She knew he would be there for the family dinner.

"They are finally here to complete the get-together," Carolina said with a smile on her face.

Ava frowned at her. "They?"

Carolina nodded her head and answered,

"Yes, Ian and her fiancée are coming today."

Ava tightened her jaw. She was not aware of it. If she had known he was coming with his fiancée, she would not have come here.

"Come, Ian," Alpha Martin said.

Ava was sitting on the opposite side, so she did not bother to look. She knew who he had come with.

She did not like any of them.

Ian came to stand next to the couch where she was sitting. She kept her gaze fixed on the floor.

"Alpha"

Ava's parents stood up and bowed before him. When Ian nodded, Ava's parents looked at her. They were surprised to see that she was not bowing.

Ava did not want to bow to him, so she avoided their gazes.

"I am glad you are all here. Meet her. She is my fiancée."

Ian's voice reached Ava's ears. She did not lift her gaze from the floor.

"Hello, everyone. Nice to meet you all."

As soon as Ava heard that voice, she immediately raised her head to look at the woman.

Her eyes widened as she mumbled,

"Freya!"

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 205[1,041 words]

Ava was shocked. She was not expecting this. Her guess was that Nova was Ian's fiancée.

Never in her life did she expect it to be Freya. She recalled what her friends had said. Her brows rose up when she realized that Freya was also a beta's daughter.

Freya had not noticed her yet. She politely greeted Ian's and Ava's parents. Ian gestured with his hand to a couch, and they went to sit there.

Unintentionally, Ava's eyes followed their movements. She noticed them sitting on a couch, where she could see them clearly.

Sitting on the couch, Ian around his hand around Freya, who nestled in his arm. They looked like a perfect couple.

Ava's breath caught in her throat.

Wasn't this what she left the pack to avoid seeing? Him with another woman.

She reminded herself that Ian was no one to her, so she should not care. However, something continued to sting her heart.

Everyone smiled at them as Ian and Freya looked at each other.

Ava's eyes moved to her own parents. They looked pleased to see them. Apparently they knew who Freya was.

Since everyone was pleased, Ava felt out of place.

Four years was a long time to become a stranger. She was like a stranger who showed up at a family gathering whose presence did not matter. Because the head Alpha and his future Luna presided over the dinner.

Freya lowered her head with a cheerful expression on her face. She looked shy as she pushed a strand of hair behind her ear.

She was a model with a good figure and the kind of beauty that other women desired. Her rose gold silk gown complemented her porcelain skin. Her rosy lips and smile could be many men's dreams.

Ava stared at her with conflicting emotions. She was wondering how Ian and Freya met and became a couple.

Wasn't she a member of the Thunder Howl Pack? The pack Ian hated the most?

Suddenly her eyes widened, and she immediately looked away from Freya.

'Robin... what he said was true!' she thought.

She did not want to remember that boy. If she hated anyone in her life, it was that boy. **He** completely ruined her life. So all these years, she tried to forget him and that incident.

However, seeing Ian with Freya reminded her of what Robin had told her.

'So Freya was that girl! "Ian's childhood sweetheart!" she thought, clutching her fists.

Now she could match all the pieces of the puzzle.

The other boy was Dane, who Freya wanted to be with. Ian hated Dane because of that.

Ava was so preoccupied with her thoughts that she could not notice how the smile faded on the woman's face who was sitting beside her ex-boyfriend.

"You!"

Hearing Freya's voice, Ava turned her head to her.

Freya appeared to be shocked to see Ava there. She had no idea who Ava was or what her family background was. She was only aware that she was an employee of Dane's company. It was only because she had seen her twice at Dane's house.

"I forgot to introduce you to her, darling. Meet Ava Taylor, my former Gamma's daughter, and Stephen's sister."

1/3

205

+25 BONUS

Ian's tone appeared gentle to others, but Ava could clearly detect a mocking tone.

Her eyes did not move to him since she only focused her gaze on Freya.

Freya's eyes grew larger. "Y-You are Ava!"

Ava assumed she knew about Ian's past. That was why she reacted like that

Ava tried to compose herself and replied,

"Hello, Miss Harrison."

Ian raised an eyebrow as he leaned toward Freya and asked,

"How did she know your surname? Have you both met before?"

Freya's shocked expression immediately subsided. She gulped as if she was afraid to give wrong answers.

Ava frowned at her. Why did she look so frightened? It was like she was sitting beside a beast who would eat her alive.

"I met her twice in the Thun-

Ava interrupted Freya before she could say anything else. She did not let her talk about the Thunder Howl Pack. She said,

"I met Miss Harrison at a club. She is a well-known figure. I am a big fan."

Freya stared at her as though she was trying to read her eyes. Ava did not move her eyes, as if she wanted to convey her intention not to say anything.

"Yes, we met at a club," Freya said, turning to Ian.

Ian chuckled as he shook his head.

“I am curious what Miss Harrison was doing in the club.”

Right then Ava’s gaze moved to him. Their eyes locked as they looked at each other.

Ava could tell he wanted to humiliate her in front of everyone.

She smiled and responded,

“I don’t think I need to give that answer, Alpha.”

Ian’s eyes darkened when he heard her sarcastic tone.

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The blaze in their gazes was visible. They almost forgot that they were not the only people who were in the living room.

Everyone noticed it.

Ian’s father, Alpha Martin, spoke up.

“Ian, why are you teasing Ava? I know you must be upset because you do not want any **of** your pack members to migrate to another pack. But she came back.”

Angela, Ava’s mother, gripped her hand and whispered,

“Don’t be sad. Alpha is a little cold towards others.”

Ava scoffed when she heard her mother.

“Yeah, yeah. A little cold,” she muttered.

Ian’s dark gaze stayed on her. She ignored it the entire time.

Ian’s friends gazed at him. They told him to conceal his hatred and not to be so obvious in front of the elders.

2/3

205

+25 BONUS

Stephen was quiet as he observed everything silently. When Ava told him her story that night, he attempted to speak with Jan. However, Ian mocked him, claiming that his sister had only made him a fool. They did not need further evidence because they had already witnessed Robin remaining by his side despite nearly dying.

When it was time to have dinner, Freya looked at Ava and said,

“I want to talk to Ava if you all don’t mind.”

Today’s Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 206[1,106 words]

206

Avis mother smiled at Freya and **said**,

“That’s her pleasure. You are going to be the Lama of this pack. Of course, nobody would mind.”

Ava closed her eyes, almost facepalming herself. She did not want to speak to the woman.

She was not only her ex-boyfriend’s fiancée but also the ex-girlfriend who of the man she liked right now.

Freya walked toward Ava when others were headed to the dining room,

Ava looked at Freya and said,

“Miss Harrison.”

“Oh, please. Call me Freya.”

Ava was taken aback by her soft tone. She nodded her head and murmured,

“Freya.”

They were standing in a corner, holding two glasses.

Ava was not sure what to say to her. She would only listen to her.

“I saw how you were trying to hide your stay in the Thunder Howl Back, Freya said.

Ava sipped on her drink and then replied,

“I don’t want my parents to **know** about it. So if you can, please try to avoid talking about it.”

Freya’s brows raised briefly before falling back as she nodded.

A smirk formed on her lips as she asked,

“And what am I going to get

get for hiding this fact?”

Ava turned her gaze to her with a frown

“Is there **a** cost to simply not discussing something? I didn’t know about it.”

Freya chuckled and uttered,

“It goes beyond simply not talking. It is about keeping something secret. I am not very good at it, you know.”

Ava rolled her eyes. ‘Indeed, people say the right thing. All the glitters are not gold.’ she thought.

“So what do you want?” Ava asked.

Freya looked around as if she was thinking of something. She theasked,

“What exactly were you doing at his house that day?”

Ava froze as she was about to take **a sip** from her drink. She slowly turned her gaze toward Freya.

“Why do you want to know?”

“My wish ”

Ava observed her carefully. She looked like a pretty and softhearted woman. Any man would be attracted to her. That was **why** the two men in her life were so close to liver.

“You should not talk about him. You are someone else’s fiancée right now,” Ava reminded her while glancing at lan, who was

+25 BONUS

talking to Ronald on the other side.

Fra followed her gaze and looked at Ian. She sneered at Ava and said,

“Don’t dare to look at him. He is mine.”

Ava’s gaze moved as she nodded her head and replied,

“I know. I am not interested in him either.”

Freya raised an eyebrow. “I know everything that you have done to him. I know every single thing. You did such a foolish thing when **you** cheated on him.”–

Ava clenched her jaw, not responding to her,

Freya spoke mockingly, saying, “Actually, it was not your fault. Life did you know that he would one day become a formidable Alpha.”

The focus of Freya’s gaze returned to Ian.

“Just take a look at him. I am awestruck by his stunning good looks. When I finally got the chance to meet him after all these years, I almost forgot about everything and fell in love with him. I only wanted him.”

Ava’s eyes moved back to **Ian**.

His black suit fitted his body. The sleeves of that suit covered his tattooed bands. He appeared to **have** a bulging muscle inside the suit jacket. When he moved his brows while he was talking to someone, his handsome face gave the impression of being extremely dominant. It was impossible for women not to notice the right vertical eyebrow piercing, which evoked a desire in them to run their fingers along his brow in the space between curved barbells.

“He is the man that a woman can only have in her dreams. I have him now. Do you know what else? I am his first love.”

Freya’s words pang on Ava’s chest.

‘First love’

He **was** her first love, and his first was Freya

Ava's **heart** skipped a beat when Ian caught her looking at him. She quickly looked away and said,

"It's good you two are together. Since you are his first love, congratulations to him."

Freya scratched her chin with her long **nails** and muttered,

"You are right. Now that **I** am back, no one can take him away from me. He was always mine. Just like air, others simply entered his life and disappeared just **as** quickly."

Ava felt that Freya was mocking her every single time while talking

Did she ever say she wanted to be her fiancé? Why was she being so mean to her?

Ava was about to give her back, but her phone vibrated.

Ava pulled out her phone from her bag and checked it. She noticed it **was** a message from Dane.

She glanced at Freya, who was staring at her phone since they were standing close.

Ava's smile spread across her face. Sometimes the witchy side of her took over her mind, desiring to teach others lessons in her

own **ways**.

She said to **Freya**,

"Excuse me.

+25 BONUS

Freya frowned at her, looking away.

Avead Dane's message. He was asking what was going on in the pack.

Ava replied that she came to meet her parents' friends. She gave Freya a quick glance and was taken aback to see her looking over at her phone once again.

Ava moved her phone away and asked,

"What are you looking at?"

"That 'D' is Dane, right?"

Her face was a clear indication of the curiosity that she was feeling. Ava locked her phone and folded her arms against her chest

“You are absolutely right, Miss Harrison.”

“What’s going on between you and him

“I don’t think you are someone very important to me to reply to that question.”

Freya became silent and turned her gaze away from her. While chuckling, Ava inquired,

“What happened? According to what I have heard, Alpha Ian made his decision about his However, I have also heard that you and Alpha Dane broke up around six months **ago**.”

Freya roze upon hearing Ava.

she glared at her. “How do you know that?”

Ava laughed while shaking her head. “Guess who it could be.”

After a moment’s silence, Ava said,

“Perhaps Miss Harrison cheated on her ex-boyfriend ”

is future wife eight months ago.

Ava noticed all the color in Freya’s face washed away. Ava sipped of her drink and nodded her head quietly.

At that moment, a cold voice spoke up, sending shivers down both women’s spines.

“What are youl

you two talking about?”

207

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 207[1,119 words]

207

AvTturned around and looked at fan. He came to stand next to Fre His hand wrapped around Freya’s waist, drawing Ava’s attention.

She acted as if she did not care. However, she felt awkward inside “N-Nothing,” Freya said, lowering her head.

When Ava looked at her, she noticed that her expression had abruptly changed.

Was she really acting in such innocent?

Ava’s eyes flashed. She gazed at Ian and said,

or was she just putting on an act to give the impression that she was

“She is right. We were talking about nothing. **She** was just talking about her past.”

Ian raised an eyebrow. “What about the past?”

Freya **gave Ava** a stern look. Ava grinned at her. “Why are you look at me like this? Did I say anything wrong? Miss Taylor, it’s better if you don’t talk about the past. I know a lot about your past. Ian has told me everything

In her chest, Ava experienced a chilling shiver. Taking a quick look at Ian, she inquired,

“Really? Everything? What did he say?”

With a look of indifference on his face,

Ian stared at her. When she responded, Freya wore

a sly grin on her face.

“That’s how you used to sleep around with other boys before and after he came into your life. He even categorized you under different names. Would you like to hear any of them?”

Ava tightened her **jaw**. Her eyes did not move away from Ian.

“I see. What about you,

Miss Harrison? Did you do the same with your ex-boyfriend?”

As soon as Ava brought up Freya’s ex-boyfriend, Ian’s eyes became more gloomy. His brows arched as he pulled Freya closer to him and muttered,

“She is not

is not like you, **Ava** Taylor.”

Ava sneered at him. “Yeah, sure. She is innocent,”

Saying that, she rolled her eyes and took another sip of her drink. She did not show any signs of being affected by them

As she **was** about to gulp her drink, she paused upon hearing Ian

“I was the one who took her from her ex-boyfriend.”

Ava immediately turned her head to face Ian. That caught her off guard.

Ian smirked while looking at Freya.

His words struck a chord **in Ava's** heart. The way he was looking at **Freya**, that gaze was used to be for hers.

A grin **appeared** on Freya's face as she spoke to Jah.

“From the beginning, I was yours, **Jan**.”

Ava stared at them. They did not notice how she took a few steps back away from them.

“Did she offend you?” **he** asked Freya,

207

+25 BONUS

Ava heard him, thinking that she would talk to him about her and Dane,

But Freya did not do what she assumed. Instead, she said,

“Na. She just guessed. How could she know about my past and ex boyfriend?”

Freya's eyes moved to Ava, and she mumbled,

“If anyone believes that spending time with someone will make them theirs, they are only a fool.”

Ian's brows rose up. “What do you mean?”

“Nothing. I just wanted to say that first love will always be first love. No one can forget that. A man's priority will always be his first love.” Freya said and smiled.

Ava blinked her eyes

First love.

Jan's first love was Freya.

Dane's first love was also Freya.

It was then **that** she recalled how she had noticed hickeys on Dane's neck, and he had told her that Freya had gone wild in the car. He would **have** broken their hands if she had been someone else **instead** of Freya. However, because Freya was the one who did it, everything was forgiven.

She gazed at Freya again. The way Tan **was** looking at Freya, he did not give this look after meeting for four years.

Ava felt **taking** a breath was difficult for her. She was in desperate need of some fresh air.

Who was she?

A second woman in both of the men's lives?

Indirectly, Freya reminded her that she would always be these men's first priority.

"You are absolutely right, Freya. When I was younger, I misunderstood you, I looked for someone who did **not** even exist in the world. A loyal girl with devotion. I forgot that a man without power is nothing. Now I have power, and I have you. Everyone would come after me, proving to me their innocence. Isn't it?"

Ian said with a dark gaze fixed on Freya.

His words hit both of the women's **hearts**. It was as if he said those things with intent for both of them.

Ava recalled how, when he called her a prostitute in the **private** room, she attempted to explain that she **had** done nothing

Wrong

She wondered if Stephen **had told** him anything. It could be the reason Ian assumed she was after him again and wanted to prove her innocence.

Nevertheless he **was** not the same Ava who would beg him in the past. She had changed throughout the years.

The composure she possessed was unshakeable. She had a strong desire to cut herself off from their sides.

At that time, Dane called her. Freya and Dane were both drawn to her ringtone, which caught their attention.

Ava ignored them and accepted the call without looking at the number.

“Hello?”

Dane’s **voice** came to her ears.

“Busy?”

2.3

207

+25 BONUS

Almost immediately, Ava experienced a sense of peace within her art. She then took a few deep breaths and closed her eyes. She was able to feel calm despite the chaos that was going on around her thanks to lila voce

She did not **move** and did not care if the two other people could hear her.

“For you, I am always free.”

As soon as Freya heard that, she laughed out loud.

“Can you see? She

e is not after you. She is over you, Ian. You were with the wrong

ng woman,” she whispered while looking at him

Ian’s eyes lingered on **Ava’s** face. She wore a grin on her face while he was on the phone with the other person. He did not hear Freya’s words because his mind was elsewhere.

“I know you want me to be there. But I need to stay here for a few days.”

Freya gave Ava a bored look because she knew who she was speaking to.

he man who was standing next to her tightened his hold on her waist.

However, she let out a hiss as the

She gave his hand a quick glance before turning to face him.

His eyes were drawn to Ava, indicating that he was not pleased with the conversation he **was** listening to.

©

+25 BONUS

208

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 208[993 words]

208

in

“Ian, you are hurting me,” Freya said, grabbing his hand and posting it away.

It dawned on Ian that his hold was too firm for her petite waist.

He turned his attention to Freya and said,

“I am sorry.”

Freya blinked when she heard his apologetic tone. She blushed when he lifted his hand and stroked her l

“Make your way to the dining room. I am coming.

Ava glanced at him and noticed his action. She walked by them without a word. She did not look affected by the

It infuriated Ian even more. He glared at her back, watching her move to the lobby

Freya **headed** to the dining room.

On the other hand, in a different comer,

Stephen and Ronald were far away and observing everything that was going on. Ronald’s eyes were fixed on his best friend while Stephen’s eyes were on his sister.

“I don’t know what will happen. At this point, everything appears to be in disarray,” Ronald muttered.

Stephen shook his head. “I have no clue either.”

Ronald turned to him and asked,

“What you said to Ian that day, was it true? Is she blameless?”

Stephen looked away from Ava, who had turned to the other side and vanished from his sight.

“That is what Ava told me.

Ronald observed that Stephen sounded really upset. He patted his shoulder and asked,

“Steph, are you okay?”

once in front of Ian

do is believe my

Stephen let out a deep breath. “I don’t know. Should I be okay? I do not have any evidence to prove her. He is not only my friend but also the head Alpha. I can’t overtake him in any matter. But as a brother, all sister. Her eyes began to well up with tears, and I noticed it. That day, she explained to me how she was trapped. If what she said were really true, then as a brother I am lost in my responsibility. I should have killed Robin that day instead of trusting him.”

Ronald gave him his full attention **as** he spoke. He was the beta of this pack. As **a** result of the situation’s twisting, his sharp

mind was thrown off by it.

“If it’s true, then Ian”

He passed; he did not know how his best friend would react. All of these years, all he felt was alone inside, which would be a lie. Instead of hating her, he would go deep in regret.

For that reason, he prayed that it was not true. Because he could not see him in that situation.

“As a beta of this pack, all I can say is...” he glanced at **Ian**, who was heading in the direction where Ava had just left.

“**Ian** had done a lot. He was even successful in regaining the love of the girl he had a crush on when he was younger. The girl even left his enemy and returned to him. Now there is no going back.” ¹

Stephen nodded his **head** and murmured,

“We will see what fate has in store for them.”

“I have a question for yo

When Ava heard Dane’s words, she froze. Leaning against a pillar, he looked toward the front gate

“Dane,” she mumbled.

Was there anything she did that made him angry? What made him want to assign someone else to her project?

“Did I do something?” she whispered

“No, you didn’t. But the pack meeting is scheduled for this week. You must begin working within two or three days”

Ava gasped “B-But I was expecting it to happen next month.

“Yeah, but everyone decided to move the date forward.”

Oh,” she said, lowering her head.

Dane was silent as well as Ava. She was sad that she would have to leave this important project.

There was no way that she would return before her birthday. It was impossible. It was because she promised her mother. Her mother came first, even before her job.

However, she did not want to make Dane lose his business either. So she chose to let it go.

“Okay, you can give it to someone else.”

Dane remained silent. Nor did she say anything. Both of them were silent for a while without explanation.

Dane broke the silence by saying,

“If you **want**, you can come back and go there **on** your birthday.”

Ava thought about her mother’s happy face. A small smile came to her lips as she replied confidently.

“No, I don’t want to. I am sorry. Because of my absence, you have to send this work to someone else.”

“So that is your final decision?”

“Yeah.”

“OK, I got it.”

Ava thought he was mad at her. She guessed that he expected her to accept and return to his pack.

She cleared her throat and questioned,

“Are you mad?”

“For what?”

Rather than responding, she asked,

“Are you missing me?”

“What do you think?”

“Ummm, **maybe.**”

“Alot”

Ava blushed and lowered her head. Her smile faded **as** she remembered Freya was also present in this pack

208

+25 BONUS

wanted to ask him if he knew where she was. She wondered how furious he would be when he found out Freya had become his rival’s fiancé

She thought not to say anything to ruin his mood

“Do you miss me?” he asked.

Ava nodded as if he were right in front of him.

“Yeah, I miss you very much.”

After saying that, Ava hung up the phone with a flushed face

Her smile broadened as she realized how much he cared for her. She had someone who wanted her to be with him.

She promised herself to be with him, giving him the same care in return, and showed him her loyalty.

Suddenly, she felt a warm breath near her ear, causing her to flinch immediately. A familiar scent clung to her heart as she heard a cold whisper.

“Miss you and all, huh?”

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 209[1,105 words]

Ava immediately turned around. She was taken aback when her face came so close to Ian's.

She froze in her state. It looked like he also did not expect

her to turn around like this.

Tension between them crackled through the air. They were silently looking into each other's eyes.

Her heart started pounding in her chest.

His face was a mask of fury. His eyes were like lasers, piercing her

He did not look pleased at all. Every muscle of his body seemed tense, ready to explode.

It was like standing in the path of a raging storm.

A cold breeze swept over her. She felt like a deer caught in the headlights.

“You?”

She broke the silence and took a step backward.

Ian's eyes shifted as he noticed her distancing herself.

His jaw clenched as he glared at her.

Ava did not know why he came behind her. She averted her gaze from his glare and asked,

“What are you doing here?”

“Have you forgotten whose house this **is**?

His cold tone **slowed** her heartbeat. She closed her eyes, not wanting his words or him to have an impact on her heart.

When she opened her eyes, they were serene. Her eyes went back to him.

This is your house. But why were you behind me?”

“Who are you speaking with?”

He asked **a** straightforward question. It was as though he did not like to beat around the bush. He wanted a clear-cut answer.

She frowned at him and asked,

“Were you eavesdropping?”

Ian’s glare fixed her as he said,

“Who?”

His question caused her to feel enraged. She, for the first time, changed her attitude and tried **to** give it back to him..

She glared at him in response and replied,

“Someone who really **care** about.”

His eyes moved slightly. His tight fists became firmer as he gritted his teeth and said,

“Who is the “D” on your call listi

Ava was caught off guard when she **heard** him. Did he look at her over the **phone** when Dane called her a while ago? How did he see the caller’s name?

“That’s none of your business,” she replied, trying to walk past him.

200

+25 BONUS

Dan grasped her hand and pulled her back. He turned her to the pillar and pressed her against it.

She gasped at his unexpected action. She tried to push him while saving.

“Let me go.”

“Who is he?” he asked again.

She stopped pushing him and gave him a calm look. Her eyes were focused on his as she spoke.

“Someone who truly does like me, and I feel the same way.

“Whos

Jan paused for a moment, then he let out a scoff “Who is he? A new man? A new client? A new target?

She felt a twinge in her heart.

“Don’t you think I am a slut? Why do you care who I am speaking th?

Ava’s question enraged Ian. He grabbed her arms tightly, causing her to hiss

He leaned close to her **face** and muttered,

“I don’t care. But how can I allow the woman who ruined my life to live peacefully?”

Ava nodded her head as if she had accepted her defeat. But then she smiled at him and said in a sarcastic tone,

“You are right. I am the one who ruined your life. But it was about four years ago. What are you doing right now? Why **could** y not get over that incident? Why couldn’t you move on?”

His eyes darkened. Though his facial expression reflected his mood. His voice was **very** calm.

you

“I couldn’t move on? Didn’t you see who I am with? I found the woman who deserves me. She is not a woman who will betray me in the same way that you have ”

Ava raised an eyebrow. “That’s so nice of her.”

Her mocking tone infuriated him. He put his hand next to her head on the wall **and said,**

“But that doesn’t mean I will let you go. Your every move is under my observation. How can I grant you happiness?”

She thought he was incredibly cruel. He was saying that she could not move on, but he could. The feeling inside her was something she could not describe.

“Look, Ian

with your family, I won’t accept any disrespect. It can harm your

“It’s Alpha for you. Just because you came here as a guest with parents too.”

She **was** stunned. He **was** talking about harming his own gamma’s family! Was he even **real**?

Alpha Ian, I want to give you free advice. Take it or leave it. Don’t come in my way. I am not what you are thinking.”

His body nearly pressed against her as he leaned in closer. She swallowed, keeping the small distance by pressing her back against the pillar even more.

“Oh, **really**? What **are** you?”

Ava looked into his eyes. Her **eyes** glinted emerald for a second, Ian thought he was seeing an illusion.

Ava’s black eyes darkened as she said,

“I am a fire. I will burn you if you come close to me. For me, you are only the tip of the iceberg. We are completely opposite of **each** other. The more we distanced ourselves from each other, the easier it would be to part ways.”

209

+25 BONUS

After hearing her, Ian stared at her for a long time. She also did not break eye contact with him, which was indifference. She did not care about her life anymore.

conveying her inner feelings to

How many?” he spoke up again.

“Huh?”

She did not understand what he was asking. But the next moment, he clarified her confusion by asking.

“How many men have you slept with? Have you had fun?”

His tone was serious as if the question was extremely important to him. She shook her head in disbelief. However, it was not like she would not reply.

She pressed her hand on his **chest** and pushed him away.

“There are so many that you can not keep **track**”

His furious expression **was** frozen by her blunt response. She turned to head inside, ignoring him.

But she paused after taking a few steps. She turned her head to the side and said,

“The man I am with right now is a blessing to me. He never accused me of anything. He **made me** forget my past, and now he is

the only one for me. I promised myself to be loyal to him. Because I really like him. I admire him, and I believe there is no one in his comparison.”

210

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 210[1,067 words]

+25 BONUS

lary watched Ava.

inside. His eyes blazed in anger. The hatred in his heart turned into a fire. It could blow up at any time. He had to idea how long he could keep under control.

He turned around and walked out of the house. While walking, he took out the box of cigarettes from his pocket. After lighting one, he put the box inside the pocket.

He came to a **halt** a little way from the pack house. His eyes fell on the garage. Even though it was locked and no one could see anything from the outside. But he was aware of what was inside.

He made his way to the garage. The guard who was sitting beside the garage immediately stood up and bowed to him.

“Alpha

“Open”

The guard quickly raised the slitter to let him in.

Jan took a puff of the cigarette and **raised** his hand, signaling him to leave.

After bowing to him once more, the guard left.

Jan stepped into the garage.

Ignoring the bike, his attention was drawn to the sports car. He took a step closer and came to a halt beside it. His hand rose caressed the top of the vehicle. The smashed car appeared to **be** in bad shape.

Jan’s thoughts went back to the accident that **had** occurred many Wars ago.

and

It **had** never happened when he lost control of himself until that night. There had never been a day when he was afraid of death but that night.

It was the worst time of his life. He could never **forget** that night.

The rush of speed and emotions of thoughts both captured him that night, making a distraction for him.

The way the car rolled and hit his head, the **airbag** could not save him from getting wounded.

When he felt pain enveloping him inside, he was only thinking one thing. He would never see the girl he loved the most again.

Death was so close to him that he forgot her betrayal and wanted to have her once again. Instead of accusing her, he started to accuse himself. He was also a boy who used to sleep around with girls. How many girls? He **also** could not count.

But there was a difference between the two things. After **realizing** his love and confessing it to **Ava**, he had never other girl.

but any

But still, he thought to let go of everything. He considered removing the scene that he had seen in Robin’s room; he almost convinced himself not to bring it up to upset her again. All he wanted was to be with her.

In the last moment of his death, he wanted to be with her.

She was the only one he gave the chance to enter his heart. Once she entered, there was no way he could forget her, not even in the last moment of his life.

Her body trembled when the car struck a tree with such force. If he did not get out of the **car**,

It would blast in a moment.

However, he had no strength left inside. His wolf wanted to shift to break the door and jumped outside. But his legs felt numb. He could not shift without the strength of his legs.

The faded voices **of** screams **and** the sirens of the ambulance came to his ear. It smelled like something was burning. Perhaps the engine caught fire.

210

+25 **BONUS**

Suddenly, the car door flung open, and the yellow lights from outside fell on his face, forcing him to close his eyes tightly.

They could tell the boy inside the car was desperate to get out. But He was unable to express his emotions through his face. His whole body and face were numb. A pool of blood was gushing from his head.

They were afraid that he would be dead on the spot.

Praying that the Alpha's only son and the heir of the pack would not die, they successfully got him out of the car and put him in a stretcher bed.

He could feel himself slipping out of his consciousness. Before closing his eyes, his lips trembled as he murmured,

"I love you, Ava. Only with me."

When his eyes opened, the scent of medicine filled his nostrils. The temperature inside the room felt so cold to him that his whole body started shivering.

He tried to move his head to look around as the only thing he could see was the white ceiling.

But a piss came out of his mouth when he felt unendurable pain in his head. He tried to move his body but failed to do it. His whole body was paralyzed.

The nurses came to the room to check on him. They rushed back outside to call the doctors

The doctors checked him and let out breaths of relief.

He saw their relieved expressions; he seemed to be on the verge of passing away but was revived.

“You are fortunate to stay alive. If not, it would not **have** been possible to get the rare blood in your body. You are really strong The moon goddess **rescued** you to lead the pack.”

The nurses **nodded** their heads in agreement. “Your family is very worried. We have to inform them right now.”

The doctor said **and** injected him with something, and he fell unconscious.

The next time he came to consciousness, he could move his hands. He could talk, too. He told the nurses to call his friends only

He asked them about Ava

“She...she left the pack, Ian.”

It was Stephen who spoke out. The three other boys’ eyes widened as if they did not want to tell **him** about it right now.

He froze when he heard Stephen. A mist could **be** seen in his eyes.

“Left?”

In a blink of an eye, he grabbed the IV drops and yanked it out of husband Blood gushed out of his veins.”

His friends were shocked. They tried to stop him from moving But all he wanted to do was go in search of the girl he loved.

Stephen promised him to take Ava back. Stephen kept sending her messages about his accident and told her that he just wanted to meet her just once.

Days **passed**, but she never returned.

The

e sorrow in his heart turned into rage.

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 211[1,107 words]

211

The pack was abuzz with the news of him. His father wanted it top, but it was him who did not stop it. He assumed that Ara would see the news and return

Perhaps the news of his critical condition was the reason she did not return. She did not want to be with someone who was on the edge of **death**,

Maybe she never loved him for a moment in her life, so she showed him the cruelty that he never expected.

“Alpha?”

The voice of the guard came to lan’s ear as he looked away from the sports car. He realized that the past had almost consumer him.

“Alpha, your father is calling you to join the dining table. Everybody is waiting for you.”

Tan dropped the half-burnt cigarette on the ground. With his left shoe, he crashed it.

Turning around to the guard, he gave him a look while saying,

Draw the shutter down.”

“Y-Yes, Alpha.”

When Tan walked out of the garage, he heard the sound of the shutter closing.

He made his way back to the pack house.

As soon as he went inside the dining room, everyone at the table turned silent

He walked toward the head chair and sat down

“Where were you, lan? We have been waiting for you.

He heard his mother’s voice. He looked at her and said,

“Let’s eat“!

After a brief moment of fixing her gaze on her son, Carolina let out a sigh. Having her son join them for a meal was not something that happened very often. Therefore, it did not worry her in the least if she had to wait for a number of hours. She was happy to see him eating in front of her.

When Martin heard his son, he **gave a** slight nod of his head. In the past four **years**, he had witnessed the transgression that his son had undergone. But discipline, it was something he could not expect from his **son**.

In fact, his son was the Alpha who did not like to follow any rules and regulations, yet he was the most successful one

As everyone started to eat, they started to talk. When Carolina and Angela were discussing something, they both laughed.

Jan felt a gaze on him. He turned his head to look at her right side. He noticed Freya was not eating anything; instead, her focus was on him

He leaned in close to her and inquired,

“What? Not going to eat?”

Freya lowered her head and moved the fork on her plate while asking,

“You went to talk with her, didn’t you?”

Jan **withdrew** his gaze from her and looked away. His eyes moved to every **person** sitting at the table. His gaze eventually stopped on Ava.

211

He kept

gaze fixed on Ava and murmured, “Had a small conversation.”

+25 BONUS

She appeared to be careless as she ate her food in a quiet manner. She did not look interested in what conversations were going

on around her

Freya glanced at Ava and chuckled.

“I see. There is something about her that I am aware of that you will not like.”

lan looked away from Ava and muttered,

“I **don’t** like anything about her. Just hate her... a lot.”

Freya nodded her head and started to eat. “That’s good. Having a hateful relationship is not that bad.”

It was a mock for lan to even think about his ex-girlfriend, Freya dal not like it at all when she saw lan glancing at Ava every minute. It seemed like his eyes unintentionally reached her.

“So Ava, how was your life in another pack?” Carolina asked cheerfully

Ava was eating quietly. But when she heard her, she paused.

She raised her gaze and looked at her. “Fine.”

Freyameddled in the conversation as she said,

“I think it’s not just fine, Something much more than that.”

Putting her spoon on the plate, Ava put her palm **over** her chin. “Something like what, Freya? What about you? You are also from another pack.”

Freya grinned at her. “Everyone knows about me. I am **a** very hardworking woman. My dad was the beta of the Thunder Howl Pack. When he died, I started to stay in the pack house with my brother since he has become the beta right now.

Ava was not aware of it. She had never visited the Thunder Howl Park’s packhouse. Sometimes she heard Dane going there for meetings or going there occasionally when he needed to be there

“Nice,” **Ava** mumbled.

“As you know, I am going to be your future Lima. How are you feeling? What are your thoughts?” Freya asked with a smirk.

Ava looked at lan, who was giving her a cold look.

Ava returned her gaze to Freya and replied,

“I didn’t know I would be this important after coming from another **pack that** the future Lama herself asked me about my thoughts about her.”

She **paused** for a moment as if she was considering it. Then she added,

“I learned that you are the childhood sweetheart of our head Alpha, Since you are his choice, you must be a really loyal woman who will **always** be beside him.”

Everyone turned silent. They expected Ava to give her thoughts on how Freya would run the pack. But she actually replies about their private **lives**.

“You are right. Not everyone deserves a man like him, you know, I was in his fate. I was a fool for not realizing this earlier.” Lan’s parents gave him a quick glance. They had never seen him express his love for Freya. So learning from her that she was his first love, it was a surprise to them, although making her his fiancée was his own decision.

Carolina cleared her throat, breaking the silence of the room. She looked at Ava with a smiley face **and** asked,

“What about you, Ava? Have you got anyone in your life?”

+25 BONUS

Ava’s mother turned to Ava and held her hand. “That was also my question.

fan pierced his gaze on her. He knew she w

going to lie in front of her parents

yfrowned while looking at her. They

Ava lowered her head and replied,

“I have someone in my life, Mom.”

Everyone shifted their attention to her. Ian’s friends were also present in the room. They fo glanced at Ian to see his reaction

“Really?” Angela almost jumped **in** surprise.

She looked happy to hear that her daughter had finally found her mate.

“Who is he, my darling?”

Ava blushed as she said,

“I will introduce him to everyone soon.

Don't Leave Me, Mate (by AlisTae)

Oh Really 212[1,049 words]

Avand her family left the park house and went back to their house.

While lying on the bed, Ava recalled how Ian's eyes were piercing into hers when she was talking about having someone in her

"What do you want? You can have someone, but I can't? Then you are an idiot. I am not going to cry over a person who doesn't deserve me."

She closed her eyes, hoping to forget what had happened today.

The next morning,

Ava's eyes opened when she heard the loud knocks on her door, She hurriedly jumped out of bed and ran to the door.

She thought something had happened.

When she opened the door, she found Debra standing there.

"Debra?

"Babe, what's wrong with you? Why were you not answering my calls?"

Ava turned her head and glanced at her phone, which was lying on the bed. She might have mistakenly put it on silent mode. "I am sorry, I was

"It's okay."

Debra spoke and pushed her inside. She closed the door and turned to face her.

"Now get ready. We have to go out."

Ava gave

a puzzled look. "Go out? Where? And what time is it?" Ava said, rubbing her eyes.

"What time? It is eleven in the morning."

Ava saw Debra shaking her head in disbelief. She yawned, pushing her away,

"I want to sleep more."

She walked over to the bed while saying this. Debra quickly grabbed her hand.

“No, no, We have some work. You can’t sleep.”

“No. Leave me. I want to sleep, Debra. Last night I could not sleep

“I understand what you were thinking all night How to ignore the cruel tan Dawson?”

Ava was unable to deny it. She was absolutely right. She sighed and took a seat on the bed.

“I am just exhausted. I am going back soon

Her words came as a surprise to Debra. She sat down next to her.

Awa, why do you want to go back?” she asked her with an upset tone.

Ava lowered her head and rubbed one palm against another. She blinked, her gaze shifting to the floor.

...”

She had no idea what to say. Why did she want to go back? What was the real reason?

212

+25 BONUS

Debra smirked when she noticed her confusion. She leaned toward her and whispered.

“Perhaps it’s because of the guy you like.”

And raised her gaze to look at her. Debra wiggled her brows with evil pr

Ava laughed as she shook her head. “Come on, Deb.”

Debra moved her hands and began to tickle her.

“Tell me how things are going between you and him. Have you done that yet?—

Ava could not say anything because she was laughing so hard. De was tickling her belly and

Ava lay on the bed as she moved left and right. Debra continued to tickle her. She also lay down on the bed, began to laugh together.

“Let me go. I can not take it anymore.” Ava exclaimed loudly, laughing

At that moment, the door burst open

Both of them turned their heads to the door and paused.

Stephen stood at the door, worried, until he saw what was going on in the bed.

He looked at both women with a frown

“What the hell! What are you two doing?” he said, arching his brows deeper.

Ava noticed her pajamas were unfixed as well as Debra’s clothes. It was because of their tickling sensation. She could not help but laugh and sat up.

Debra did not sit up. Instead, she gave Stephen a smug look and asked,

“What are yo

are you doing here? You should have knocked on the door before entering

Stephen’s brows rose up hearing her question.

“Excuse me? This is my home, and this is my sister’s room. I don’t need to take your permission to enter.”

Debra rolled her eyes and then closed her eyes. Her actions infuriated Stephen, and he glared at her in a hostile manner.

Ava felt awkward in that situation. She glanced at Debra and then at her brother.

“Steph, do you need something?”

That was when he moved his gaze from Debra and shifted his gaze

“I heard your screams. So I rushed he

“Oh. I am sorry. Nothing happened. We were just having fun.”

“Yeah, I saw it,” he muttered, glancing at Debra again.

With a sigh, Debra got up and looked at Ava

“Why don’t you just go and have a shower?”

Ava realized that she could not sleep anymore. So she agreed with her and went to take a shower.

When Debra noticed Ava closing the bathroom door, she turned to Stephen, who was fixing his glare at her.

Debra got out of bed and fixed her dress, which ruffled a little.

“Look, I am telling you this for the first and very last time. Don’t ever talk to me or give me that attitude again.”

210

+25 BONUS

Debra frowned at him and asked,

ust because you are the Gemma of this park

A look of anger was all that Stephen gave her, he did not respond

Debra moved toward him and stopped a few feet away

“I thought you were a sensible guy when you accepted her as your ster. But you are just like any other men. You didn’t trust her. Her own brother didn’t trust her Tran’t tell you how much I despise you for this, Stephen Taylor”

Stephen was taken aback. He never had many conversations with Debra But one thing was obvious. He never liked this girl. always overtook him. It never suited him.

But after she told him about Ava’s situation, he turned his bread w

“The circumstances were worse at the time I had no choice but to believe what was in front of my eyes

Debra scoffed at him. “Sometimes what you see is not always the mouth

The attention of Stephen was once again drawn to her. He looked directly into her eyes. He could see a look of imitation

He could understand why she did not like him. It was because Ava was her friend, and he did not that her at first.

“Your friend’s game is over. My friend now has her own man. Your friend can go to hell”

213

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Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 213[1,093 words]

Stephen did not like how Debra talked about tan. He was the game, and lan was his Alpha.

He pointed his finger at her and said,

“Even my sister is not allowed to talk about him like that. So don’t you dare”

It was a sharp warning from Stephen. Debra first looked at his finger, then at him.

“Your friend hurt my friend a lot. How can you expect me to speak to highly of him? I am surprised that you are so calm. You should slap him for hurting your sister.”

“Will you shut your mouth, or I will make you do it?” He said as he took a step toward her.

Debra was stunned by his sudden action. But she did not take a step back

“What will you do to shut my mouth? You can’t. I am with **Ava** and will always be on her side. That day I was not beside her, but Abigail was. She told me how broke Ava was. We both cried when Ava left this pack. You will never understand the pain she left behind and the sufferings she endured.”

Stephen tightened his fists. He was already experiencing guilt.

Debra was making him feel more guilty. He imagined in his mind how Ava was crying when no one was there for her.

He felt hurt in her heart where he **had** a soft place for Ava as his little sister.

However, he could not ignore lan’s suffering

He himself witnessed how much lan used to love Ava. So watching something like that clearly broke his heart and trust in Ava

“It’s funny that you all are such powerful people but never investigate the truth,” Debra said, folding her arms against her chest

“We did,”

muttered.

Debra was shocked. Her posture changed as she looked surprised

“You did?”

Stephen looked away from her and replied,

when he was so

“We looked for Robin and discovered him overseas. Ian almost killed him. Even in his deathbed, Robin refused to admit the truth, instead blaming everything on Ava. It was clear to us that he might be right. Because how could anyone close to dying? 1

Debra was **at** a loss for words.

Ian really investigated all of this matter?

She blinked her eyes, unsure what to think about Ian now.

It was true that both Abigail and Debra knew that Ian used to love her a lot, and it was all just a misunderstanding that ended their relationship. However, after learning that Ian thoroughly investigated and found Ava guilty, she concluded that Ian must now despise Ava even more. He misunderstood her again.

Stephen **did** not continue the matter as he turned around and walked out of the room.

Debra fixed her gaze on his strong back as he walked away. Her eye shone with an unintentional glint.

She murmured in a low tone.

“So he really tried to save her from all of this?”

Her harsh attitude toward Stephen changed in some **way**. She realized someone really played a great game with all of them.

+25 BONUS

They managed to trap Ava in the situation at any cost.

Later, Ava prepared, and Debra drove her to their university.

When the car came to a stop at the campus gate, Ava’s mind wandered back to old memories.

She observed that everything had remained the same, with the exception of the paint, which appeared to be fresh. In the past, the entire area was made of red concrete, but now all of the walls have turned white.

With Debra by her side, Ava took a tour of the campus, but she was unsure of the reason she had brought her here.

Debra led her to the cafeteria, their safe place.

Ava walked into the cafeteria and looked around. Her gaze shifted to a table in the corner, filled with new students.

It used to be Ian's **and** his friends' table.

She turned away, pushing the thoughts away.

The cafeteria kept reminding her of every incident that had happened here in the past.

She remembered how Ian punched a boy and broke his nose. She recalled how she and Ian used to spend their time in this cafeteria.

"Ava?"

She heard Debra's voice and shut her eyes tightly to forget about the past.

She took a long breath and opened her eyes. Debra held her hand and headed to a table.

As she mumbled,

As soon as Ava noticed the table, her eyes widened in surprise. A smile spread on her lips as

"Luke!!!"

There was Luke, sitting at the table, and he was smiling at her. He got to his feet and gave her a **bear** hug. Ava did not hesitate and hugged him in return.

"It's been a long time. How are you, Ava?"

Ava broke the hug and looked at him.

"I am fine. What about you? How is your basketball going?"

Luke ruffled her hair just like before, causing Ava **to** chuckle.

"So you know," he grinned.

“Of course.”

Luke had become a famous basketball player. As he **was** growing in that field, his father supported him and did not force him to join the business.

“I am doing well. A match is scheduled for the following week. Come and cheer me on.”

“Of course, I will. But only if you introduce your beautiful girlfriend to me.”

Luke scratched the back of his neck and replied,

-He had found his mate two years ago, and he was happy with her. Ava knew **about** his girlfriend because she worked **as a** journalist and interviewed Dane on a few occasions. But they never **met** personally.

When Debra saw Abigail coming into the cafeteria, she waved her hand.

213

+25 BONUS

Abigail approached Ava slowly from behind and gave her a back hug. Ava chuckled as she knew it was her best friend.

What a sight! It’s like our reunion,” Abigail said.

Ava looked at her three friends. She **was** blessed to have them. They were still the same people who cared for her a lot.

All of them sat at the table and ordered food for them. Ava noticed that everyone’s taste buds had changed. She smiled when she felt that time really changed everything, but it could not change the people who they were.

Debra cleared her throat to get everyone’s attention and said,

“So basically, I took Ava here because I wanted to **talk** about the upcoming party.”

Ava was confused. “Party? What party?”

Abigail looked at her and replied,

“Our university’s reunion party.”

214

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 214[1,044 words]

Ava was taken aback

“Reunion?”

“Yes, reunion,” Abigail said, pulling out the envelope and pushing toward Ava.

Ava grabbed it and examined it carefully.

It was made of thick paper with decorative designs. She slowly opened the envelope and took out a card from inside, which **was** a warm yellow in color.

It was an invitation to attend the reunion party. She noticed her name elegantly written in calligraphy.

‘Ava Taylor‘

She put the card back inside and closed the envelope. Returning it to the table, she turned to face her friends.

“Guys, I don’t want to attend any reunion party.”

“What? But why?” Debra said with a frown.

Luke and Abigail were also caught off guard by her words. They leaned forward and tried to persuade her. The same way they used to convince her to go to parties in the past

Ava lowered her gaze and mumbled,

“A reunion party means meeting all the people I left behind, including the memories I want to forget”

Her friends were silent.

After a long moment of silence, Luke cleared his throat and said,

“I know it will be difficult for you. But hey! Isn’t it what it means to let go of your past?”

Ava looked at him. He grinned at her.

“Just forget about everything and enjoy. This is your new life. Even if you meet the people you don’t want to see, it’s okay. Just let them enjoy theirs and be the person who you are.”

Ava stared at him. She wondered if he really knew the reason why an had broken up with her.

She shifted her gaze at Abigail and Debra. Their eyes begged her to agree.

“Please, we will have fun. Without you, it’s impossible to enjoy. **You are** here; **how** can we not expect you to be with us?” Debra

Ava let out a deep sigh. She could not help but agree with them.

“Okay.”

“Yes!”

Abigail abruptly gave her shoulder a pat and sang over it,

“Well, if you want, you are allowed to take your man to the reunion party with you. Because we each have an extra pass to bring our partners with us.”

Ava **was** stunned. Bring her man with her? How?

Shpi

looked down at her phone, which was lying on the table.

Would she ask him to join her?

+25 BONUS

She recalled how buy he had become with the upcoming project. It was impossible for him to come. In fact, supposed to work on had gone from her hand.

project she was

exhaled and shook her head

“No, he can’t. He is a very lany person.”

“Hey! Wait a minute. What man are you all talking about? Enlighten me a little,” Lake said, sipping his apple je

Debra smirked at Lake and replied,

“Our Ava has someone in her life. Maybe her boyfriend”

When Ava heard Debra calling Dane her boyfriend, she linked she had not accepted Diane's proposal yet. But she definitely would accept him

She smiled, lowering her gaze, trying; to hide it from her friends.

"Look! She is blushing Oh my god" Abigail said with a laugh

"When **will** you introduce him to in?" Luke asked.

He was excited as he had no other intentions toward Ava now. He had a soft spot for her, but after meeting his mate, he realized

she was the only person for him.

Ava's gaze wandered around the cafe, thinking of Darie

"Soon," she mumbled.

"Who is **he**?"

"He is..."

She paused, trying to find words. Abigail asked curiously,

"He is what?"

"He is a good man. He genuinely cares for me. Even in a situation where no one could trust anyone, he trusted me despite the fact that I was a stranger to him."

Debra and Abigail rested their chins on their hands while their elbows were resting on the table. They obser that Ava really liked that man.

However, one question **was** in both of their minds.

"Does she really love him?"

It was clear

Ava spent the whole day with her friends. The reunion party was next week. They discussed what they would wear and what time they would go there. While Debra would go with her ex-boyfriend, who recently expressed interest in seeing her again, Abigail said she would go with one of her colleagues. Luke would be there with his girlfriend, who he had already invited to join him.

It was late evening

Ava went to the fabric mall alone to explore. She was a fashion designer. So she was very drawn to the new **fabric** quality

After one hour, she left the mall and walked on the road.

She **waited** for a few minutes before taking a **cab** and left for her house.

It took her half an hour to arrive at her house. She paid the driver and stepped out of the cab.

Around her house, every single light was turned off. It came **as a** surprise to her. She glanced around and realized that the power had gone.

+25 BONUS

With slow steps, she began to walk. There were many cars parked there on the way. She was striding to reach the front door of her house.

Suddenly, a hand grabbed her hand and drew her into the space between two cars.

Ava **gasped** in shock

Her back pressed against a car.

Her eyes widened as she looked at the silhouette in front of her.

In the darkness, all she could see was a man in a hoodie.

w-Who?

She muttered as she was too shocked to react.

When he did not reply, she tried to push him. But the man pressed his hand over her mouth.

He leaned in close to her face and moved to her ear

H

‘Are you still confused?’

Ava’s already wide-open eyes now widened even more. Her lips parted behind his palm as her eyebrows shot upward in surprise

Just then, the power came back on, and one by one, the lights outside the house came **on**.

Looking at the man in the hoodie, Ava could only see half of his face because his eyes were hidden behind it.

He took his hoodie off and moved his hand **away** from her mouth.

Not believing it, Ava blinked her eyes.

“Dane!”

Don't Leave Me, Mate (by AlisTae) Oh Really 215[1,096 words]

Bafin’s brows narrowed as he looked into her eyes.

“Not luxppy to see me

Ava insimediately shook her head. He frownedlas he asked,

“No”

“No, no. I mean... yes! 1 am happy! Ava blurted quickly

A smug grin spread across his face as if he was pleased with

Ava’s gaze shifted away from his brown eyes and toward his casual clothing. It looked like he was roaming around in a very comfortable way as no one knew who he was.

But in the blue jeans and black hoodie, he looked charming Awa was embarrassed when he caught her checking him. She averted her gaze from him.

Dane lowered his head to examine her face.

“Where were you? I have been waiting for you here for so long.”

She lifted her gaze to him and asked,

“So you were the one who turned off the power?”

“Of course,” he replied proudly.

“You almost scared me dead,” she complained, pressing her heart against her chest.

Dane raised a brow and asked,

“What happened to you? I have never seen you scared, not even four years ago when we met. What is in this pack that made you so terrified?”

Ava thought about it. What was here? Her past? The person she did not want to meet?

For a moment, she was frightened. What if Dane came across Ian? Within the past few years, they had never come face to face.

Where are you lost?” he asked, pulling out a packet of cigarettes

Ava quickly grabbed his hand to stop him.

“Please don’t,” she said with a soft tone,

He looked down at her hand, which was holding his wrist. She removed her hand, assuming he did not like her touch.

He silently observed her every movement. Instead of taking out a cigarette, he put it back into his pants pocket.

She turned away and smiled when she realized he did not smoke because of her.

However, something caught her mind, and she immediately turned her head to look at him..

“What are you doing here, Dane?”

“I told you, I will come to know your answer.

Ava’s cheeks flushed. But she could not move her eyes from the brown orbs.

He leaned closer and asked,

“So? What is your decision?”

215

+25 BONUS

She lowered her head. Rather than responding, she asked him another question.

1% an important time for our company. You should have been there to work on the project.”

While fixing his intense gaze on her, he replied,

“You could not make it to the company. So I brought the company to you.

She slowly raised her head and gazed to him. Their faces were too close.

She could feel his breath against her face.

“W-What?”

His gaze shifted from her eyes to her lips. She gulped as she noticed how he was looking at them.

“I don’t want to give your project to anyone else. So I took over a company and set things up for a few days. You can work here and plan your project,”

Ava did not know what to say. She could not be more surprised.

d not lose it

lose the project.

He not only came to meet her, but he also made every effort to ensure that she did

She felt emotional. He was a caring person.

His gaze moved when he saw her blurry eyes.

He stood upright and asked,

“What happened? You don’t want to work?”

She did not look at him. She directly moved toward him and wrapped her hands around him.

Closing her eyes, she took a deep breath

His scent was calming her heart. It was the complete opposite of how her heart felt when Ian was near her.

She could not say how she had been living in this pack with so close to her past.

Since he was here, she believed, no one could shake her now. She could be careless.

He embraced her in his arms and muttered,

“Can I take it as yes?”

She chuckled and nodded her head

“Hmm.”

Dane’s arms paused around her. She froze when she felt his muscles tense slightly.

She broke the hug and looked at him.

His hands slowly rise, running his fingers along her sides. She closed her eyes, taking deep breaths.

His hand came to rest on her face. He cupped her cheeks and lowered his head.

His nose rubbed against hers. She squeezed her fists against his shirt.

As just his lips were about to touch hers, she heard the honk of a car.

She immediately pushed Dane away.

Dane was dumbfounded.

215

+25 BONUS

Pushing the hairs behind her ear, she whispered,

“Someone is coming”

Dane stared at her with a dissatisfied look. Ava ignored him and glanced behind him. She noticed a car approaching the parking

area.

She grabbed Dane’s hand and pulled him behind her.

“Hide. It must be either Stephen or Dad.”

She hid behind a car alongside him. She noticed the car parked on the opposite side from them.

She turned her head to glance at Dane and froze,

He had a poker face on his face as he stared at her.

“W-What?”

“What do you think of me? People of this pack are scared of me, and you are hiding me behind a car?”

Ava shook her head. “No, no, I didn’t mean it. What if my family sees you?”

“So

“You don’t want to tell them about us?”

Ava did not know how to tell him that she had not yet told her parents about her living in the Thunder Howl Pack.

At that time, Ava noticed a man come out of the car.

She was stunned.

“Brother Griffin! He is back!”

She could not say goodbye to him before coming here because he was outside the pack.

“Hmm. He came here with me.” Dane said and stepped away from her. He then spoke in a cold tone,

“Go to your house. I am leaving. I shouldn’t have come to your pa-

She interrupted him as she said,

“No!”

Dane looked at her and asked,

“What?”

“1-1 will tell Mom everything. Please don’t leave.”

Dane glanced at her house. “How about you leave this house and accompany me to my rented house? Nobody is in your house right now. I heard they left an hour ago.”

She knew it was late, and her mother would be concerned about her when she got home. So she said,

“How about you come to my house? I will make a cup of coffee for you.

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Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 216[1,003 words]

216

+25 BONUS

baile agreed to go inside the house. Awa walked toward the door at opened the door for him.

She gestured with her hand and said,

“Please come in.”

Dane gazed at her, then he moved inside the house, When Dane entered the house, Ava turned to the man who was standing

hear a car.

His blue eyes glinted as shetooked at him. She waved at him and said,

“Brother Griffin, come Inside,”

Griffin refused a few times as he shook his head. But she walked toward him and held his hand.

Let’s go

Laughing, Griffin allowed her to lead him inside the house.

Ava let go of Griffin’s **hand** and told him to sit on the couch

She noticed Dane **had** taken off his hoodie, which was lying on a couch. He was in his inner white vest. Her cheeks named red as she took in the sight of his tattooed muscles.

He was standing in front of a wall that was adorned with photographs of her family. **He** was observing the photos.

She looked away from him and uttered,

“You two can sit. I will make some coffee for you.”

Dane turned his head to the **side** and gave her a nod, then returned his gaze to the photos.

Ava left the living room and headed to the kitchen to make coffee for them.

Dane's eyes were on a photo.

Instead of sitting on a couch, Griffin chose to accompany Dane. He came to stand next to him and looked at the photo where Dane fixed his gaze.

It was **a** family photo. It was photographed at Ava's mother's wedding to Gamma Harper. Aside from Ava's family was in the photo.

"That's Ian Dawson!" Griffin muttered, looking at Jan and his family beside Ava's family.

another

Dane stared at the photo without responding anything. Griffin gulped as he turned his head to look at his Alpha. He looked calm, which was not a good sign.

"He must be close to Ava's family since Stephen is his gamma."

Dane listened to him, moving his gaze to another photo. But then his gaze darkened when Griffin spoke **again**.

"I forgot to tell you. Four years ago, when I came to his pack, Ian came to protect her from me, assuming that I would hurt her. He looked really protective of her. I wonder if he is aware that she is a hybrid."

Dane discarded his words and grabbed a photo, looking at it carefully. It was Ava and Stephen's picture. They looked really close and happy. Griffin felt a little insecure when he saw the picture since he was **Ava's** blood-related brother.

Griffin was about to say something, but before that, the door of the house opened.

When Griffin turned around, he saw **Ava's** mother, **Angela** Taylor.

Angela had just returned from the hospital. She had an emergency and had to leave **for** a while. Since her work was done, **she**

13

218

came back home.

Hobyevery, **as** soon

as soon as she wa

walked into her house, she froze.

+25 BONUS

She came across a pair of blue eyes. Her eyes widened in shock

“Griffin!”

Griffin glanced at his Alpha, who did not move, nor did he turn to Angela. It was as if he did not care.

Griffin made his **way** toward **Angela**.

On the other hand, Angela was **scared**. She could not believe that Griffin had come to her house.

“What are you doing here?” she asked.

Griffin paused in the middle after noticing the unwelcome behavior. He grinned at her and said,

“Aunt Angela, it’s been **a** very long time.”

Angela gulped, shaking her **head**. “I told you before. My daughter can’t go with you.”

At that time, a voice startled Angela, breaking the ice on her head.

“Why? Why can’t she?”

It was then Angela’s gaze shifted to the other man in the room. She **was** so taken aback by Griffin that she failed to notice that another man **was** present.

Dane hung the photo on the wall, then turned around to face Angel.

The look of shock spread across Angela’s eyes. For a moment, she felt as if everything had frozen around her.

The pair of cold brown eyes pierced her. Her lips quivered as she began to step backward.

“A-Alpha!”

Dane leaned his back against the wall behind him and asked,

“Mrs. Adler does not seem pleased to see me,”

Griffin scoffed upon hearing Dane. “Alpha, it’s Mrs. Taylor.”

“Oh, yeah! My **bad**,” Dane **said** and smirked at Angela.

Staring at Dane, Angela blinked. Sweat trickled down her shoulder from her forehead. She was nervous and scared.

Dane began to walk toward **her**. She took **a** few steps backward until her back was against the door.

Dane paused a few feet **away**, his gaze fixed on her.

“So? Will you not welcome your Alpha into your home?”

Angela shook her head and mumbled,

“It’s not like that, Alpha. P-Please.”

www

Dane leaned in and asked,

“Please what, Mrs. Taylor?”

Angela took a deep breath and tried to compose herself before saying what was on her mind.

“Please, don’t take my daughter away. She is innocent. She has her own life now. She doesn’t want to go back to the Thunder Howl Pack

215

faded as his eyes darkened. He took a step forward, glaring at her.

+25 BONUS

Angela lowered her head and replied,

“S-She belongs to this pack now.”

“This pack? How dare you say **that!**”

She flinched but did not dare to raise her head. Her hands were gripping her dress firmly.

She closed her eyes and said,

“She doesn’t know anything about the past. **Please** let go of her. She doesn’t need to be a part of something she is **not** aware of

“Oh, really?” Dane mocked her.

Angela opened her eyes and looked at him. “She is ”

Dane did not let her complete as he grabbed her neck and asked,

“You still haven’t told her the **truth**, have you?”

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 217[1,041 words]

217

Angela’s eyes grew larger. She closed her eyes as she whispered,

+25 BONUS

His grip lightened. His eyes glowed brown in anger.

“How long do you plan to hide it from her?”

She did not reply as she sobbed.

“Imagine how she will feel when she realizes her own mother has bed to her all this time

“Alpha!”

Griffin rushed to Dane when he saw him losing control of himself rage. He held his arm and said in a low tone, “Please, Alpha Calm down.”

Dane clenched his jaw before releasing Angela. She immediately held her neck and started to take deep breaths.

Dane pointed his finger at her and muttered,

“You portrayed me and my entire pack as her enemies.”

Angela’s tears flowed down her cheeks. Her head was down, her gaze fixed on the floor.

“I couldn’t tell her the truth, Alpha Please forgive me.”

“Forgive? What do you think of me? Did you think I did not recognize you four years ago when you came to my pack to cure your new husband?”

It left Angela speechless. She looked up into his enraged eyes.

“You recognized?”

Dane scotted at her. “I could **have** killed you that day for your betrayal.”

Angela wiped her tears and nodded her head.

“You are right. You have the authority to punish me. But don’t punish my daughter.”

Griffin’s voice was a little louder as he said,

“Do you truly believe Alpha came here to punish your daughter?”

“Then why are you here?” Angela exclaimed, glaring at Griffin

Dane clenched his fists when he noticed **Angela** glaring at Griffin. In his eyes, this woman had no right to behave like that.

“There is still time. Tell the truth to your daughter. Otherwise, I will get my own way.”

Angela hurriedly shook her hands. “Please, don’t. She can’t take it.

Dane stared **at** her for a moment, then muttered,

“**You** are the evil woman who destroyed the plan of destiny. Years ago, because of your ex-husband, my dad initiated the war But what have **you** done? You fled with your daughter.”

Angela was silent. She had no answer. Griffin lowered his head and said,

“Aunt, you could have returned to our pack. Everything was under our control. You know why Uncle wanted this war. What if I **had** died during the war? Our pack would have had Ava as its royal witch. But you broke the promise and escaped.”

217

+25 BONUS

Angela looked at Griffin and replied,

“your uncle told me to take her and run away. I just followed his words.”

A line formed between Dane's two brows, "Does that mean both of you, husband and wife, cheated on my father? What a bunch of traitors!"

Angela shook her head in denial. "No, don't say that. Hector was not that kind of person. He is dead. Please don't insult him like this

Dane was fuming inside. Anger was brewing in his mind. His glowing eyes had a frightening appearance. His gaze nearly killed the woman before him.

He reflected on the past. He had a clear memory of what had happened before the war. Even after the war, his parents explained the **cause** of the chaos

"Years ago, your husband was the one who approached my parents. He was the one who asked for help not just for his pack but also for his daughter."

Angel froze in her state. She knew everything, but she did **not** know that Alpha Dane was aware of it.

"The former Alpha of the Thunder Howl Pack wanted to cage your daughter for himself when he learned about her abilities as a hybrid. Having her when she turns eighteen was his desire."

Angela broke down from inside as the **past** scattered in front of her eyes after so many years.

Dane did not stop as he started again with the memories in his head.

"Your husband was the one who gave my parents a marriage proposal for his daughter and asked for help to rescue his daughter's life. My parents agreed with him and did not even think about their lives. They showed their loyalty to their friend and won the war

H

Tears fell on the floor as Angela kept crying while hearing him. Dane's eyes did not shake from her.

"But what did they get in return? Betrayal? You flew away from the **pack** and did not even tell us that she was okay. My parents were in guilt that they could not save her, How selfish you **are!**"

Angela wiped her tears and took a shaky breath.

"Alpha Dane, I have never had anything bad in my mind for you. You are undeniably the best Alpha. But my daughter... there was something that made me hide her from you all, I don't want to lose her."

Dane frowned at her. “What?”

“I–I was **afraid**. I did not want her to end up like her father. This world is extremely dangerous, and my daughter is like a delicate Blower. This power and abilities can destroy her life just like they did to her father.”

Dane rolled his eyes. “Stop thinking so slowly about your daughter, She is not a delicate flower, but rather a blazing fire. She knows everything about herself. You do not have to worry about her any longer.”

Angela was caught off guard. “What are you saying?”

She was in disbelief. How was it even possible?

Griffing nodded his head and said,

“She is with Alpha now.”

Angela’s **lips** parted. She hurriedly spoke,

“No, she can only be with her mate. I did not want her to feel forced into a relationship she had not chosen. I didn’t want her to live like me.”

217

On the other hand,

AvTwas leaning against a **wall** and heard everything

She was holding a tray containing the coffee cups. She had been standing there since the heard Dane te

She had finally learned the truth behind the war.

So everything was because of her?

She heard Dane’s voice again. “You don’t have to think about mate bond Since she is with me. I am her mate. I will marry her and keep the promise your husband made to my parents many years ago.”

218

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 218[1,034 words]

Angela shook her head. She assumed Dane would force Awa. She had no way of knowing whether or not what Griffin had said to

Jer was true.

Did Ava really know she **was** a hybrid?

“My daughter has no idea who you are. Please don’t force her. 5 she

“Mom”

Angela paused when she heard Ava’s voice, Slowly, she turned her head in the direction of the entrance to the living room.

Her eyes widened. She didn’t know that Ava was at home. She thought she was all alone in the house, and Dane broke into the house

“A-AVA”

Dane and Griffin turned to look at Ava.

Ava avoided their gazes and walked toward the coffee table near the couch. After placing the tray on the table, she turned to face her mother.

Angela’s heart was filled with fear. She feared that Ava might have overheard everything

Ava, they are

”

“Mom, I know who they are.”

After interrupting her mother, Ava came to stand beside Dane

Angela was confused. She glanced at Griffin, not daring to look at Dane again. She was frightened that he would hurt her daughter.

“Aunt, please put an end **to** these fake stories. She knows everything. Just let go of the past, like Alpha did, and start over,” Griffin said.

Angela stared at her daughter, yearning to hear her.

Meanwhile, Ava was quiet. She could feel **Dane’s** gaze on her.

She understood that he **was** wondering if she had overheard them

She lowered her head, took Dane's hand in hers, and then looked at her mother.

Mom, I am with him."

Angela's eyes grew **wider**. She blinked, unable to take her eyes away from their hands.

"How do you know him?" she mumbled in shock.

Ava realized that because things had turned out this way, she would have to tell her everything.

"Lied to you, Mon. I was not in the City Moon Pack. It has been four years since I moved into the Thunder Howl Pack. I knew you would react like that. I never told you anything because of it."

This time Angela took a step back. She shifted her gaze from her hands to Ava. The expression on her face changed. She was looking at Ava differently.

"You know you are a..."

"Witch? Yes, mom. I know. I was surprised too. But Brother Griffin assisted me in discovering myself."

Angela **stared** at her. Though she knew this question could take her life away, still she asked,

218

+25 BONUS

"Is he forcing you?"

Dane rightened his fists and was about to move toward Angela. Ruta grabbed his hand tightly and turned to him.

She is my mom. If you want to accept me, you have to accept her first.

Her words stopped Dane. He sighed and yanked his hand away.

"This woman"

Dane paused when Ava shot a sharp gaze at him, indicating that he needed to respect her mother.

He rolled his eyes and said,

“Your mom needs von.”

Ayanodded at him and said,

“she will understand you.”

Dane **made** his way toward the couch, grabbed his hoodie, and then proceeded to head toward the exit.

Ava spoke out from behind.

“Where are you going?”

He came to a halt and turned his head to the side.

“I am going to the rental house. Come to the business meeting tomorrow.

After saying that, **Dane** left the house. Following him, Griffin also left.

Ava shifted her gaze toward her mother. She could see her swollen eyes

“Ava, I am so sorry, my baby,” Angela **said**, shedding tears.

Ava rushed to her mother and hugged her

“No, Mom Don’t say sorry to inc.”

Angela sobbed and mumbled,

“I thought he would force you. Your Dad had no choice but to seek help from his father. It was all about your life. But I did not want you to be in debt your entire life. I wanted you to find your male as soon as possible and marry him so you could live a happy life like everyone else.”

Ava cupped her mother’s cheeks and smiled at her sadly.

“Mom, my mate rejected me many **years** ago. ”

Angela was taken **aback**. “W What?”

Ava could no longer hide anything from her **mother**

Why would she keep any secrets hidden from her side now that everything has been revealed?

So she opened up to her mother about everything. She told her how Dan rejected her and then asked **for a** chance. She did, but then he ended their relationship, shattering her trust in love.

Angela gasped when she learned that Dan was **Ava's** mate. For once **she** considered how things would have been different if he had not rejected her.

She got mad at him because he broke her daughter's heart. Because of him, her daughter had to make the decision of leaving the pack

218

+25 BONUS

"I am sorry about **what** happened to you. You were suffering so much, and I didn't even realize that," Angela said, embracing her daughter tightly.

Ava told her how Dan never forced her. Angela was surprised when her daughter described Dan as a good man

How could the man who was so cold toward everyone be so calm in front of a woman?

Ava convinced her that Dan was interested in her rather than in the past. She explained to her that they genuinely liked each other and wanted to spend their lives together.

"Ava, since you know who you **are**, let me tell you what a wizard told me about you when you were born."

"What, Mom?"

Angela recalled Ava's birth and how every witch and wizard in the Thunder Howl Pack came to **bless** her. That time a wizard said something to AVIL

come a

"You are a witch with werewolf blood. You are a woman capable of bringing any Alpha down before you. But there will come time when you have to choose between the two **ways**

Ava was confused. "Two ways?"

Angela pondered the wizard's words once more before speaking

"The ways that could change your life as well as the fate of the people around you

Between life and death, happiness and debt."

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 219[1,031 words]

In the office room,

Ian was sipping his coffee while looking at the screen of his laptop. He was sitting on his chair behind the desk, focusing on the latest news of today

At his side, Assistant Negust

Neon stood with his head lowered.

From time to time he glanced at Ian to see if he could identify his mood.

“So he is here?” an uttered

He spoke in a soothing tone as if he was talking pleasure in the **coffee** while reading the news.

“Yes, Alpha,” Neon replied, peering at the screen.

Jan nodded his head. A smirk formed in his mouth as he read the headlines of the articles that the reporters had posted on their website

“Alpha Dane is in the Mystic Shadow Pack. He arrived yesterday, and he intends to remain there for a week at the very least. It is because of the business meeting that is scheduled to **take** place in this pack today that he arrived yesterday morning

The news was everywhere.

Assistant Neon cleared his throat and said,

“Alpha, he rented a house in the neighborhood of this area.”

“I see.”

Ian clicked a few times, and some pictures were displayed on the screen. The photos were taken as Alpha Dane was leaving the airport.

“Continue,” Ian murmured.

Assistant Neon nodded his head and said,

“Alpha, it appears he is no longer as difficult to approach. He became very calm. His pack people are saying that their Alpha **has** changed a lot. They suspect it could be because of his favorite woman.”

The corners of his eyes crinkled as he listened to his assistant. His mouth twitched as he said,

“Favorite Woman?™

Assistant Neon gazed at him, feeling scared that if he replied, he would get mad at him. But if he did not respond, he would kill **him** anyway. So he replied,

“Yeah, favorite woman. Everyone knows who she is. Alpha knows that too.”

Ian plastered a smile on his face and nodded his head.

“Of course, Freya Harrison.”

The assistant pressed his lips together, observing him. He wondered if Ian was angry that another man regarded his fiancée **as** his favorite woman.

“Where **is** she?” Ian asked, setting the coffee cup on the table.

“She is on her way over here, Alpha.”

“Tell her that she will be attending the business meeting as the exclusive model of my company

Assistant Neon froze. It was not planned. If Freya were to attend the meeting, it would be chaos. Because before signing the **deal**

+25 BONUS

with this pack company, Freya’s first condition was that she would not attend any meeting where Alpha Dane was present.

“nm Alpha-

“Just do what you are told.”

“O-Okay, Alpha.”

Assistant Neon bowed his head and left the offer room. Ian leaned his back against the chair.

After an hour there would be a business meeting where he would meet the man he hated the most.

He wondered how he would react if he discovered the table had turned. The girl who had chosen him years ago was now with him. She finally decided who was the most powerful man

After an hour,

A knock caused Ian to look at the door.

“Come in.”

A young man walked inside and bowed to him.

Jan kept his gaze on him. The man was his informer.

“**Alpha**, I am back with the **details** you wanted,” the man said, moving toward the desk.

He set a folder on the desk in front of Ian and backed away.

Ian grabbed the folder and opened it.

A photo of a girl smiling at the camera caught his eye.

His eyes moved slightly while looking at the photo.

He turned the page, paying **close** attention to the details. The man standing near the desk began to speak.

“Alpha, Ava Taylor was a bright student in the University of the Thunder Howl Pack. But there is no news where she works. She has some friends who work in different fields. However, we are **unable** to obtain details about her job.”

Ian shut the folder and tossed it on the desk.

“I know all of this; you are good for nothing,” he said, looking at the man.

The man was afraid that he would become angry at him. He glanced at **him** and replied,

“Alpha, you know her. She must be either doing nothing or working **as** a waitress somewhere. She used to do that before graduation.”

Jan remembered seeing Ava in a nightclub. Indeed, she was **a** waitress there, a very notorious one.

The man noticed that lan's face had become more gloomy. As he was **also** a student at **lan's** university, he was aware of Ava and Jan's breakup four years ago,

"**Alpha**, why are you even looking for her? She is a slu

Tan gave him a piercing look as he looked at him. The man hurriedly shut his mouth and lowered his head. He had no idea **what** had suddenly caused him to feel offended.

Lan glared **at** him and muttered,

"Your half salary **will** be deducted for this month."

The **man's** eyes widened. He quickly looked **at** Jan, pleading "Please, Alpha. Take my apologies."

219

+25 BONUS

tan looked at his watch and realized it was time for the meeting

He stood up from the chair and post on his suit jacket

The man kept lowering his head in fear.

Lan approached him and stood next to him.

Turning his head to face him, he uttered,

"Instead of cutting your pay, I will cut your head if you ever dare to speak about her in such a way again."

The man froze in his state. He could still remember the news of Ava cheating on lan everywhere in the university. So he looked at lan and murmured,

"But Alpha, she cheated-

"

Ian grabbed his jaw so tightly that the man groaned in pain.

With a ferocious tone, he warned him,

"I can call her whatever I want. Except for me, no one else is allowed to do that. What happened in the past is between me and her. Never forget that she is still your Gamma's sister."

+25 BONUS

220

Don't Leave Me, Mate Oh Really 220[1,028 words]

“1. Tam so sorry, Alpha.”

Tan pushed his jaw and told him to get out. The man bowed to him and lett

Assistant Neon came inside the room only to see that fan was ready to leave for the meeting.

“Alpha, everyone is in the meeting room.”

Tan gave him a nod and walked out of his office room to go to the meeting room.

It was on the fifth floor, and his office **was** on the top floor. So he and Neon took the **elevator** to the meeting room, which was located on another floor.

When they entered the meeting room, Tan noticed that people from his and other companies who were required to attend the meeting were present.

His gaze locked with Ronald’s. He also came to discuss the business in a meeting. Despite having nothing to do with this company, he decided to come today.

Ian was not a fool. He was aware of why his best friend had chosen to come today.

It was because of their rival

He was not surprised when he looked around and saw that all of his friends were there.

He walked toward the head seat. Everyone around the table rose to greet him.

After all, he was the formidable Alpha whom others wanted to meet but were too **afraid** to approach.

When he sat down, they sat back on their chairs

Ian examined the table, taking note of each person. His eyes began to search for the specific person who was not present there

His gaze came to a stop at Ava’s two friends.

One of them was Debra, a model, and the other was Abigail, a key employee for the company.

He heard a soft tone. He turned his attention to the owner. It was one other than Freya.

She was sitting on the right side of Ian's head chair. When **Ian** glanced at her, she grinned.

"You told me to come," she stated.

Jan responded with a nod. He leaned back against his chair and said, "You should be in this important meeting

Aslan **was** talking to Freya, other Alphas from the other packs looked at him carefully.

His dark suit and dark aura were very appealing, but it was difficult to connect to him. His sharp eyes, which never appeared to soften for anyone, were dangerous. The way he nodded at Freya, without using many words to respond, showed that he liked to talk less and work more.

"Let's start the meeting." "Ian said, gazing at others.

One of the **Alphas** spoke up,

"Alpha Dane has not arrived yet."

His gaze shifted to the chair across from him at the **far** end of the table. It was empty, along with the two other **seats** on his left and right

220

+25 BONUS

looks like Alpha Dane could not make it here," Jan muttered.

Assistant Neon shook his head and informed,

"Designer Florence may not be present because she ran into some issues. There was a chance she would not be able to join the project because, according to people from their company, she temporarily left the Thunder Howl Pack"

Everyone around the table was surprised to hear that.

Florence was a very famous designer in recent times. She joined Alpha Dane's company six months ago, and in just a few months, she had become a really great designer. Her abilities in fan design were beyond anyone's imagination. With her imagination, she

created unique dresses with various themes, resulting in Dane's company receiving some projects and even beating Ian's company in those deals.

Some Alphas appeared relaxed because one of the bad boys would not come for this deal. Although in front of Ian, they did not have any chance, still, they would at least try their best. Besides then, their designers assured them that they had a chance to secure the deal.

Today was the only meeting where all of the selective packs who would represent their packs at the annual ball gathered to discuss their plans. The council would eventually decide on the results.

As everyone started whispering, two men entered the room.

The meeting fell silent as their gaze fell on Alpha Dane. He walked into the room with his beta.

Everyone except Ian and his officials rose and greeted him.

Dane did not greet Ian, instead proceeding directly to the other head chair, which was reserved for him. He took a seat in the chair and motioned for others to do the same.

Tan's gaze was fixed on him. There **was** an amazement in his eyes while looking at the man after so many years.

Dane's eyes met his eyes. Then slowly they **moved** to the woman sitting near **Ian**. As **soon** as he looked at Freya, his eyes turned

cold

Freya tried to avoid his gaze.

A smirk formed on Ian's face as he saw how **Dane** was looking at Freya. Indeed, she was his favorite woman. But that woman

was his now.

He leaned forward and spoke up,

"Welcome to my pack, Alpha Dane."

His voice was chilly, but anyone could tell he **was in a good** mood.

The other Alphas gulped, glancing at the two formidable rival Alphas. When their gazes collided, it was disastrous

"Thank you, Alpha Ian," Dane replied calmly.

Tan raised a brow and nodded his head, returning his professionalism to himself.

Alpha Dane is not as punctual as people have stated,” Ian said.

His gaze shifted to the empty **seat** reserved for Florence. He believed that Assistant Neon was right. She would not come to the meeting

“I guess your designer is quite busy. She doesn’t have time to attend the mee-

He was interrupted when the door of the meeting room opened.

“Florence is here,” Beta Bruno **said**.

720

+25 BONUS

Everyone turned their heads to the door when they heard the sounds of heels knocking on the floor.

fairdid not have much interest in seeing who she was. But he had famed that she was a really hard-working woman, a woman with dignity.

His head deliberately turned to see the woman.

that the moment his gaze landed on her, he froze.

+25 BONUS

221