

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 31[961 words]

Oh Really 31

31

Ava went back to her home. Her mother was not at home because she had already gone to the hospital

Ava remained in her room throughout the entire day, thinking about her future.

The only thing she could do was hope Harper would make her mother happy and give her what she deserved

In the evening,

Ava was lazing around on the couch and watching television She could hear her phone ringing,

Her phone, which was sitting on the table close to the kitchen, caught her attention briefly. She forgot to take her phone from there after having lunch.

The phone rang, but she was too lazy to go and answer it.

"Come on, Ava. You have to do it."

After getting to her feet, she proceeded to walk to the table. She looked at her phone screen and saw that it was a group call. 1

She received the call and immediately connected with the other three people in the group.

"Hello, guys," Ava said.

"Stephen called us to invite us to his party."

It was Abigail who spoke out. Her voice was desperate.

"Oh, thank God he did. Otherwise, I would have called you all to come with me," Ava replied to her.

"He informed us that you were the first person he invited. Is there any specific reason?" Luke asked. "Yeah, we were talking about our parents. So he asked me to come."

"Oh."

"Wait a minute, guys. Let me ask her a question first. What is the theme of the party?" Debra asked.

Ava was confused. "Theme? I don't know. He didn't tell me about it."

"I asked him when he contacted me. The theme is revolution," Abigail said.

"Wow. Sounds nice. But I was talking about dressing themes, by the way," Debra let out.

They all chuckled at her remarks.

"Wear what you like, Deb. You look good at everything." Ava said to Debra.

"You girls can talk. I am hanging up. See you all at the party," Luke said to them.

In their group, he was the only boy, which sometimes made him feel awkward. However, they allowed him to have space for his personal time. He had other friends, so he could chill out with them.

"Then should I come to pick you u-" Abigail was interrupted when Ava received another call on her phone.

"Stephen is calling me," Ava told them.

"Receive the call. He is going to be your brother," Debra said and laughed.

31

Ava ended the call and received Stephen's call.

"Hello?"

"Where are you?"

Ava was dumbfounded. "Well, at my home. Why?"

"What why? Did you forget about my party?"

"No. I was talking about it with my friends. They said you invited them too."

"Yeah."

"That's great. My friend Abigail was saying that she would pick me up. So when will the party begin?"

At that time, she heard a knock on the main door. She turned to the door.

"I am at your doorstep. There is no need to go with Abigail, am here to pick you up."

Ava opened the door hurriedly. "How did you find out where I live?" she asked with a surprised look

"Come on. Do you think I don't know where my soon-to-be mother is staying?"

"You have a point," Ava said and nodded her head.

"You are going with me. Let's go.

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Ava shook her head and said, "Let me ask my mom first."

"I have talked to her. She said she hoped you had a good time with your friends. So let's go.'

At first, Ava was unable to believe him; however, she became aware of the fact that Stephen frequently communicated with her mother over the phone.

"Let me change my clothes. I am not ready yet."

Stephen frowned at her. "Ready? What will you do? Wear a loose dress and make an effort to hide your face by wearing big glasses?"

Ava eventually came to the realization that she was not wearing her glasses at that time.

Her eyes widened. She was feeling awkward that someone was seeing her without her glasses on. It had become a habit for her to walk around while wearing her glasses.

"You are going to go somewhere with me. From there, we will go to the party directly."

Ava could not help but obey him and left her house in sneakers and the navy blue dress that she was wearing at home.

They got inside Stephen's car. Stephen started the car after setting up an address on the map.

They arrived at the location after driving for a half an hour. Ava got out of the car. When Ava looked around, she saw that Stephen had taken her to a shopping mall.

"Why are we here?" Ava asked.

"Do you want to go to my party in that dress?"

Ava gazed down at her dress. It was indeed not a dress to wear to any party.

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Despite Ava's countless refusals, Stephen bought many dresses for her. He instructed the staff girl to bring Ava the most exquisitely designed shoes she could find.

Ava was looking at Stephen while pressing her hand on her forehead.

She was talking with her mother on her phone.

"Mom, stop him."

"Didn't you try to convince me last night? Now you have to listen to me. Your children have grown so much. You started planning behind our backs. Now you must listen to me."

"Listen to what? Wear them and change my appearance. Mom, I can't just transform myself."

"It's all my fault. I always told you to hide yourself. It's because I was scared of your safety. But not anymore. I don't want to hide my beautiful daughter anymore.'

11

Ava let out a sigh, shaking her head. "Mom, please."

"Do you want me to rethink what I promised you last night?"

"No way."

"Then listen to Stephen. Don't worry about the money he is spending. He is using my card for you."

Ava parted her lips. Her mother was really wasting so much money on her.

Stephen came to her and said,

"Let's go, little sister. It is time to get a makeover."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 32[1,023 words]

32

Ava looked at herself in the mirror. Both her mother and Stephen were successful in convincing her to get a makeover.

Stephen brought her to a young woman who was his cousin. It seemed like she knew about Ava, so she did her best to give her a new look.

When she was done, she told Ava to look at herself, and Ava was shocked.

She had her hair dyed a dark brown color and cut it in long layers. It was giving her an elegant look

Because she did not wear glasses, her face was clearly visible. The young woman applied smokey makeup, giving her a hot look.

She was dressed in a black knee-length dress that hugged her body and showed off her curves. Her black high heels gave her a little more height than usual.

Overall, she appeared to have changed completely.

Ava was really stunned by looking at herself.

"What a beautiful girl!" the young woman complimented her.

Ava flushed and looked at her. "Thanks."

When she went out of the room to meet Stephen, he was equally stunned. He knew Ava was beautiful, but he was not expecting this much beauty.

However, he made up his mind that she would be his sister. So he had no ulterior motives for her.

"You look absolutely stunning. That's how you should walk around. Now I understand why your mom always tried to hide you from others' eyes," Stephen said to Ava.

Ava had no words to say. She was nervous about what people would say about her sudden change.

Stephen grasped what she was thinking.

"Didn't you say your mother thinks about other people a lot? I think you got this from your mother. Stop overthinking, Ava."

Ava nodded her head and followed him behind.

They got into his car, and he started it to take them to their destination.

Ava glanced at Stephen and noticed that he had also changed his clothes. He was wearing jeans and a denim jacket.

Since he was a member of the Power Gang, his appearance was not different from theirs.

Throughout the whole ride, Ava was feeling anxious. She did not know how others would react to her.

She was a person who did not like attention; now she would give them a topic to talk about her.

"Relax," Stephen reminded her.

They arrived at a house. Stephen got out of the car and opened the door for her.

She stepped out of the car and looked around. The whole house was almost shaking under the music and beat.

"Let's go?" Stephen said to her:.

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They entered the house. Ava was greeted by smoke and the smell of alcohol.

The boys turned their heads toward her when she went inside. They kept staring at her.

Ava felt awkward under their gazes. Meanwhile, girls were looking at Stephen and giving her glares. She realized they were misunderstanding her.

"Don't think too much. You are beautiful. People enjoy seeing beautiful girls and handsome boys. It's natural," Stephen told her.

Ava sighed when she heard him. She tried her best to ignore others' gazes,

"AVA!"

She heard a scream, which made her turn around.

Abigail was looking at her with a pair of shocked eyes. Luke and Debra had the same reactions

She cast a glance at Stephen. He chuckled and nodded at her as if telling her to meet her friends.

Ava walked to her friends, while Stephen went to other guests. It was his party, so everyone was looking for him.

"Come here, baby. You look like the hottest girl on the planet," Abigail said, pulling her into a hug,

Ava laughed at her words and hugged her back. When they moved away from the hug, Debra went to hug Ava.

"I am so glad to see you like this. Who should we thank for this appearance? Stephen?" Debra asked.

"He and my mom," Ava muttered.

Someone cleared his throat. Ava turned her head and saw Luke.

He scratched the back of his neck and said,

"You look gorgeous."

"Thank you, Luke," Ava said with a warm smile.

She was happy that her friends were cheering her on. If Stephen had not invited them here, she would have passed out from other people's stares.

She believed that the majority of the people here did not recognize her, which was fortunate for her. This appearance was just for today. She will return to her old self tomorrow.

"Let's have drinks," Abigail suggested.

Though Ava did not want to have drinks, she wanted to sit somewhere. Luke excused himself when one of his friends came to talk to him.

Abigail and Debra held both of her arms. Debra whispered to her,

"Let us teach you how to enjoy parties. Last time, you left early."

Debra's words reminded Ava of what had happened at the last party. She remembered the encounter with Ian. Thinking about that kiss and touch made her mind foggy.

Ava shook her head and took a deep breath.

"Why don't you want to enjoy it?" Abigail asked, as she thought Ava was shaking her head in response to their

remarks.

2/3

32

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"No, no. I was thinking of something else."

They stopped at the bar and ordered three glasses of beer.

"You two know that I don't drink." Ava said to them.

Abigail rolled her eyes. "Did you forget what your mom told me last time? She said she wanted you to live your life fully. So start with this; come on, baby."

Debra laughed when she saw how Abigail was persuading Ava with her words.

"One glass won't hurt you," Debra assured her.

Ava glanced at the glass and grabbed it. She was about to sip on it when she heard other girls screaming about something.

She turned her head to look around the large living room, which had turned into a club now.

It was the main door that caught her attention. Four boys had just walked in.

All the girls' eyes were there.

Ava's gaze was drawn to one of them.

That was Ian Dawson. The boy every girl desired to be with.

He arrived at the party looking like a rock star. He was wearing black jeans, a white undershirt, and a black jacket His eyebrow

His eyebrow piercing and tattooed hands gave him a popstar look.

Who would say that he was going to be the head Alpha of this pack? 1

Ava was ready to avert her gaze from him. But her eyes froze when his eyes caught her gaze.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 33[941 words]

33

Tan was not feeling up to attending Stephen's party. He did not know why he was angry with Stephen.

However, he reconsidered attending the party after Ronald called and informed him that everyone wanted him to join them.

"Didn't you all hear me? I don't want to go," Ian said to Ronald while lying on his bed.

"Bro, what's wrong with you? You have never declined an invitation to attend a party. And it's our Stephen's party. Now, what makes you avoid parties?"

"I am not in the mood."

"I know why."

Ian thought Ronald would talk about Ava again.

"Don't talk about that nerd again," he warned him.

"Wait a minute. When did I talk about Ava? I think you have gone crazy about her."

"Don't try to change your words. You were about to speak about her."

"No. Have you forgotten that you have a girlfriend?"

Hearing Ronald, Ian frowned. He indeed forgot about Nova. In fact, she had been sending messages to him the whole day to go with her to the party, but he ignored all of her messages.

"Ian, we all know you don't like that Nova girl. Why don't you break up with her?" Ian raised an eyebrow. "Breakup?"

The word sounded so funny to him because he did not even feel that he was in any relationship with her.

"You are not even serious. And we all know she is after your Luna's position. So why are you roaming around with the 'I am booked' tag? Just break up and come back to your old life."

Ian realized that it had been one month since he slept with any girl.

That mate thing messed with his mind so badly that he forgot all of his desires and lost his way of life.

"You are right. I am Ian Dawson. I do not require any confirmation to sleep with any girl. I should break up with that Nova girl. But what will I do to my annoying dad? He kept nudging me to fix a girl as their Luna."

Ronald remained quiet for some time. Then he spoke out,

"Your Luna could have been with you if you had not rejected her."

"Shut up, Ron. You know how much I hate that girl. She doesn't deserve to be with me anyway."

"As you say, Alpha, Are you coming or not?"

Of course, I am coming."

Immediately after hanging up the phone, Ian went to take a shower. When he was ready to leave the pack house, his father called out to him from behind.

Rolling his eyes, he turned his attention to him.

"Yes, Dad?"

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Sarcasm was evident in his tone of voice.

"You promised that you would introduce us to the girl that you have selected."

Ian was annoyed by the same question his father had been asking him.

"The girl is gone."

"I know you are dating my beta's daughter."

Ian's eyebrows rose in response to his words.

"Who told you that?" he asked with a profound voice.

His father was almost taken aback by the fierceness of his eyes. His father could see that his son's aura was not the aura of an ordinary Alpha. He was more powerful than people thought.

"Everyone at your university is aware of this."

"Oh, so you sent a spy after me?"

"It is not wrong to know what my son is doing outside."

He laughed and nodded his head in agreement. "You are right; it's not wrong. Then what do you want me to do, dad?"

"Don't try to play with her. She is my beta's daughter. She is a beta female, and I also think she is good for you. So don't dare to mistreat her. Finally, you chose the right girl, and I hope you will not let me down this time."

Ian was staring at him. He wanted to say that he wanted to break up with Nova, but before that, his father had already warned him not to do that.

He did not reply to him and left the pack house in a furious mood.

He got in his car and started the engine.

"I can't break up, but that girl can," he muttered. A smirk appeared on the corner of his lips.

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When he arrived at the house where Stephen had hosted the party, he saw his other friends waiting outside.

"Where is Steph?" he asked Cyrus.

"He is inside. Let's go." Cyrus replied.

Ian entered the party with his friends. The moment they went inside, girls started to scream after seeing them.¹

Ian chose to disregard them and instead roamed his eyes in search of a hot girl to divert his attention for the night.

However, his eyes caught a pair of soft eyes that were looking at him.

His jaw nearly dropped when he saw the girl. If he had not seen her without glasses in the hospital bed that day, he would not have believed that it was Ava.

His heart began to beat erratically for no apparent reason. She broke eye contact and looked away from him.

His gaze shifted to her dress. She was wearing an alluring dress, and she was looking hot.

She had a perfect body that she had hidden from others by wearing baggy clothes.

Her face was clearly visible, and tonight she did not wear any glasses or tie her hair.

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33

She looked different-a completely different girl.

Where are you lost?" he heard Ronald's voice.

He forced himself to look away from Ava and turned his head to Ronald.

Ronald smirked at him while glancing at Ava.

"She is sizzling hot. What happened to her? Did she change herself for Stephen?"

Ian's eyes grew darker. He turned to look at Ava again. This time, he saw her

talking with Stephen. He was directing her and her friends towards the couches. It looked like her friends were also on good terms with him.

Glancing at Ian's clenching fists, Ronald chuckled and whispered to him,

"Are you jealous, Alpha Ian?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 34[1,064 words]

"You can sit here. No one will bother you. If anyone dares, just send me a text," Stephen said to Ava.

Ava gave him a nod. Abigail and Debra were looking at them while sitting beside her on a couch. They saw Stephen going to his friends. They turned to face Ava.

"He is being so nice to you. I have never seen him speak to anyone in such a sweet manner," Abigail said. "Maybe he thinks of her as his family since very soon they are going to be a family," Debra said.

Ava was only listening to them. She took sips from her drink. It was her first time drinking. So she was feeling wired.

She noticed a couple making out in a corner. Her eyes shifted to other sides, and she was surprised that many couples were doing the same.

"They should get a room," Ava muttered.

Abigail and Debra laughed when they heard her.

"Stephen won't allow them to enter any of the private rooms."

"Oh."

Ava bent down to a small table near the couch and placed her half filled glass. Her gaze fell on a boy who was looking at him.

Ava was uneasy under his gaze. He approached her with a smirk. It caused her to immediately look away from him.

"Hi, sweetheart. Let's have a dance."

Ava was startled by his approach.

"Do you like this guy?" Abigail asked Ava.

Ava was shocked. With a proud grin, the boy tucked his hands in his pockets.

"No way," I whispered.

Debra sneered at the boy. "Bro, our girl doesn't like you. So go away from here."

The boy was taken aback by Debra's rude words.

He glared at Ava, and she felt that she had made a new enemy here.

"You know what? Let's have dancing girls. We were about to teach her how to enjoy parties. Sitting here won't help her," Abigail declared and stood up. 1

100

Ava shook her head. But her friends grabbed her hand and led her to the dance floor, which was in the center of the living room.

Abigail waved at Luke to join them. Luke walked to them to join them on the dance floor.

Debra went up to the DJ and requested that he play a beat-heavy song.

Everything was new to Ava. She felt shy about dancing. Luke held her hand and pulled her to him.

"Hey! Don't feel awkward. No one will see you. Even if they do, does it matter? Just focus on yourself."

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34

Ava glanced at her friends, who nodded and began to dance. She tried to move her legs to imitate their steps.

After a while, she started enjoying it. It seemed like the half-glass of beer was influencing her brain.

She started to jump with the beats. She wanted to forget all of the pain and problems in her life tonight.

On the other hand,

Ian kept his gaze fixed on Ava. The way she looked, the way she smiled, the way she moved her waist to the beats -nothing went unnoticed by him.

He did not know why he was looking at this girl.

He was Ian Dawson. Every single girl was after him. Even though they knew Nova care. It did not prevent them from getting closer to him.

However, his eyes were only looking for Ava. It made him furious at himself.

as his girlfriend, they did not

The most annoying fact was his wolf. He was interested in Ava. Despite his rejection, his wolf could not ignore Ava's presence.

"Ian, I am glad you came to the party," Stephen told him.

Stephen had been ignoring him since the moment he approached him to talk. He was pissed off at him. Why was he growing closer to Ava?

"Tell us the truth. Who changed the girl in a few hours?" Ronald asked Stephen.

"I told her that she needed a makeover."

When Ian heard him, he scoffed. "Makeover? This makeover can't change her nerdy character."

Stephen frowned at him. "Why would I change her character? She is a pure soul. I think she should never change herself."

Ian rolled his eyes. What did the girl do to his friend?

Stephen never spoke about any other girl in that way.

'Is what Nova said about Ava correct? Is she truly a girl who craves the attention of men?' Ian thought while watching Ava dance with Luke.

She no longer resembled the nerd she had been in the morning.

"Have fun at the party, everyone. I'm coming back in a few minutes." Stephen excused himself and walked toward

Ava.

He patted Luke's shoulder and said in his ears,

Can I dance with her?"

Luke felt awkward leaving Ava with him, but then he remembered what she had told him about her mother. So Luke nodded and allowed Stephen to dance with her.

Ava looked at Stephen with a smile.

"Are you enjoying it?" he asked in a loud voice, as the music was extremely loud.

"Yes," Ava replied while moving his legs.

"Let's have a talk."

2/3

34

"Sure."

Ava glanced at her friends, who gave her the signal to go with Stephen,

Ava and Stephen then proceeded to the bar, Stephen ordered two drinks. When the bartender set down two drinks on the bar counter, he handed one to her.

"So? What's your plan?" Stephen asked.

Ava huffed, sweating from her long dance session, she placed her right hand on her hip and took deep breaths to compose herself.

She noticed Stephen had offered her a glass of beer, so she drank it to soothe her throat.

"First tell me about Alpha and Luna's proposal," Ava replied.

"Alpha and Luna want them to marry as soon as possible. Because what is the point of delaying?"

"Does your dad know about my mom's decision?"

"I haven't told him anything yet. Maybe your mom did."

"That's great."

"How about planning their wedding next week?"

"Next week? Isn't it too early?"

"No, Ava. My dad is sick. I want his health to get back to normal as soon as possible. I will speak with Alpha Martin about it. It will be a private wedding. Only our family will be invited there. But after the wedding, Alpha Martin will announce that you and your mom have joined the Gamma's family."

Ava paid close attention as he spoke. She found Stephen to be a really sensible guy. He really cared for his father.

While thinking about it, her gaze was drawn to someone who was staring at her. She saw a girl approach him and tried to sit on his lap, but he pushed her.

His eyes remained on her.

She immediately looked away from him and asked Stephen,

"Why is Ian staring at me? After everything he did, is there still anything left?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 35[956 words]

35

Stephen looked in Ian's direction. He was indeed staring at Ava. He did not know what was wrong with Ian. Over the past few days, he had started to behave strangely.

What stunned him were Ian's dark eyes. They were calm. He was silent as well.

Was it silent before the storm?

After diverting his attention away from Ian, he responded to Ava by saying,

"Don't worry. I told him to stay away from you."

Ava sighed with relief. She did not want to see Ian. Talking with him was like asking for her own humiliation.

"Let us have a conversation about it with our parents directly and see what outcome they come up with," Ava told Stephen to change the topic.

"Sure What about the day after tomorrow? Let's have a family dinner," Stephen said with excitement.

"Family dinner?" Ava mumbled while looking at the floor.

The experience of having a family was completely foreign to her. She only had her mother, whom she called her family. She was unable to have the opportunity to spend the rest of her life with her father. Neither did she have any siblings. So she did not know what a family dinner would feel like.

There were times when she questioned whether or not she could actually give her father's place to Harper. Because after all, how could someone give their father's place in their heart to someone else?

She felt a hand on hers as it rested on the counter. She came out of her thoughts and looked at her hand.

Stephen patted her hand. "I knew we were strangers until a few days ago. But trust me. My dad is a responsible man. He always sees you as his daughter because you are his mate's daughter. I will never treat you badly and will always protect you as my own sister. You will live in a house of gammas. We will try to give you and your mom the best lives."

Ava looked at Stephen. His words really touched her heart. Though he was not her biological brother, she felt a connection with him. It was as if he were her real brother.

As she experienced feelings of emotion, she bit the bottom of her lip. Stephen lowered his head to look at her face carefully. When he saw her teary eyes, his eyes widened. He hugged her and said,

"Hey! Lil sis. Don't cry. Did I say something wrong?"

Ava shook her head and hugged him back.

"Thanks, Stephen."

Stephen rubbed her hair like a big brother should do to comfort a little sister.

"I will always be there for you. Don't worry. Your life will not be the same as before. Your mom will not have to worry about your protection anymore."

Ava broke the hug and wiped her eyes.

"I'm going to the washroom."

"Yeah. You can go upstairs and use any room's washroom. No one will be there. I don't allow anyone to use private rooms," he said, showing her the way to the stairs.

1/3

35

Ava thanked him and walked to the staircase. She noticed that a few boys were trying to get closer to her. Stephen approached them from behind and gave them a shake of his head.

"She is here with me. Fuck off."

They immediately changed their route from there. It looked like Stephen really had a great impression on boys. Why would he not? He was the soon-to-be Gamma of this pack.

"Thanks, Stephen."

"No worries. Call me if you get lost."

"Okay. Can you tell my friends I am going upstairs?"

"Sure."

She climbed the stairs and walked for a short distance before arriving at a room. As soon as she opened the door, she realized that it was a bedroom. She closed the door, but did not lock it.

She went into the bathroom, which was attached to the bedroom.

When she was done using the washroom, she glanced in the mirror to look at herself.

Due to the fact that she had shed tears earlier, her mascara was slightly smeared around her eyes.

She opened her bag and pulled out a tissue. She dabbed the corners of her eyes. After she was done, she was about to leave the washroom when she got a call. She took out her phone from her bag and noticed her mother calling her.

She took the call and began combing her hair with her fingers, which had become tangled after dancing.

"Yes, Mom."

"I'm at home, and you are not back yet. Where are you?"

"Mom, I am still at the party. Should I come back now?"

"No. If you are having fun, you can stay for a while longer. But I wanted to ask..."

Ava frowned at her pause. "What Mom?"

"Have you found your mate there?"

Ava exhaled when she heard her. Her mother always wanted her to find her mate. She did not want her daughter's life to be like hers, where she had to marry someone else because she had met her mate too late.

"No, Mom," Ava replied.

She heard the sound of the door closing. She turned her head to the bathroom door.

'Who came? Maybe Abigail and Debra.' she thought.

Since she had told Stephen to inform her friends, she presumed that they had already come to the room.

"Mom, I will be back soon. But you should eat your dinner now. Don't wait for me. You should take care of your health."

"Okay, my baby. Enjoy there."

2/3

35

After hanging up the phone, Ava took one last look at herself before opening the bathroom door.

When she went out of the bathroom, she closed the door behind her.

She turned her head, thinking her friends were there, but her body froze when she saw Ian.

Ian was smoking a cigarette and sitting on the edge of the bed.

"Y-You!"

She stuttered as she uttered it.

He flicked the ash from his cigarette to the floor and turned his head to look at her.

"Why? Were you expecting another man?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 36[950 words]

Ava gulped as she looked into Ian's furious eyes.

"What are you doing here?" she asked him.

She did not want to see him. And here he was! Why did he come to the room where she was? Could he not use another room?

"Same question to you. What are you doing here?" He asked and got to his feet.

At the sight of him coming closer, Ava blinked her eyes. She turned to the door and thought to leave the room immediately.

So she rushed to the door, but before she could even touch the doorknob, a hand grabbed her wrist and pressed her against the door.

The fact that she attempted to leave the room was the straw that broke the camel's back for Ian.

"Where are you running, nerdy?" His voice came out with mockery.

Ava was startled by his sudden action. Her thoughts went back to how he had treated her in the storage room.

Would he lock her here too?

"L-Leave me."

"Why are you stuttering, nerdy? You didn't stutter yesterday when you were going with Steph."

Ava recalled that she had a chilly tone of voice when she spoke to Ian before going to the restaurant where she and Stephen went to discuss the situation with their parents.

She made an effort to regain her composure and bring herself back to a state of calm.

'No, I can't look weak in front of him,' Ava told herself and took a deep breath.

Ian stared at her with his dark eyes. With one hand still gripping her wrist, he lifted his other hand and took a puff from his cigarette.

The smoke caused Ava to cough. She began to cough and tried to push him at the same time.

But Ian did not move an inch. His eyes were observing her reaction.

The delicate appearance of her face caught his attention as he focused his gaze on it.

At that moment, he suddenly pondered the reasons why he had never before looked at her for once.

Was it because of her new appearance?

But then why was he thinking about her before the party? It was not because of her appearance; rather, it was something else that he was unable to determine.

Ava pushed his chest hard and took a look at the wall next to the door. It was the first time anyone had smoked in front of her. She could not stand the smoke and coughed violently.

Her attention was drawn to the water jar and the glass that was placed next to it on the nightstand.

She made her way to the bed and retrieved the jar from there. Despite the fact that she was coughing, she poured herself a glass of water and drank it down.

36

Ian turned around to her and leaned his back against the door.

"Done pretending?" he asked her.

After taking a few deep breaths to calm herself down, she turned her attention to him.

"I was not pretending," she replied.

Her eyes became teary from coughing. The water helped her feel more at ease, and she was able to get some relief from

cough.

Though Ian accused her of pretending, he dropped the cigarette on the floor and smashed it with his boot.

Ava approached the door Ian was leaning against and said,

"Listen, Ian. I don't know what you want from me, but I don't want to talk to you. I am not interested. Please let me just go."

He felt a fire in his heart that was stoked by her words. "What did you say? You are not interested? Do you think I am interested in a girl like you?" A muttering came from him as he clenched his teeth.

As he moved closer to her, she reversed her way and took a few steps backward.

"What did you think? I am not aware of your plans?"

Ava frowned at him while taking a step back. "What plan?"

"The plan you made to get my attention."

She was stunned by his remarks. When did she try to get his attention?

"What did you think? Your ugly makeover can make you look pretty? Nothing can alter who you are. You were ugly and will always be ugly."

Ava's steps came to a halt. She looked directly into his eyes, which were filled with anger.

What was the reason that this man always hurt her? He was calling her ugly. The snide remarks he made cut deep into her heart.

There was no matter how hard she tried to keep her heart in check in front of him, she was unable to do so, "Stop acting like an innocent girl. What did you do to Stephen? Why is he behaving this way toward you?" Ava could not take any more humiliation. So she replied in a cold tone,

"Stop making accusations against me for no reason. It makes no difference to me what you think about me."

He was taken aback by her cold tone. He clenched his jaw to control his anger.

What was she thinking when she told him that she did not care?

Ian grabbed her arms and pulled her to him. Her body pressed against his.

"Or, because you could not get the Alpha, you are trying to get close to his Gamma?" he remarked.

Her eyes widened: How could he say that to her?

Beyond that point, she was unable to control herself. She slapped him.

36

This time, his eyes widened. He was too angry to control himself.

He turned his head toward her. He growled at her as his eyes turned red, and he glared at her.

When she saw his red eyes, she let out a gasp. The sound of his growl shook her boy to the very core.

Her wolf was reacting to him! She felt a sense of submission toward him.

Before she could understand what was happening to her, he shoved her to the bed.

"Who gave you the audacity to slap me?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 37[963 words]

37

Ava was frightened by his actions. While bending down to her, Ian placed his knee on the bed.

He grabbed her throat, causing her to tremble inside.

"W-What are you doing?" she asked.

As he looked at her terrified face, he scoffed. He moved his gaze away from her face and toward her body. "Do you think I will do something to you?" He paused and motioned his hand to her body before continuing, "This body can not seduce me."

In the blink of her eyes, all the fear from her washed away. Her heart was filled with anguish as a result of his words.

Tears streamed out of her eyes. She could feel her body becoming numb. She could only feel his grip on her neck, which was not that firm.

But his words were enough to stab her heart.

Fate was playing a very tough game with her. It made a playboy her mate, who did not think for a day and rejected her. Then, when she tried to move on, he came to her and talked about how ugly she and her body were.

"It's not my fault. It's not my fault," she mumbled repeatedly.

He frowned at her, tightening his grip on her neck.

She closed her eyes. Tears kept rolling from her closed eyes.

"Stop crying. It won't work on me," he said angrily.

In truth, he did not like her tears. He was just angry with her because he was getting close to another man.

"It's not your fault, Ian. I am to blame for the fact that I was your mate. You are an Alpha who thought his mate would be someone high-ranking wolf who could stand next to him." Ava paused as she tried to talk; instead, her neck was gripped by him.

Ian's hand froze on her neck. Hearing her, his grip loosened.

Despite the fact that her eyes were closed, she continued.

"You believed that someone who was extremely gorgeous and stunningly beautiful was your mate. I sincerely apologize for not being able to be that girl. I sincerely apologize for sabotaging your opportunity to find the ideal mate for you. Because of me, you had to reject your mate."

She slowly opened her eyes. She had no idea that her eyes had turned a deep blue like the ocean.

"I am tired of your humiliations. Can you please set me free? Because whenever I try to get a backbone against you, you break me the next moment. I am tired of telling you that I do not want your attention. I just want to move on with my life. Can you please remove me from your life and behave like a stranger with me? I would love to do the same."

Ava could not help but pour her heart out to him. She knew that if he wanted, he would never let her live peacefully. So she was left with no choice but to submit to him and demonstrate that he had won.

She thought he would insult her more.

But to her surprise, Ian let go of her neck and moved away from her.

He turned around to the window and said,

"Leave,"

His cold voice brought the room's temperature down. She jumped out of bed and headed to the door.

She sobbed as she opened the door. She walked out of the room without looking back at him.

She was about to rush to the stairs when she noticed Stephen approaching.

He looked at her and asked,

"What happened to you?"

4

Ava lowered her head and replied, "N-Nothing. I am leaving now."

Stephen was caught off guard by her hoarse voice. He was shocked when he noticed fingerprints on her neck.

"Who did this to your neck?" he asked with an enraged tone

Ava glanced at the room by turning her head, but then shook her head. She moved her hair to cover her neck and mumbled,

"N-No one. Bye, Stephen."

"Wait, let me take you home."

Ava raised her hand to stop him. "Abigail will drop me. Don't worry."

Saying that Ava left the floor.

Stephen was furious after witnessing Ava's condition. He made his way to the room where Ava was looking a minute ago. He noticed that the door was already open.

He stepped into the room and paused when he saw Ian.

It made him mad. He had told Ian to stay away from Ava; then why did he do that to her?

"What did you do with her?" Stephen yelled at Ian. (1)

Ian turned around and saw Stephen approaching him with an angry face..

"I am not obliged to answer anything."

Stephen stopped in front of him. "You are. She came here with me. I promised her that you would stay away from her. Why did you go to her again?"

Ian glared at him. "Why? Did you have any plans to see her? By sending her this bedroom, what was your intention? Didn't you plan to fuck her?" 1

"IAN!"

Stephen yelled at him, grabbing his collar.

At that time, their other friends entered the room. As soon as they saw Ava leaving the party, they went upstairs to look for the two boys.

"What are you two doing? Get away from each other!" Ronald yelled at them.

Paul and Cyrus tried to pull them away from each other.

2/3

37

Ian grimaced at Stephen. "It looks like I became too friendly with you all, so you are taking your future Alpha for granted."

"I don't care what rubbish you are thinking about me. But you rejected Ava, so you don't have any connection with her now. It would be better if you stayed away from her."

"Or what?" Ian inquired, then moved closer to him.

Ronald came his way and stopped him.

"Why are you two fighting over a girl? And what has happened to you, Ian? What did you do to her that made Steph so angry? Why are you even reacting like this?"

Ian did not reply to Ronald. His ferocious gaze remained on Stephen as he warned him,

"Stay away from her."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 38[963 words]

38

"Ava, are you okay?" Abigail asked as she rubbed Ava's shoulder.

Since the moment Ava descended from the upper floor, she had been crying. Her friends were confused about her behavior.

Luke asked if anyone had said anything to her, and Ava simply shook her head in response.

Ava did not want to stay at the party anymore. She asked Abigail to send her home.

"Let's go. I will tell my driver to drop you home first then will go to my house," Abigail said.

"I am coming with you," Debra told Abigail.

Luke looked at Ava and said, "Then I am driving behind your cars."

Ava wiped away her tears and took a deep breath. She looked at Luke and Debra, then said,

"I am not feeling well. I will go get some sleep. So you do not have to worry about me."

She tried not to tell them anything, and she assured them that she was fine.

She got in Abigail's car and leaned her back against the seat then closed her eyes.

Abigail sat next to her and told her driver about going to Ava's house. (1)

"What happened to you? If you won't tell me, how can I understand?" Abigail said, holding Ava's hand. Ava bit her bottom lip to stop the tears from flowing again.

"Is it him again?" Abigail let out a low tone.

She knew her best friend would never cry for anything else. The reason behind her cry was always Ian.

As soon as Abigail mentioned about Ian, Ava opened her eyes and turned her attention to Abigail. She hugged her and burst out crying. 1

"I don't know what he wants. He always insults me. I even told him that I would not come his way. Then why does he just not let me live peacefully? Why is he doing this to me?"

Abigail got mad at Ian. Her hands were clenched.

"Do you think we should complain about him to Alpha and Luna? How can he treat you like that? You are no longer his mate. After rejecting you, what does he want from you? Does he want you to roam around him so that he can do whatever he wants?"

Though it was not easy to just go to head Alpha or Luna and talk to them about their son's wrongdoing, Abigail could at least try because of Ava. Sh

could not see her like this.

"I don't know, Abigail. I don't want to make any complaints about him to anyone. I just don't want to see him again."

Abigail tried to calm her best friend. She was also confused by Ian's behavior. If he did not like Ava and reject her, then why did he start to bother Ava?

When Ava reached her home, she said goodbye to Abigail. She did not forget to thank her.

She slowly walked to the door of her house. Before opening the main door with the keys, she covered her neck with her hair. 1

1/3

38

Upon entering her home, she observed that her mother was engaged in a conversation on her mobile phone. Her mother comforted the person she was speaking with by saying, "You will be fine very soon."

It did not take long for Ava to realize who she was speaking with. Her sweet and caring tone gave her the impression that she was talking with Harper.

Ava could feel the caring tone of her mother. By what Stephen said, Harper equally cared for her mother. When Ava closed the door, her mother noticed her,

"I will call you later," her mother said, hanging up the call after hearing what the other person had said. She locked her phone and walked to Ava with a smile. "Oh my my! You look so gorgeous!"

Ava realized she had almost forgotten about her makeover. Jan's bitter words and actions made her forget everything.

Her mother hugged her, and they remained like that for some time.

"You don't have to be afraid of anyone now. No one will dare look at you with bad intentions. You are going to be the daughter of a Gamma," her mother said.

She spoke proudly as if Gamma Harper had told her all of this to reassure her about her daughter.

Ava broke the hug and looked at her mother with a small smile.

"Mom, I don't need any protection," Ava told her.

But inside her mind, she thought,

'Even if they want to protect me, they can't. Because the future Alpha is the one who is after my life.'

Her mother placed her hand on her head. "Yes, my baby. You are strong. You are capable of defending yourself."

"Mom, I want to go and sleep."

Her mother glanced at the table. Ava followed her gaze.

"Mom, you haven't eaten anything?"

"I had the idea that I would eat after you had returned."

"I told you, Mom. I'm so sorry. Please have your dinner. I am stuffed already."

She wanted to sit with her mother at the table. However, she was afraid that her mother would see the marks of Jan's fingerprints on her neck.

"No problem, my baby. Goodnight. You look tired anyway," she said, kissing Ava's forehead.

Ava went to her bedroom. As soon as she closed the door, she threw her bag and high heels, then she slid against the door.

As she started to feel pain, she reached out and touched her chest. While her eyes remained fixed on the ground, she quietly shed a tear.

Her mind kept returning to the moment when Ian grabbed her neck and humiliated her.

He made fun of her. He proved to her that she was a ridiculous person who once fell for him. He verified the fact that her wolf was laughable. It kept howling for him whenever he got close to her.

2/3

38

Ava stayed like that the whole night. As the sun rose, a ray of sunlight appeared through the window and landed on her face.

She closed her eyes and muttered under her breath.

"You left nothing inside me, Ian."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 39[994 words]

39

Ava felt really sick. The last two days were like hell for her.

The scratches on her back were causing her pain. She did not know where to go and asked for help. In fact, the Epsilon Wolf had told him that no one could help her.

She could only wait to get her wolf to come back to her fully

She was missing her wolf. She was missing shifting in her wolf form in the forest. She was missing her old life.

She did not go to the university in the last two days. Her friends asked her about her health. She told them that she was a little sick, and that was why she could not go.

Though she told everything to Debra the next day of the party, she took their promise not to talk about it to anyone, especially Luke.

Ava knew that Luke cared for her, and like last time, he might go to Ian to fight for her once more. She did not want that incident to repeat again.

Today Ava got a call from Stephen; he asked her and her mother to have dinner with him and his father. It was the plan they made at the party that night. Ava agreed to go for her mother, even though she felt a little under the weather.

Stephen, on the other hand, kept saying sorry for whatever Ian had done or said to her. Ava told him that it was not his fault. But Stephen told her that it was his responsibility to take care of her. Ava thought Stephen was a kind-hearted man.

In the evening,

Ava was dressed in one of the dresses Stephen had bought her. He sent all the dresses and shoes by butler to her house yesterday.

Ava looked at herself in the mirror. Her eyes shifted to her body.

In the maroon dress, she looked really beautiful. But in her eyes, she became self-conscious.

Ian's words rang through her mind.

'With this body, you can't seduce me.'

Ava looked away from the mirror. She looked down at the glasses on the dressing table.

She grabbed it and put it on. Her mother had forced her to change her clothes, otherwise, she would have worn something loose, as she always did.

She did not want someone to feel that she was trying to get their attention again. Ava went downstairs and saw her mother in a beautiful, long red dress.

For the first time, she saw her mother putting on glamorous makeup. Her beauty blossomed with the way she styled her hair.

It was like her life turned colorful.

Ava's eyes turned teary.

"Mom."

Her mother looked at her. Ava ran to hug her.

"You are looking so beautiful, Mom."

She was happy that her mother was getting rid of her widowhood. She had been living alone all of her life. Ava could not even imagine how she was passing her days.

The woman who used to talk about death now would get a new life. She was going to marry her fated mate. No matter what age they would become, they would be together until death made them apart.

When they pulled away from the hug, her mother looked at her.

"Why did you wear glasses?"

"Mom, please. I don't want to attract any attention."

"Thank God, you have a beautiful haircut. Even if you did a high ponytail, it looked stylish," her mother remarked and chuckled.

Ava could not help but laugh. Her mother meant that no matter how much she tried, her look still looked modern and pretty.

They left their house and found a car waiting for them outside.

Gamma Harper had already sent a car to pick them up.

It took them half an hour to reach the restaurant where Gamma Harper and Stephen were waiting for them.

When Ava saw the grand restaurant, she was stunned. That type of restaurant only allowed VIPs.

Then she realized that her mother was going to marry the Gamma of the pack. Who could be more important than the Alpha and the officials of the pack?

Harper and Stephen noticed them and stood up. They walked to them. Harper pulled the chair for her mother, which touched Ava's heart.

She was delighted to see her mother getting such lovely treatment from a man. Stephen raised his brows and asked,

"Where are you lost?"¹

"Oh. Nowhere," Ava replied, taking a seat next to Stephen. ¹

"How are you, dear?" Harper asked Ava.

She replied with a polite smile and asked about his health.

Harper showed his gratitude for her. "Thank you, my child,"

"For what?"

"You helped me persuade your mom. Otherwise, she is a really strict woman. She would have never accepted my proposal."

Her mother glanced at Harper, while Stephen laughed at hearing his father.

All of them talked about themselves for a long time.

Ava felt like Stephen got his caring nature from his father. As a gamma of the pack, Harper was really protective of his pack. However, he was protective of his family too. He promised Ava that he would take care of her and her

39

mother.

For the first time, Ava understood what a family dinner meant. A table with the entire family, conversing and enjoying the time they had together.

She looked at her mother, who appeared to be very happy with Harper, and at Stephen, who was enjoying his father's and her mother's conversation.

He glanced at her and whispered,

"What happened?"

Ava shook her head and replied to him in a lower tone.

"Today I understand how others feel about their families. In getting a caring father who loves my mother, and a protective brother."

Stephen lifted his hand and stroked her hair. "From now on everything will work out well for us."

Ava nodded her head at him with a smile. Just as she turned her head, her smile faded.

Because her gaze fell on a boy standing a short distance away from their table.

He was staring at her with the same hatred in his eyes as he had on the night of the party.

She looked away from him when Gamma Harper noticed her gaze. So he turned

his head to look at the person. However, he was surprised to see him.

"Ian?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 40[958 words]

40

Tan was fixating his gaze on Ava. He had come to the restaurant with Ronald. He called him here to talk to him.

On the other hand, he had no idea that he would actually run into his other friend here, along with his ex-mate.

He was about to pass this area when his eyes drew on Stephen. He was stroking Ava's hair. They were sitting together as if they were on a date. Ava was beaming at him with a smile.

He got mad at Stephen once again. After warning him that night, he did not talk to him again. They did not meet each other in these two days either.

The fact that Stephen would go against his warning and meet Ava once more was something that he did not expect to happen.

His eyes locked with Ava's. It seemed as though she was stunned. Within his eyes, he desired to convey to her the level of rage that he felt toward her.

"Ian?"

He heard Gamma Harper's voice. His focus shifted to the two other people sitting across from Stephen and Ava.

He was surprised to see Gamma Harper and Angela, Ava's mother, there.

Gamma Harper got to his feet. Ian looked at him and nodded his head.

"Hello, Gamma Harper."

"Ian, you are here-"

He interrupted him and replied, "I came here with Ronald."

At that time, Ronald approached them. "Oh, hi, Gamma Harper."

"Ronald, how are you?"

"Fine."

Angela stood up, and greeted Ian. Gamma Harper introduced her to Ronald, saying that he was the soon-to-be beta of the pack.

Ian ignored their conversation and looked at Ava. She was wearing her glasses today.

However, she did not look like she always did. She looked different again, just like she did at the party.

Was it because of her brown hair that she nicely pulled it into a high ponytail? Or her face, which was visible even if she wore the glasses?

His eyes shifted around her neck. He remembered how he grabbed her neck last time.

That night, he went straight home after leaving the party. He was so mad at himself for hurting her.

He was confused about why he was feeling like that. Her words really affected him that night.

She begged him to keep his distance from her.

Was he that desperate to get close to her?

Ava was doing her best to avoid his gaze.

On the other hand, Stephen moved his hand from her head, but he ignored Ian's presence, which enraged Ian.

1/3

Jan was perplexed as to why Ava's mother and Stephen's father joined them. He remembered his mother telling him that Angela and Harper were close friends.

"Steph, you are really bad. You didn't call your friends to join the table," Ronald said with sarcasm.

Stephen looked at Ronald and raised his brows as if Ronald knew about it. Just before Ian could turn to Ronald to ask about it, Stephen spoke out,

"Sorry guys. It's a family dinner, so I didn't invite you guys

Ian furrowed his brows. 'Family dinner?'

"It's okay, I was just kidding. You have fun. "We were leaving anyway," Ronald said, pulling Ian along.

Ian glared at Stephen and left the restaurant. He lit a cigarette while leaning against his car.

"Spill the bean," he said to Ronald.

Ronald's brows shot up. "What beans?"

"I know Stephen. I saw his look toward you. You were aware that they were coming here. That's why you called me here,

Tan puffed on the smoke while staring at Ronald.

Ronald gulped when he saw his expression. He averted his gaze and replied,

"Even if I know, why do you care?"

"That was not my question."

"Ian, let them live their own lives. If they want to get closer, you should not come their way."

Ian's eyes darkened. "Stop your bullshit."

"You have a girlfriend now. Give your time to her," Ronald said with a mocking tone.

"Weren't you the one who told me to break up with her?" Ian asked.

"Yeah, but since your father said no breakup, then what can I say? If you can't break up, then try to make up for the things you have messed up."

Ian did not reply to Ronald. His mind was blank, and he had no idea what to do or think. It seemed to him that he was losing his ability to control himself. Something was off with him. It was the first time he had ever felt such rage toward a girl.

After some time had passed, Ronald left.

Ian decided to go back to his house. He got inside his car. When he was about to start the car, he saw Ava coming out with Stephen. Her mother and Stephen's father followed

behind them. They looked at Ava and Stephen with affection in their eyes, as if they were admiring them together.

Ian did not know what was happening around him. He could only get mad at the situation.

In a bad mood, he started his car and drove back to the pack house.

While driving, his mind was rushing back to Ava. She had completely captured his attention since the day he rejected her. His wolf was also fond of her. It was as if the rejection had gone in vain.

He pulled over in front of the pack house. He threw his car keys to a guard to park his car in the parking lot, and he

2/3

40

entered the pack house.

He noticed his mother looked excited while talking with someone on the phone. "Angela, I will talk to your Alpha about the date, Soon, we will arrange everything. You just don't need to worry about it."

Ava's mother was his mother's doctor; maybe she was a good friend too. Their conversation brought back memories of what he had seen at the restaurant..

He ignored everything and made his way up the stairs to his bedroom.

However, his steps halted when his mother's voice reached his ears once again.

"I am glad Stephen and Ava agreed to the marriage."

3/3

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 41[1,002 words]

41

41

A look of grievance appeared on lan's face as he turned around. He observed his mother giving him a sideways glance while she was speaking.

"Okay, take care. You can count on me to accompany you tomorrow," Carolina said to Angela and hung up the call.

The conversation that lan's mother was having puzzled him. In the belief that he was misinterpreting something, he approached her.

"When did you come?" Carolina inquired with a grin on her face.

He frowned at her. "When you were talking on the phone. By the way, why do you look so happy today?"

A look of surprise appeared on her face. "Why are you speaking like this? Are you not happy?"

The question that she asked caught lan off guard. "Do I need to be happy? What's the matter, Mom? I overheard you discussing marriage with Ava's mother."

His mother nodded her head and placed her hand on his shoulder. "I am thrilled that Ava and Stephen are mature enough to accept the proposal."

"Proposal?" lan asked while narrowing his eyes in concentration.

"Hasn't Stephen told you about the marriage yet? I was the one who gave Angela the proposal that night when she came here with Ava. But Angela denied my proposal because she thought Ava would not be ready for it." (1

lan was taken aback by what his mother was telling him.

Did his mother give Ava's mother a marriage proposal for Ava and Stephen?

"My son, you have no idea how mature the two kids are. They both agreed," his mother said as she held his hand.

lan snatched his hand away from her grasp, which caused her to be taken aback.

"What happened?"

"Mom, why did you do that? How can you give someone a marriage proposal like that? Isn't it influencing people to marry at this age?" 1

His mother raised her brows in surprise.

"How can you say that? Age doesn't matter in love."

"Love?" Ian muttered in a lower tone.

Carolina lowered her gaze and inhaled deeply before closing her eyes. One more time, she took hold of her son's hand and uttered,

"Listen to what I have to say, Ian. I am not only your mother but also the Luna of this pack. As your Luna, let me guide you about something. Age doesn't matter in love. You can love anyone you want, and you can be with that person at any age. There is absolutely no reason to feel embarrassed about anything. If the Alpha and Luna are not going to support his pack members, who will? You will be their Alpha, so you should improve your mentality well." 2

Upon hearing his mother, Ian's eyes became more gloomy. "Please, Mom, stop giving me a lecture. They can't be together."

"What? Why? They are fated mates. Why can't they be together?"

1/3

41

Ian arched his brows. "What did you say?"

"Yes, they are mates. But they were keeping it from everyone. Now that we are all aware of it, how can we change their fate? They look so good together. It was always meant for them to be together."

"Mates?" Ian scoffed at her.

He began chuckling, which grew into a dark laugh.

The sight of his son's eyes turning red caused Carolina to take a deep breath. Though she was still the Luna, she somehow felt nervous around her son's aura. "I can't accept it," Ian murmured.

"What can't you accept?" The voice of Alpha Martin reverberated throughout the living room.

After turning around, Ian and Carolina noticed that Alpha Martin was coming closer to them.

"This marriage, I can't accept it," Ian said with a blank face 1

"What nonsense! You can't come between my gamma's happiness. He deserves to be happy in his life."

Ian assumed he was referring to Stephen, the future Gamma of this pack.

"As the future Alpha of this pack, I will not allow this to happen."

Alpha Martin glared at his son. "Are you serious? Don't you have anything else to do? I don't understand why you would bother with something that has nothing to do with you. Stop making trouble. After giving it some thought, I settled on a date. Their wedding will be next week."

Ian's eyes widened. He clenched his fists and asked,

"What did you just say?"

Carolina nodded her head and replied to him instead of Martin, "Your dad is right. We are arranging a private wedding. Tonight, they had a family dinner together and made all of their decisions. And more importantly, Ava and Stephen both contacted me, saying that they wanted the wedding as soon as possible." 1 Ian gritted his teeth and muttered, "How dare she?"

"IAN"

His father yelled at him, but he did not give a damn about it. He turned around and left the pack house. He grabbed the car keys from the guard he handed over a few minutes ago and started the car in anger.

He saw that his friends were calling him. While he was driving, he received the phone call.

"Ian, your mom has just called us to talk about you. Where are you? Your parents are worried. Did you have an argument with them?" Cyrus asked.

"I'm going to Stephen's house," Ian said, cutting the call.

During the whole ride, his mind was going crazy. He did not know why, but his blood was boiling in anger.

"How dare you lie to everyone, Ava Adler? You said that he is your mate? What a shameless woman you are!" he muttered while driving his car. 1

As soon as he arrived at Stephen's residence, he immediately came to a stop and stepped out of the car in a hurry. After making his way to the front door, he went inside the house. The maids bowed to Ian because they knew him.

2/3

41

All of the power gangs ust ally hung out in Stephen's house since it was empty most of the time.

"STEPHEN"

He shouted from downstairs. 2

After coming out of his room, Stephen lowered his head to look at him from the upper floor area.

"lan?" Stephen said as he looked stunned.

lan rushed up to the second floor and punched him in the face. 1

"How dare you think about marrying her?"

Today's Bonus Offer

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 42[943 words]

Stephen was shocked by lan's question. As he reached out and touched the corner of his lips, he felt blood there.

In response to lan's question, he turned his head toward him and asked, "What do you mean, lan?"

lan grabbed his collar in anger. Stephen cast a glance in the direction of his maids, who appeared to be in utter disbelief at lan's actions. Stephen gave them a signal to leave them alone. They bowed their heads and left from there.

The focus of Stephen's attention shifted to lan's eyes. They turned red. He did not know what had happened to lan so suddenly. He was fine when he saw him in the restaurant

"Who gave you the audacity to think about that girl? Didn't tell you to stay away?" "Have you lost your mind?" Stephen asked him.

Stephen's words did nothing but infuriate Ian. He pulled Stephen by his collar and warned him

"Cancel this marriage."

All of their friends showed up at the house at that time, only to discover that they were fighting with each other.

Every single one of them hurried over to them and made an effort to separate them from one another.

"What happened to you both? Why are you fighting again?" Paul asked them.

Ian was dragged away from Stephen by Ronald, who grabbed his arm and pulled him away.

"Ian, what exactly is the matter with you?"

Ian turned his head to Ronald and said,

"Ask him. How can he ever consider marrying that girl?"

When he asked that question, everyone was taken aback. Stephen cast a glance in Ronald's direction.

Ronald scoffed at Ian. "Why do you care if he marries that girl?"

Ian gave him a stern look. "Were you aware of this happening?" Before Ronald could reply, Stephen spoke out,

"It is I who will warn you about her from now on. Stay away from Ava."

Ian's anger grew to the point where he rushed to him while yelling,

"You want to be with that shameless girl?"

This time, Stephen punched him before he could charge at him. 1

"Don't talk about her like that again. She is under my protection, and she will always be. I will not let anyone go, no matter who tries to harm her."

The punch was something Ian could not take in his mind. He growled at Stephen so loudly that everyone's knees quivered to submit to his wolf.

Stephen's fists tightened as he tried to control his anger. "I will be your Gamma, but I can't support you in hurting an innocent girl."

"Innocent girl, you said?"

1/3

42

Cyrus stopped Ian from approaching Stephen again. However, Ian did not close his mouth.

Anger was goofing up inside him. There was something that was turning him against Stephen, despite the fact that Stephen was his friend.

He glared at Stephen and said sarcastically,

"Yeah, she is innocent. That's why she lied to everyone about her mate. She is after my gamma now."

"Ian, you are such a crazy man!" Stephen said to him.

Ronald was listening to everything. Taking a look at Ian, he inquired,

"Why should it concern you if she pursues anyone? Don't forget that she is not your mate anymore. You yourself rejected her."

Ian reflected on how he had rejected Ava. He turned away from Ronald and tried to contain his rage.

"Accept that you care," Ronald muttered while shaking his head.

"No, I don't." Ian retorted back.

Ronald gave him a nod and turned to Stephen, who was observing Ian.

"You got his answer. He believes he does not care. Then you can do whatever you want to do with her."

Ian clenched his jaw and strode to Stephen.

"So what if I rejected her? Until I give her permission, she can't marry anyone."

oo

2

Stephen glared at him and replied,

"She will."

"She can't."

"Why?"

"Because I said that."

"Who are you to her?"

"His future Alpha."

"That does not matter anymore."

"Yes, it does."

"She doesn't care."

"She does."

"Why do you care about her?"

"I don't kno-"

Ian paused in the middle of his sentence when he suddenly became aware that without even realizing it, he had just admitted that he cared about Ava.

He took a step back from Stephen. 1

2/3

42

His friends started to laugh while looking at him.

He thought they were making fun of him.

"Do whatever you want. I don't care," fan said, turning around to the staircase to leave.

He was about to step onto the stairs when Stephen stopped him from behind.

"lan"

He did not turn to him but only stopped to listen to him.

"You are misunderstanding everything

Hearing him, lan turned around and frowned at him.

"What do you mean?"

"That night, when Ava and her mother visited your house, your mother made a marriage proposal. But it was not about me and Ava."

lan raised an eyebrow. "What? Then about whom?"

Stephen took a deep breath and replied,

"It's about Ava's mother and my dad."

The frown that had been in between lan's brows vanished in a second.

Ronald laughed at lan and said,

"We knew about it, but we didn't tell you. I knew you cared about her, so I thought, Why not make you realize it?"

lan felt relaxed that Ava was not marrying Stephen. However, he glared at his friends.

"It's not funny."

Stephen shook his head. "But what you did to my sister was really wrong."

"Sister?"

"Yeah. She is going to be my sister. From now on, be careful with her. She will be a gamma's daughter and a gamma's sister. So don't mess up with her again."

lan rolled his eyes. "Whatever."

Though he pretended to be unaffected, he was actually very relieved. He was feeling heavy all the time.

"Ian, you hurt her again at the party. I did not expect that from you," Stephen reminded Ian about the night. Right at that moment, Ian realized what he had

done.

He ran his fingers through his hair in frustration and muttered,

"Fuck! I said so many things to her when it was not even her fault."

3/3

43

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 43[977 words]

Ava's POV

It had been two days since we had dinner with Stephen and his father. I really liked Uncle Harper. He was a kind and gentle man. In particular, he was kind and considerate toward my mother. It was the first time that I witnessed my mother appearing to be content with another person. I was very glad for her.

I got up a little bit later than usual today. Last night, my mother went shopping with Luna Carolina. So when she got back to her house, she showed me all of the dresses, including the one she said she would wear to her wedding. After that, we engaged in a conversation for a span of time. I failed to keep track of time and ended up sleeping in the morning.

It was my mother's suggestion that I should remain at home today if I was feeling sleepy. I refused and decided to go to my university.

When it came to my studies, I could not make any concessions. Perhaps that was the reason why people perceived me as a nerd.

Was I really a bookworm? These books were not even novels; rather, they were books for study. Even though I did not find them interesting like novels, I knew that in order to have a bright future, I needed to acquire some knowledge.

I opened the closet door in order to retrieve a dress for myself. I made sure to check out all of the new dresses. When I started looking for a dress, I found one that was either less attractive or baggy.

I came across a long cotton dress in a blue color. I hurriedly got ready.

I took a quick look at myself for a moment in the mirror. My eyes were drawn to my dark brown hair. I would not lie, this color really suited me. That shade of hair made my face appear lighter than it actually was.

I then put on my glasses and made a loose bun with my hair. I looked for a pair of sneakers and put them on.

My thoughts turned to the wedding of my mother as I made my way down the stairs. I noticed that my mother was not at home. I understood that my mother went out for work.

I noticed she made breakfast for me before leaving.

"Mom, you work so hard for me. I pray that your mate will love you always." I mumbled while having my

breakfast.

Considering that I was already running behind schedule, why do not I start with breakfast?

Alpha and Luna finally decided on the date for my mother's wedding. It was decided that the wedding would take place in the pack house this coming weekend.

Alpha desired to host the wedding of his gammas at his residence. On the other hand, they liked my mother a lot. Because my mother had saved Luna Carolina's life, they felt that they owed her. So they wanted to give her a good life.

After having breakfast alone, I left my home. I took a stroll to the bus stop while taking in my surroundings.

It was a bright and sunny day. Today, the sun appeared to be in a good mood, as evidenced by its full glimme

When I arrived at the university, I chose to ignore the looks of those around me. Ever since people saw me at Stephen's party, they started to talk about me more.

Some boys even came to say sorry to me, saying that they did not know I could be this hot. They asked me to hang out with them. I felt really embarrassed by all of these.

1/2

7

I decided not to go to any parties again. Suddenly, memories flooded into my mind, thinking about parties.

I had attended two parties, and at both parties, one person left his bitter memories for me.

No matter how much I tried to forget Ian's words that he had told me that night in the room, I could not just shove them out of my mind. They kept replaying in my head.

It took me a few minutes to reach my class, which was on my schedule. But when

I saw the professor looking angry at everyone, I took a step back.

I saw Abigail waving at me. Upon seeing me arrive at the university today, she appeared to be surprised. She assumed I would not come because I had spent so much time with my mother last night.

As I moved from the window to the door, Abigail signaled that I should look at my phone. I noticed a message from Abigail.

"Don't come. He will scold you. You have come really late."

"Okay Then I'm going to the library." I sent the text.

"Sure. Why did you come today? I thought you were asleep."

"I thought, why miss the classes?"

"Okay, the professor is looking at me. See you soon."

I chuckled at my screen. I shook my head and headed to the library.

When I reached the library, I saw students busy doing their projects or assignments. But it was not a seminar, but a library. As a result, they were left to do their work quietly.

I entered the library and walked to the last table, which was empty. I placed my bag on the table and turned to myself.

The library was huge. A two-story library was full of different kinds of books. The bookshelves were really tall, almost reaching the ceiling.

My eyes caught a book. I walked to the bookshelf and reached out my hand to take out the book.

At that time, another hand reached for the book, and our hands brushed together.

I felt a shiver around my spine at the touch. I turned my head and gulped.

'Ian?' I thought and took a step back.

He took out the book from the bookshelf and looked at me. I immediately looked away from him and tried to leave his side.

But he stopped me from behind by speaking out.

"I am sorry." (1

Today's Bonus Offer

GET IT NOW.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 44[961 words]

I was completely taken aback by his apology. There was no way for me to know whether it was a genuine apology or a deliberate attempt to make me feel even more humiliated.

I turned to him and asked,

"For what?"

When he was about to say something, he briefly parted his lips, but then, as if something were preventing him from doing so, he pursed them together tightly. My eyes scrutinized him.

He wore black jeans and a half-sleeved white t-shirt. His muscles were bulging in the arm area. His tattoos were something that drew anyone's attention. The white t-shirt really made the tattoos look easy to observe.

My eyes shifted back to his face. His thick brows and sharp jawline kept moving as if he were trying to find words.

"I had a conversation with Stephen," he said, avoiding eye contact with me.

"About what?" I asked in confusion.

I was not delighted to talk to him. I had not forgotten what he told me that night and how he behaved with me.

He looked at me and replied,

"Look, I misunderstood everything, the whole situation. I thought you and Stephen..."

He paused and then mumbled, "wedding.."

Ian tried to explain his words, trying to tie things up. However, he failed to do it. (1

"It's okay."

That was the only thing I said to him, and I turned away from him.

He was shocked by my reply. He might have thought that I would argue with him.

In truth, there was no point in arguing with this man. I had learned what he thought about me. His words were enough to show me my place in his eyes.

At first, he rejected me because I was a nerd, and he was embarrassed about me being his mate. I tried

Later, when to dress up, he thought I was trying to get his attention, so he disgraced me.

It looked like he had problems with every single thing. Perhaps someday he would have problems with my breathing too.

'If I have a little bit of self-respect, I will avoid him from now on,' I told myself and started to walk away him.

from

"Don't you have anything to say?"

I heard Ian's loud voice from behind. But I did not stop my steps.

Everyone in the library turned their heads toward him. They appeared to be frightened, seeing him at the library. It looked like he did not usually come to the library.

Why would he?

1/3

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Bad boys never study hard. So they do not need to come to this kind of place. "Hey!"

He came over to stand in front of me. I raised my head to look at him.

"Yes?" I asked, pretending that I did not hear him earlier.

"Don't you have anything to say?" (1)

"About what?"

"That night..." he paused for a moment and looked away from me, then continued,

"I should not have said those silly things to you."

"Silly things?" I asked.

He turned his head to face me again and said,

"They were senseless things. I was not in the right mind, okay? I was mad for some reason. But since I got to know that you and Stephen:.. Well, you are getting me, right?"

I shook my head. "No, I'm not getting anything, Ian. I don't want to know anything either."

After saying that, I wanted to walk past him. But he had something else on his mind.

When I felt his hand grab around my wrist, I gasped.

Everyone, including the librarian, was looking at us.

Ian turned his head in their direction and glared at them.

"Do what you all were doing. Don't make me mad."

His voice was clear. It echoed throughout the whole library.

Everyone turned their heads back to their books. The librarian was a middle-aged lady. I felt bad for her. She felt so scared by Ian's words that she bowed her head and went to walk around on the other side. He had instilled a sense of fear in everyone's minds. It was all because of his upcoming Alpha position.

"What is wrong with you?" I asked him with a whisper that only he could hear clearly.

I tried to pull my hand away, but he started to drag me somewhere.

"Leave my hand." 1

He took me to a corner and pressed me against a bookshelf, then stepped closer to me.

My eyes widened when I saw how close he was standing.

"W-What are you doing?"

He lowered his head to my level and said,

"I don't like others' disturbances when I talk with someone. So I brought you here."

I glanced around and saw there was no one in the corner. I gulped when I felt his breath on my face.

"S-Stop bothering me. I thought we were clear that night," I mumbled and lowered my head.

44

This closeness was not good for me. I closed my eyes when I felt my wolf begin to react.

What would I do? I wanted my wolf to come back to me soon. But she only reacted when she was close to Ian.

Why?

"I didn't want to bother you either. I came here to say sorry. But it doesn't look like you take my apology seriously."

I was getting angry at my situation. His words did not help me with it.

I lifted my gaze and frowned at him. I placed my hand on his chest, which stunned him.

He lowered his head to look at my hand.

Before he could understand anything, I pushed him, which caused him to step back

"You said sorry; you are done. It's up to me to take it or leave it."

Ian's calm expression began to change with my cold tone.

"I told you that it's all a misunderstanding. I thought you and Steph-"

"Even if something had happened between me and Stephen and your thoughts

were right, then what was wrong with it? Why can't I move on?"

Ian was taken aback by my sudden outbursts.

I gathered up all of my courage and looked directly into his eyes, then said,

"I don't care what you think about me, Ian Dawson."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 45[973 words]

45

Tan narrowed his eyes while looking at me. It was clear from the look on his face that he did not like the way I had just spoken to him.

I should not stay here any longer. I attempted to leave by turning my body to the left, but a hand stopped me from doing so.

Ian placed his hand beside my head on the bookshelf to stop me from leaving, and he moved closer to me.

I stopped, but did not turn my body toward him. I felt his breath in my left ear. I clenched my dress to control my disloyal heart, which was beating for this man.

Everything he had done to me came back to mind.

"I see what you are thinking," he whispered in my ear.

I felt a chill run down my spine as I listened to his whisper. I tried my best not to react in any way.

After taking a few deep breaths, I quickly regained my composure. Once more, he uttered a hushed whisper.

"Do not think yourself superior just because I felt guilty for an incident and said sorry."

Upon hearing him, I was unable to suppress the urge to sneer at him. Here was the real Ian Dawson, the arrogant Alpha boy. His ego was bigger than the boundaries of his pack.

He came here to apologize, but when he saw that I did not care, it was a blow to his ego. So now he wanted to insult me again because of it.

My anger began to build up inside of me. I wanted to confront him and tell him to fuck off.

But the moment I turned to him, my nose brushed against his. I gulped and pressed my back against the bookshelf once again to keep a distance between our bodies.

"Listen, Ian, I-"

"This pair of glasses looks good on you. You should wear it every day. You do not have to alter who you are in order to appear to others the way you did during the party that night."

His remarks took me by surprise and caught me off guard. My gaze mended on his face. My attention was drawn to the mole that was located beneath his bottom lip while he was speaking to me.

I immediately averted my gaze from his face and took a deep breath, only to realize that his cologne filled my nostrils.

"Let me go," I said with a tightening of my voice, attempting to maintain a cold demeanor.

He chuckled while staring at me. His tattooed hand lifted up, and I shut my eyes. I thought he would grab my neck like that night. It was not new to him to hurt me.

I could hear him heaving a sigh as he slowly placed his hand on my head. It was as if, when he saw my terrified expression, he was completely taken aback.

I opened my eyes and looked at him.

He smirked at me and patted my head.

"I want you to stop being afraid of me. Because if I wanted to kill you, I would have done so the very first time you offended me. There is no one who can stop Ian Dawson from doing what he wants to do."

45

I was confused by his words. After removing his hand from my head, he moved back from me.

He turned his gaze away from me. He tucked his hands into his pants' pockets and turned to the other side to leave. While he was leaving the corner, I kept my gaze fixed on his back.

As soon as he left the library, I let out a sigh of relief.

I remained in the corner for a while, trying to understand the meaning of his words.

Did he give me his word that he would not hurt me again? Or did he just warn me that if he wanted to hurt someone, there would be no one who could stop him?

Neither the reason he came to me nor the reason he was talking to me made any sense to me. I wondered if he also had the intention to bully me, just like others.

"I thought that night gave him closure. I showed my submission to him so that he would never come my way again. But why did it turn the other way? Why did he even care to apologize?" I asked myself.

I thought about leaving the library since I had no more interest in staying here for long.

I was ready to step forward when something caught my mind. I looked around the corner and realized that Ian had brought me to the historical section. The bookshelf that he had pressed me against was a shelf that was stuffed with ancient books.

When I was looking at the titles of the books, I took my time and examined them carefully. My attention was drawn to a few books that appeared to be quite old and did not have titles printed on them. I reached out my hand to an old book that had a brown leather cover. From what I could tell, the book had been there for a very long time. Because of this, the cover was covered in dust.

While I was walking to my table, where I had left my bag, I used my hand to brush the dust off the book.

The people around me glanced at me because of what had happened a while ago. I chose to ignore their stares and sat down in the chair, facing the wall next to the table.

The moment I set the book down on the table, I felt an unexpected surge of interest well up inside of me.

I opened the book and noticed that all of the pages were brown. This book seemed to have been written centuries

ago.

I gulped when I saw what was written on the first page of the book. I shivered

when I read it in a low voice.

"The Myth of Alpha's Rejection."

>

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 46[955 words]

46

I gently stroked the old brown page, and I could feel the thick paper beneath my fingers. It seemed like it was an antique book.

As I turned the page, I took a heavy breath.

Every single piece of paper was written by hand. An ink that was very dark black was used to write the letters. Calligraphy was something that blew my mind.

I started to read what was inside the book.

"Alpha's rejection is like venom for his mate. Whether they are doomed to a world of curses or perish."

After taking a few deep breaths, I continued reading. I got to know how other people handled rejection in our ancient times.

After being rejected by their mates, many people were forced to endure suffering.

On the other hand, the rejection of an Alpha was not the same thing. They held the highest rank in the werewolf world, making them the most powerful. So they came with the ability to give their power to their mates.

However, by rejecting their mates, they were rejecting their fates. So the consequences were there too.

I stopped reading and frowned at it.

. "Why is it that only the person who was rejected will have to experience the consequences? Why can't the man who rejected me be the one who should get punished?" I mumbled and shook my head.

My desire to read the book had completely vanished by that point. I did not want to read something that could only show the power of Alpha and the downfall of his rejected mate.

I was about to close the book when my eyes fell on a page. As soon as I opened the page, I noticed that the uppermost edge of the page had been folded.

I took a look at the page to determine what was supposed to be so important that it had to be folded.

My eyes widened when I saw a sketch drawn in red ink on the page.

It was like a tree's branches.

In fact, it was not the sketch itself that took me by surprise; rather, it was the structure of the branches,

It looked very much like what I had seen on my back!

Every night in my dream, I felt pain, and when I awoke, I noticed these marks like branches in my back.

I tried to reach my back with my hand. In the last few days, my wolf was reacting, so I did not feel much pain or have any nightmares. However, there were a few wounds that remained on my back.

I was afraid that they would be back soon

With my full attention, I concentrated on the book once again and tried to comprehend the cause of those wounds.

"When a powerful Alpha rejects his mate and the mate turns out to be an Omega, she can't endure it. Her wolf grows too weak to shift. She will be unable to fight in any war."

To restrain my tears, I clenched my fists tightly.

It seemed as though the book was describing the very same things that were happening to me.

46

I kept reading and found many problems and pains. But I could not find any solution to it.

"Will I keep feeling the pain forever?" I questioned myself.

It reminded me of Abigail's uncle. He was an epsilon wolf. He had told me that no one could help me.

I was busy reading the book when I heard my phone begin to ring.

Each and every person turned their attention to me when they heard a ringtone coming from my direction.

I immediately opened the chain of my bag and took out my phone.

I noticed that Debra was calling me. I received the call and asked, "Debra?"

"Bae, where are you?"

"I'm in the library."

"Come on over to the cafe. We are waiting for you."

"Is it something serious?" I asked while glancing at the book.

"Come on. Stop being nerdy. You are turning into a bookworm day by day. Your mom's wedding is this week, and you are making yourself busy studying? Are you for real?"

I sighed and replied, "Okay, okay. I'm coming."

She hung up the call. I noticed that I got a message from Abigail. She was also asking me to come to the cafe.

I checked the time and realized that I had been in the library for so long.

Because I was so engrossed in reading this book, I was completely oblivious to the passage of time.

I got to my feet and grabbed the book. Keeping it pressed against my chest, I started walking in the direction of the librarian.

"Can I borrow this book?" I asked her, and I placed the book on the table in front of her.

She looked shocked. "Why did you touch the book?" the librarian asked, snatching the book from my side.

"Why can't I?"

She raised her head to look at me. She stood up from her chair and declared, "Touching the bookshelves in the last corner is forbidden. Don't you know that?" That came as a

complete surprise to me. It was the first time I had ever heard of any rules pertaining to these books.

Perhaps I had not touched any of those books before and was only interested in my subjects, so I was unaware of this rule.

I looked at the book that the librarian was holding in her hands very tightly.

"Is there any way for me to read this book?"

She shook her head in response.

I felt annoyed. "Then why are all these books here in the library if we are not allowed to read them?"

2/3

46

In a quiet voice, she answered,

"Sorry, girl. You can't read this book. Only the head Alpha can use them if he wants. Instead of using them, our purpose is to secure them."

I still tried to convince her. However, she did not approve of any of the attempts.

I could not help but think,

"What if there is a cure for my pain?"

Today's Bonus Offer

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 47[964 words]

47

After leaving the library, I made my way to the cafeteria in order to meet up with my friends.

While heading there, I saw boys glancing at me. I tried my best to avoid their gazes. Why did they not just focus on their own business?

I entered the cafe and noticed my friends sitting at a table. I smiled at them while striding toward them.

"Hey!"

"Ava, where were you?" Luke asked while sipping on his coffee.

I sat down on a chair next to Abigail. She moved a cup of coffee toward me, indicating that it was for me.

"I was in the library," I replied to Luke.

"How is everything going at home?" Abigail asked me.

"Very good. Mom bought a wedding dress for her last night.

"Wow! Show us the picture of the wedding dress," Debra said with excitement in her voice.

I unlocked my phone and showed them the picture of my mother's bridal gown. They said it was a really beautiful dress.

"Will we not get the invitation?" Luke asked as he rested his chin on his palm.

"Of course we will. I can't wait to see Aunt in that dress," Debra said.

"Let her think about it first," Abigail said to them.

It would be a private wedding. But my friends were my close people. I would love to invite them.

In fact, I had talked to my mother about them, and she agreed to call them at the wedding.

"You are all invited," I told them with a warm smile.

"Yes! Now all I have to do is go shopping!" Debra let out a sigh while thinking about where to go to buy the perfect dress for her.

Luke and Abigail laughed when they saw Debra's reaction.

"Have you thought about where you are going to stay? With them or-"

I interrupted Luke and responded, "In the dorm."

"Why?" Abigail asked with a surprised look.

"I think I should not intervene in their privacy," I replied.

"Does your mom know about it?"

"No. I will tell her after the wedding." I explained and lowered my head. All of my friends became silent.

"Don't you think that was the reason why your mom hid everything from you?" I heard a voice from behind.

I turned my head and saw Stephen standing behind me.

I realized he had overheard my conversation.

1/3

47

I averted my gaze from him. He glanced at my friends and asked,

"Can I sit with you all?"

Luke did not answer. Debra smiled at him while Abigail glanced at me to know my answer.

"Sure," Debra replied to him.

Stephen sat on a chair on my left side, which was empty. He turned his head to me and asked,

"You haven't answered me, Ava. Don't you think that is why she did not want you to know the truth?"

I looked at him and saw a disappointed expression on his face. He did not expect that I would say that.

I felt bad about hurting him in some way. He was so nice to me from the beginning.

"Stephen, I was just..."

"No, Ava. Listen to me. Your mom loves you a lot. After the wedding, she will be with both my family and you. If I can accept her as my mother, then why can't you accept my father?" He said in a lower tone.

"No, it's not like that. I have accepted him. But I think I should not go and stay in someone else's home. It will be awkward for you too."

He held my hand and tried to explain his thoughts to me.

"Lil sis, stop overthinking. I will never feel discomfort around you. Because of you, my dad created a small library at my home. How could you think that we would feel uncomfortable with you living there?"

I was stunned to hear that Uncle Harper had established that library for me. When he talked about the library in the pack house, I thought he was fond of books. But was it actually because of me?

"Are you going to upset us and hurt your mom even more? She will only regret marrying my dad if you do this."

I sighed and placed my hand on his. "I will join you all in living together. Don't say anything to Mom, okay?"

He gave me a broad smile and nodded at me. As if his work was done, he got to his feet. He exchanged a glance with Luke before leaving the table.

I returned my attention to my friends, who were in awe. Luke remained calm, but Abigail and Debra looked impressed by how Stephen came and persuaded me to stay with them.

After talking with each other for some time, we all decided to head to our classes. While passing through the hallway, I noticed Stephen talking with his friends. He noticed me and waved his hand at me to go there.

I told my friends that they could go ahead. Then I walked up to Stephen. When I got closer to him, I saw Ian leaning against a wall, talking to others.

I ignored him and asked Stephen,

"You called me."

"Since we are going to be siblings, let me introduce you to my friends."

As Stephen began to introduce his friends to me, I cast glances in their direction.

One by one, I said hello to Ronald, Cyrus, and Paul.

"And he is Ian. You know him, so I don't need to say much about him. I heard that he apologized to you for his

2/3

47

rude behavior. So I think we are all clear now," Stephen said, trying to dismiss all the conflict between me and fan.

Just as I was about to say that I did not have any problems with anyone, lan's mocking, voice came to irritate me.

"Why is your soon-to-be sister so silent? She wasn't this quiet in the library, though."

I gave him a look. He smirked at me as if I had committed some sin with him that he was covering up for me.

I groaned in my head.

'This guy is getting on my nerves!'

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 48[974 words]

3/3

48

Third POV

"First tell us what you were doing in the library," Ronald said to lan.

lan turned his head in the direction of him. Ronald looked at him with a smirk on his face.

"Yeah, I have never seen you go to the library before," Paul said as he agreed with Ronald.

"Are you starting to get interested in books?" Cyrus said with a chuckle.

Ava, on the other hand, felt awkward in the conversation with the boys. She did not know them much. She thought about leaving. But before she could say anything to Stephen she heard a female voice.

"lan?"

When Ava turned around, she saw Nova approaching them from the opposite direction. She noticed that Nova's gaze was drawn to her. A frown appeared on Nova's face. Afterwards, she looked over to Ian.

"You are here! I was looking for you on the whole campus," she said as she approached Ian and embraced him. Ava averted her gaze from them.

Meanwhile, Ian rolled his eyes when Nova hugged him.

"Why were you looking for me?" he asked Nova.

Ava was stunned by his cold tone. His voice was not this icy when he was talking with others for a little while. 'He is just an asshole! He doesn't even talk to his girlfriend properly. Ava thought.

Nova broke the hug and lowered her head.

I have heard that Gamma Harper is going to get married this coming weekend. I

am very happy for him. I can't wait to come to the pack house to attend the wedding."

Before anyone else, Ava questioned her with a confused look, "Are you also invited to the wedding?"

Nova turned to look at her when she heard her.

With a questioning expression on her face, she looked at Ava and wondered, 'What is she doing with Ian and his friends?'

But she could not help but let out a chuckle when her gaze landed on Stephen, who was standing right next to Ava. "Of course, I am invited. I am this pack's beta's daughter. Each and every official, along with his family, is invited to attend the wedding."

At that moment, Ava had the realization that she had almost completely forgotten about Nova's identity.

When Nova noticed that Ava was remaining silent.

she responded by saying, "But you said also. That means you are also invited. I am not sure how you got the invitation to such a private wedding. Well, let me guess."

She tapped her finger on her chin to act as if she were thinking, then she raised her brows.

"Oh yes! How can I forget about you and Stephen? You two are seeing each other, aren't you? He might have invited you there."

Ava's eyes were widened by Nova's remarks. She thought that Ian and this girl were both the same. Both of their

1/3

48

mentalities were so compatible with one another. That was why they were together.

"No, they are not."

Ian was the one who replied to Nova. It was as if he was clearing up the misunderstanding.

"Oh, please, Ian. I know it is difficult to believe Stephen can choose her. But I heard that she was with Stephen all- the time at his party. In fact, they even danced together."

Stephen was ready to defend it, but Ava grabbed his arm and said,

"I'm leaving now. I have to go to my class."

Stephen gave her a nod. "Take care. I will talk to you later."

Ava glanced at Ian and others for the last time, then left from their side while heading to her class.

As she moved forward, Ian's eyes followed her wherever she went. Including Nova, everyone noticed that. Nova frowned at Ava's back while thinking,

'How did this nerd capture Ian's eyes? I do not understand why even Stephen is hanging out with this ugly duck.'

She locked her arm with Ian's and asked with a soft tone,

"Ian, why don't you receive my calls whenever I call you? When I asked you to accompany me to Stephen's party, you said that you did not wish to go. But you actually went to Stephen's party. You lied to me."

Ian snatched his arm away from her hold. His expression became displeased.

"I don't need to lie to you. I just changed my mind later. If you think you can't be with me like this, you can leave. I won't stop you."

Nova appeared to be taken aback by Ian's words. She immediately shook her head in response.

"Please don't mind me. I am a foolish girl. I should not have asked you that. You can go anywhere you want. I will never question it again."

Ian stared at her for some time, which made her feel nervous. She lowered her head in submission.

"Go to your class. Leave me and my friends alone," Ian said to her.

"Okay. Bye," she mumbled, and she walked to the other side.

The entire time, everyone had been keeping a close eye on Ian. Cyrus felt annoyed and asked,

"Bro, you clearly don't like her. Why don't you break up with her?"

Ian looked at him and replied,

"Didn't you see how I just tried to do that?"

"Just tell her that you can't be with her. You are not with her anyway," Paul said.

Man shook his head "You all know my dad. He and his rules and regulations. He does not want his beta to be heartbroken by his daughter's breakup. By the way, she is not that bad. My parents like her. So let them remain in their bubble."

Ronald crossed his arms over his chest. "If everything is going well, then why are you after Ava?"

Ian raised an eyebrow. "I'm not after her. It was just that I could not accept that one of my friends would be with the girl who I had rejected."

2/3

48

"Good. That means it makes no difference to you if she goes with someone else.

You don't care, right?" Stephen asked

Ian shrugged his shoulders and replied,

"Of course not. Why would I care if she goes with anyone else?"

Today's Bonus Offer

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 49[982 words]

49

Ava spent the whole week planning everything for her mother's wedding.

She made a promise to her friends that she would purchase her dress with them together, so today she went shopping with them. In fact, they would also buy dresses for themselves.

"I can't believe tomorrow is my mom's wedding. It's like a dream," Ava said to her friends.

She had just gotten into the car after Luke arrived with his car to pick her up from her house. Abigail and Debra were in the car as well.

"I want to scream with joy. We will have fun tomorrow," Abigail screamed in a happy tone.

Ava chuckled at her and turned her head toward the backseat since Abigail and Debra were both sitting in the backseat, and she was sitting in the passenger seat beside Luke, who was driving the car.

"Hope we will," she muttered.

"Babe, please stop acting like a nerd and try to buy a sexy dress for you," Debra said, wiggling her brows with a smirk.

Abigail hit her head lightly and said,

"It's her mother's wedding, not a bachelor party."

-Luke laughed out loud when he heard the girls' conversations. He was the only boy there.

"By the way, Stephen should have given a bachelor party for his father," Luke smirked while saying that.

Ava parted her lips upon hearing that. Abigail and Debra nodded their heads in unison as if they agreed with it. "You need women, huh?" Abigail asked and winked at him, which he saw through the rear mirror.

He shook his head in response. He glanced at Ava and said, "No, I didn't mean it."

Ava giggled and replied, "It's okay. I can understand. But no, Stephen is not throwing a bachelor party. However, I think he will do something later."

All of them were talking cheerfully while heading to the shopping mall.

When they arrived at the mall, Ava told them to select their dresses first. Abigail chose a sky-colored mermaid dress for her, and Debra selected a brown floral gown for her.

All the three girls forced Luke to buy a suit.

"I just came here to help you, not to buy something for myself," Luke said, rubbing his neck.

"You have to buy one. It's from me," Ava said to him.

Abigail and Debra immediately turned their heads toward Ava...

"What? Well, your dresses are also from my side," Ava said with a warm grin.

"Wait, No! We didn't mean it when we asked you to come with us for shopping," Abigail said to Ava.

Debra nodded her head, indicating that Abigail was right.

Luke took out his bank card from his pocket and said, "I'm paying for you all, guys."

Ava held his hand and stopped him.

1/3

49

"Please don't. I know you all are rich, but Mom gave me money for shopping, and

I want to share it with all of you.

Debra shook her head, "No, Ava. It's yours. You can use it later."

"Come on, guys. If you want me to look good at the wedding, then let me pay for you," Ava said to them while resting her hands on her waist.

They did not argue with her and agreed with her last,

Luke told Ava to choose a suit for him. Abigail and Debra glanced at each other after looking at the other two.

"What do you think? Does he like her?" Abigail asked Debra

"What? Really?"

"Fool, I am asking you."

"Stupid, how do I know?"

"That's why I asked for your thoughts."

"Wait, Bebe, don't argue with me. Let me check it with my keen eyes," Debra said, trying to concentrate on the way Luke looked at Ava.

Abigail could not help but laugh when she saw Debra hiding behind a mannequin and peeking over at Ava and -Luke, who were having a conversation about a suit.

"Now I understand why you have to change boyfriends every month," she whispered with a laugh.

Debra turned to her and replied,

"Ha ha ha. Not so funny. Should I speak about the man of your dreams? I have the eye to watch people's inner feelings. Should I tell his name?"

Abigail immediately pressed her hand over her mouth.

"Don't."

Debra winked at her and removed her hand from her mouth!

"So do not underestimate the power of my third eye, through which I can see other people's emotions." Debra giggled, glancing at Ava and Luke.

"Well, I think...Luke likes her," Debra muttered.

Abigail turned to them and saw Luke coming out of the changing room wearing a suit.

With a grin on her face, Abigail instructed Debra to go to them. Ava spun around to face them and inquired,

"Where were you

two?"

"We were just looking around the shop," Debra replied.

"How is it?" Luke asked Ava, then glanced at Abigail and Debra.

Three of them gave him a thumbs-up. He said he was confused between the blue and black color. But then he said he would pick one later.

After that, they started to check on the dresses available for selection.

49

Ava took a look at the different fancy dresses. She usually did not wear this kind of clothing, but it was her mother's wedding. She would have to be in her best clothes so that her mother understood that she was happy for

her.

As they looked at the blue dress that was displayed on a mannequin, three of her friends all spoke at the same time.

"This one."

Ava was surprised to hear them together. She glanced at the dress and was amazed by the design.

"Hello, Miss. You can try the dress first. We only have one piece since it's a designer dress," the saleslady said to

Ava.

Ava looked at her friends, who nodded their heads, saying that she should try it..

Ava went to the changing room to wear the dress and came out with a nervous face.

When she looked at her friends, their jaws dropped.

Debra mumbled,

"Oh my goodness!"

This caused Ava to clear her throat and raise her eyebrows in their direction.

"Buy this one. It looks good on you," Luke said to her calmly.

Abigail came to hug her and whispered in her ear,

"You look so perfect that anyone will fall in love with you tomorrow."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 50[993 words]

50

50

The wedding day had finally come.

Everyone was busy.

Ava was getting ready as a few makeup artists came to her house to prepare her and her mother. Luna Carolina sent the women for them.

"Such a gorgeous girl you are!"

The women complimented Ava as they set her hair after doing her makeup.

Ava looked in the mirror and stared at herself. They really did a great job of preparing her for her mother's wedding.

She liked her makeup and the way they styled her hair. To make her hair appear more beautiful, they let it down and added stone ornaments to it.

She put on her blue heels, which she had bought yesterday, after selecting her beautiful blue gown.

"Thank you so much."

Ava thanked the women and went out of her room. She went downstairs and glanced at her mother's room, was still locked from inside.

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-She sat on the couch, waiting for her mother. She could not wait to see her in a bridal gown. However, she did not want to disturb her and waited calmly outside.

Her phone began to ring. She pulled out her phone and saw a message from Stephen.

"Are you ready?"

Ava chuckled when she saw how desperate Stephen was for the wedding.

"Yes, bro," she replied in a message.

"How about Mom?"

Ava stared at the text. This was the first time he called her mother 'Mom'.

2233

For a moment, she felt emotional. Just like her, Stephen had missed his one parent's love in his life. She missed

her father, on the other hand, Stephen could not even recall his mother's face.

"Your mom is getting ready," Ava said.

As if it touched his heart, he called her.

"Thanks."

Stephen said this the moment Ava received the call.

"For what?" Ava asked.

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"For everything, Ava. If you didn't support me, Maybe we couldn't have seen this day."

Ava could feel his voice come out a little shaky.

"Hey! Are you crying?"

"What? No way. Just a little bit emotional. By the way, Dad prepared the best room for you.'

Hearing him, her gaze wandered around her house. She would have to say goodbye to this house. There were so many memories in this house.

She sighed and thought that she would make new relations in their new house. "Okay. Let's see," Ava said with a cheerful voice.

"When are you both coming? We arrived at the pack house. We are in the hall now."

"Mom is coming out of her room. We will reach there soon Ava said to him when she noticed a woman opening her mother's room door.

After hanging up, Ava went into her mother's room.

She was stunned when she saw her beautiful mother.

"Mom!"

Ava rushed to her and hugged her. "You look so beautiful, Mom."

Angela hugged her daughter tightly and asked,

"My baby, you look so pretty. Are you happy with this wedding?"

Ava pulled away from the hug and nodded her head.

"Yes, Mom. I am happy with this wedding. I wish you all happiness."

Angela looked at her beautiful daughter and pulled her into her embrace again.

Someone cleared the throat and asked,

"Beautiful ladies, can we go now?"

They turned around and were surprised to see Luna Carolina standing at the door.

Angela walked to her. They hugged each other.

"You are here!"

"How can I not come to take my friend? It's her wedding," she replied to her.

Ava smiled at her. Luna Carolina glanced at her and was shocked by her look.

"Your beauty is breathtaking!"

Ava flushed and lowered her head.

"She was always this beautiful. I was the one who always told her to hide herself from others. I was scared. We didn't have any men in our house. I thought that was the only way to protect her," Angela said to Carolina.

Carolina approached Ava and placed her hand over her head

"She was beautiful like that too. I saw her that day when you brought her into the pack house."

"Thanks, Luna," Ava mumbled.

Luna Carolina told them that she came with her car to take them to the pack house.

Then the three of them headed to the pack house. Throughout the whole ride, Ava held her mother's hand with a smile.

2/3

50

When they arrived at the pack house, Ava noticed the whole pack house was decorated like a bride.

It seemed like Alpha Martin spent a lot of money on his Gamma's wedding.

The guards rushed to open the car door for them.

Ava got out of the car while admiring the decorations. Her mother looked so happy when Luna Carolina held her hand and told her to follow her.

Ava quietly followed behind them.

She took a quick look at her phone screen. She saw messages from her friends, telling her that they had arrived at the hall.

Luna Carolina brought them to a hall and stopped in front of the door.

The guards announced the news about the arrival of the bride and opened the large door.

The moment the door opened, everyone inside the hall turned their heads toward the door.

Luna Carolina told Ava to hold Angela's other hand, and then they entered the hall.

It came as a complete surprise to Ava when she saw how stunning the hall was. Every corner of the hall was decorated with white roses. There was a red carpet in the middle of the hall, which led the people to the big stage. Besides the red carpet, there were arrangements for guests

-She stopped in the middle when she saw Alpha Martin coming toward her mother and Luna Carolina with a bouquet of white roses.

Ava stepped aside and let Alpha Martin hold her mother's hand. He would give

her hand to Gamma Harper as a guardian. Gamma Harper was standing in the middle of the stage.

Alpha Martin smiled at me and walked to the stage with my mother and Luna Carolina.

Ava turned to the left side and noticed her friends waving at her. They were close to the stage.

She walked to them with a bright grin on her face. As she stood next to them, her gaze drew in the opposite direction, to the other side of the carpet.

Her eyes caught a handsome man in a black suit who was staring at her.