

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 21[936 words]

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When Ian saw Ava in that state, he became agitated.

"What happened to your wolf?" Ian asked as he patted her cheek. But she did not respond. She was unconscious.

He looked at the door and groaned.

"Fuck!"

He was locked up with an unconscious girl, and he had no phone with him.

He put her head on the floor and got to his feet.

"I have to do something," he said and dashed over to the door.

He had no idea what had gotten over him. His heart began to beat at a rapid speed. His wolf began to growl inside, as if he were concerned for this girl.

He moved everything from his mind aside and pushed the door with his shoulder.

He closed his eyes, and when he opened them, they turned red. He glanced at Ava. His aggression turned into insanity. He growled loudly.

He attempted to break the door for the last time, and he successfully did it.

He bent down, carried Ava in his arms, and hurried out of the storeroom. He headed outside to the infirmary of the university, which was close to the dormitory area.

When he passed a hallway, every boy and girl around him were looking at him. Their eyes fell on Ava, and they appeared to be shocked.

On the way, he met his friends. They looked stunned when they noticed him. They rushed to him.

"What happened to her?"

It was Stephen who asked the question. Ian ignored the question and scowled at Ronald.

Ronald was equally shocked, since he had never thought something so serious would have happened. He only wanted to tease his best friend.

All of them went to the dormitory.

Seeing that Ian Dawson had come, all the doctors came to him. They saw Ava in his arms and asked,

"What happened to this girl?"

Ian was about to say what she said before fainting, but his gaze drew to her face, and his eyes darkened.

Blood was coming out of Ava's nose.

"I don't fucking know. Just check on her. Something happened to her wolf," Ian yelled at them in a furious tone.

His Alpha voice shook everyone around him. He was the soon-to-be Alpha for a reason.

He exuded a commanding presence that could sway people of all ages and force them to submit.

After moving Ava to a cabin bed, the doctors began doing an examination on her. Meanwhile, Ian was waiting

outside the cabin.

"Ian, relax. She will be fine," Ronald said, putting his hand on his shoulder.

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Ian turned to him and punched his face. Ronald took a step back from the sudden punch.

"You should not have locked the door," Ian roared.

Ronald apologized to him. Others said it was just fun; they had no idea it could take place.

Ian remained silent and waited for the doctor to conclude Ava's examination.

The doctors came out of the cabin and looked at Ian.

"Mr. Dawson, she is unwell. She is physically okay, but her wolf..." The doctor paused.

"What?" He asked with irritation.

"Her wolf seems to be very weak."

Another doctor spoke out, "She was admitted here last week. I clearly recall that it was her birthday. Her friend carried her here, and she passed out like she did today. That time we didn't inspect her wolf since she didn't tell us anything about it."

Ian realized that they were talking about the day he rejected her.

He knew omegas were weak. But he did not know they were so weak that they could faint anywhere in any situation.

Anyway, he gave them a nod. The doctors took their leave after telling him that he could go to Ava.

When Ian entered the small cabin, his legs froze as his eyes paused on her face.

Her eyes were closed. She had a beautiful face, which he had never noticed before. She was wearing no glasses or tying her hair to hide her face.

Her large glasses were placed on the bed, close to the pillow. Her long hair was spread over the pillow. He assumed that it was done by the doctors. For the first time, he could see her clearly.

"What's with your overprotective behavior toward her?"

He heard Stephen's voice.

He turned around and saw that his friends were folding their arms while staring at him. There were so many questions in their eyes.

"Didn't you say you hated her? What's with this reaction after rejecting her?" Stephen asked again.

Ian parted his lips. Even he did not know what had happened to him. He turned into someone else when he saw that girl in an unconscious state.

'What the hell is wrong with me?' he asked himself and turned to glance at Ava once again.

He moved his gaze away from her and looked at his friends.

"I don't know," he muttered and walked to the door to leave the cabin.

But Ronald grabbed his hand and stopped him.

"Ian, are you aware that you are behaving strangely day by day? You are not being yourself."

Ian stared at the blank wall while composing himself.

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"I still hate her. As you said before, she is my pack member So as her future Alpha, I tried to help her."

Ronald's grip loosened in his hand. He knew his best friend really well. He could see the sudden changes in him.

"Don't you feel that you should have reconsidered your decision before rejecting her?"

Jan's expression hardened as he heard Ronald's words. He turned his head toward him and gritted his teeth.

"What did you say?"

"What if you come to regret your decision later, Ian?"

Ian was stunned by the question.

Why would he regret it? He could never imagine sharing his life with a nerdy omega like her.

He answered in a confident tone, "Never.",

He turned to face his other friends and said,

"I am leaving. Don't tell her that I carried her here."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 22[1,027 words]

Ava opened her eyes. She frowned when she found herself lying on a bed. She sat up immediately.

"Relax."

She turned her head and saw a cold face. It was none other than Ronald Solace, Ian Dawson's best friend.

Ava realized that she was in the infirmary again. She took a shaky breath and remembered what happened when she passed out in pain.

"How did I come here?" she asked in a low tone.

"Do you always talk like this?" Ronald asked as he stood up from the stool and took a step toward the bed.

"Like, what?" she asked.

"Like stuttering or speaking in a low tone."

Ava felt embarrassed. Ronald was right. She lacked confidence in herself. Her mother had always told her to remain calm and talk less to others. As a result, she felt uncomfortable whenever she spoke with anyone other than her friends and mother.

She rubbed her forehead with her hand and realized that her glasses were off. She started to search for it.

Ronald bent down, and she moved back right away. He picked up her glasses near the pillow and handed them to her.

She immediately took it and said, "Thank you."

She put on the glasses and grabbed the hair band that was placed beside her.

"You don't look like you have a vision problem. Why do you always wear glasses?" Ronald asked as he observed her.

"Allergy." She just let out a word and got out of the bed.

"Or maybe you are hiding your beautiful face from others?" she heard him say from behind.

She did not reply to him, so he started to chuckle.

When she walked to the door, he asked,

"Where are you going? You are sick. The doctor said you and your wolf are both weak."

Ava's eyes widened because she remembered that she almost told Ian about her wolf. She turned around and asked,

"Who brought me here?"

"Stephen," Ronald replied.

"Stephen?" Ava mumbled as her stupid heart expected someone else.

"Yeah. He found you in the storeroom, unconscious. So he carried you here."

Ava felt a pang in her heart. She could not believe that Ian hated her so much that he did not even care if she died there.

She gave him a nod and turned to leave.

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She turned to face him again you?"

"I know what Ian did really hurt you. All I can say is that has a food. He had been waiting for his mate for as yet he

"I don't want to hear about him. Thank you for being here when I was alone"

Ava walked out of the room, leaving the infirmary,

Jan's demeanor came to her mind like a flashback, she could not forget how

he behaved with her in the storeroom

Ava tried to push through everything and headed to the main gate of her university.

Out of the gate, she saw Stephen. He also noticed her and walked to her. "Hey, how are you now?"

"I heard you helped me get to the infirmary. Thanks a lot, Stephen. I'm really grateful to you."

Stephen looked stunned by her words, but he nodded his head. "That's nothing, How are you feeling right now?"

"Just fine."

"That's good. I've got something for you."

Stephen pulled out a phone from his pocket and gave it to her.

It was her phone. She took it and said, "Thanks a lot."

"It's the least I could do. Take care of yourself."

After thanking Stephen, she left the main gate and began walking to the bus stop.

She thought about her wolf. She could not believe how much pain she was in before passing out. Why was she going through this?

"What happened to you? Why can't you respond to me?" she asked her wolf, who caged herself inside after bearing so much pain.

She came to the bus stop and sat down on a bench to wait for a bus. Many cars passed by from there, and she ignored the road to concentrate on her phone. She unlocked it and saw a bunch of messages.

She read the message, which she had not sent, but Ian did.

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

She remembered what Ian had said to her in the storeroom. He said he sent a text to her friend.

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Ava regretted going to watch the basketball match today. Nothing would have happened if she had not gone there.

'He made fun of me by calling me a weak girl; now, after today, he has the opportunity to call me vulnerable.'

A screeching sound reached her ears. She looked up and noticed a car pull up beside her. Luke got out of the car.

"Ava? What are you doing here?" He asked and walked over to her.

Ava rose up. She had no idea what else she could use as an excuse. She was fed up with everything. She did not want to tell him the truth. Luke would surely go to Ian and fight with him for that.

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"Abigail said you left for your home at that time. Then why are you still here?" Luke asked with a surprised look, thinking, Why did she lie to them?

Ava thought for a moment, then said,

"I was feeling sick, so I was in the infirmary."

"Why didn't you tell us? What happened to you?" Luke inquired, grabbing her shoulders lightly.

"I'm fine, Luke. Just feeling a little weak."

Luke was about to say something, but his gaze fell on someone, and he asked her,

"Did that scoundrel do something again?"

Ava followed his gaze.

A black car was parked on the side of the road across from the bus stop.

Ian was smoking as he leaned against the car.

'He was here? From when?' she thought.

She had been at the bus stop for over ten minutes and had not noticed him. Perhaps because she was too preoccupied with her thoughts to notice anything.

She noticed a bus coming on her way.

"I have to go," she said.

Luke grabbed her hand and requested, "You are sick. Let me drop you off."

She could not say no to Luke and got in the front seat. Luke got into the car and started it.

When the car started moving, she looked out the window.

Her gaze met a pair of dark eyes. Ian was staring at her from afar. He blew smoke out of his mouth while looking at her.

She turned away from him and silently uttered,

'I hate you, Ian Dawson.'

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 23[1,318 words]

23

Luke's car stopped in front of Ava's house. Ava turned her head toward him.

"Thanks, Luke,"

"You don't have to thank me. In fact, I should have been with you when you were feeling nauseous."

Ava felt blessed to have a friend like Luke. He was a really caring boy. He always tried to help her in every situation.

"Come inside," she asked, though she was not feeling well.

"It's okay. You need rest. See you tomorrow."

Ava got out of the car. She waved at Luke when he drove off

She turned around and walked to her house. She thought her mother was not at home. So she took out her house keys and opened the door.

She was about to go upstairs to her room but paused when she heard her mother's voice coming from her room.

She walked to her mother's room and stopped at the closed door. "Don't try to convince me."

Ava heard her mother talking about something. She might be talking on her phone, so she could not listen to what the other person was saying.

She did not understand who was convincing her and about what.

"She is my life. All I want is for her to give her responsibility to her mate and die. I'm tired of my life. When she leaves me, I will have no reason to live."

Ava stepped back as she heard her mother talking about her mate and her life.

She did not interrupt her mother. She proceeded to her bedroom.

She went to take a shower.

In the bathroom, under the shower, she cried. Her mother was tired of working hard. She had to live alone for her entire life. She wished her father had lived and they could have spent their whole lives together.

When she closed her eyes and felt the water droplet on her body, her mind reflected the night when fan kissed her. She remembered hugging him today, and he returned the hug in the storeroom.

But then the rejection and his cruel words came to her mind. He treated her so coldly that she began to fear him.

"Because of you, I'm dying every day," she said while placing her hand on her heart.

After the shower, she went to her mother. Her mother asked her when she had returned. She did not say that she eavesdropped on her conversation.

Her mother stated that she was off duty today. Ava thought about spending the rest of the day with her mother.

Something popped into her head. She grabbed her phone and dialed Abigail.

"Do you want to go right now?" Abigail asked on the phone.

"Yeah. Mom is at home today. So if I go there now, I will not get caught at the pack hospital."

"Excuse to go with me."

"Okay, I'm coming. Make an

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"Alright,"

After the conversation, she got ready and went downstairs?

"Mom," she approached her as she noticed her mother watching TV.

Her mother, Angela, turned her head toward her with a smile.

"My child, are you going somewhere?" her mother asked while glancing outside. It was getting dark outside.

"Mom, Abigail planned to go to an ice cream parlor, Can I go?"

Her mother examined her dress and replied, "Why are you asking me when you're already dressed up?"

She gulped. Her mother was really strict.

"Mom, please?"

Rising to her feet, Angela looked at her. Ava assumed she would deny. But her mother smiled at her.

"Of course, you can go. But stay away from boys, especially Alphas."

Ava grinned at her and hugged her. "Thanks, Mom. I'll be back soon."

Ava hurriedly left her house and waited for Abigail.

Abigail showed up after a while. Ava got in the car, and both of them headed to their destination, the pack hospital.

Abigail parked the car, and they went inside. Abigail went to the receptionist. They found out there was no appointment for their names.

"How can it be possible? He told me to come today," Abigail said as she called the doctor.

"Dr. Levi. Why is the receptionist saying that there is no appointment?" Abigail asked with a disappointed tone.

Ava was looking at her. Abigail looked unhappy, but then her face lightened up.

"Thank you so much," Abigail said on the phone, then gave it to the receptionist after saying, "Talk to him."

Abigail grinned at Ava. "I told him to keep it confidential. That's why he canceled the appointment. But he will check you up."

The receptionist returned Abigail's phone and showed them the cabin's location.

Ava started to feel nervous. It was about her wolf.

They entered the cabin, and Ava's eyes fell on the middle-aged man, who

did not look familiar at all. It made her feel relaxed. She believed that he was not one of her mother's friends.

"Dr. Levi," Abigail greeted him.

Doctor Levi greeted her back, then looked at Ava.

"Take a seat here

Ava did what she was told. She walked to the chair, where he motioned with

his hand. He sat close to her chair and started to check on her.

"Don't feel anxious. It will only hasten your heartbeat. You need to calm down first and answer me a few questions."

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Ava nodded at him. "Okay, doctor."

"Can you shift?"

Ava tightened her fists when he asked that to her. She lowered her head and shook it.

"N-No."

The doctor looked stunned by her answer. He got to his feet and went to a cupboard. He took out some potions before returning to his seat.

"There is no tonic that can make your wolf stronger. Let me check to see if she is still inside you."

Ava shook her head in response.

"She is with me. I could feel her today. But whenever she responded to me, all I could feel was pain."

Doctor Levi placed the tonics on the desk and turned to face her. "Are you hiding something from me? Because if you do, I can't help you.' Ava cast a glance behind the doctor, and Abigail nodded.

Abigail was not unfamiliar with Doctor Levi; rather, he was her uncle, the brother of her mother. So she trusted him and his rank. She believed that Levi could help Ava.

Ava sighed and replied, "My mate rejected me."

"Your mate, what?" Doctor Levi stood up in shock.

Ava felt embarrassed. Abigail spiked out,

"Uncle Levi, please help her. You are an Epsilon in our pack. You are the only one who can help her."

Levi appeared to be stressed. "The rejection could have ended her life." 1 Ava listened to him while looking at her lap.

She heard him asking her, "Who is your mate? I mean, I would like to know the rank. A mate bond is something that is made for wolves. We are all wolves in disguise. Our wolves can't live without our mates. Because of this bond, they can't commit to another wolf for the rest of their lives. How can anyone reject such a pure bond?"

Ava closed her eyes and replied, "He is an Alpha."

The room fell silent.

Levi placed his hand on Ava's head. He closed his eyes, and when he opened them, they were golden.

Ava was astonished. Before she could react, she started to feel pain in her body.

She shut her eyes as she began to feel her wolf howling inside.

"Uncle, I think sh-"

Abigail tried to stop Levi when she saw Ava whimpering. But Levi stopped her by moving his hand from Ava's head.

Ava felt relieved because the pain had subsided after Levi removed his hand. She looked at Levi with hope. She assumed he had done something

to get her wolf to return to her soon.

But he responded with a shaken hand.

"I'm sorry, dear. I can't help you. In fact, no one can help you right now. That

your wolf is still with you is a blessing Await her coming back. Perhaps she will come out eventually. It looks like your mate was a really powerful wolf; that's why your wolf could not bear his rejection."

Ava was startled by the answer. She started to fear for her wolf.

'I don't want to lose you,' she said to her wolf.

Little did she know, there was someone who could really help her. He was

none other than the person she loved and hated the most.

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 24[1,034 words]

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Another week had passed, and Ava was still unable to shift. The entire week was spent trying to shift while whimpering in pain. She discovered that her body started to hurt every night as if someone were beating her.

She was an innocent girl who never wanted bad for anyone. However, what was happening to her was something that she had never expected.

One thing that had changed these days was Ian's behavior.

Ava noticed that he kept staring at her whenever he was around her. In fact, he seemed to always be around her.

She spent the entire week convincing herself that she needed to get her backbone against Ian Dawson. She could not be a crybaby and still have feelings for the man who had rejected her mercilessly and did not care about her life.

In the early morning,

Ava was getting ready to go to university. She turned her back to the mirror and choked on her own breath.

Her bare back was full of scratch marks. It was a mark of claws as if someone had clawed her.

She felt pain all night long and woke up to see these marks every morning. It appeared as though her own wolf had scratched her in an attempt to break free of her body.

She closed her eyes, tears streaming down her cheeks. She wiped them and looked at her face in the mirror.

"You can't be weak. "You must survive for your mother," she told herself as she dressed in an off-white sweater and baggy black jeans.

She left her bedroom and went to the living room.

Ava's steps were halted by her mother's voice, coming from the kitchen. She noticed her mother was chopping onions. She was preparing breakfast while speaking on the phone. Her phone was on the loudspeaker.

"Aunt, he is really unwell. Please reconsider your decision, the other person inside the phone said.

Angela was about to respond, but her gaze shifted toward Aya. She immediately turned off the loud speaker and held the phone close to her ear.

Nonetheless, Ava recognized the voice. She was confused as to why the person called her mother. What decision was he talking about, and why was he trying to persuade her?

"I will talk to you later," Angela said, hanging up the phone.

She turned to Ava and smiled. "You got up early today."

Ava walked up and hugged her. "Good morning, mom."

"Good morning, my baby. Let's have breakfast together."

Ava looked at her mother with a suspicious look but nodded her head. She helped her mother set the table and sat alongside her.

"Who were you talking with, Mom?" Ava asked while eating.

Her mother remained silent for a moment. Ava lifted her head to look at her.

"Mom?"

"Oh, yeah. I was talking with a patient's family."

Ava stared at her mother for a while without saying anything. She gave her a nod and finished her breakfast quickly.

Ava left her home to go to university. When she arrived, she noticed that everyone was using their phones while talking about something.

Ava unlocked her phone and checked the group profile of their university. She noticed that many photos were going viral.

A couple was having fun in a club. The girl was sitting on the boy's lap. The boy was drinking while talking with his friends. But his hand was wrapped around the girl's waist, indicating that she was his girlfriend.

"Ava"

Hearing her name, she looked away from the screen of her phone. She turned to face Debra, who had approached

her.

Debra peered at her phone. Ava immediately locked her phone and put it in her bag,

Debra held her hand. "Ava, how long will you feel like this by looking at Ian and Nova's pictures? Just forget about that arrogant boy and move on with your life. He is good for nothing, I am scared of what he will do to our pack in the future when his father hands all the responsibility to him."

Ava let out a shaky breath. She was trying to move on. But that boy was everywhere. Everyone liked to talk about him. Everyone had an interest in discussing his lifestyle. Everyone was after him. After all, he was the future Alpha of the pack.

"I've moved on, Debra," Ava mumbled as both of them walked to their class. They had the same schedule today.

Ava was having difficulty leaning against anything due to her wounded back. It would take the whole day to heal because, after another night's pain, the wound would be back.

It was like a punishment for her. She had no idea why she was the only one receiving such punishment.

It was time for a break.

Ava went to use the restroom. When she came out, she noticed some boys exiting the men's washroom, which was opposite the ladies' washroom.

She walked past them and headed for the cafe.

"Hey, nerd. Why are you leaving? Come on, let us talk."

A voice called to her from behind.

She turned and saw three boys walking toward her.

"What?" she asked while looking at them.

"I bet you have never had fun with a boy. Come join us. No one will get to know about it." Another boy said,

Ava was started by their nasty smirks. She did not respond to them and began to walk quickly.

"Oh, come on. What is with this hard-to-get attitude?" A boy asked, grabbing her wrist.

Ava's body jerked in fear when the boy touched her.

"Leave my hand. I will complain to our dean. She warned the boy, who was trying to get free from his grip. They were in an empty hallway because it was break time, and everyone had gone to lunch.

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The boy scoffed when he heard Ava. The other two boys beside him started to laugh.

When the boy started dragging Ava in a different direction, he started to get scared.

"Where are you dragging me? Leave my hand."

Despite her plea, they kept dragging her somewhere.

'Please, Moon Goddess, save me,' she pleaded in her heart, struggling to break free from the tight grip.

At that moment, a tattooed hand grabbed the boy's hand.

The boy stopped and looked around to see who had the audacity to take his hand. But the moment he turned, his eyes widened.

"I-lan?" He let out a shaky tone.

Ian glared at the boy as he said, with a cold voice,

"Leave her hand before I break yours."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 25[1,229 words]

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Ava was shocked when her eyes shifted to Ian. The way he was glaring at that boy who was grabbing her hand, it could make anyone scared. He looked fiercer as if he would kill the boy at any time.

The boy immediately released Ava's hand. But Ian did not leave his hand, which shook him to the core.

Ian glanced at the other two boys who were behind him. They stepped back and ran away from there in fear.

Ian twisted the boy's hand. The boy groaned in pain.

Ava was watching everything with wide eyes. She remained standing there without moving. When she heard the sound of a broken bone, she gasped. She immediately grasped Ian's hand.

"What are you doing? Leave him," she said, trying to remove his hand from the boy's wrist. That boy looked like he was dying.

Ian turned his head toward her, furrowing his brow, but he let go of the boy's hand.

The boy ran away with his broken hand, weeping in pain.

Ava gulped when she saw Ian looking angry.

"You should have thanked me. But rather than thanking me for saving you, you were saving him? Then why did you pretend like he was harassing you? Or you also wanted to play with those boys?" Ian asked while glaring at her, showing her that he did not like what she did.

"IAN"

Ava yelled at him.

She could not prevent herself when Ian accused her like that.

Her yell caused him to raise a brow. "So the little nerd has a voice too?" he asked.

His ferocious expression brightened.

Ava looked away from him and said, "Just because I always stay quiet, that doesn't mean you can say anything to me."

"Oh, really? What if I continue to say? What will you do to me?" Ian asked and stepped toward her.

She took a few steps back. Her back pressed against a wall. He stood in front of her and looked into her eyes.

She never forgot the damage he caused her. Even if she tried, she would not be able to forget that.

"As I said, I will never come across your way. So it's better if you-"

"You what?" Ian asked, lowering his head to meet her eye level.

His cologne brushed against her nostrils. She tried to hold her breath. Because his cologne would almost certainly make her heart skip a beat. So she should try to control her shameless heart.

"It's better for you to stay away from me," she said with a cold voice.

Her voice stunned him. It was true that Ava was also surprised by her confidence. However, it was not the time to give herself a pat on the shoulder for that.

"I think that storeroom punishment was not enough for you, huh?" Ian questioned.

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His cool expression turned hard. Though Ava could feel his cold aura, she tried her best to remain calm in front of

him.

'I can't look like a pushover,' she reminded herself.

She tried to move away, but he grabbed her hand and pushed her against the wall again.

Ava felt a pain in her back. It was because of her wounds. She hissed in pain while touching her back.

Ian's hand loosened as he asked, "What happened?"

He thought he had hurt her hand. He did not grab it that tightly, though.

But then he noticed her hand on her back. He assumed that she was pretending.

"I can't believe how weak you are! You can't even handle a single push? What are you? Made of glasses that can break anytime?"

Ava closed her eyes tightly as she tried to endure the pain. She muttered angrily,

"It's always you who give me pain."

He ignored her comments and stated, "When that boy was dragging you, you did not even try to break free."

Ava raised her head to look at him and replied, "I did."

"How? By weeping for it? How come you do not know any moves or self-defense? What did your father do for all these years? His daughter is already a weak omega, and he did not even teach her self-defense."

His words tore into her heart. She stared at him for a moment before saying,

"Stay away from me. Maybe you are Alpha lan, the future Alpha for the pack members, but for me, you are the boy who rejected my matebond."

Without waiting for his answer, Ava turned to the right side. She strode away from him, heading for the cafe.

She did not want to see his reaction or listen to what he would retort.

Her father died when she was a small child. Today, lan hurt her again by talking about her father. He called her weak, and he blamed her for what those boys were trying to do with her.

As if her very existence were his problem.

She did not know what he wanted from her now.

While walking, she wiped her tears that were rolling down her cheeks unknowingly.

She was missing her father. Her memories of the past returned to her. She could still remember how her father tried to save her and her mother. He was unable to shift, and he was killed.

'What if one day I end up like my dad? I also can't shift now' she asked herself.

Ava entered the cafe and tried to find her friend. Her gaze fell on them, and she walked towards them. She sat down beside Abigail and Debra. She told them everything, except for Ian mocking her father.

"Wait. You mean Ian Dawson saved you?" Debra asked.

"Yeah."

"But wasn't he the one who had left you unconscious? He was such a cruel boy last week, but now suddenly he has become a gentleman." Abigail said it with a doubtful look.

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They had heard from Ava about what Ian had done to her after the match. Luke was unaware of this, as they did not want another fight.

Luke was busy with his other friends today, so only three of them were available to talk.

"Maybe he realized his actions were wrong," Debra said.

Ava shook her head. "I don't want his sympathy. And he didn't save me because he wanted to. Maybe he saved me so he could mock me again. You can't believe it; he blamed me for everything."

Ava had her lunch with them while talking with them. They all went back to their classes after that.

After all the classes, when it was time to leave, Ava remembered something.

She looked at her friends and said goodbye to them. Abigail and Debra both offered to drop her off. But Ava denied them, saying that she would go home safely.

When Ava saw that her friends had left, she started to look for a specific person.

Her gaze was drawn to the power gang members, who were smoking and conversing. Some of them were lounging in the trunks of their cars while the others were sitting on their dashing bikes.

'The Power Gang'

After inhaling deeply, Ava moved in their direction.

She saw one of them say something to Ian. He turned his head to look at

her.

Ava came to a stop in front of them. Her eyes were avoiding their leader.

"Oh! Now you have got some brains? You came here to thank me, right? No need. I am not interested," Ian spoke out, gazing at her.

Ava looked at him and replied, "I am not interested in you either."

All of Ian's friends' eyes widened as they let out, 'Ooooooh'

She noticed Ian's eyes were getting darker.

Before Ian could respond to her, Ava turned to Stephen and said,

"I came here for you, Stephen. Can we talk?"

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 26[1,109 words]

"Me?" Stephen asked as he looked at Ava.

"Yeah." Ava nodded her head.

Stephen glanced at Ian, whose eyes were fixed on Ava.

"Steph, don't you know? You should not make a beauty wall," Ronald spoke out.

Ava heard it and her cheeks turned red. She lowered her head while waiting for Stephen.

"Beauty? My foot!" Ian muttered, which was quite audible,

Ava's face became upset after hearing him. He was insulting her once again.

Stephen got down from the car trunk and said,

"Yes. We can talk."

Ava looked at him and shook her head. "In private."

Now every one of them turned to Ian to look at him. His eyes narrowed, but he remained silent.

Stephen swallowed his breath at his friend's enraged expression. However, he was curious as to what Ava wanted to discuss with him.

"Sure," he replied, motioning his hand in the opposite direction.

Then both Ava and Stephen walked to the other side and stood aside to talk with each other.

On the other hand,

Ian's eyes remained on them.

"I told you. She has moved on." Ronald uttered his words as he observed the angry expression on the face of his best friend.

"Yeah, I can see that too. She has moved on really damn well." Ian muttered while glaring at them.

"Why are you mad? I can't find any reason." Cyrus spoke as he leaned back on his bike.

Ian was sitting on the trunk with Stephen the entire time. But after Stephen left, he was all alone on the trunk. With his elbows resting on the car, he leaned back.

"How can I not be mad? That nerdy omega kept talking back to me. Should I punish her again?"

Ronald rolled his eyes. "Yeah, sure. You will punish her, and then you will be the one to run the whole university once you see that she has become unwell."

"What did you say?"

"What? Did I say anything wrong? You upside down the whole university for her last week. You warned every single soul who saw you running to the clinic carrying her not to say anything about," Ronald retorted back.

Paul could not help but laugh. Ian glared at Ronald.

Ronald did not lie. Ian indeed warned others. It was because he did not want that girl to know about it.

His eyes drew back to the two people again who were having a conversation.

'What are they talking about? How does she know Stephen Ian thought while gazing at them.

He recalled the day when Ava came to the pack house. That day, Stephen met Ava. He remembered that he was the one who left her with Stephen that night.

'Did they come close after I left? What gave her the audacity to come here and ask him to have a private talk? No one can do that to a stranger,' Ian thought.

So many questions ran through his mind, which he tried to push.

He had no idea why he was even thinking about all of this. His mind was completely screwed up. His gaze had been following her unintentionally for the entire week. He could not stop himself from keeping an eye on her every day.

He snapped out of his reverie when he noticed Stephen holding Ava's hand. He looked at them with a frown. For some unknown reason, he was not liking it.

His heart was pounding as if he wanted to rush to them and yank her hand from Stephen's grasp.

His wolf started to growl inside, as if he did not like it as well.

'What the fuck is wrong with me? This nerd is driving me crazy. I need a distraction. It's been a long time since I have had some fun at night. All I need now is a distraction from this girl. I will be fine after that,' he assured himself.

"BABY"

Nova's loud voice caught his attention. He turned around to see her running towards him.

"Your so-called girlfriend is on her way. We should leave now. See you tomorrow," Ronald said that and got on his bike.

Ian knew his friends did not like Nova, but he was not sure if he liked her. It was just a relationship of compromise. His parents wanted a girl who could be their Luna, and he wanted a girl with high rank who could stand next to him. Nova was the right choice. So he had no problem with her.

Nova approached and hugged him. When she noticed he looked lost, she seized the opportunity to place her head

on his chest. 1

"Where have you been? You are my boyfriend, but you don't give me time."

Ian did not reply to her, nor did he hug her back. He moved her away from him. His gaze fell behind her to Ava, who was conversing with Stephen.

When he noticed Stephen wrapping his left hand around Ava's waist and she holding his right arm, his face darkened.

"Where are you looking?" Nova inquired, turning to face the direction he was looking. She raised her eyebrows as she looked at Ava. "She's always like that."

"Like, how?" Ian asked while gritting his teeth.

"She is not innocent. She is a pretentious girl. I always saw her with different boys. I think she acts like a nerd to grab boys' attention."

Ian tightened his fists, as he had no idea who he was getting angry at.

2/3

He looked away from Ava and grabbed Nova's waist, then pulled her to him. He yearned for a distraction. So he kissed Nova,

Nova's eyes widened. She immediately wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him back.

Ian closed his eyes, but his thoughts were drawn to the girl he kissed in the club.

Suddenly, Ava's face flashed across his mind. He pushed Nova away to end the kiss.

'Fuck!'

He could not believe what he had just thought. Why did he think about Ava just now while kissing his girlfriend?

"Ian, what's wrong?" Nova asked.

He looked at her and replied, "Nothing. What are you still doing on campus?

Go back home."

At that time, another voice interrupted them.

"Ian, I am leaving, Ava and I need to talk."

Ian looked at Stephen and Ava, who had come in his direction.

Stephen unlocked his car and opened the front door for Ava

Ian got down in front of the trunk of his car and asked,

"Talk? So, what have you two been doing all this time?"

"We need some more time. Maybe we will have to make time for each other starting now."

Ian was enraged by Stephen's reply. Nova held his arm and chuckled.

"Let them spend some time with each other, baby. They look really close."

Ian expected Ava to oppose Nova, but she said nothing and got into Stephen's car.

Stephen walked over to the driver's seat and opened the door.

"So, what will you two talk about?" Ian questioned him from behind.

Stephen turned to him and replied,

"It's personal, bro."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 27[1,135 words]

Ava focused on the road ahead of her. She was going to a restaurant with Stephen because they had decided to go somewhere where they could talk alone.

FLASHBACK

Ava and Stephen walked in the opposite direction, where Ian was sitting

"Is there something serious?" Stephen questioned her as they stood in a corner,

Ava looked at him and asked,

"Did you call my mom today?"

She noticed that Stephen's brows shot up. However, he quickly changed his expression and shook his head.

"No. Why did you think that?"

"Stephen, please. Don't lie to me. I'm already confused. Don't make me more tense. I am very worried about my mom. I have been observing her. I think she is hiding something from me. Today, when I heard you trying to persuade her about something, you mentioned reconsideration."

Seeing how stressed out Ava was, Stephen held her hand.

"Calm down, girl. Don't think too much."

"Please be honest with me,"

Stephen averted his gaze from her. "She told us not to tell you."

"Us? So, does anyone else know about something I don't?" Ava asked with a stunned look.

Stephen simply nodded at him. "I wanted to tell you that night, but you didn't give me a chance to talk about it."

Ava recalled that when she went to the pack house, Stephen was trying to be friendly, but she did not talk to him much.

Ava remained silent as she waited for Stephen to reveal the truth that they were hiding from her. But she remembered something and asked,

"You were mentioning that someone is seriously ill. Whom were you talking about?"

Suddenly, Ava's eyes drew to Nova, who rushed to Ian and hugged him. She turned away from them and tried to concentrate on Stephen.

"I was talking about my dad."

"Your dad? What happened to him?"

"He is not well. Your mother knows about it."

Ava thought about it and said,

"She once said that some relative of Alpha was sick, and Alpha asked her to go out of this pack."

Stephen gave her a sad smile and shook his head.

Ava felt her mother had lied to her. "Why did she lie?"

"No, she didn't lie to you. She just didn't tell you the whole truth."

1/3

+25 80W

"That is the truth, Stephen?"

Ava looked at him with hope in his eyes. Stephen sighed and replied,

"This is about our parents."

*Our parents?"

"Yeah. Your mom and my dad are mates.

When Ava heard that, she felt her head spin around. She took a step back.

Stephen put his arm around her waist to support her. She grasped his arm and asked,

"What are you saying?"

She closed her eyes, trying to calm her shocked mind. However, when she opened her eyes, her eyes fell on Ian, who was kissing Nova.

Ava felt like breaking down. She could not get too many things together. Stephen looked around and said,

"We can't talk about our parents like this just anywhere. I think we should go to a place where we can talk in private."

Ava nodded, and they made their way to Stephen's car. After that, Ian asked many questions, which infuriated Ava.

She was upset because he had kissed Nova a while ago but was now questioning them. He had no right to know anything about her personal life.

She said angrily that it was none of his business where they were going. She was grateful to Stephen, who said it was personal and did not tell him anything

END OF FLASHBACK

Stephen pulled the car close to a restaurant. They got out of the car.

Ava pushed her glasses up to her eyes before entering the restaurant. They took a private cabin.

"Now tell me what you want to know," Stephen asked.

"How can your father be my mother's mate? She was my dad's..." She paused.

"I understand what you are trying to say. You think your father was your mother's mate, right?"

"He was not?" Ava asked.

"No, Ava. They were not mates. Your mother got married to your father because her parents wanted that. She had not found her mate at the time. That's why she agreed to marry your father. They started to live happily after that. You were born into a happy family, but something destroyed your family and took your father away from you two's lives."

Ava lowered her head as she recalled past memories that had often haunted her at night in her dreams.

"When your mother came to this pack for help, it was my father, the gamma of this pack found his mate. He helped you and your mother contact Alpha Martin. After that, your mother treated Luna, and they accepted you and your mother as members of this pack."

2/3

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"What about your mother?"

Stephen turned silent for a few seconds, then replied, "She died when she gave me birth."

"Oh, I am so sorry," Ava spoke in a low tone.

"It's okay. I have never seen her, so I have no memories of her. I know you feel the same way. You also don't have-

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"No. I have my father's memories."

"Oh. I don't know much about your father. I only heard that he had died before your mother came here. How did he die?"

Ava told him everything since he revealed a secret that had been hidden from her for years.

"Honestly, the situation when our parents met was not right. My father was unable to erase my mother's memories while your mother was traumatized by the loss of her

beloved husband. But years later, they start to fall in love. It was their fate. They were mates. They were meant to be together. But your mother decided to devote her life to you.

My father is sick right now. He needs a mate who can heal her. He loves your mother, so he said that if he were to 'mark someone, it would be only his mate. That night, Alpha and Luna proposed to your mother about it." Ava recalled how angry her mother was. She had seen pain too. "What did Alpha propose to her?"

"A marriage between my father and your mother. Your mother said you are already eighteen. It is your time to find your mate and marry him, not hers. She asked what people would say if she got married now. She feared that this marriage would ruin your life because we might not treat you well. She claimed she had only you in her life. She believed you would never agree to this marriage. But trust me, my father is a good person. He will make you and your mother part of his family."

Ava thought for a moment. Could she ever picture her mother with another man? She had a few memories of her father. All she could remember clearly was that night.

She could not forget what her father had said to her.

'Little girl, always take care of your mother.'

Ava closed her eyes and stood up from her chair.

"I can't let her destroy her life for me. I agree with it. I will persuade her to get married."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 28[964 words]

It appeared as though Stephen was taken aback. A gleaming smile appeared on his face as he stood up

His greatest concern was that Ava would either become enraged or decline the marriage proposal. But the fact that she readily agreed with it left him speechless. It showed how good a daughter she was.

"Are you sure that you can convince her?" he asked, looking at her carefully.

Ava gave him a nod and replied,

"I can't promise, but I will do my best. Just like how my mon loves me, I love her the most. If she has a mate, she should be with him. She is fortunate that her mate did not reject her when she refused to be with him. He has been waiting for a very long time."

Stephen felt sorry for Ava. What Ian did with her was really wrong

He thought back to the time when Ian had rejected her and told them that he hated her. All of these things about his father were unknown to him on that day.

However, when his father became ill, Alpha called him personally and revealed the truth that his father had been concealing from him for all of these years prior to his illness.

His reaction was also the same. The only thing he desired was for his father to be content and still alive.

"I believe that you should have an open conversation with your mother. She believes that you will have a problem with everything that is going on. I request you to break his misconception that your life will be ruined by it."

"I will do that," she replied.

After she had finished speaking with her mother, Stephen told her to inform him.

"Alright, little sister. See you soon." Stephen said.

"Little sister?"

"Yeah. Our parents are going to marry. So we will become siblings, you know."

Ava chuckled as she realized Stephen had thought so far.

"Sure, big brother. Bye."

After talking with him, Ava left the restaurant. Stephen offered to drop her off at her house, but she declined, stating that she would prefer to go alone.

She called a cab and went to her house. Her mother was not at home, so she waited for her in the living room.

While lying on the couch, Ava was using her phone.

Her thoughts kept returning to the time when she saw Ian kiss Nova.

Why did all of this have to occur right in front of her?

"That man has no shame," she muttered.

The sound of the door being unlocked reached her ears. When she opened her eyes, she saw her mother coming inside. She hurried over to give her a hug.

"Why does my baby look so tired?" her mother asked.

3/3

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"Mom, I love you."

"I love you too, my baby,"

She pulled away from the hug and let her mother go to her room to take a shower.

She waited in the living room. Her mother came out and went to the kitchen.

Ava helped her prepare dinner. Ava did not raise the matter at the dining table while having dinner.

After dinner, she assisted her mother in cleaning up the dishes, and they sat on the living room couch.

"Mom"

Ava rested her head on her mother's shoulder.

"Hmm?" her mother responded while patting her cheek with her hand.

Ava held her hand and looked at it. Her mother had been working hard for her. She abandoned her happiness and spent half of her life with her.

She kissed her mother's palm. "Mom, you always talk about mates. You said that when I find my mate, he will protect me and make me happy in my life. What about you, Mom?"

Her mother's hand froze. She turned to her and asked,

"What are you saying, Ava?"

Ava examined her worried expression. She cupped her cheeks and said,

"Mom, what about your mate? Have you ever considered the possibility that he wants to protect you and provide you with a happy life?"

Her mother rose to her feet. "What nonsense! What are you saying?"

Ava also got up. "Mom, I know that you have a mate. Dad was not your mate, right?"

Her mother's eyes widened as she reflected on how she had learned about it.

"Mom, please don't waste the rest of your life. You once told me that having mates is a blessing. Why don't you accept yours?"

Angela could not believe what she was hearing. Her daughter was aware of everything. She did not question her; instead, she was convincing her to get married.

She shook her head. "Ava, you know nothing about this world. It is your time to marry or settle down, not mine."

"Mom, that is the wrong thought. There is no set time frame for doing anything in your life. It is up to you to decide what makes you happy."

Ava noticed her mother's eyes getting wet. She hugged her mother.

"Mom, I agree with the marriage that Alpha and Luna have proposed to you. Please accept it. If he chooses someone else, you will come to regret it. It's not easy to endure the rejection of your mate," Ava said with an upset face. Her mother broke the hug and cupped her face. "Why are you saying this?" Ava shook her head. "Mom, I know you like Uncle Harper as well. It's not in your hands. It's your bond that binds you with him in your heart."

2/3

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Her mother appeared stunted. "How can you say all of this so surely?"

It was impossible for Ava to explain to her mother how her mate had rejected her, leaving her in a state of brokenness. She feared that if her mother did not decide to accept her mate, she would be forced to suffer the same fate as she had.

There was no way Ava would tell her mother about the rejection. So she took her question lightly.

She let out a chuckle as she thought about her situation. She looked away from her and lied.

"Just read somewhere."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 29[965 words]

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The next day,

Ava woke up early to go to the university. The fact that she had been successful in persuading her mother last night made her very happy. At first, she was talking about what others would say. But then Ava had to tell her that by marrying Harper, she could get a father's name.

Though Ava loved her father a lot, she would have to accept Harper as her new father if she wanted happiness in her mother's life.

Ava took a quick shower and got ready hurriedly. She left her house without eating breakfast, telling her mother that she needed to do some work outside.

"I have to talk about it with Stephen. He is also concerned about his father," she thought to herself.

When Ava arrived at her university, her friends noticed her. Luke gave her a puzzled look.

"What am I hearing? Did you go somewhere with Stephen yesterday? Is he blackmailing you for something?"

Ava was stunned to hear that. "What are you saying, Luke?"

"One of my friends saw you going with him."

Debra was staring at her. Abigail was not there. Ava shook her head and understood that they were misunderstanding the situation.

"I need to talk to you all. Where is Abigail? Let's find her and sit together."

They nodded and proceeded to the cafeteria together.

Luke called Abigail. She reported that she was currently en route to the university.

They waited for her. Luke and Debra were looking at Ava while examining her face.

"Relax, guys. Everything is okay," Ava assured them.

Following some time, Abigail came and joined them. After taking a seat at their table, she inquired,

"Spill the beans."

Ava looked at three of them and took a deep breath.

"You all are friends, so I think I really need to share this with you."

She told them everything, including how her father died and how her mother brought her to this pack. She shared with them the story of her mother's mate and the reasons why she had been unable to accept him for so long.

After she had finished explaining everything, she took a quick look at their faces. She thought they would judge her or her mother.

But Abigail and Debra got to their feet and gave her a hug.

"We didn't know you had to see so many things at such a young age."

Ava smiled at them sadly. She indeed had to see her father's death at that young age.

It was a trauma for her. It was the worst nightmare she had ever experienced, and she saw it in her dreams quite frequently.

1/3

29

"So your mother is going to marry Stephen's father?" Luke asked her.

She gave him a slight nod. "All I can say is that I hope so. I tried my best to convince her. I know she also wants to be with her mate. But she overthinks about what people would say."

"Hey! Why so much overthinking? My aunt has just gotten married at the age of 45. She said love has no bounds or age," Abigail said, sitting on her chair. Debra also went to sit on hers.

Ava looked at them and said,

"Thanks, guys."

"For what?" Debra asked.

"You didn't judge my mother. You all are supporting me."

"Why won't we? We are best friends for a reason," Debra let out.

After talking with her friends, Ava went to attend her classes. It was difficult for her to concentrate on her studies because she was thinking about something else.

'I should move into a dorm after they get married,' she thought.

She did not want to ruin anyone's private life.

When she attended her last class, the professor told her that she was not doing well in that subject because she had not submitted her assignment.

She apologized to him and informed him that she would submit the assignment this week.

"No, you have to finish it today, then you can leave," the professor declared.

Later, she had to finish the assignment, which took her an hour. She told her friends to leave after their classes since she would have to complete her task.

When she was done submitting her assignment, she let out a sigh of relief. She made her way to the entrance hall while looking around

Unexpectedly, she saw Stephen. From a distance, she smiled broadly and waved at him with her hand.

She could not help but smile at him because she would be breaking the good news to him today.

Stephen noticed her and waved at her back. He excused his friend and approached her.

"Hey!"

"Hi, Stephen."

"You look happy today."

"Guess what?"

"What? Did you convince her and get her to agree?" Stephen asked her with hope.

Ava nodded her head with a smile. Stephen's eyes widened. He could not believe it and hugged her with joy.

"I can't believe it! I really have been trying. But you did what I could not do."

Ava chuckled at hearing him. He patted his back and replied,

2/3

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"We should make plans for them to meet together."

Stephen released the hug and gave her a nod.

"Dad doesn't know about it. I think we should plan. How about setting up a date for them?"

"Not bad."

Stephen thought for a second before telling her,

"I am throwing a party tonight. Would you like to come?"

Ava was taken aback. "Party?"

"Yeah. This is my party. So you don't have to worry about anything. We can plan everything there."

Ava's gaze unintentionally shifted behind Stephen. She noticed that his friends were looking at her.

Her eyes stopped on one person, who was digging a glare at her. (1)

"Is he going?" she mumbled.

Stephen turned around to see who she was looking at. He noticed Ian staring at them.

Stephen shrugged his shoulders.

"Of course he is. But I can assure you that he will stay away from you."

Ava exhaled and paused for a moment. It was not about her, but her mother.

So she gave him her words.

"Okay, I will be there tonight."

Alis Tae Author

Update schedule:

5 days a week (Per day - 2 or more chapters).

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 30[954 words]

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"Ian, why are you looking at them like this? They will feel easy," Ronald said to far.

For quite some time, Tan had been fixating his gaze on Ava and Stephen.

It bothered him that Ava was getting closer and closer to Stephen. He was mad at Stephen because, last night,

when he asked him about what Ava was saying to him, he replied that it was nothing much.

It was obvious that something was going on between them and he did not want to tell him about it.

"Don't you think he is talking too much with that nerd?" Ian asked his friends.

"Everyone is aware of Stephen's personality. He never engages in unnecessary conversations with others. There must be a reason," Cryan assumed.

"But what might be the reason?" Paul asked.

"There is nothing, guys. He is a man. He can fall for anyone you know," Ronald said, glancing at Ian.

Ian furrowed his brow and turned to him. "What did you just say?"

"What? Did I say anything wrong? Don't you all agree with me?" Ronald asked others.

Ian scoffed at him and replied,

"I know him. He can't fall for that nerdy omega. In fact, no one can fall for a weak girl like her." Ronald nodded his head. "Who knows what he really wants? But I feel like you are telling it to yourself." Ian gave him an indifferent expression, indicating that he did not care.

"Why am I getting the impression that you are jealous of Steph because he is talking to your ex-mate?" "Excuse me? Is there anything about her that piques my interest or makes me jealous?" Ian asked with a scoff. However, his eyes turned darker when he saw Stephen hugging Ava. His jaw clenched as he stared at them.

He saw Ava hand her phone to Stephen, as if they were exchanging phone numbers.

Ronald raised his eyebrows and looked around at his other friends, who were also looking at him.

"Cherry on top, he got the girl's number."

"Now this looks serious. We have to ask him," Paulo said.

Ian tightened his fists. He had no idea what was causing him to feel that way

inside. He wanted to go to Ava and scolded her for giving her contact number to anyone else.

'How cheap she is! She is giving around her number to other boys!' Ian thought.

After some time had passed, Ava left, and Stephen eventually came back to join them.

"What were you talking about? It took too long," Paulo asked him.

Stephen had a big smile on his face, which made Ian frown.

"You look like you have won a lottery."

"Bro, I have got more than that. I can't explain to you all how happy I am right now."

1/3

30

Ronald patted his shoulder and said,

"Then tell us."

Ewetw

Stephen was about to speak, but he glanced at Ian and recalled what Ava had told her.

She asked him to keep it a secret from everyone until their parents married.

"I am so sorry, guys. I can't tell you anything right now. But I will let you know about it soon. I promise."

Ian did not say anything to him. He did not want to argue with his friend about anything. He was about to leave when Stephen stopped him.

"Don't forget about tonight's party."

"Not coming," Ian replied without hesitation.

"Why?"

"Not in the mood today."

"You never say no to a party. In fact, I invited Nova for you."

Hearing that, Ian glared at him. "Why did you invite her? You all know I don't like her at all."

Stephen shook his head and replied,

"But you made her your girlfriend. How can I not invite her?"

Ian rolled his eyes. "I'm leaving. I am not sure about the party."

He had no desire to attend any party tonight. The sight of Stephen with Ava

and Stephen's words coming out of her completely ruined his mood.

He turned around and started to walk. But he paused when he overheard his friend's conversation.

"Ava is also coming." 1

Ian turned to Stephen and asked,

"Why did you call that nerd at your party?"

Stephen took a deep breath and tried to explain it to him.

"I have a request for you, Ian. You are not Ava's mate now. So she said she wanted to stay away from you. I promised her that you would stay away from her at the party. Please keep that in mind."

Ian raised an eyebrow when he saw how Stephen was talking about Ava. It looked like he cared for her. Ian walked up to Stephen and mocked him.

"What did you just say? You promised her? Have you two gotten so close that you have started to make promises to her?"

Stephen stared at Ian's engaged face. He knew that Ian was misunderstanding him. But he did not elaborate on that. Ava agreed with this condition, so he would have to make sure that Ian would not get close to her.

"Look, buddy. You have already rejected her. There is nothing to argue over. You clearly mentioned that you have no interest in her. Or do you have any?"

Ian did not look away from him and replied,

2/3

30

"Are you crazy? How can I get any interest in that girl?"

Before Stephen could say anything, Ronald spoke up.

"Then there is nothing to talk about. Ian does not care whether you invite her or anyone else. He is coming tonight to join us."

Ian glared at his best friend, who always interrupted him.

"I am not coming," Ian muttered and left. 1

Stephen looked at his back. 'I wish I could tell you the truth But why are you reacting like this, Ian?' he thought. Ronald gave Stephen a careful look. He understood that nothing was like what they were assuming. But he wanted Ian to think like that so he could understand how he truly felt. "Don't worry, Steph. I can bet on it. Ian will come to the party for sure."