

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 51[986 words]

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Tan kept looking at Ava. He could not take his eyes off her. In the blue dress, she looked like a princess.

When she entered the hall, everyone's eyes were on her mother, who was the bride. But his eyes were fixed on her. Surprisingly, she was more beautiful than he thought. That gorgeous makeup gave her a stunning look to bloom her

magnificence and show her beauty to others.

When she caught his gaze, he did not look away from her. As if he did not care what she or others would think, he stared at her.

Ava averted her gaze from him and started to talk with his friends.

Ian was observing her every move. The way she was talking and laughing with her friends caught his eye.

A hand appeared in his sight, waving, and he had to take his gaze away from Ava. He turned to the person.

It was Ronald. He winked at Ian and asked,

"Lost in someone's beauty?"

His friends thought he would deny or roll his eyes in response. But to their surprise, he looked away from Ronald without any reply and shifted his attention to the stage.

Ronald glanced at Cyrus and Paul, who looked stunned by Ian's silence.

Stephen, on the other hand, stood close to the stairs of the stage. When he saw the priest start to talk, he turned in Ava's direction and went to talk to her. "You look so pretty, my sister. Come here," Stephen pulled Ava into a hug.

Ava chuckled and hugged him in return. "You look handsome as always."

They laughed together. Stephen glanced at his friends, who greeted him from the opposite side.

The atmosphere was good and cheerful.

Their parents were looking at them with a smile on their faces from the stage.

"Do you, Harper Taylor, accept Angela Adler as your wife?" the priest asked Gamma Harper.

Everyone turned silent, as it was the main moment of the night. The bride and groom were taking vows. Stephen turned his head to his friends and waved at them, indicating that they should come to his side. They made their way toward him. Ava glanced at Ian, who stood next to Stephen.

"Stephen, come here. I have something to talk about," Ronald said.

Stephen moved to Ronald's side, causing Ian to move beside Ava. Now they were standing next to each other.

Angela and Debra glanced at Ian, who glanced at Ava.

"Are you okay?" Angela whispered to Ava because Ian was next to her.

"Yeah, it's okay," Ava replied in a lower tone.

Gamma Harper's voice emerged as he said to the priest,

"Yes, I do."

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Ava refocused on the stage with a smile. She could see her mother feeling nervous.

Her mother glanced at her. Ava motioned her hand to her, indicating to take a deep breath and relax.

Meanwhile,

Ian looked at Ava. The way she was trying to ease her mother's nervousness, he liked it.

A small smile formed in the corner of his lips as they curled slightly.

"Do you, Angela Adler, accept Harper Taylor as your husband?"

Angela took a few deep breaths as her daughter signaled, and then she responded,

"Yes, I do."

The priest handed them the rings to exchange.

While they were exchanging rings, he announced that they were now husband and wife.

Everyone in the hall started to clap their hands. They began to cheer for the newlywed couple.

Ava bit her bottom lips as tears of joy shuffled her eyes. She felt someone pat her shoulder.

When she turned around, she saw Luke.

"Hey!"

"Hi," Ava replied, sobbing.

She was overwhelmed with the contentment of her emotions.

Luke tilted his head to look into her eyes.

"Why are you crying?" he asked, pulling her into a hug.

Since Ian was standing right next to Ava, he was watching everything. His jaw clenched when he saw Luke hugging Ava.

"Is she your sister's boyfriend?" Cyrus asked Stephen about Luke.

"I don't know. It's her private matter. We are not that close yet to sharing each other's private matters," Stephen replied, looking at Ava and Luke.

Ronald cast a glance at Ian, who looked angry. He

mirked and said,

"Steph, Luke is not that bad. He has a reputation on our campus, you know."

Ian heard everything that his friends were discussing.

He had no idea why he was getting so mad. He wanted to move and snatch Ava from Luke.

A hand grabbed his arm, and he averted his gaze from Ava and Luke.

"lan, I was looking for you in the hall," Nova said with a smile. 1

She had been looking at lan for quite some time. She saw how lan was looking at Ava the whole time. She wanted to reach him, but other people gathered close to the stage at the time of the vows, so she could not go to him.

lan simply nodded at her. She tightened her fists when she noticed that lan did not even glance at her appearance. She wore a hot black gown today, just to match lan. But he did not care. Her whole effort went to waste.

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She turned to Ava, who looked different today.

'I can't believe it. How can this ugly duck look so good? I thought she was ugly. Where are her glasses? Why did she let her hair down? Why is she even showing her face? She doesn't deserve to have this beauty,' Nova thought as her mind filled with jealousy.

"Why is that nerd crying?" she mumbled, looking at Ava. She could see her friends smiling as they rubbed her shoulders.

"Ava"

Everyone turned and saw the bride and groom coming this way.

"Mom."

Ava went to Angela and hugged her. Harper was standing beside Angela. He smiled and placed his hand on Ava's head.

Nova could not believe her ears.

'She is Gamma Harper's wife's daughter! That means she has become the Gamma's daughter!'

Stephen walked to them and hugged his father. Ava broke the hug from her mother and let Stephen hug Angela.

Harper hugged Ava. When they broke the hug, Ava said,

."Congratulations, Uncle."

"Dad," Harper said, asking her to address him from now on

Ava's eyes widened as she

tried to control her emotions.

She nodded her head and mumbled,

"D-Dad."

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After talking with her parents, Ava went back to her friends

"Happy?" Luke asked Ava.

She nodded at him. She glanced at her mother. She looked really happy with Gamma Harper.

'Dad, I fulfilled my promise today,' Ava said in her mind.

Her father's face came to her mind. Tears formed in her eyes as his death was reflected in her eyes.

"I'm coming in a few minutes," she said to her friends. They gave her a nod.

Ava walked for a while as she tried to find an open space to get some fresh air. She asked a waiter about it who was serving drinks at the party.

She went to where the waiter directed her.

When she reached the balcony, she took a deep breath.

From the balcony, she could see the view of the forest and the sky.

The moon was providing a little moonlight on the dark balcony.

She looked at the forest and stared at it for a while. She sobbed when she remembered the night when she had to leave her father.

She could not forget how her father was lying on the ground, helpless.

He might have wanted to move his legs a lot to save his life, but fate was not on his side.

Ava thought for a second. What if her father was alive today? How would her and her mother's lives be?

Was it her mother's fate to come here and meet her mate?

Suddenly, Ava saw a hand giving her a tissue. The gent's watch on his hand led her to believe it was Luke.

She accepted the tissue and said,

"Thanks, Luke."

She wiped her tears and bit her bottom lip to prevent herself from sobbing.

"My father..." she muttered, then paused as she glanced at the forest again, then continued.

"He could not save himself in the war. T-They... t-they k-killed him. I-I saw it with my eyes. H-He wanted to live. W-We were a happy family. B-But... h-he had to die."

She broke down in tears again. The tissue could not help her because it was soaked with her tears.

Ava felt the person grab her arm, turn her, and pull her into his chest.

In the darkness, she still thought it was Luke. She hugged him back and cried into his chest.

She felt his fingers gently caressing her hair, as if he were comforting her.

"M-My father took my promise to always take care of my mother. I fulfilled his promise today. I-"

"Ssshh. You did great. You are a good daughter. You proved it today."

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Ava's body was frozen when she heard the man's voice.

It was not Luke's voice.

She came back to her senses as she took a deep breath.

The man's cologne touched her nostrils, causing her eyes to widen."

She looked up slowly, then froze again.

Ian Dawson was looking at her.

His face was illuminated by the moonlight as the moon came out of the cloud.

She immediately distanced herself from him..

"Y-You!"

She looked away from him and wiped her tears.

Ian was staring at her.

His gaze followed her down the hall until he saw her coming here. He also followed her and saw her breaking down alone.

He did not like it when she called him Luke. But when she started to talk about her father, he felt guilty. He remembered how he talked about her father to her when he saw she could not defend herself. Even though he apologized to her later, he began to regret his aggressive words.

"Why are you here?" Ava murmured and turned away from him.

Ian did not like how she behaved, as if she were feeling uncomfortable around him.

He walked to the railing and stood beside her.

He took out a packet of cigarettes from his pocket and pulled out one.

When he lit the cigarette, Ava glanced at him.

"You should be happy that your mother got a second chance in her life," Ian said, breathing in smoke while looking at the moon.

Ava looked at his face. By looking at his side profile, she felt that he was a Greek god. She remembered how she felt for him in the past. She averted her gaze from him and looked at the moon.

"You are right. Very few people get a second chance in her life," she replied, with a bitter smile.

Ian froze because of her remarks. He turned his head to look at her.

Her smile was painful, which pierced his heart. He did not want to see that painful smile on that beautiful face.

He immediately moved his eyes away from her and asked himself,

Why am I thinking like this? What's happening to me?'

"lan?"

When he heard another voice from behind, he turned around and saw Nova walking towards him.

"What are you doing here, lan?" Nova asked, then turned to Ava, who was still looking at the moon.

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"Oh, Ava! You are here. I could not congratulate you at that time. Congratulations on your mother's wedding! It's such luck to come from out of nowhere and marry an official wolf."

lan frowned upon hearing Nova. He glared at her. Before she could say something to lan, Ava turned around and smiled at her.

"Thank you for the congratulations. But, for your information, my mother did not appear out of nowhere, she is that official wolf's fated mate, which is why she was able to marry him."

Nova did not expect that nerd to reply to her like that.

"Look, Ava. You are now one of the royals like us since you belong to an official's family. So I hope you do not mind if my words offend you."

Ava shook her head. "It's okay, Nova. I didn't mind. Not everyone understands the value of the mate bond. Some people accepted it as their fate, and some people rejected it to save their status and reputations in their high-class society."

lan knew what she said was meant for him. He stared at Ava

She did not give a glance at him and left the balcony.

Today's Bonus Offer

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 53[1,030 words]

Tan, did you just see?" Nova asked as she turned her attention to Ian after Ava had left.

Ian puffed on the smoke and asked, "What?"

"Didn't you see how she was talking? She used to be a shy and ugly girl. After becoming the Gamma's daughter, she... she has become pre-"

"Pretty?"

Hearing Ian, Nova's eyes widened. She frowned and shook her head.

"What? No! She has become pretentious."

Under the moonlight, Ian's face was clearly visible. He looked at Nova, but his eyes were fierce.

"I-Ian.."

"Stop bothering her. She is not ugly but only pretends to be one."

Nova gasped at his words. Ian indirectly meant that Ava was beautiful in his eyes.

"Why are you saying this? Do you remember how you insulted her at the whole university? She is an ugly nerd and will always be."

Ian grabbed her arm and pulled her to him. She was scared by his sudden action. She glanced at the cigarette that he was holding between his fingers. That was close to her arm.

"Stop making me remember the things that I want to forget. Tell me something. How did my father learn that you are my girlfriend?"

Her eyes grew wider. She shook her head. "I swear I did not tell him."

"Oh, really? Then your father must be the one."

"My father has no other intentions. He always keeps his eyes on me. He must be getting to know us, and inform your father."

Ian let go of her arm, and she took a step back.

"lan, what's wrong with you? Why are you treating me like this?" Nova asked, tearing up.

lan felt annoyed. He was not happy with the way his life was going.

"You know I don't like you, then why don't you just break up and tell your dad? Why did he even inform my dad of this useless thing? Now my father wants me to keep it going."

A gleam came into Nova's eyes. She reached for his hand.

"Isn't it a good thing? He likes me for you. I think your mom likes me too. We have a bright future together."

lan snatched his hand away from her hold. "Forget about the future. I can't even think of one month in this relationship. It's just a pretense in front of my parents since they used to force me to get a girlfriend. Otherwise, I don't even feel anything for you."

Nova began to cry. "But you accepted my proposal that night yourself."

There was fuel blazing inside lan when he heard that. He grabbed her jaw and glared at her.

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"I am not a fool. I was drunk, but not unconscious. I said or promised nothing to you that night."

She appeared to be shocked. She did not believe that lan had actually known the truth. She just wanted to trap him. "P-Please, lan. Please don't break up with me. I beg you. I love you."

"But I don't. It would be better if you told your dad so that he could take some sense to my parents. I haven't slept with you, so no one will get hurt by this."

Nova shook her head and held his hand, which was grabbing her jaw.

"Please don't break up with me. I will do whatever you say. will not stop you from going anywhere. You are free to go to any girl you want. Just don't break up with me. Don't make any other girl your girlfriend."

lan scoffed at her words and pushed her. She almost fell to the ground but grabbed the railing to prevent falling.

"Let's see how long you can pretend like this," lan said, making his way to leave the balcony.

Nova stared at his back and thought,

'lan, you will never be able to escape my grasp. Only I can be your Luna.'

Meanwhile,

Ava was laughing with her mother and her friends. Everyone was heading to dinner together.

There was a lavish table prepared for the grand dinner. It was like a feast.

Everyone took a seat there. Ava sat with her mother, while Stephen sat with his father.

Everyone was waiting for lan to join the table since he was the soon-to-be Alpha of the pack.

When lan arrived to join the table, Nova came by, following him. Everyone assumed they were together all the time because they were a couple.

Nova's father chuckled after looking at them.

"Alpha, have you noticed how our children are getting together?"

lan sat on the chair that was opposite Ava. He glanced at her, who did not look like she cared about the conversation going on there.

lan then glared at Nova for her father's words. Nova lowered her head to avoid his gaze.

"I can easily wipe out too," lan said as he started to eat.

Everyone stared at him with a stunned look.

No one had started to eat, but it was like he did not care for manners.

He lifted his head when he realized the table was silent. He noticed his father was looking at him with a pair of

angry eyes.

"Oh, my apology, Alpha Martin. Please start first."

After making the statement, he rolled his eyes.

Alpha Martin tightened his fists as he got mad at his son. Luna Carolina held his fist and smiled at everyone.

"Let's start, everyone. We should not make the bride and groom wait long."

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Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when they saw Alpha Martin not say anything. Ian's friends kept casting glances at him and his father. They were afraid that his father would scold him in front of others.

Ava ignored the atmosphere and tried to cheer her mother on with her new father. She stood up and began serving them food. Harper looked really delighted by her sweet gesture.

"How sweet of her!" Luna Carolina spoke while looking at Ava.

When Ava sat down, Luke, who was sitting next to her, said

"Can you serve me too, please?"

He just wanted to tease her. But to his surprise, Ava smiled at him and grabbed his plate to put food on it.

It did not go unnoticed by anyone.

In the royal family, women only serve food like this to their family or someone close to them.

Ian stared at Ava, who was smiling at Luke. He was about to look away from them, but his mother's voice reached his ears.

Luna Carolina pointed her head toward Luke and said to Ava,

"You two seem to be very close."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 54[1,038 words]

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Abigail and Debra were both observing everyone. So when Carolina asked the question to Ava, Debra replied to her.

"Yes, yes. They are really close."

Ian's friends cast glances at Ian, who appeared to have lost his appetite.

Ronald chuckled and said,

"Yeah. They even changed the dress code."

Abigail took the opportunity and explained,

"As we can see, they are matching today. In fact, Ava herself gave this suit to Luke as a present for this wedding."

Ava was surprised as they were thinking about it so far. Though both of their dresses' color was the same, she did not mean to match with Luke. It was just a coincidence.

So Ava tried to say something.

"No, it's not-"

Luke cut her off and said to Luna Carolina,

"She is a soft-hearted girl. That's why she gave me a present."

Alpha Martin laughed when he heard Luke!

"I like you, young man. What is the name of your father?"

Luke cleared his throat and replied,

"Alpha Limon."

Alpha Martin and his officials, including Harper, raised their brows. "Oh, you are Limon's son?"

"Do you know my dad?" Luke asked Alpha Martin with curiosity.

"Of course, we know. He was our childhood friend."

Ava sat down calmly as the topic diverted to somewhere. She glanced at her mother, who looked at her with a grin.

"Is he your mate?" she whispered to Ava.

"No, mom," Ava replied, shaking her head.

"Come on. He is a charming boy. Do yo-"

"Mom!" Ava whispered with a laugh to stop her mother. She was aware that her mother would begin to pair her up.

On the other hand,

Ian stared at Ava. His focus was on her. He was not pleased when he heard her give Luke a present. For what reason did she buy him the same color as her?

He had no idea why, but everything around him was only making him mad.

After dinner, everyone headed to the entrance to leave.

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Luna Carolina told Angela and Harper to leave first since she had arranged something for them.

"You are coming with me," Stephen said to Ava.

"Yeah. But my luggage-"

"Lil sis, I have arranged everything. My butler went to your old house and brought your luggage. Now it's inside

my car's trunk."

Ava smiled at him. He was a really caring person. Her friends took their leaves and left the pack house area.

Ava turned to Alpha Martin and Luna Carolina.

"Thanks, Alpha and Luna. Because of you both, my mom got her happiness back."

Alpha Martin placed his hand on her head. Ava closed her eyes. His hand was heavy, making her feel that it was utilized a lot in wars.

"Welcome to the royal family. Your mother came into our lives as a miracle years ago. I hope you find all of the happiness you deserve."

He removed his hand from her head. Ava looked at him and smiled at him.

Luna Carolina hugged her. "See you again. Enjoy your new life and try to get along with your new family."

As Ava turned her head, she noticed Ian standing a distance from his parents. He was looking at her.

She averted her gaze from him and turned to Stephen.

"Let's go, brother," she said to Stephen.

Stephen offered his arm to her, and she locked her arm with his with a smile on her face. They got in Stephen's car and left for their home.

When Stephen stopped the car in front of a villa, Ava was amazed.

She got out of the car. Stephen gestured his hand toward the house.

Ava entered the house. Her jaw dropped as she saw how beautifully designated all the things inside the house were.

Stephen rushed to the staircase and waved at her.

"Let me show you your library."

Ava was thrilled to see how curious Stephen was. She glanced at the library, which she could see from downstairs. All the books were set up there on the bookshelves.

Stephen led her upstairs and showed her the library. He patted the small couch where she could spend the day reading books.

Then he escorted her to her new bedroom.

"This is your bedroom. How is it?"

Ava looked around and found the bedroom very comfortable. The whole room was painted white. The furniture was furnished in white too. However, the blinds were brightly colored to give them an elegant look. The window close to the bed was giving her a sight of outside the house.

"Beautiful," Ava said to Stephen.

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Stephen walked up to her and held her hands.

"I know we are not blood-related. But I can assure you that will never let you recall it in your life."

She hugged Stephen.

"Thanks, brother."

He patted her head. "You have your father and brother behind you now. If anyone-"

She broke the hug and interrupted him.

"Yeah, yeah, I know, my big brother. You will kill them or punish them. You power gang can do anything, I know."

He laughed at her words. "And what do you know more about our Power Gang?" "That you all are dangerous, just like the tattoos of yours," she said, pointing her finger at the tattoos that were hidden under his sleeves.

"Okay, and?"

"And you all can do anything since you are the future of our pack. That's why no one can oppose any of you and is afraid of you."

He hit her head lightly. She rubbed her head and asked,

"Did I say anything wrong?"

"Yeah, lil sis. They are afraid of us not because we are the future or we have high positions, but because we have the power to hold those positions and no one has the audacity to snatch them from us.

Ava was stunned by his heavy words. She understood what he meant. All of them would get those positions for a reason.

"Promise me one thing, Ava."

"What?"

"You won't hide yourself from now on. You will live just like others."

"You mean no more glasses or a hiding face?"

Stephen nodded his head with a serious face.

"But I am not used to-"

"As your brother, I want this promise from you."

Ava lowered her head and mumbled,

"People will think I want to gain their attention, which I don't. I am okay with myself."

Stephen shook his head. "Let people say whether they want to. You have to be careless about them and live your life fully."

Ava thought for a moment. She got a new father, a new brother, a new home, and a new life.

Should she let her guard down?

After a brief moment, she promised Stephen.

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"Okay, I will no longer hide myself from anyone."

Today's Bonus Offer

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 55[1,065 words]

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When Ava opened her eyes, she found herself in an unfamiliar room.

She sat up and rubbed her eyes.

She looked around and realized that it was her new bedroom. She had shifted to her new home last night.

While yawning, she walked to the window. She stood there for a while and enjoyed the sunlight falling over her face.

Just as she stretched her arms, she whimpered in pain.

She rubbed her upper back with the back of her hand and strode to the dressing table. She turned her back to the mirror and rolled up her top to see her back.

She shut her eyes when she found the scars like tree branches. She felt pain in her back again.

She bit her bottom lip and let out a shaky breath.

"When will I get rid of this?"

No matter how much she wanted to forget about the rejection, the pain and these scars, they would never let her do so.

She tried to ignore her pain and went to the bathroom to take a shower.

She looked around the bathroom, and a small smile reached her lips.

She stepped into the bathtub after taking off her clothes.

As the warm water touched her body, she felt relieved on her back. She was thankful to Gamma Harper, who thought so many things for her.

The way he set up everything for her, it was like she was his own daughter.

Ava leaned her head back against the edge of the bathtub as she closed her eyes. She lightly rubbed the scars on her back with the shower gel.

seen the sketches of her scars. Was it possible for her to get the

Her mind went back to the book, where she had se book again?

Was there any solution stated there for her?

After taking a long shower, she wrapped her body in a white towel and walked out of the bathroom.

She gazed at the closet and walked to it.

When she opened the door of the closet, she gasped.

There were so many designer and branded clothes, shoes, and bags arranged inside.

"Isn't it too much? How can I take so many things from him? I know my mom got married to him, but still."

She felt that Gamma Harper spent too much money on her. She glanced at the luggage, which was standing close to her bed. Last night, she forgot to put her clothes inside the closet and only took out one night dress to wear to sleep.

She grabbed one to wear today from the closet and took the time to arrange all of her clothes from the luggage

into the closet.

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After drying her hair, she left her room and went downstairs.

"Mom? You are back!"

Ava noticed her mother setting up the dining table for breakfast. She rushed to her and hugged her. "Harper wants to have breakfast together with you and Stephen, so we returned early in the morning." Ava smiled at her mother when she saw the blush on her cheeks while talking about her new husband. Ava could not describe her happiness toward her

Seeing her mother come out of a widow's life was something, she had always wished for but had never dared to express.

"I love you, Mom."

Ava hugged her again.

"I love you too, my baby," her mother replied.

"I love you three."

They felt a pair of arms wrap around their shoulders. It was Stephen. He chuckled while hugging them. Angela rubbed his cheek affectionately.

"I love you four."

Three of them turned around and saw Harper walking toward them.

They all laughed together when he hugged them.

They all looked like a happy family.

Ava felt blessed to have a new life.

She sat beside Stephen, and her mother sat beside Harper, who was sitting on the head chair at the table.

"I think both of you should stay home today. Let's spend some time together. From tomorrow on, we will go back to our places. You two will go to the university, while me and your mom go back to work," Harper said.

"Sure," Stephen said, chewing his food.

"And Ava? Are you okay with it, my dear?" Harper asked her.

Ava glanced at him and replied, "Yes, Dad."

Harper was amazed by her reply. Angela bit her bottom lip to control her tears of happiness. She blinked away her tears and smiled at Ava.

The four of them spent the whole day together.

Ava realized Harper and Stephen were very friendly. They played games, gossiped about their past times, talked about their futures and so on.

Ava was pleased with her new family. The fear of putting them in an uncomfortable state vanished from her heart. She realized that the sooner she accepted them as her own, the sooner she could live a happy life.

The next day,

Ava woke up early to go to the university. She started to look for her glasses, but then she realized that she had

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promised Stephen. She would not hide herself anymore.

She tried to look confident and chose something to wear. She picked black jeans and a white T-shirt that would fit her body well. She hurriedly put on the clothes and found a black boot to wear.

She curled her hair a little from the bottom and let her hair down. She put on light makeup and grabbed her phone to leave.

When she went downstairs, everyone on the table looked at her in amazement.

"What? Should I change my clothes?" she asked, feeling uneasy by their shocking gazes.

"What the hell, sis! You look damn hot!" Stephen said as he stood up from his chair.

Ava was stunned by his compliment. So should she wear that or not?

Angela went to hug her. "You look gorgeous."

"Just like a princess," Harper added.

Ava sighed with relief. She was afraid that she was not looking good.

She glanced at Stephen, who was still looking at her in wonder.

Her eyes shifted to his clothes. He had gotten back to himself. All of his tattoos were visible through his clothing.

He gave her a wave and said,

"Let's go together."

"What about breakfast?" Harper asked.

"I will have it with my friends. Don't worry about Ava, and I will take her with me," Stephen said to them.

Ava looked at Angela and Harper. They nodded at her. She smiled at them and left the house with Stephen.

Ava was taken aback when she spotted a sports car outside the house.

Stephen opened the door for her. "Please enter, little sister.

"You have a sports car! I have never seen you drive this car before."

"All of my friends own one. But we don't show off, you know," he replied, winking

at her.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 56[949 words]

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She rolled her eyes and got in the car. He sat in the driver's seat.

Before starting the car, he handed her a box.

"What is it?" she asked.

"It's for you. Open it."

When she opened the box, she saw sunglasses.

"I thought you would wear your big nerdy glasses again, so bought them for you."

Ava put on the sunglasses and turned to him. "How am I looking?"

"Boss lady. What about joining my gang?",

Ava coughed a little. "Sorry, bro. I don't like your leader," she replied sarcastically.

Stephen gave her a nod and started the car.

"I'm sorry, Ava, for what Ian did."

Stephen could only say sorry to his sister. However, he knew that his apology would not make her feel good. He believed everyone should move on in their lives.

When he stopped the car, everyone began to glance at it, especially girls. The only reason he drove this car here was because he wanted to make his sister feel special.

He put on his sunglasses and got out of the car.

He went to open the door for Ava.

Ava started to feel nervous. Stephen grabbed her hand and pulled her out of the car.

He pushed the door closed and wrapped his arm around her shoulder.

"You look good. Don't lose your confidence."

Ava nodded her head and exhaled.

As they started to walk, everyone stared at them with their jaws dropped. "Isn't it Ava, the nerd?"

"Yes!"

"She is our gamma's daughter now."

Ava heard whispers around her. A few boys's voices caught her attention.

"Damn! Just look at her!"

"Now I understand why she was hiding herself."

"Stephen will hear you. Can't you see how protective he is about his new sister?"

Ava tried to ignore their voices. Stephen whispered in her ear.

"Why are you afraid of gaining attention? Just enjoy it."

1/3

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He led her to the cafe. As they stepped inside the cafe, her steps halted. She noticed all of his friends sitting at a table.

"Why did you stop? Won't you have breakfast?" Stephen asked her.

Ava saw Ian turning his head in the

direction. The moment he looked at her, she looked away from him. "I don't want to sit at the same table with your friend," she replied, taking off her sunglasses.

"AVA!"

They heard Debra's voice. Ava turned around and immediately found herself in Debra's embrace.

"Oh my god!"

Debra muttered in her ear.

After breaking the hug, she looked at Ava from head to toe. She shook her head and said,

"They are right!"

"Who is right?" Stephen asked her as he

Was still standing beside Ava.

Debra realized that he was also there. "Oh, sorry. I forgot to notice you. But your sister looks hot as fuck!" Debra replied, winking at him.

Ava's eyes widened. Stephen's reaction was not different. He had never seen such a brave girl talk so openly in front of him. He assumed it was because he had become too friendly with them.

He cleared his throat and said to Ava,

"Have breakfast with your friend. I am going to mine."

Ava was surprised by his sudden change of behavior.

"Did I say something wrong?" Debra asked while looking at Stephen's back.

Ava laughed and grabbed her hand, then headed to an empty table close to them, paying no attention to the people around her who were staring at her.

Meanwhile,

Ian was shocked by Ava's appearance. He had a mindset of ignoring her since the night of her mother's wedding.

However, his heart no longer wanted to do it. He kept staring at her. The way that pair of jeans hugged her waist, showing her perfect hips, and the upper top, which revealed her perfect shape of breasts. Something clutched him inside.

He frowned at his own thoughts.

'What the fuck is wrong with me?' he asked himself in his head. He had never thought of her like that before. It was like his gaze wanted to scan every part of her body.

"I thought you would welcome me today," Stephen let out while sitting in his chair.

"We wanted it, but someone decided to ignore your sister, so we came to sit in the cafe," Ronald exclaimed to Stephen.

Stephen looked at Ian and said,

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"Bro, I have talked to her. You both should move on with your own lives. You are my friend, and she is my sister. Both of you are my close people. I don't want to lose any of you. Ava and I have recently become brother and sister, but I have accepted her as my own sister."

Ian gave him a silent nod, but then once again shifted behind Ian and stopped his gaze at Ava.

All of her friends came to the cafe to join her. He did not like it when he saw Luke hugging her.

He tightened his fists. He wanted to move his attention away from them as the wedding night reminded him how close both of them were.

Ian glanced at the other boys and saw they were drooling over Ava.

His jaw clenched. He glared at them. When they carelessly glanced around but saw him glaring at them, they could not identify the reason and lowered their heads.

"Don't you think her nerdy look was better than this?" he muttered to Stephen while glancing at Ava once more. "No way. She is damn beautiful. She should come out fully. She can't hide herself forever."

Ian turned his head away from Ava and pulled out a cigarette to ease his mind.

It reminded him of how he hugged Ava at her mother's wedding night. He felt something strange that he had never felt before when hugging any girl.

He shut his eyes and threw the cigarette in anger.

"Calm down, bro. What's

wrong?" Paul asked him.

He shook his head in response.

Stephen chuckled at his mood and said,

"He just needs a girl. Don't worry, guys. I have arranged everything. I am throwing a party for all of the students tomorrow to celebrate my father's wedding."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 57[973 words]

57

Ava did not like the attention she was getting from other people. She kept avoiding other people's gazes all the time she was at the university.

Although her friends said she was looking good, she was a shy girl and could not just change her attitude over the night.

When she returned to her new home, she found the house empty. She realized her parents had not come back yet.

She spent her day watching dramas and eating alone. Stephen did not come back home with her since he said he would be with his friends till late at night.

While scrolling through the timeline of her social media profile, she noticed a message request popping up from an unknown profile.

"Are you coming to the party tomorrow night?"

As she read the message, she realized the person was talking about Stephen's party, which he had informed her about earlier this morning.

However, the person who sent her message was anonymous to her. Since it was a message request, either she would have to accept it or ignore it.

Ava stared at the message for a while. She checked the profile to see if she knew the person. But the profile was locked. She looked at the profile picture. It was a picture of scenery. An orange-flaming moon above the gloomy woodland.

She felt that the picture was very attractive.

No one had ever sent her a message like that before. People used to ignore her because they thought she was ugly or always spent her time on books.

Another message popped up, which made her gasp.

"Why are you staring at the phone? Reply to me. I'm waiting."

oo

Ava's eyes widened as she looked around to see if someone was watching her. But she was all alone in her room. In fact, in the whole house, she was alone.

Some maids could be in the living room. Perhaps they were playing some prank on her.

She went downstairs to check. She noticed all the maids were working. At that time, she received another message, which made her believe that no one from her house was doing this.

She went to her bedroom and closed the door, then sat on her bed.

She looked at the new message.

"Why so late?"

Ava accepted the message request and began to type.

"Who are you?"

She waited for a reply, as she could see the person had seen it.

"A boy."

She frowned and asked, "Who?"

1/3

+26 BONUS

"Someone you don't know"

Ava scratched her head as she felt confused. Who could get her profile and send her a message?

She started to think about who it could be. A few boys' faces came to mind who approached her today to speak with her, but she declined.

"Are you David?"

"Who is David?".

"Or Celine?"

"Now who is he?"

"Then who are you?"

"I didn't know you knew so many boys."

Ava felt offended by the reply. She got mad and replied,

"Of course, I can get to know others. If you don't want to tell me who you are, then I am going to block you."

The sender was quiet for a while, as he did not send any messages.

Just when Ava thought it was the end of the conversation, she got a reply from the unknown boy.

"A boy who wants to talk to you."

Ava chuckled as she typed,

"A secret admirer?"

"That sounds good to me. How about calling me a stalker? With the message, there was an emoji of a wink attached.

Ava's eyes widened. She did not know who the crazy boy was. Why was he calling himself a stalker?

But she took a deep breath and wrote,

"You don't know my brother. He is the gamma of the pack. He will kill you."

"Oh, I got scared."

Ava laughed as she thought the boy was afraid of Stephen. But her smile faded when she saw his reply.

"I know how to defend, so don't worry about me."

"Who said I was worrying for you?"

"You were not?"

"Why would I?"

"Because I am your new friend."

"Excuse me? When did I accept your friendship?"

Just a few moments ago."

Ava started to think about his words. Then she scoffed when she understood his meaning.

2/3

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"Did you mean accepting the message request? Is it called accepting friendship?"

"I took that as a yes. Now tell me, will you come?"

"What?"

"You have such a terrible memory. What was my first question?"

She scrolled up the messages until she saw his first message.

"I won't tell you even if I come," Ava replied.

"Yes or no."

"Why would I tell you?"

"Because I don't want to come if you

won't attend."

Now Ava started to feel strange. She could not discuss her outing with a stranger.

"Don't text me again."

"Why?"

"I don't talk to strangers."

"But you have been texting me for a while."

Ava immediately blocked the number, as she was afraid of the stranger.

"I should not have replied to this boy in the first place," she said to herself.

Her parents and Stephen returned home late at night. She did not tell them anything. It was not that important that she should discuss it with her family.

The next day, when she went to her university, she talked about it with Abigail and Debra.

"What are you saying? Why did you block him?" Debra asked, shaking her head with disappointment.

"She did the right thing. What if it's someone bad? It could be the accounting department's Rocky or maybe Jasper from the management department," Abigail said, making ugly faces.

Ava let out a sigh as she looked at both of her friends.

"Guys, can you both just relax? I have already blocked him. So there is nothing to argue," she said to them and headed to her class.

"Okay, okay."

"We were just thinking about the facts,"

Abigail and Debra said, looking at Ava's back.

Ava turned her head toward them and chuckled while walking ahead. Her friends were really melodramatic.

As she was about to turn her head forward, she bumped into a hard chest.

A cold voice made her raise her head to look at the person.

"You changed your appearance, not your eyes. So watch your steps while walking."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 58[1,003 words]

58

The person was none other than Ian Dawson. He was looking at her indifferently.

Ava frowned at him and stepped aside. "I'm sorry."

Ian did not respond to her, as if she suddenly became invisible to him. She was perplexed by his behavior.

He was okay with her at her mother's wedding. Then what did she do to offend him? She recalled the time he hugged her. She felt a shiver around her spine just thinking about it. She realized she had taunted him by talking with Nova.

Was that why he was behaving cold with her again?

Ava shrugged her shoulders and walked past him.

'I don't care,' she thought, and she went to her class.

It was noon when she and her friends decided to go to the party together tonight.

"I can't believe your brother. He didn't even invite his father or your mom to the celebration party. It should be his father's party, not his," Debra said.

"He said it's a party for us. So he didn't invite Dad. I know even if he had invited Dad or Mom, they would not have come. In fact, they said Stephen did that for his own satisfaction. It's just like another party he threw," Ava replied.

"What can we expect from the power gang?" Abigail mumbled, glancing at Stephen's friends.

Ava turned her head in their direction. Her eyes fell on Ian, who was smoking while sitting in the trunk of his car. Her brother was also sitting with him. All of the boys were laughing about something.

Sometimes it felt terrible that they were the future of the pack. They were just a bunch of bad boys who did not have any rules or regulations. In fact, they liked to break laws. 1

Stephen gazed at Ava as he raised his brow as if asking her what had happened.

She shook her head as she thought her brother was an exception. He had a good side.

Ava walked to Abigail's car. Debra entered the backseat, while Abigail sat in the driver's seat. Ava occupied the passenger seat.

Abigail started the car as they decided to visit Ava's new home.

"I can't believe that I am going to visit Gamma's house," Debra exclaimed with excitement.

It was rumored that among all the officials, Gamma Harper was the richest man. So visiting his house was something like going to a palace.

Ava giggled at Debra's excitement. She glanced at Abigail, whose eyes were focused on the road.

"What are you thinking?" Ava asked her.

"Nothing much.

Ava's phone rang at that time. She checked her phone and saw Luke's message. "Are you coming tonight?"

Today Luke did not come to the university, so they could not talk about the party with him.

1/3

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"What if it's Luke who sent you a text from another profile" Abigail said it with a doubtful glance.

"Maybe. It's possible." Debra let out immediately.

Ava replied to Luke,

"Yes, I'm coming."

Then she turned to her friends and said,

"I don't know. But if it's Luke and he was joking with me, will unblock him."

After a while, they arrived at Ava's new house. The moment Abigail and Debra stepped inside, they were in awe.

"It's so beautiful!"

"I'm impressed."

They complimented the house as they looked around.

"And I'm surprised to see you both. What a pleasant surprise, my dear."

Ava's mother's voice reached their ears. They turned around and met Angela.

Angela gave Abigail and Debra a heartwarming hug. She was happy that Ava had some good friends.

Ava smiled at her mother. She was happy that she came back earlier today.

Three of them talked to Angela as they discussed how everything was going in the hospital.

"As you all know, we don't have witches in our pack. So we don't have a cure to heal most of the patients who have unknown diseases. But Alpha Martin said in the future he would ask them to send a few witches here from the coven of another pack."

Hearing Angela, Ava and her friends were stunned. Were they going to live with them at the same place? How would they live together?

When it was evening, Ava's friends instructed their drivers to take their clothes to her house.

But Ava stopped them and told them to try a few of her clothes since she had many new ones.

Abigail and Debra thought about it, but when they saw how nicely the designer dresses were arranged in Ava's closet, they agreed and tried some of them.

They decided on Ava's dress first. They said,

"It's your parents' celebration party, so it's our responsibility to get you ready first."

They picked out a violet, knee length sleeveless dress for her.

Ava put on the dress, and they helped her get ready.

When they were done with her makeup, they got ready themselves.

Ava looked at herself in the mirror and smiled. Her friends really did nice makeup.

She decided to let her hair down. She wore a pair of black heels and waited for her friends to finish their makeup. When they were done, three of them left the house, making their

way to the address where the party was going. It took them forty minutes to reach the place. Ava realized that it was a villa. It was one of the villas of Gamma

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Harper, which he only so used as his party place.

"Come on, girls. Let's blow boys' minds with our looks," Debra stated and entered the party along with others. As Ava moved through the crowd and passed the boys, she felt uneasy. They were almost touching her body by leaning towards her. She tried her best to ignore them and follow her friends.

Abigail stopped Debra and Ava as she saw Stephen.

"Do you want to meet your brother, the party host, first?"

Ava turned her head in that direction to look at her brother

Stephen waved at her. Ava smiled at him, but then her smile faded when her eyes shifted behind Stephen.

Ian was talking with a girl who was not Nova. That girl was sitting on his lap while hugging his neck.

He smirked at the girl. But when the girl said something in his ear, his head turned in Ava's direction and his gaze locked with hers.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 59[941 words]

59

Tan looked at Ava when the girl told him that Stephen's sister had come to the party.

He was completely blown away by Ava's stunning look. It was difficult for him to tear his eyes away from her because she had such an alluring appearance.

He saw Ava avert her eyes from him.

"lan," the girl called him when she noticed he was staring at Ava.

"Hmm?"

"Will you spend your night with me?" the girl asked seductively. She rubbed her hands against his abs over his half-sleeved black t-shirt.

lan felt nothing from her touches, not even from the way she was sitting on his lap. It was like his mind was somewhere else. Regardless of how hard he tried to divert his attention, his thoughts kept going back to a particular girl whom he had rejected.

"Let's see how much you can seduce me," he winked at her. A blush appeared on her face, and she started kissing his neck.

In spite of the fact that the girl was making an effort, lan's eyes were fixed on Ava.

As he observed her engaging in conversation with other people, she appeared to be in a lighthearted mood, as if she did not care about the fact that he was with another girl

His brows arched when he noticed a boy approaching her. He reached out and she shook hands with him, and then! she started talking to him as if they were already acquainted with one another.

"lan?"

The girl whispered in his ear, but he was not interested in what she had to say, nor did her sweet and seductive voice entice him. In fact, it annoyed him. He wrapped his hand around her waist and moved her away from him.

The girl was startled by his sudden action.

"I am so sorry. Did I offend you?"

"Leave," he muttered as he stood up from the couch. He was sitting in the lounge area all this time. But all of a sudden, his mood had spoiled suddenly. He was in need of a drink.

"But lan, I felt that we would have a conversation."

lan cocked his head in the direction of her. One look from him was all it took to silence her and prevent her from continuing.

"Go and find someone else. I have completely lost my mood" Saying that, lan headed to the bar.

Soon after he placed his order for a drink for himself, his attention was drawn back to Ava.

Ava and the boy were both laughing together. The boy kept saying something, leaning into her ear as if he were a joker and telling her new jokes.

The bartender placed a drink in front of Ian and said,

"Sir, your drink."

Ian reached for the glass and drank it down in one sitting. His eyes were intently staring at the boy with a glare.

1/3

****26 BONUS**

"I could feel a smell," Ian heard a voice say as someone came to join him in the bar

"Maybe you found your mate," he replied without turning his head to the person.

He did not need to turn to understand who the person was was his best friend, Ronald Solace.

"No, dude. It's a smell of burning," Ronald said, sniffing in the air. He moved his head towards Ian and took a whiff from his shirt.

"Got it! It's coming from you," Ronald let out and chuckled

"Fuck off."

"Come on. You know we have a connection, as we are going to have an Alpha-Beta relationship very soon. I can feel when you need me."

Ian turned to him and scoffed at him. "I can't remember summoning you."

"But I could feel it."

Ian rolled his eyes. "Yeah, sure. You can."

Ronald laughed and shook his head. He followed Ian's gaze and saw him looking in Ava's direction.

"Why is your gaze following her? Are you not here to distract your mind so you can regain your sanity?"

Ian looked away from Ava and replied,

"I'm not following anyone."

"Oh shit!"

Ronald said with a dissatisfied tone.

"What?" Ian asked.

"Look who's here."

Ian glanced at where Ronald was looking. His face turned fiercer.

"What is she doing here?" Ian inquired while looking at Nova, who had just entered the house to attend the party.

Ronald turned his gaze toward Stephen, and his mind linked to him.

"Didn't you say Nova was not invited? Then how did she come here?" Ronald asked Stephen.

Stephen turned around and found Nova approaching him.

"But I didn't invite her. I don't know how she got here," Stephen replied in the mind link.

He glanced at Ian, who was glaring at him. Stephen looked away from Ian right away. He was the one who assured Ian that he would not call Nova there. How would he now explain this to Ian?

Meanwhile,

Ava was busy talking with Luke's friend, She recognized him when he approached her. She had met him at Luke's party.

She did her best to avoid Ian. She had absolutely no desire to look at him at all.

"What can we expect from a playboy?" Abigail said this to Ava when she went to sit next to her after ending my

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conversation with Luke's friend.

"What are you both talking about?" she asked Abigail and Debra.

"We are talking about Ian Dawson. He has a girlfriend, but he is still roaming around with another girl. I bet he will sleep with her tonight," Debra said.

Ava looked at Ian and noticed him looking somewhere. At the time, she followed his gaze and saw Nova conversing with Stephen.

"She almost caught him red-handed," Abigail muttered.

"No, I think she told him she was coming. So he let go of the previous girl and went to have a drink to show his girlfriend how loyal he is." Debra made a point in the conversation. 1

Ava did not pay any attention to what they were saying and instead said,

"Whatever, I don't care."

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 60[953 words]

Ava told them to ignore Ian and enjoy the party. She tried to have conversations with new people as her mother told her to be social. She just wanted to give it a try.

Ava and her friends were waiting for Luke. As soon as Ava called him, he

informed her that he was unable to make it there because of something that had occurred.

"It's okay, Luke," Ava said.

"No, I am so sorry, Ava. It was your mother's wedding celebration party, and I could not come."

"Don't be concerned, Luke. It's just a simple party, like others. Mom is not here anyway. And we can meet tomorrow too."

She tried to comfort him so that he would not feel bad. She knew there might be something coming up, and that was why Luke could not come. Otherwise, he never missed parties.

After talking with Luke, she turned to Abigail and Debra.

"So he is not coming?" Abigail asked.

"No."

"Then why did he desperately message you about it?" Debra asked, folding her arms.

"Maybe he has work to do," Ava replied, as she also believed that the stranger who was texting her yesterday was Luke.

Half an hour later, Nova approached Ava with her friends. She looked at her dress with her sharp eyes, and then she turned her attention back to her face in the dress.

"Hello, Ava. How are you?" She asked Ava with a grin on her face.

Ava felt something was fishy, but she gave her a smile in return and told her that she was good.

"Let's play a game. What do you say? We should enjoy the party fully."

Nova requested that Ava and her friends join her in a game. She almost urged them to go with her to play something.

"No. We are okay here."

"Oh, please. Don't tell me you are afraid of dares."

In the beginning, Ava was not interested in joining; however, after Nova told her that she considered her to be a coward, she decided to join it despite her initial reluctance.

When she looked over at her friends, they gave her a slight nod of their heads. "Okay, let's play," Ava said to Nova.

Nova grinned at them and nodded her head. She led them to the launch area. Ava observed a large number of young boys and girls lounging on the couches. She recognized that they all

belonged to wealthy families and had a good reputation at their university for their parents. She gave a slight shake of her head, thinking that the only things that people valued were power and money.

Agirl came with a bowl.

1/3

+25 BONU

"Let me explain first. The music will play and stop, but between the durations, we have to pass the ball to the next person. In the moment that the music stops, the person who is holding that bowl will be required to select a chit and then play the dare that is written on the chit.

Stephen and his other friends came to join them as well. Iar rejected their invitation to join them and went in a different direction.

As everyone became more excited, they began to pass the bowl around. The music stopped, and the person who was holding the bowl put his hand into it and took out a chit.

"Dance for one minute like crazy," the boy said after reading the chit.

He had no other option but to accept the dare. When he was doing that, the game started once again.

When it was Ava's turn, she thought she would have to drink something or dance, but she was shocked when she saw what was written inside the chit.

"You have to lock yourself inside a dark room for five minutes!"

She gulped as she looked at the others. Stephen raised his brow to know if she was okay with it. She could not shake her head in front of others.

She saw Nova smirking at her as if she knew about her fear,

"I think I was the one who should do the dare. The bowl was almost in the middle of us." Abigail spoke out to save

Ava.

Debra nodded her head to agree with her. They were her friends, and they knew about her problems.

"Why are you all so worried for her? She is not a kid. Come on. It's just a few minutes! It's not that she had never shifted in the dark and run in the forest. Who

is afraid of darkness nowadays? No one," Nova said while looking at

Ava's friends.

Ava took a deep breath and got to her feet.

"Wait a minute, Ava. Are you sure? You can skip it if you want," Stephen said,

trying to understand the look on her face.

Ava shook her head and replied,

"I am in."

Everyone cheered for her. One of the boys walked her to a dark room that was a little far from them and then opened the door for her.

She glanced inside and saw the darkness inside. Her heart began to beat faster in fear. However, she could not bear the thought of Nova labeling her a loser, so she had to take action.

"Your phone," the boy said.

Ava handed it to him and stepped inside the room.

When the boy shut the door from outside, she gasped.

In the dark room, she was feeling like she would die.

She started to take deep breaths. At that moment, she heard the sound of

footsteps emanating from the opposite side of the room.

She could not see anything and asked,

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"W-Who is here?"

No one answered her question, which made her feel scared inside.

"Who?" she asked again, stepping forward.

Her body bumped into a hard chest, and she almost fell down. But a hand wrapped around her waist and kept her from falling.

The strong arm gave her shivers.

It came as a complete surprise to her when the person held lighter in front of her face and lit it, revealing his face to her.

"lan?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 61[982 words]

61

Ava was shocked to see lan in the room. His face was illuminated by the flame, exposing his handsome face. Even from a modest distance, he appeared to be very good-looking. She almost lost herself looking at him.

However, what he had done to her could not leave her mind. He was her ex- mate, the boy who insulted her in the whole university.

"What are you doing here?" she asked after clearing her throat.

But lan did not reply to her. His eyes were on her and his hand was wrapping around her waist like a stone, which she could not move.

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She looked into his eyes and saw something unfamiliar.

Her gaze shifted to the flame of the lighter, which was the only thing separating their faces. th was the only thing separating their faces.

She gulped when his hand moved a little, causing the flame to move with the sync.

She returned her gaze to him. He was still staring at her.

What did he want?

She pushed his arm from her waist and said,

"Move."

The moment he moved back, the flame of the lighter blew away.

Once again, the room returned to its darkness. She took a deep breath when everything turned black in front of her eyes.

"W-Why did you-"

Ian cut her off and asked,

"Why did you come into this room if you are so afraid of the dark?"

His calm tone suddenly relaxed her inside. She took steps back until her back touched a wall.

She did not want to reply to this boy, thinking that he was making fun of her fear. She folded her arms and closed her eyes. She rested her head against the wall without giving him any reply.

'Keep calm, Ava. Five minutes will pass soon,' she told herself.

After a few seconds, she felt someone getting closer to her. She immediately opened her eyes, only to meet the darkness again.

However, she felt a warm breath on her cheek. She lifted her hand and felt the hard chest, which was almost pressing against her body.

"You haven't replied to me yet, Nerd." She heard Ian's whispering tone.

She was stunned that he had found her in the dark. She realized that it was a small room.

"Didn't I tell you to move away?" she said, pressing her hands on his hand.

At that time, he lit the lighter again.

As she tried to push him away, her hands paused. She looked into his eyes, which appeared to be strange.

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She had never seen him look at her like that.

Her lips parted when she felt him stroking her bare arm with his other hand.

His eyes focused on her reaction. As if he were enjoying it, he moved his hand, which was holding the lighter, and tilted his head toward her ear.

"I can see that you can't resist my touch. Then why are you even trying it?"

She blinked her eyes, at his seductive tone.

She tried to push him, but he stopped her by speaking again

"Are you afraid of me more than the darkness?"

When he moved his head to look at her face, she replied,

"What do you want, Ian?"

His hand moved from her arm to her face. She was surprised by his actions. "What are you-"

"Ssh!"

He moved his hand, pressing his finger against her lips. Her heartbeat began to race when he leaned his face close to her.

"Why do you question so much?" he muttered as his nose brushed against hers.

Ava felt a thump in her throat. The closeness was making her weak.

On the other hand, her wolf began to react inside, just like before. She was worried about why her wolf always moved only when Ian was closer to her.

Could she not accept the rejection? Was that because her wolf was still unable to get over it?

Her mind froze when she noticed Ian looking at her lips.

Before she could react, the flame of the lighter turned off.

She immediately clutched his shirt tightly.

"It's okay. I am here with you. Just relax."

His voice almost soothed her.

She felt him move his head, which caused her to shut her eyes tightly.

He did not light the lighter again and put it into his pocket.

- After getting closer to her, he pressed his body against hers.

Ava let out a gasp But the next moment, she moaned,

"Ahh!"

It was because she felt a pair of soft lips touch her neck. When they brushed against her skin, she felt a sensation that was electrifying.

"I-lan..."

2/3

She had no idea how he always came closer to her. After everything that had occurred between them, they ought to continue to behave as if they were strangers.

But this boy had other intentions.

He did not reply to her as he began to kiss her neck, making her lose her mind. His strong arms slowly wrapped around her waist, pressing her against him even more.

It was as if her moan made him crazy, and he wanted to get close to her as much as he could.

Ava did not know how to push him when he was making her feel like this.

With a slow and deliberate motion, his tongue rubbed against her skin, as if she were sweet, and he desired to taste it. t

She could not help but moan again. She had never been this close to anyone except him. He was the one who took her first kiss away from her and touched her like that. So after getting closer to him again, she felt the familiar feelings.

But suddenly, the truth struck her, bringing her back to reality.

Ian had a girlfriend, and not only that, he was with another girl a while ago.

How could she let him come close to her? He was just using her for a while like the night he kissed her at the club.

Almost immediately, Ava pushed Ian with all of her strength.

Ian's body moved away from hers. She could not see his reaction. So she said,

"Don't you dare touch me again. You are a dirty guy. I am not one of your puppets, Ian Dawson."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 62[1,001 words]

Tan was taken aback by Ava's outburst. Though, because of the darkness, he could not see her face, he could imagine how she was looking mad at him.

The reason he came here was to get some peace of mind before she entered the room. But he realized that someone had destroyed the switch box and broken many things inside the room.

When he was about to leave the room, he heard footsteps coming from outside. When the door opened, he saw Ava and another boy.

He was clueless as to why she had come to the room.

For one moment, he assumed she was with the boy. But when the boy asked her to hand over her phone, and then he locked her in the room from outside, he got what happened.

It could be a silly dare.

He could feel that Ava was scared by her loud heartbeats.

When she realized his presence and got more scared, he lit his lighter to ease her fear.

However, the moment he saw her face, he was lost. He was mad at himself for staring at her for so long. Though she asked him questions, he could not reply to her.

When he pressed his body against hers, he felt himself jolted inside, which he had not felt with any other girl before.

There was an excitement that began to run inside, which he could not identify.

He barely came to the party to divert his attention away from this girl, but she once again distracted him from other people.

He could not stop himself from kissing her neck.

When he rolled his tongue on her neck, he had an urge to lick her whole body without leaving any part untouched.

He felt himself hard, and it was difficult for him to control himself.

However, she pushed him harshly and said,

"Don't you dare touch me again. You are a dirty guy. I am not one of your puppets, Ian Dawson."

He was stunned by her statements.

Did he want her to be his puppet? But she was the one who was playing with his mind. He had never felt so desperate for any girl before.

All this time, he had no such thought for her. But what she had just said was not true. Her harsh toneward him really enraged him.

"Did you just call me dirty?" Ian asked with gritting teeth.

"The boy who can't be loyal to his girlfriend and roams around with other girls is a dirty man. How could you even think that I would be one of the girls who is a play toy for your desire?" Ava said it loudly.

Han furrowed his brows, which she could not see. He tightened his fists in anger at her words.

She did not stop and spoke again,

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"We are no longer mates. I am now your pack's gamma's daughter and your friend's sister. I don't know if I can expect this from you but don't do something that can ruin many good relationships. It would be better if you focused on your own life and allowed me to do mine."

Ian was about to reply that he did not want to ruin anything either. But before that, the door to the room opened.

Almost instantly, the light that was coming from the outside entered the room that was completely dark, allowing it to shine slightly.

Ian and Ava both turned their heads to have a look at the door.

The boy who had left Ava in the room appeared. His eyes widened when he noticed Ian was also there.

"lan?" he muttered.

lan ignored the boy and turned his head back to Ava. His eyes froze at her appearance.

He noticed the sweat on her neck. There was no power in the room, so it was extremely hot. Maybe that was the reason she was sweating. There were a few strands of hair that were on her face, and she appeared alluring in that

state.

His anger began to subside as he continued to stare at her.

Ava averted her gaze from the boy and looked at him.

"I think we are clear. I have moved on. I am no longer the Ava you can humiliate

or think to use anytime you want. I have my voice, and if you try to bother me again, I will fight back."

lan was shocked by her sudden confidence. Even a few days ago, in the library, she seemed nervous around him. What had happened to give her such a strong stance against him?

Everything was fine with him until she mumbled in a low voice.

"A person like you may be good in bed, which is why girls always wander around you. But you can never be a faithful lover. No woman will love you for who you are. Continue like this until you see how your life will become chaotic. You don't deserve a faithful woman, either." 2

After saying that, she turned and made her way to the door. She walked past the boy who was standing at the door and left the room.

lan was staring at the spot where Ava was standing a few seconds ago. He clenched his jaw tightly. When he turned his head to the door and saw the boy staring at him in a frozen state, he glared at him.

"What are you looking at?" he yelled at him.

"N-Nothing, I-lan."

"Go back and don't dare to tell anyone that I was here with her. I will kill you if you open your mouth."

The boy gulped and quickly nodded his head. "O-Okay."

The fear rose inside the boy's heart as he offended the leader of the Power Gang. He rushed out of the room, huffing as if he had saved his life,

Meanwhile,

Yan punched the wall in anger. He could not take such humiliations. Not a single person had ever dared to talk to him like that. Given his connection to his parents, he only granted them that right.

However, the way Ava spoke to him was extremely disrespectful. He was becoming increasingly frustrated with

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himself for even looking at that girl, despite the fact that h

"Fuck! Why did I even go so close to her? I should have I

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 63[1,086 words]

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TAD BONUS

After some time had passed, Ian exited the room. Nova and her friends were so preoccupied with the game that they did not notice him because the room was far in distance and they were so focused on the game. But he did not go unnoticed by his friends.

Stephen frowned when he glanced at him. He was about to follow him, but the music stopped when the bowl was in his grasp.

But he did not care about the game. He had noticed Ava walking in a different direction after leaving the room. No one went inside the room after her and the boy they had sent. So, how had Ian suddenly appeared in the room?

He got up from the couch and said,

"I'm done here.

"But it's your turn."

He heard a voice and turned his head to the person who had just spoken. It was Debra, Ava's friend.

"Where is Ava?" he asked.

"She went to the washroom. She texted us a minute ago," she replied.

He nodded his head, forgetting her question.

Nova looked at him with doubtful eyes and asked, "Where are you going? Don't worry about Ava. She is a mature girl, you know."

Stephen did not like Nova. First, she arrived at his party without an invitation, and when he asked her about it when she entered the house, she explained that she had come with one of her friends.

Stephen knew Nova did not like Ava, and that was why she was pushing Ava to do the dare. He had tried to stop Ava, but she had chosen to do so, and he did not want to be the brother who stopped his sister from doing anything.

"Think about yourself first. Where was your boyfriend? Why are you alone here? Didn't you tell me that you came here for him? It doesn't look like it. You are more focused on my sister than your own boyfriend."

The boys and girls, including Ava's friends, were stunned by Stephen's cold tone.

"Stephen, you know you can't talk to me like that. Your sister has already left the game. Are you afraid that she lost her sanity because she was scared of darkness? Does she suffer from claustrophobia? Is that the case? Has something happened to her? What makes you so protective of her?" Nova said, rising to her feet.

Both of Ava's friends stood up as well, ready to defend Ava in her absence.

However, before they could say anything to Nova, Stephen walked to her and muttered in

"Don't mess up with my sister again."

He turned to look at the others on the couches and warned them,
anger.

"If any of you try to bother her again, I will shred your body and feed it to the rogues. She is my family now. And you know Gammas don't like it when anyone hurts any of their family members. If they can protect their pack, they can protect their families as well."

Everyone was scared by his anger. Gammas had a high body temperature. They were fighters, and they were only loyal to their Alphas. Other than their head Alpha, they could hurt anyone who tried to offend them.

Ava's friends were in awe. The way Stephen defended Ava and protected her even though she was not here, they were impressed.

When Stephen returned his gaze to Nova and glared at her, she began to cry.

Her eyes shifted to Ian, who was standing in a corner with Ronald. He paid no attention to whatever was happening there.

She rushed to him and hugged Ian from behind.

"Baby, please save me from your friend. He is bullying me

Ian grabbed her arms and wrapped them around his body. He turned around and looked at her.

"What happened?" he asked her.

He was clearly not looking okay. His brows arched as if he were furious.

"S-Stephen, he was insulting me in front of others."

Ian moved his gaze away from her and looked at Stephen, who was standing a little far from them.

Stephen rolled his eyes and replied,

"Tell your girlfriend to know her limits and stay away from my sister. I don't like her, and I believe my sister doesn't like her either," Stephen stated.

Stephen concluded that Nova used the chits to plot against Ava and send her to the dark room. He was aware of Ava's past, which included losing her father. So he knew why she had problems with the dark. He did not want her to get hurt by anyone.

Ian parted his lips to say that he did not care even if Stephen scolded Nova. But when he noticed Ava was walking in their direction to enter the room, he changed his mind and said,

"Steph, you should have stopped your sister in the first place. If she is so afraid of the dark, why did she agree to do the dare? Perhaps she is too much of herself after becoming your sister."

His eyes focused on Ava while he said that. He could see Ava furrowing at him. His eyes suddenly moved to her neck, and he looked away from her. He left no hickeys in her neck, but the sensation of touching her lingered in his mind.

He shut his eyes when he felt the urge to hold her in his arms again.

"lan, you need to discipline your girlfriend before talking about my sister," Stephen said with a little angry tone.

"I love you, lan. You are the best boyfriend. I knew you would never disappoint me," Nova said and hugged lan, trying to make lan ignore Stephen's words.

lan glanced at Ava to see her reaction. His brows lifted when he saw her roll her eyes and walk up to Stephen was as if she did not care if any girl hugged him. Then why did he feel wrong whenever a boy got close to her?

"lan? Let's leave. Don't fight with Stephen for me. We are all royals. I know you love me, but he is your future gamma," Nova said as if she were not the one who had complained to lan about Stephen a while ago.

Ava was the focus of lan's attention.

Ava sat on a couch and said,

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"Come on, guys. Let's continue the game. I am totally fine. Nothing matters to me anyway."

Tan tightened his fists at her ignorant behavior.

"lan?"

He heard Nova's voice, and he realized that she was still hugging hhn.

He grabbed her hand and walked out of the house.

"What happened, lan?" she asked with a worried fook.

lan looked at her and replied,

"Nova, you know that I don't love you. I don't see a future in this relationship. So

I'm breaking up with you. We are over."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 64[1,044 words]

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Nova's eyes widened in shock. Her lips began to tremble. "Ian, what are you saying?"

Ian let out a deep breath when he noticed how she was looking broken. It was not that he had any soft spots for her, but she was the beta's daughter. He did not want to mess with any official's family before inheriting the throne.

He was not interested in leading the pack in the future. But as the only heir, he was responsible for the pack.

His great-grandfather won the Mystic Shadow Pack several decades ago. Following that, his family continued to run the pack, fulfilling all of their responsibilities and carefully protecting the pack members. They never disappointed any of the members and always made the best decisions for them.

His father, Alpha Martin, was one of the most powerful Alphas in their pack's history. It was the reason why people had higher hopes for Ian.

Because Ian would have to maintain the pack like him, Alpha Martin behaved strictly with him. He always tried to discipline him. However, his son turned into a troublemaker whom no one could tempt.

"Listen, Nova. Don't force me to do something that I don't want. I am Ian Dawson. You can't blackmail me. You may think you trapped me that night. But it was my decision to make you my girlfriend. My parents wanted a girl, and I thought you matched their preferences. But I don't want to listen to them anymore. I will live as I want. No one can order me around."

Nova took a step back when she heard Ian. She could see rage in his eyes.

She could not help but wonder what had caused him to be so angry.

She grabbed his hand and rubbed the back of it gently.

"Ian, are you mad that I complained about Stephen? I am sorry. I will never argue with any of your friends. Please forgive me."

Ian shook his head. "Why can't you just leave me alone? How many times have I told you that I have no interest in you?"

She frowned at him and leaned close to him. She placed her hand on his chest, moving it down to rub his abs. She was attempting to seduce him, assuming that he wanted to have sex with a girl to relieve his stress, so why not seize the opportunity?

Ian yanked his hand away from her grip, pushing her away from his body.

"It doesn't suit a beta's daughter. Stop fooling around and maintain your father's reputation."

He turned around to head to his car.

Nova rushed behind him and held his hand once again.

"Please, Ian. Don't break up with me. If you do, I will kill myself." 1

Ian tightened his fists and turned his head at her. His stern look made her lose her grip. She felt a shiver in her spine from his glare.

He grabbed her jaw, causing her to hiss with pain.

"Did you just try to blackmail me again? Have you forgotten who I am?"

She began to tear up as she patted his hand in fear of breaking her jaw.

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"I am the most beautiful girl on campus, even in the whole pack. People call me this pack's princess. Why are you breaking up with me? What I don't have?"

He released her jaw and said, "Your beauty has never piqued my interest. And you are talking about beauty?"

He sneered after saying that. But then his eyes turned darker, and he muttered in a cold tone,

"Girls that are more beautiful than you used to warm my bed. That doesn't mean I will make them Beauty does not last forever, you know."

my girlfriend.

She parted her lips as a gasp came out of her mouth. She was adamant about not letting him leave her.

"Your parents know that I am your girlfriend. They will never accept this breakup."

He raised a brow and asked, "Do you think anyone can stop me from getting what I want?"

She retreated a few steps in her steps. Ian took notice of her expression of disbelief. He unlocked his car and walked to the door. He opened the door and gazed at her.

He smirked at her and said,

"Don't try to spread false rumors on campus about me. I don't know when I will lose my mind. Have a good night. You are free from now on. Find a good boy and settle with him."

After saying that, he got in his car and drove away.

Nova stared at the car until it left the area. She stomped her feet on the ground in anger.

"How can you just leave me? I have been trying to get you for a long time. What made you break up with me, Ian? I will find out about it and get what I want back. I promise you that."

Meanwhile,

Ian's smirk vanished as soon as he started driving. His cold eyes were focused on the road.

His tattooed hand was rotating the whirling wheel. His fingers were clenching it firmly.

He was not thinking about the conversation with Nova.

Instead of thinking about his breakup, his mind was full of Ava.

The way she talked to him and said those things, he felt strange in his heart. Her words stabbed him in the heart, and he had no idea why.

He despised it because no girl had ever spoken to him in that way.

When he pulled over the car in the pack house, he went inside.

As soon as he entered, his steps halted.

He noticed his father was sitting on the big couch with his mother.

He ignored them and decided to go to his room. But his father's voice stopped him.

"Why did you break up with her?"

Ian sighed as he realized Nova had already told her father, and he had also informed his father.

He turned around and walked towards his parents. They stood up, looking at him.

"Ivan, you mentioned being with her back then."

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"Mom, I can't be with her. I don't like her anymore. Just don't force me."

Alpha Martin got enraged by his statement. He moved towards Ian and grabbed his collar.

"Listen to me, Brat. You can't always follow your desires."

Ian shifted his focus and met his father's eyes.

He reached for his hand and removed it from his collar.

"Alpha Martin, just because I am your son does not give you the authority to control my private life. I will date whoever I want and break up as well."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 65[1,007 words]

Alpha Martin stared at his hand, which Ian had just removed from his collar.

"Ivan, what's wrong with you? Is this how you will speak and act with your father?" Carolina said, scolding him. "If my dad doesn't know how to be a dad, forget about my manners then. I am not anyone's slave."

After saying that, he turned to face the staircase. He then made his way there.

"You! Now you are going to talk over your dad? This is how I raised you." Alpha Martin said it from behind. His eyes turned red with rage.

Carolina held Martin's hand.

"Martin."

Alpha Martin snatched his hand from his wife's grip and kicked on the table close to the couch.

"How dare he behave like that? Tell him that he is grounded for a week. I will stop everything that allows him to live a luxurious life. What does he think about himself? A bad boy who can do anything he wants? Is this how he plans to lead this pack?"

Ian's steps came to a halt. But he did not turn to his father. He was not such a kid that his father could ground him for a week. When his father said grounded, he meant that he would close all of Ian's bank cards, as well as his expensive cars and bike. Without money and cars, there would be no lavish lifestyle.

"Ian, apologize to your dad right now," Carolina said, walking toward him.

Jan turned around and looked at his parents. His father was glaring at him, while his mother was pleading with her eyes.

His gaze shifted to the broken table that his father had just kicked in anger.

"If you think I obeyed you all these times because of your money, you are mistaken. I am the master of my own life. I obeyed you because you are my parents, and you have no other heir but me. Otherwise, I am not interested in living this disciplined life where I have to answer questions about whether I slept with a girl, give penalties for a car race, or listen to complaints about my lifestyle. This is who I am. Take it or leave it."

Ian turned around and headed upstairs to his room.

When he closed the door, he took off his T-shirt and threw it on the floor, furious.

He walked to the bed and collapsed on it. His back pressed against the mattress, and he closed his eyes.

He rubbed his forehead before opening his eyes.

His gaze was fixated on the ceiling. He thought about only one person, and that was Ava."

Before he discovered her as his mate, everything was okay. He did not even notice her like that. However, after rejecting her, she began affecting her.

All of a sudden, He sat up. He was not feeling well today.

Did he drink too much?

He had a sudden urge to shift and go for a run. But he had just argued with Stephen at the party. How could he tell

him and others to go for a run with him? They all liked to run together.

The night passed and he did not go out of his house.

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In the morning,

Ian walked out of his bedroom with a gloomy face.

While descending the stairs, he noticed Nova's father heading in the dining room with his parents.

Since he was the pack's beta, he most of the time remained with his father and mother.

"Ian, good morning, son," Nova's father said.

Ian gave him a nod and looked away.

"Ian, have breakfast with us," Carolina said.

Before Ian could say no to her, his father spoke out.

"Why are you calling him? He should go and find food for himself."

"Martin, you scolded him a lot last night. At least let him have breakfast."

Martin did not reply and made his way to the dining room. Beta followed him after casting a last glance at Ian.

"Man, you know what your dad wants. He wants you to be a good boy. Why don't you just leave this carefree lifestyle and start being responsible? You are not a kid anymore. We thought about handing over the throne to you in a year. How will you handle everything like this? What about our pack? How will we live if our head Alpha lives like this?"

Ian's gaze met the floor as he stared at it while listening to his mother.

"Ian."

His mother walked toward him and held his arm.

"Your dad wants you to settle up with someone who will stand beside you, someone who can carry our pack with you. Since you haven't found your mate, that means you need to get a chosen mate."

Ian shrugged his shoulders and replied,

"I don't want to talk about this. I was clear to both of you last night."

His mother sighed as she realized that no one could make this boy understand anything.

"Then let's go to have breakfast together."

"No, thanks, mom. I am not hungry."

Ian gently removed her mother's hand from his arm and walked out of the house.

He noticed his car was not outside. He understood that his father had instructed the guards to lock the car in the parking lot.

When he glanced at the guards, they bowed their heads, avoiding eye contact with him.

He was considering taking a bus to get to the university, so he made his way to the bus stop which was far from his house.

After getting there, he boarded a bus and sat next to the window.

At each and every stop, a large number of passengers boarded the bus and exited it as well,

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Ian did not care because his gaze was fixed outside the window until, all of a sudden, he noticed a girl at a stop.

He sat up straight. He saw her get up to catch the bus.

She stepped onto the bus and walked to the second-last seat. Ian's eyes followed her, but she did not notice him.

When she sat on the seat, he looked away from her.

She was none other than Ava, his ex-mate who he decided to avoid.

He murmured to himself with a confused expression,
respon,

"Gamma Harper has a number of cars. Why didn't she take one to use? What is she doing on the bus?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 66[959 words]

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Just as he thought he should not care about her, he saw a boy looking in Ava's direction.

"David, are you going to sit or not?" Another boy beside the boy asked him.

'David?' Ian thought.

He had heard the name somewhere before. He raised a brow as if he realized something. That boy and his friends were from his university.

However, Ian wondered why those boys took a bus since every kid there was rich.

He shrugged his shoulders and looked out the window. His ears perked up as he heard what David told his friends. "No, I am going to sit there," David replied.

Ian turned his head to look at him once again. He saw the boy pointing his finger in Ava's direction.

As the bus started moving, the David guy moved forward.

But as soon as he took steps closer to the empty seat next to Ava, he felt a leg and almost tripped on the bus.

Ian got up from his seat and said,

"Uppss, you nearly fell on your nose. I am kind enough to let you sit here. I can take the seat you are aiming for anyway."

David was stunned to see that Ian Dawson was on the bus.

"Ian?" he murmured in shock.

His friends immediately composed after hearing David and saw that he was right. Ian was there.

Ian signaled David toward his seat.

"Shut up and sit down there."

David gulped and hurriedly took the seat that Ian had previously taken.

Ian patted his shoulder and said,

"I believe you are in your sophomore year. I just want to tell you..."

He paused for a moment, then turned his head to glance at Ava, who was looking outside the window. She was a little far from them, so she did not notice what was happening there.

"Don't try to get something you can't afford," Ian said, standing straight.

David immediately lowered his head, thinking that Ian would bully him. He wondered how he had offended this bad boy.

Ian gazed at David's friends, who were capable of understanding what Ian was talking about.

Ian turned around and made his way to the seat next to Ava

When he sat beside her, she turned her head to look at him.

Her calm face turned bitter almost immediately.

"You!"

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Ian rolled his eyes and looked away from her.

"What's so surprising?" he asked.

She shook her head and muttered,

"I can't just believe it. Even after telling you so much last night, you came to sit beside me."

His head twisted to face her face.

"Excuse me? What do you think of yourself? I didn't come for you. Can you see the guy over there?" He pointed his finger at his previous seat, where David was sitting.

Ava moved his head slightly to follow his finger. She then took a look at David.

Ian noticed her getting close to him. He noticed her long eyelashes that flickered.

Her brows arched as if she were not pleased.

"What is there?" she asked with an angry tone.

"I gave my seat to David," he replied.

Ava moved back and gave him a disapproving look. She parted her lips, as if to say something, but then turned her head to the window, completely ignoring him.

Ian leaned back against his seat, staring at Ava.

He was too arrogant to strike up a conversation. He could not figure out why he kept running into her.

After a while, Ava glanced at him. She quickly averted her gaze away from him.

"Why are you here on the bus? You can go to the university with one of your dad's cars. He has many, if you don't know," Ian said as he finally broke the silence.

He let go of his ego and thought about talking to her. He could not forget what had happened last night. Instead of her harsh words, he remembered the closeness between them.

The way his hands roamed on her body, he could not forget the feeling of getting close to her.

"It's none of your business," she replied.

He noticed he was not making eye contact with him anymore, as though she was avoiding his eyes.

He smirked and leaned close to her ear.

"Are you afraid of me?"

She immediately got up from her seat.

He was stunned. "Where are you going?" he asked.

She gazed at him and replied,

"I am not going to sit with you anymore."

He also got up, blocking her way to get out of their seats.

"But every seat is taken," he said.

She glanced around and realized that he was right.

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"Leave," she said, pushing his chest to move him, and then she made her way to the door.

He frowned and followed her. He saw her pressing the button to stop the bus.

"I am getting down here," she said to the driver.

The driver pulled over in a corner. She hurriedly paid and stepped off the bus.

Ian tried to follow her, so he hurriedly took out his card to pay.

However, his card was blocked.

"Fuck!"

He groaned as he realized his father had already cut off his access to everything.

He noticed he had no cash in his wallet.

"Please hurry up, buddy. The passengers are getting late for their destinations," the driver said.

Ian glanced at Ava, who was walking far from the bus.

His eyes roamed around in the bus, and he found David and his friends.

"Hey, you. Come here," he said.

One of them hurriedly came to him.

"Yes?"

Ian turned to the driver and said,

"He will pay for me."

After saying that, he got off the bus and rushed behind Ava.

David and his friends were shocked.

"Ian Dawson, the son of the future Alpha, is not only on a bus but also out of money!"

They muttered to each other.

It was really surprising to them. They glanced at Ian through the window and saw that he was trailing behind Ava.

They were confused as they glanced at each other.

The bus started again, blurring their sight as it moved ahead faster.

On the other hand,

Ian slowed down his pace and said,

"Ava, wait."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 67[991 words]

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Ava listened to Ian's voice, and her steps halted.

She frowned when she realized that he was following her.

But why?

Last night, she was really upset with herself. But then she tried to handle herself, saying that she had warned Ian enough.

However, today she met Ian again. She would be lying if she said she was not surprised to see Ian on the bus.

She had been riding buses for a long time, but she had never seen Ian, even though her route was a few stops later than his house.

Today she wanted to take a bus, though her parents said to take one car with her. She just wanted to go back to her old life for a while, where no one knew her and she could live carelessly.

But now, everyone was aware of her identity as the Gamma's new daughter, and people liked to gossip about her a lot.

"Why did you get off the bus?"

She heard Ian again. She turned around and looked at him.

"Are you following me?"

Ian walked toward her, which caused her to take a step back.

He noticed her reaction and said,

"Why so scared? I haven't done anything to you yet," he muttered, smirking at her.

Her brows lifted in shock. His words made her feel nervous. It reminded her of what he did to her last night.

Just thinking about the way he got closer and kissed her neck last night, she felt a shiver in her body.

"Stop following me," she said, turning back to him and walking to the direction she was going before.

The reason she left the bus was because she did not want to be in the same bus with him.

But it was a bad morning for her since Ian Dawson had decided not to leave her side and kept bothering her.

"Where are you heading?" he asked, walking beside her.

Ava chose to ignore him. She had no interest in talking to him.

After walking for a while, she found the bus stop close to her and went to sit on a bench.

When Ian sat down beside him, she took a deep breath.

She looked at him furiously and asked,

"What do you want?"

He folded his arms and replied,

"I guess you are flying higher. Don't think yourself superior just because you are now Stephen's sister, okay?"

He sounded a little bit angry, as if he were mad because she continuously ignored him and his words.

1/3

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"Excuse me?"

"No, you are not excused," he replied with a bored grin.

Ava rolled her eyes in response.

"Talking to this boy means talking to a wall. How can a boy be so sitameless? He has a girlfriend, so many flings, and now he has come after me," she said in a low tone to herself.

However,

Ian heard her clearly. He clenched his jaw. He did not come here to hear her say these words.

He looked away from Ava and realized what he was doing. 'Why did I do that? I shouldn't have come here,' he thought.

He was about to stand up when he heard Ava's phone ringing.

Ava took out her phone from the bag and saw it was Luke's call.

She hurriedly received the call.

"Luke!"

"Where are you, Ava?" Luke asked her the moment she placed the phone close to her ear.

"I am waiting for the bus," she replied.

"Bus? But why?"

"I wanted to take a bus today. You know it has become my habitual fact."

Ava paid attention to Luke's words as she kept talking to him.

oo

What she had not noticed was how the boy next to her was looking at her.

"I was wondering if we could go for coffee today," Luke asked.

Ava thought for a moment before asking,

"Go for coffee?"

Ava heard the sound of something clicking. She turned her head to see Ian lighting a cigarette.

She frowned at him. "What are you doing?"

He took a long puff of the smoke and blew it out of his mouth while looking at her. But he did not reply to her.

"I am waiting for you on campus. You know you are late today, right?" Luke's voice reached her ear, bringing her attention back to him.

Luke thought she was asking the question to him.

"I will be there soon," Ava replied, coughing slightly because of the smoke.

"Are you okay?" Luke asked with a worried tone.

"Yeah, I am alright, Luke. See you on campus."

After saying that, Ava cut the call and got up from the seat.

2/3

67

!

She ignored lan and walked forward in order to get a cab since there was no sign of buses there.

"You seem really close to that guy."

She heard lan's voice. Now it was her turn to ignore him and his questions.

Why would he want to know if she was close to anyone?

lan stood up and walked towards her, seemingly irritated by her ignorant behavior.

She avoided looking at him and raised her hand to hail a cab

However, a hand grasped her wrist and turned her around.

Ava's body pressed against lan's chest, causing her to let out a gasp.

"Stop roaming around with that Luke guy. I don't like him.

Ava was taken aback by his actions and his words. Her brow furrowed in puzzlement as to why he had said that to her. Her expression quickly changed to one of rage.

"You are not going to tell me who I should roam around with."

lan noticed her angry face. As if he was enjoying her anger, he said,

"Oh, really?"

"Yeah. You are no one to tell me what I should do," Ava said, pushing him away.

But he drew her close to him again. "Who am I to you? I am your future Alpha, dear. You are living in my pack."

Her lips parted as she saw how he was smirking at her. She gritted her teeth and muttered,

"Then, before you become the head of Alpha, I will leave this pack. But I will not let you ruin my life, even though you have already done enough."

The curve of his lips deepened as he tilted his head. She shut her eyes tightly when his face moved closer.

His nose brushed her ear, and he muttered,

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 68[959 words]

68

Ava's eyes flung open, and she pushed lan hard on his chest

"What's wrong with you? Why can't you just let me live?" she asked with a disbelieving look.

lan appeared to be stunned. He did not expect her to push him that hard. He raised his hand to smoke the

cigarette, which he was still hold his fingers.

"You called me dirty last night. How can I let you go so easily, nerd?"

"Stop calling me a nerd. You are worse than those bullies," she mumbled, her eyes stinging with tears.

But she was not going to let this boy

lan's gaze darkened as he replied,

her tears. She would not let him make fun of her emotions again.

"You can change your appearance. But for me, you are still that nerd I rejected."

She closed her eyes and turned around. She did not want to be with him for a single moment. She tried to muster some courage against him, but he was a cruel boy who only knew how to make her feel bad.

She still did not know what he wanted from her.

She had only one option, which was to talk with her brother

She dialed Stephen's number while walking ahead, leaving fan behind.

Stephen did not receive her call. Sho

assumed that he was attending a class, which was why he could not receive it. With disappointment in her face, she took a deep breath.

She noticed a bus was coming on her way. She realized she had walked a little away from the bus stop. She decided to take it, but then she took a step back when she thought fan would also board the bus.

So she hailed a cab and hurried to the university.

When she arrived at her university, she noticed that everyone was talking about lan Dawson.

There was some news spread that lan was out of money. Everyone assumed that his father was angry at him, so he cut off all of his expenses.

It did not bother Ava. What bothered her

Wa

the second news.

There were some pictures of lan and her sitting on the bus next to each other. They looked really close in those pictures. The other pictures were from the street where lan was following her after getting down from the bus.

"What nonsense! Is this even news?" Ava murmured, shaking her head. Ava murmured, shaking her head.

She saw the news the moment she entered the campus. They were all over the timeline of the university's group profile.

"Ava!"

She paused walking when she heard Abigail's voice. Before she could turn, she was immediately hugged by Abigail.

"What happened, Ava? Why is lan following you? You didn't say anything last night, either. I had seen him coming out of the room. But when I asked, you said nothing."

Ava broke the hug and exhaled. She glanced around before holding Abigail's hand.

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"Let's go," she said, leading her to somewhere to talk.

As usual, they sat in the cafeteria.

When Ava told her

that had happened in the dark room, Abigail appeared to be angry.

"How dare he! It's an assault. How

can he touch you without your permission?"

Ava was about to agree with her but paused. She recalled Ian's words last night. He claimed she could not resist his closeness. She remembered the moans and how she almost lost herself in the sensation of his lips kissing her neck.

"He is a bastard! It's become his habit to sleep with a new girl every night. How cheap! You should have slapped him."

Abigail's angry voice pulled Ava back from her thoughts. She wanted to shrug everything off her mind.

"I want to forget that boy. I just want him to stay away from me, Abi. Please do something," Ava said to Abigail desperately.

Abigail was about to say something, but another voice interrupted them.

"Hey guys, what are you talking about? It seems serious."

They turned their heads and saw Luke close to the table. He walked toward them and took the seat next to Ava.

Abigail raised her brows as if something had come to mind.

"She is worrying about the bad boy in our pack. Have you got anything on your mind, Luke?"

Hearing about Ian, Luke's face became gloomy. Ava pinched the edge of her brow in frustration.

"I saw the posts. Why was he with you, Ava?" he asked her.

Ava glanced at him and replied,

"I don't know. Nowadays, he is disturbing me a lot. I want to get rid of him. I am tired of telling him that. I don't know why he is picking on me again and again."

Luke put his hand over hers and gently rubbed the back of her hand.

Abigail glanced at their hands. A smirk appeared on her lips as she said,

"I think it's time for my bestie to get a boyfriend."

Ava did not respond to Abigail, as she thought she was just kidding.

But Luke gazed at Abigail, who winked at him. Luke immediately looked away from Abigail and returned his gaze to Ava.

His eyes were filled with adoration as he looked at her. He looked at his hand and held her hand with both of his hands.

Ava slowly lifted her gaze to look at him.

"I think Abigail is not wrong. You should give it a shot. Who knows, there is someone who really wants to protect you."

Ava stared at Luke. For the first time in years, she noticed a change in his gaze toward her.

She bit her bottom lip and glanced away when she realized he was talking about himself.

2/3

68

Just as she was about to speak to him, the entire cafeteria fell silent.

Ava turned her head to see what was making the others so quiet.

But the moment she turned her head, she froze.

Ian had just arrived at the cafeteria. He looked hella mad as if he was going to kill someone today.

But what caught her attention was that he was staring at Luke's hand, which was holding hers.

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 69[1,463 words]

69

Tan began to walk toward the table where Ava and his friends were sitting.

Ava gulped at his furious look. She tried to break free of Luke's hand, thinking that Ian would do something to Luke since he had warned her at the bus stop about Luke.

But Luke tightened his grip on her hand. She couldn't feel afraid of anyone.

At Luke, and Luke shook his head, indicating that she should

Ian shifted his gaze from their hands and at Ava. She averted her gaze and ignored him.

She was ready to yell at Ian when she assumed he would stop at their table. But before that, he walked past their table and stopped at the table behind them. Ava turned her head and saw Paul and Cyrus joining Ian to stand close to the table.

"I-Ian"

One of the boys seated on the table spoke out with fear in his voice.

Ian gave him no more time to speak before punching him, causing the boy to fall from his chair.

Ava gasped in shock. The people at the other tables rose up from their chairs and began to gather around the table.

"It's showtime. Come on."

Ava heard other girls' whispers. She frowned when she thought about how cheap it was for people to think fighting was a show.

The boy tried to stand up, but Ian kicked his leg. The boy groaned in pain.

"Look how hot Ian is! The real bad boy!"

"Did you see how his tattooed muscles moved when he punched the boy? I just love it!"

"Stop it, guys. He is currently with Nova."

"But where is she? Today she didn't show up on campus."

"I saw Ian dragging her out of the party. I think she had a rough night with him."

The girls chuckled as they kept whispering about Ian.

Ava felt disgusted. These upper-class people and their spoiled kids were completely out of her mind.

"P-Please let me go. I didn't do anything."

The boy's begging voice echoed through the whole cafeteria

Ian kicked the boy's stomach, and blood came out of his mouth.

Ava's eyes widened in shock. She hurriedly stood up as Luke and Abigail also got up from their chairs.

Ava moved forward and noticed Ian's ferocious expression.

'How can he beat a guy like that? Just because he is the son of the head Alpha, he can't just do anything he wants,' she thought.

"I have run out of money. My dad is punishing me. I am broke, huh?" Ian muttered and kicked him again.

Ava covered her mouth when she saw more blood coming out of the boy's mouth.

She glanced around and saw that no one was coming for help for the boy, not even his friends who were sitting with him at the table a while ago. They left their friend in danger and just flew away from the fight.

No one had the guts to go against Ian and stop him. She was surprised that even Luke was not moving.

"Why don't you stop him? He is beating a boy mercilessly.

Luke grabbed Ava's hand and said,

"Let's go from here. It's not our fight. I don't want him to come for you again."

Ava was stunned. "But the boy-"

"Ava, listen to me. He is Ian Dawson. He beats people like that, and there is no one who can stop him. Unfortunately, he has the authority. We can't interrupt him unless it's about us."

"He is right, Ava," Abigail mumbled.

Ava pulled her hand away from Luke's grip. "What are you saying, Luke? I can not watch other people get beaten in front of me like that. I came for you too, remember?"

Luke froze when he heard her. "But I thought it was me, that's why you..."

"Luke, please let me go," Ava said to Luke as she walked toward Ian. Cyrus and Paul stopped her.

"Ava, you should not have come here. Go back to your class. It's not your brother's fight," Cyrus said to her.

She shook her head as she glanced at Ian and the boy.

Ian grabbed the boy's collar and made him stand up.

"Why did you post those things to our group? What to show? That Ian Dawson has lost his authority?"

"I-I am sorry, I-Ian. Please forgive me."

"Forgive?"

Ian laughed at him. His cold words sent shivers down everyone's spines.

"Didn't you spread to the entire university that I am out of money and my father has cut off everything? Now I will show how I will make him use his money for my actions."

The boy was scared by his words.

Ian nodded his head as if he knew what he should do.

"What if I send you to the pack hospital for a week? I will give you an expensive treatment that will require more time to recover. How about it?" He asked with a smirk.

Ava was staring at Ian. She tightened her fists as she felt he was the ruthless boy in the world. He was proving it to her again and again.

"Ian, I apologize."

Ian did not let the boy complete as he punched on his nose. The boy's nose started to bleed. He broke his nose.

The boy collapsed onto the table, nearly unconscious.

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Ian was about to beat him again, but Ava pushed Cyrus and Paul away, reaching for him.

"Leave this boy," she said, pushing Ian.

Everyone gasped in shock.

Ian looked at Ava and glared at her.

"You are a ruthless man. Why are you beating this boy? Just because of some posts? Your posts are everywhere, uploaded daily with new girls at club parties. That time, you never had a problem. Now that you saw he was a weak boy, you came to demonstrate your dominance over a weak person."

Everyone stared at Ava. No one had the audacity to talk to Ian like that. She did that last time as well, when she came to save Luke. But she went overboard this time.

Ian's glare did not move from her. "How dare you talk to me like that? I warned you before you came here. But you ignored what I said."

She assumed he was only talking about how she spoke to him. But then she noticed his gaze shift toward Luke. "Go and hang out with your friend. Don't get between me and my prey, nerd."

70

Ava looked into his indignant eyes. She could not understand him. She started to feel that she should never have fallen for this boy before their rejection.

Her secret crush on him broke her heart. She felt mad at herself for feeling something for this type of guy in the past.

She was afraid of what would happen when he became the head Alpha. He would be the most unfair leader in their pack. Their pack was not safe in his hands.

Ian turned to the boy who attempted to flee. He grabbed the back of his neck and was about to hit his head against the table when Ava grabbed his wrist.

"Please don't!"

Ava said it in a shaky voice, She feared that the boy would die.

Ian's hand loosened as he let go of the boy's neck. The boy ran out of the cafeteria, clutching his stomach.

Ian's eyes shifted on Ava's hand which was holding his wrist. He slowly turned his gaze to her.

"Go and hold his hand, not mine," he said, yanking his hand away.

Ava nearly lost her balance due to it.

However, a pair of arms held her from falling. She raised her head and saw that it was Luke.

He helped her to stand up and pushed her behind him. Abigail rushed to Ava and hugged her. "Are you okay, Ava?"

"I'm fine," Ava replied, then glanced at Ian.

Luke gave Ian a stern look.

"Ian, I don't care about your fights. That boy spread rumors about you, but the way you handled it was the cruelest way to do it. But you can't hurt Ava like that. I won't take it

When Ava heard what Luke had said, she was stunned. She realized that he was not a coward when he refused to help the boy a few minutes ago. He denied it because he wanted to ignore Ian entirely. However, when it came to her, he came to defend her.

She felt warmth in her heart. He did the same for her after the rejection. He tried to help her a lot of the time.

Ian began to chuckle while shaking his head. "A protective close friend has come to defend?"

Luke's fists tightened. "Stay away from her."

Ian took a step forward and came to a stop in front of him,

Everyone was watching them with shocked faces. A few of them even recorded videos, expecting that they would fight like last time

Ian's eyes were sharp as a knife and cold like ice. He shifted his gaze behind Luke. His eyes fell on Ava, who was staring at him.

Looking away from her, he returned his attention to Luke and muttered in a low tone,

"Running after something that does not belong to you is only foolishness. The sooner you get it in your head, the

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 70[541 words]

70

sooner you will be safe from the danger that awaits you."

Everyone was bewildered by his warning. They had no idea which belonging fan was referring to.

"Is Luke interested in something lan owns?"

People began to whisper.

Luke glared at lan and said,

"I respect our head Alpha, and you are his son. That is why do not want to cause you any future problems. Don't make me do anything that will have a negative impact on your lifestyle."

lan raised a brow at him. He immediately raised his hand and said,

"I'm so scared. Please don't go and complain to my dad. I am very scared of him. He is not my father but my boss, who will punish me to the death."

Everyone turned silent while staring at lan.

lan turned his head at Cyrus and Paul. Then the three of them broke into laughter.

They seemed insane to Ava. They could never be serious.

So she lifted her hand and took hold of Luke's arm.

lan stopped laughing as his eyes fell on her hand. He lifted his gaze to look at her.

"Luke, please, let's go from here," Ava mumbled.

Luke did not move as he stared at Ian, looking angry.

"Yes, Ava is right. Let's go from here, Luke."

Abigail also began to pull Luke from behind.

Luke looked away from Ian and walked out of the cafeteria with them.

Cyrus looked at the crowd and said

"Leave us. There is nothing more to entrain you."

Everyone hurried back to their tables, thinking that they could not offend the Power Gang.

Ian headed to the last table and grabbed a chair to sit down.

"Why did Ian react like that? He needs to calm down. It was not the first time his dad grounded him, and it spread to the whole campus. I think the problem is something else" Cyrus said to Paul.

"He told me to delete that boy's post, which was totally based on Ava," Paul replied.

"Wait, there was another post based on Ava?" Cyrus asked in confusion.

Paul nodded at him and pulled out his phone. "Look at this. I hacked that guy's ID and deleted this tweet."

Cyrus grabbed the phone and looked at the deleted post, which Paul had screenshotted as proof in case Ian needed it after beating that boy.

Cyrus started to read the post.

"Ava is a slut who wants our future head Alpha! She wants him to break his sweet relationship with his girlfriend. Not only that, she tried to seduce him last night so she could have sex with him and then blackmail him with it.

70

This girl is not a pure ethical girl, but a whore. Spread this to everyone you meet and make them aware of it."

His brows raised after reading it. "Stephen would have killed that guy today if Ian had not beaten him." Paul signaled him toward Ian, who was sitting on the chair while looking outside the glass window. Cyrus followed Ian's gaze outside, where he found Ava talking to Luke. Ian's cold eyes were fixed on them.

Cyrus let out a deep breath and said,

"It looks like he was not mad at the boy for humiliating him, but mad at him for the humiliations that the boy wanted to create for Ava. But why? Why does he care about a girl whom he has rejected as his mate?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 71[1,055 words]

71

It must be a date! Oh, how foolish you are! Yes, it's obviously a date, Ava," Debra said to Ava.

Abigail nodded her head in agreement.

After attending their classes, the three friends were walking on campus.

"I am not a fool. I also thought the same. But he was casual and said that he just wanted to talk to me, so..."

Ava paused, mumbling, as she reflected on what Luke had said to her.

He said he wanted to take her to a coffee shop. He had something in his mind that he wanted to discuss. They were such good friends, that she did not take it that way.

"Trust me. Luke likes you. I have seen it in his eyes," Abigail said.

"Me too," Debra added.

Ava was stunned. She had never seen Luke that way before. He was her friend-a very good friend. She had never thought of him more than that.

"I-I."

Ava's lips halted as she glanced at Ian, who was walking out of a building where the head office was. The dean may have summoned him for what he did to the boy this morning.

Abigail and Debra followed her gaze. They shook their heads and exchanged glances.

They took a few deep breaths and decided to bring their old friend back.

Abigail held Ava's hand, trying to pull her attention back to them.

Ava removed her angry gaze from Ian and looked at Abigail.

"Babe, you need to move on seriously. You can't just look at him and remember about your past all the time. He is an asshole. He will never let you be happy if you remain single. So give someone a chance who genuinely cares about you."

Debra grabbed her other hand and joined Abigail in persuading her.

"Listen, Ava. Life is too short to think about losers. Just get a new man and move on."

Ava did not like Luke more than a friend. But she knew Luke would always treat her with respect. He would never bully her, or allow others to do so. He was not a bad boy like Ian, but a good boy who really cared for her.

Should she take things slowly with Luke and give him a chance? By doing so, she would allow herself to live her

life once more.

"Okay. Let's see what he wants to talk about," Ava murmured.

Abigail's and Debra's eyes widened, and the next moment, smiles appeared on their faces.

"Yes! That's my girl!" Debra cheered with happiness.

Abigail embraced Ava. She patted her head and said,

put pressure on your head, okay? Just try. I believe you deserve a man like Luke. Your life will be full of love and happiness."

'Don't

71

Ava smiled at her friends, who looked happier than ever.

The whole day, Ava did not get to see Stephen. He did not call her back, either.

Ava started to feel worried about Stephen. She was certain that he was not at the university.

Then, where was he?

When she returned home in the afternoon, she discovered the house was empty. Her mother had not returned yet, and Gamma Harper was always late.

When it was evening, Ava got ready to go out with Luke, as he had promised him. She was dressed in a white top and a brown skirt that ended at her mid-thigh. She put on white sneakers with it. She styled her hair into a high ponytail.

As she descended the stairs, she noticed that the main gate had opened. Stephen had entered the house.

Behind him were his friends. She paused her steps.

Stephen looked at her outfit and asked,

"Ava, are you going somewhere?"

Ava shifted her gaze to Ian, who had just entered the house. His eyes were on her, moving slowly to her dress up.

She returned her gaze to Stephen before taking a step down to the floor. She approached Stephen and grabbed his hand, dragging him to a corner.

She glanced at Ian and asked Stephen,

"Bro, what is he doing here?"

After glancing at Ian, Stephen let out a deep breath. "Ava, he is my friend. It is not just him. My other friends are also here."

Ava let out a sigh as she saw Paul, Ronald, and Cyrus. But her brow furrowed as she noticed Ian casually approaching the couch and sitting on it as if it were his home.

Stephen got her thoughts and said,

"Actually, my house is one of the places where they always come to hang out. My father gave me permission years ago for it. But it is also your house. So you can call your friends here anytime, you know."

Ava shook her head. "I don't have any problem with your other friends, but only with him." Stephen raised a brow and asked, "I wanted to ask why you went into Ian's fight, Ava?" Ava looked at him and replied, "Steph, he was beating someone."

"So?"

Her eyes grew larger. Her eyes moved to the tattoos that almost reached Stephen's neck. She looked away.

Her brother was one of them; how could she possibly forget that?

Putting his hand on her head, Stephen uttered,

"That boy deserved to be beaten. But you don't need to think about it. I request that you please don't come between Ian's or any of our fights next time."

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71

Ava removed his hand from her head because she did not like what he was saying,

"Why didn't you receive my calls?"

"I am sorry. My phone was in silent mode."

Ava nodded in response. "It's okay."

Her phone started to ring. She saw that it was Luke. She received the call.

"Ava, I am outside your new house."

"Did you reserve any tables in the coffee shop?"

"No."

"Then come inside my house. "Let me show you around," she offered.

"Are you sure?"

Ava looked at her brother and said, "Yeah, my brother said I could call my friends at my house, too. So why don't you come inside and have coffee at my house?"

"Not a bad idea."

When Luke hung up, Ava gave Stephen a smile.

"My friend is coming."

Stephen gave her a nod. "Who? Abigail or Debra?"

"Luke."

He was not expecting this. She cleared her throat and patted his shoulder.

"I know there is a rivalry between Black Diamond and Red Flamor, but he is my friend. So.."

"Yeah, sure. I have no problem." Stephen replied immediately.

Ava walked past him when she noticed Luke had just entered the house.

With a broad grin, she made her way to the main door.

But her steps came to a halt when she heard lan's deep voice from behind. "What on earth is he doing in your home, Steph?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 72[1,018 words]

72

Ava rolled her eyes and walked up to Luke. She heard Stephen reply to lan,

"He is Ava's friend. So, he is here for her."

Luke cast a quick glance at Stephen and his friends. His eyes stopped on lan.. "Luke, hi," Ava said with a smile.

Luke turned his gaze away from lan and toward Ava. He appeared to be amazed by Ava's appearance.

"Hi, you are ready to go out. Why don't we actually go out?"

Ava could see that he was hesitant to enter the house. He was not on good terms with Stephen, either.

Ava frowned as she grabbed his arm and said,

"That is what I thought, too. But then I changed my mind. Why not let me show you around? I have a small library there. We can enjoy our coffee while sitting there."

With a gesture, she indicated upstairs. Luke turned his head to look upstairs.

Indeed, there was a beautiful small library set up. Two single couches with a small table were there for the people who wanted to enjoy reading books. There were small tree plants, which created a vibrant environment.

His gaze moved from there and shifted to Ian. Luke noticed Ian's brows arched. He was looking directly at him. There was some kind of warning he could see through that dark pair of eyes.

Luke scoffed at Ian before patting Ava's hand. "You are right. We should have our coffee here at your house. I just want to spend some time with you anyway. So who cares if it is in a coffee shop or at your house?"

Ava nodded and drew him to the staircase.

"Ava"

She stopped walking when she heard a voice. She turned her head to look at Stephen's friend.

It was Ronald who called her out.

"Yes?" she said.

"Why don't you and your friend spend some time with us?" Ronald said it with a smirk.

"No, thank-"

"Yeah, Luke replied, interrupting her.

Ava looked at Luke with shocked eyes. He moved his head toward her. He tilted his head to get close to her ear and whispered,

"It's okay. I am not scared of them. You think I am a coward aren't you?"

She immediately shook her head. "No. I did not mean it this morning."

He smiled at her and put his arm around her shoulders. "Calm down, cutie. I didn't mind."

She flushed when he called her 'cutie'. She cast a glance at the hand that was wrapped around her.

Even yesterday, she could not think of anything. But after her friends told her that Luke liked her, she started to feel that way about his behavior. It was like she had been ignoring his signals all these times.

While they were looking at each other, a person in front of them did not look good at all.

His eyes grew cold as he stared at them. His blood was boiling for some reason he did not understand.

"What happened, Ian? Are you not fine with them sitting here?" Ronald muttered in a low tone.

Ian clenched his jaw and turned to face his best friend. Ronald raised an eyebrow and smirked at him.

"You don't look good. What's wrong? Feeling something strange inside?" Ronald asked, glancing at Ian's chest. Ian shot him a cold look and said, "No chance."

Ronald nodded his head. "Yeah, yeah. Then stop making this dull face. Let us enjoy Stephen's sister's company. Can't you see how beautiful she is? Or is her beauty too much for you to see?"

Ava and Luke approached a couch and sat down. Stephen gazed at Luke. "How long have you known her?"

Luke parted his lips as he noticed Stephen acting like a possessive older brother.

Ava cleared her throat, and responded, "Steph, we have been friends for quite some time. We used to meet in the library, right, Luke?"

Luke chuckled, as if memories had flooded his mind.

Yeah. She was a very attentive girl. I still remember when she first bumped into me. She apologized to me three times, and when I said it was okay, she said she would pay for me because she spilled coffee on my shirt."

Ava was surprised. "You remember?"

"Yeah. How can I forget our first meeting?"

Memorizing the day as well, Ava grinned at him. After all, he was the only boy who became her friend, whereas others enjoyed bullying her.

Ava heard a sneer coming from the other side. She turned her head to look at Ian, whom she had been ignoring the entire time.

Ian looked into her eyes and said,

"It looks like she likes to bump into boys a lot."

lan's words caused Ava's brows to rise. She realized what he meant. She recalled the day when she ran into lan outside the basketball court.

"What do you mean?" Luke asked.

lan shifted his gaze to Luke and replied,

"I mean, perhaps she intentionally-"

Luke cut him off and said,

"She is not like other girls."

Ava turned her gaze to Luke. His words gave her heart warmth. There was someone who always defended her at any moment and in any situation. "Oh, really?" lan asked in a mocking tone.

"lan"

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Stephen's voice rang out as a warning. He did not want to hear anything negative about his sister.

Tan sighed as he looked at Stephan. "Okay, I am not saying anything.

11

But Luke wanted to tell lan what was on his mind. So he grabbed Ava's hand in his hand and told Stephen, "She is very special to me. I know her. If she says she

is not interested in someone, that means she wants to stay away from them. You

are her brother now. I hope you will carry out your responsibility and always protect her."

"I am aware of my responsibility. You don't need to remind one," Stephen retorted back.

Luke answered, "That is great.

After glancing at Luke's hand, Ava uttered,

"I don't need anyone's protection. I was also fine earlier. It's just that I never wanted to grab others' attention, which I am getting right now a lot."

After saying that, she glanced at Ian, who was staring at her

As if he were warning her, he said,

"The truth is that whoever's name is linked to Ian Dawson for once, gets attention from all sides. Well, positive or negative? It is up to their actions to decide what kind of attention they will get."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 73[993 words]

73

Ava rose up from the couch. Luke looked up at her.

"Let's go upstairs."

After giving her a slight nod, he got up from the couch. Even though he was eager to respond to Ian, he was concerned that Ava was not feeling well around him.

While Luke was making his way toward the staircase, he asked,

"You will have to see his face if he comes here often?"

Ava simply shrugged her shoulders. "I don't care. He is invisible to me."

Ava took Luke to the library, which was located on the upper floor. They sat on the couches in a relaxed manner after Luke had grabbed some books.

"Wow. 'Tales from the Past of Mystic Falls'. You have this book!" Luke said it with an amazed tone.

She grinned at him. "Yeah, Dad organized all of the book collections for me."

Luke turned his head to look at her and asked, "Ava, how is your life going here? Is everyone treating you well?"

Ava thought about the love Gamma Harper and Stephen were giving her.

"I am very happy, Luke. I am living my life to the fullest. It's just my past that never wants to leave me."

After saying that, Ava glanced downstairs. She was surprised to see that Ian was looking in their direction from downstairs. One of his friends was smoking while the rest of his friends were engaged in conversation. On the other hand, his gaze was fixed on her.

Ava averted her gaze from him and exhaled deeply as she did so. "I am completely clueless about what is going on in my life, Luke. I am just-"

Luke interrupted her and said,

"There is something I wanted to tell you, Ava. That is why I wanted to take you somewhere where we could be alone. But it's okay. The place doesn't matter anymore."

Ava felt nervous, as she was already aware of what he was going to talk about.

She bit her bottom lip and lowered her head while listening to him. "Ava, I-"

She got to her feet and uttered,

"I am going to ask the maids to prepare some coffee for us."

Luke was dumbfounded. However, he was able to regain his composure when he observed that her cheeks had become red.

There was a grin on his face as he murmured,

"Yeah, sure."

As Ava made her way downstairs, she ignored Stephen and his friends, who cast a glance in her direction.

She went to the corner where the kitchen was located in order to give the maids instructions to prepare two cups

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of coffee.

She noticed there were no aids. She was confused about where the maids were.

She turned around to call the maids, but she let out a loud gasp when she saw Ian at the kitchen door.

"What are you doing here?" she asked.

He took a step forward, causing her to back away.

"What is causing you to stutter? You did not talk in front of me like this when your special friend was with you," he said, approaching her.

She turned around and moved to the counter. She calmed herself down and took a deep breath.

She decided to prepare coffee for Luke herself. It was not like she did not know to do that. She did not need any maids.

"Look, I am really busy right now. Stop bothering me," she said without stammering

She was about to reach for the coffee mugs but her hands froze when she felt him behind her.

Leaning down to her ear, he set his hands on the counter next to hers.

"I am wondering if you are taking me too lightly. You don't care about my warning, do you?"

His cold voice, mixed with warm breath, touched her ear. She closed her eyes tightly and took a shaky breath.

The sensation that she had experienced last night was brought back to her mind by it. She recalled the kisses that he had placed on her neck.

She immediately opened her eyes and turned around.

However, as soon as she turned, her body brushed against his.

She looked at his face. His eyes were on hers until they shifted lower on her top.

She gulped at his gaze. His eyes darkened as his gaze returned to her face. "This dress-up, hairstyle, you put in all this effort for him, right?"

She lowered her head, trying to move away from him. But he was caging her between his hands from both sides.

"Where are you escaping? Do you really think you can escape from me?"

His every word was making her nervous. She wanted to push him, but as if her body did not want it, she felt frozen in her spot.

Ian lifted his hand, which caused her to shut her eyes. He raised her chin and said,

"What makes you so afraid of me? Do you really think that will kill you?"

She felt her heart skip a beat when she heard his soft tone.

She opened her eyes, as she could not believe her ears.

She looked into his eyes. They were still dark, just as the moonlight was hidden in the darkness.

"If you get close to him, I will take the matter very seriously."

Ava slowly grabbed his wrist and tried to remove it from her chin. But he was like a stone. She could not move him away.

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73

"Why? Why do you care if I stay closer to him or anyone else? What is it to you? Do you really think of him as your enemy? Even if he is your enemy, that has nothing to do with me."

Jan leaned closer to her, which took her breath away. He closed his eyes and brushed his nose against her cheek

"I don't know why, but whenever I see him touching you, something inside me fumes."

She blinks her eyes after hearing him. She turned her head to look into his eyes, which caused her nose to brush against his. He glanced at her lips.

She parted her lips and asked,

"I-I am asking you again, Ian. What do you want?"

After a moment of staring at her soft lips, he replied in a low tone that shocked her from the inside.

"You. I guess I want you."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 74[1,005 words]

74

Her lips were trembling as her heart started to beat faster. She stared at the person who she had fallen for before even knowing that he was her mate. Though she believed that she had lost her feelings for him after the rejection, she realized that something was still there to fade away.

She let out a whisper.

"W-What?"

Ian remained silent for a while as he observed her reaction.

But then he backed away and burst out laughing. 2

Ava was caught off guard by his laugh.

She realized how foolish she was to believe this boy, even for a moment.

"Just look at your face! You really think I want you, don't you?"

Ian said this and chuckled, shaking his head.

She tightened her fists as she felt like crying. But she did not cry. Instead of showing her tears, she showed him her anger.

"A boy like you can never be with one girl. So keep laughing at your own joke."

Ian stopped laughing and looked at her with cold eyes.

She tried to walk past him, but he grabbed her wrist and pulled her closer to him. "Ian Dawson, just leave me."

She tried to push him. He wrapped his hands around her waist and tightened his grip.

"Your tongue is running really well these days. I have seen so many girls running them, but in the right place, you know."

She felt disgusted when she understood his meaning.

"I just hate you, Ian."

"It's okay. Everyone hates me. What's new? Even my parents don't like me much."

She frowned at him. She recalled that when she went to the pack house, she noticed his father scolding him for a few things.

"If they have such a son like you, what else can they do but only hate him?" She mocked him.

As soon as she said that, his eyes turned colder, and he released her.

"I am afraid that you will ruin Stephen's life. I can't even tell him to stay away from you. But as soon as he gets it in his head how bad his companies are, it will be better for him. You are the worst person in that group, capable of turning them into sinners."

Ian did not reply to her as he clenched his jaw.

Ava glanced at the counter and mumbled,

"I wanted to make coffee for Luke, but it appears that I am no longer able to do so. You ruined our coffee date."

74

Congratulations."

"Date?" he asked, furrowing his brows.

Ava ignored his question and made her way to the door in a gloomy mood.

When she walked out of the kitchen, she saw Ronald leaning against the wall while smoking.

He grinned at him. She ignored him and went upstairs.

Ronald glanced at the kitchen door. After a while, he heard noise.

He shook his head and went into the kitchen, only to discover the knife and a few utensils scattered on the floor.

He raised his head and saw lan's angry expression.

"Why did you pretend to laugh? You faked it. You could have stuck to the truth."

Hearing Ronald, lan looked at him.

"Ronald Rolace, stop spying on me."

"Spying?" Ronald said, scoring at him.

lan rushed up to Ronald and grabbed his collar. "Tell me. Did my dad tell you to keep an eye on me? Why are you everywhere taunting and mocking me?"

Roland responded with a chuckle. "You are my best friend. I should keep an eye on you, shouldn't I?"

lan let go of his collar. "I don't know why, but I'm losing my mind right now." Ronald exhaled and smashed the cigarette bud against the counter edge.

"You need to listen to your heart. Are you afraid of what you are feeling? Be honest, lan. Stop ignoring your heart."

lan shook his head. "There is nothing in my heart."

Ronald held his shoulders and said,

"I know you have ruined everything. But you are lan Dawson. Nothing can slip through your fingers if you want to keep it. Just follow your heart and accept what you want. Don't push yourself. You quit sleeping with girls, which was nearly impossible for you. You broke up with your so-called girlfriend, whom you believed was ideal for Luna's position. For whom? Ask your heart. You will get your answer."

lan left the kitchen and went into the living room. His gaze shifted upward, to where Ava was supposed to be with Luke. But the place was empty.

"Where is your sister?" he questioned Stephen.

"She has just left with Luke."

Han glared at Stephen. "You should watch out for where she is going and with whom. You said you cared about her, but is this how you are doing it? Didn't you see how that Luke guy was looking at her?"

Everyone was astounded by lan's words. Ronald walked into the living room. He had also heard lan.

Stephen moved toward lan and said,

"I am not going to stop her from living her life. I think she likes him as well. We witnessed it when you beat that boy on our campus. She cried as if she had been in love with him for a long time and that he was very close to her."

Stephen's words ignited a fire within lan.

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74

?

"I won't let her be with that boy."

No one looked surprised. They had already figured out what lan wanted.

Stephen let out a stressful sigh.

"Look, lan. I know she is your ex-mate. But you can't control her life. You are my friend; that's why I am talking to you calmly. You need to stop bothering her and let her live her life. You have rejected her. Now, please don't ruin her life. It was never her fault."

"Do you think I will ruin her life?" lan asked with a disappointed look. Stephen noticed his look, but he replied,

"You have been with different girls. You never cared about any girl's emotions. How can you suddenly understand Ava's emotions? She was broken by you once. Now someone else wants to take care of her. She will without a doubt accept him as her boyfriend. So I don't want any prob"

lan cut him off and asked a question, which shocked everyone except Ronald. "What if I tell you that I regret rejecting her?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 75[961 words]

75

Inside the car, there was a silence that yearned to be broken But by looking at Ava's face, Luke thought he should keep driving without asking her anything.

After a long drive, he pulled over the car to a coffee shop.

Ava opened the door without saying anything and got out of the car.

Luke stepped down from the car and followed Ava inside the coffee shop.

He had been observing her sullen mood for a while. When they were in her house, he was waiting for her to have a conversation. But when she returned, she was empty-handed and asked him to go to the coffee shop he had previously decided on.

From then on, she remained silent and looked angry.

Luke pulled out a chair for her. She looked at him. There was a sudden amazement in her eyes. But then it immediately faded.

"Thank you," Ava said and sat down on the chair.

Luke took a seat across from her and asked,

"Ava, what's wrong? You look mad. Have I done anything wrong?"

Ava shook her head and replied almost immediately,

"No, no. Did I make you feel like that? I am so sorry, Luke."

He smiled as he noticed her mood returning to normal.

"Relax, Ava. I was just asking. You didn't make me feel like that."

Ava let out a sigh and leaned her back against her chair.

She was not mad at Luke but at Ian.

She was mad at herself too. How could she almost believe the things he had said to her? And why did she think that was even possible?

'Even if what he said was true, I should ignore him. I will never forgive him. I should not. What he did to me was brutal,' she thought.

"You are lost again," Luke said, staring at her.

She tried to pay attention to Luke. "Listen, Luke. I am just mad at Ian. Nothing else."

Luke's brows lifted as he looked perplexed. "Ian?"

"Yeah, He..."

She thought she should not tell him what Ian had said to her. She did not need to.

She disregarded both Ian's warning and his continued mockery of her. She focused on Luke.

"Forget it, Luke. Tell me. You wanted to say something."

Luke's face turned calm as he grinned at her. "Since you are mad today. Let's talk about it tomorrow."

She shook her head. "I am not mad. At least not to you."

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Luke's grin broadened. "By the way, you don't look good in anger. I like your smiley face. Always try to smile."

His words caused Ava to pause. She blinked her eyes. Her cheeks were getting hot.

She chuckled while nodding her head. She patted her cheeks and mumbled,

"Let's order some coffee."

"Yeah."

Luke called a waiter and ordered two cups of cappuccino for them.

Luke asked how her study was going and if she had any problems with any subjects. She said she would try to study hard to get good marks for this semester.

Luke seemed to be twisting the conversation and turning it into something personal.

"You know everything about me, Ava. I want someone who will be loyal to me. How about you?"

Ava paused, sipping coffee as she glanced at him. She cleared her throat and placed the cup on the table.

"Me?" she asked with a shy smile.

"Yes. Who is your dreamy boy? What kind of boy do you like?"

Ava's smile faded. She lowered her head, looking at the coffee.

She moved her finger on the cup and mumbled,

"Dreamy boy? I used to have a crush on someone," she said, thinking about the person she was in love with.

Luke froze as if he did not expect Ava to be in love with someone. Gazing at her, he allowed her to speak.

"I thought it was just a crush. But when I got closer to him, I realized it was love. I could not just stop myself from thinking about him. I tried to forget him but could not stop my heart."

She closed her eyes as she took a long pause. She recalled Ian's closeness in the kitchen.

Her eyes flung open as she realized that she was thinking about him again. She slowly looked at Luke, who looked serious.

"Luke, I-"

Luke interrupted her and asked,

"Is he Jan?"

Her eyes widened. Was she too obvious?

She looked away from him.

She felt a hand reaching out for hers. Luke held her hands and said,

"Ava looked at me."

She returned her gaze at him. He took a deep breath and said,

"Listen, you are talking about your past. I know you don't love him anymore, not after the rejection."

There was no doubt that she did not love him anymore. In fact, she believed that she hated him from the core of

her heart.

"Yes, I don't love him anymore. I have hated him from the day he rejected me as his mate. It is not just the rejection; it is also how he treated and insulted me after discovering I was his mate."

Luke exhaled and nodded his head. "I trust you."

Ava averted her gaze away from him when she saw him looking at their hands.

She glanced at their hands. He rubbed her hand gently and muttered,

"He is a bad boy, Ava. I have known him since middle school."

She looked at him, intent on listening.

"He was arrogant from his childhood. A spoiled rich brat. He is not spoiled by his parents. But this is the way he made himself."

She frowned at him. "This is the way?"

"He not only sleeps with girls, but he also smokes, consumes excessive alcohol, and attends car races for money. That is why he does not care, even if his dad cuts him off from anywhere. He has his own way to live his life."

Ava's lips trembled. It seemed that Ian was worse than she had thought.

She pulled her hand away from Luke's. She got to her feet and uttered,

"I think we should leave now."

As just she turned around to leave the coffee shop, Luke stood up and said,

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 76[1,092 words]

76

Ava froze in her tracks. She was aware of his feelings, as Abigail and Debra had already told her today. However, she had no idea how awkward things would become for her

She bit her bottom lip because she did not know what to sa

Luke took her hand and said,

"Let's go."

He led her out of the shop and looked at her.

"I understand it might be awkward for you. You-".

"I knew about it," Ava interrupted him.

"You knew?" Luke said with a broad grin.

Ava glanced at him and mumbled,

"Abigail and Debra told me about it."

He paused as his smile faded. "So you did not notice it from your side?"

Ava parted her lips, but nothing came out. She did not feel anything inside, indicating that she did not like him more than just a friend.

"Ava, I know you don't have any feelings for me. But give me a chance. I promise we will end up together. I don't want to end our friendship. You can take your time, and when you feel it is okay to go for a relationship, you can tell me."

Ava was stunned. She felt that Luke was really a good guy. Her heart was warmed by the way he always expressed his care for her.

He was a caring boy who had feelings for her.

She had never thought someone could even like her. After all, who would be in love with a nerd like her?

"Thank you for understanding me, Luke," she said.

Luke smiled at her and opened the door for her. She entered the car, and they headed to her house.

On the way, Ava thought about what Luke had said to her.

She had planned to say yes to Luke, but something was holding her back.

Luke asked her to have dinner with him when he saw a famous restaurant on their way.

She glanced at her phone. She checked her phone and found no missed calls. She assumed her mother had not returned home yet because if she had, she would have called her.

So she agreed to Luke and went to the restaurant.

As they took their seats at a table, Ava looked around the restaurant.

Because the restaurant was well-known, every table was filled with wealthy people. She recognized some familiar faces from their university.

Her gaze drifted to Luke, who was sitting across from her. He was staring at her.

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Ava felt the atmosphere between them had changed. She cleared her throat and said,

"Let's order something."

They ordered what they would like to try. Ava noticed all the dishes were very expensive there. But she was relieved that she still had money in the bank card that her mother had given her before the wedding,

They began eating when the waiter brought them delicious dishes.

Luke tried to make the situation less awkward by talking to Ava about her mother.

Ava told him how hardworking her mother was.

As Ava spoke with Luke, her gaze shifted to a couple approaching their table.

Both of them came to a halt in front of the table. Ava furrowed her brows when she noticed how the unknown couple were staring at her.

They were both young. The boy had green eyes, while the girl had blue eyes. She calmed her expression and asked,

"May I know you?"

The boy's brow arched as if he were looking at a ghost or something. The girl quickly shook her head and grabbed the boy's arm.

"No. We don't know each other, dear," the girl said with a polite smile.

The girl started dragging the boy with her to the next table.

Ava stared at them until they sat down at the table.

"Ava?"

"Hmm?"

Ava looked away from the couple and turned her head at Luke.

"Do you know them?" he asked.

"No. Don't you think they are strange?"

"Strange?" Luke asked, glancing at them.

The boy was still looking at Ava. Luke glared at the boy. But when he noticed the girl was also looking at Ava strangely, he felt Ava was right.

"Yeah. You are right. That's odd."

At that time, Ava got her mother's call.

She received the call.

"Mom."

"Ava, I heard from Stephen that you went out with Luke."

She glanced at Luke and replied, "Yes, Mom."

Her mother cleared her throat and whispered, "How is it going?"

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Ava looked away from Luke and chuckled.

"Mom, come on."

"Okay, okay, fine. Enjoy your time. I won't bother you. I like that boy for you anyway. I saw you both together at our wedding. So..."

"Mom!"

"Okay, my baby. I won't tease you anymore. Are you coming back?"

She glanced at her food and mumbled, "I will take some time. I am having dinner, and the ride will be long to get back."

"Oh, you are having dinner? I wanted to ask you to join me and Harper for dinner. He booked a table for us. Stephen is not at home, he said he can't join. And you also won't come then-"

"It's okay, Mom. You both should go and enjoy your time. I will be back home safely. Don't worry."

After talking with her mother, Ava continued to eat her food. But all the time she felt the unknown couple's gazes on her. Luke noticed it as well.

After finishing their dinner, Ava and Luke paid the bills together.

It was because Ava did not let Luke pay for her. She insisted that he split the bill. Despite Luke's eagerness to pay for her, she declined, saying that she would never go anywhere with him if he did not listen to her. Luke had no option rather to split it.

When they stood up, Ava glanced at the couple for the last time.

She felt awkward looking into their eyes. After letting out a sigh, she left the restaurant with Luke.

During the long ride, Luke told her how he was trying to gather his courage to tell her about his feelings. Ava realized that she would never get a boy like him who was so eager to talk to her or give his best for her.

When they arrived at Ava's house, Luke pulled up behind other cars. There were a few cars parked there, so he had to park it behind.

Luke got out of the car and opened the door for Ava.

She stepped down, and he closed the door.

Ava hugged Luke as she felt thankful to him.

"Thank you, Luke. You understood my situation. You care for me. That's a huge thing for me."

Luke hugged her back and replied,

"It is just how I feel."

After saying goodbye to Luke, Ava waved her hand at his car as it drove away.

She had a smile on her lips as she started to walk past the other cars.

However, she froze when she heard a familiar voice.

"I see you had a great time with him."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 77[1,018 words]

77

She turned around and saw Ian leaning on his car. She had not noticed him or his car when she got out of Luke's car a few minutes ago.

She tried to ignore him and started to walk again.

However, he grabbed her arm and stopped her.

"How can you just ignore me like that?"

His tone was angry as if he were furious. She tightened her fist and turned to face him.

She yanked her hand away from his grip and asked,

"What is your problem?"

Ian looked at her ignorant look. She seemed annoyed to see him again. He felt a pang in his heart as though her attitude was hurting him from the inside.

Ian had been standing outside Ava's house waiting for her for quite some time.

He left after speaking with Stephen, but he could not go to the pack house. He went somewhere else.

There was something killing him inside. So, when he asked Ronald, he said Stephen and the others were not at Stephen's home. He mentioned that Stephen's parents had also left the house for dinner.

So Ian was worried for Ava and returned to Gamma Harper's house. He parked outside and waited for Ava for quite some time, smoking, until a car pulled up and Luke emerged with her.

He was relieved that Luke had not gone inside the empty house with Ava; otherwise, he did not know when he would have lost his cool.

Ian closed his eyes to calm himself and opened them again to look at Ava.

"Let's talk."

His tone was soft, which caused Ava to feel like she was hallucinating again.

She folded her arms across her chest and asked,

"Ian Dawson, after making fun of me, you still think I will talk to you? What do you think of yourself?"

She could not understand why he wanted to bully her like that. She wanted to stay away from him.

When she noticed him getting closer, she took a step back.

"Do you really like Luke?" he asked out of the blue.

Ava's steps were frozen by the direct question. She blinked her eyes and looked away from him.

"W-Why do-"

He interrupted her and asked,

"I asked, Do you like Luke? Reply to me yes or no. I don't want to need anything in detail."

She gazed at him with a confused look. "Excuse me? Why would I even give you any details? I was just asking why you asked me that. Who are you to ask me these personal questions?"

Ian tucked his hands into his pockets. It made her gaze shift to his tattoos.

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She noticed that the skin on his right wrist was red. Her eyebrows raised as she realized he had gotten a new tattoo. She looked carefully and caught a glimpse of a half moon that was almost exposed through the sleeve of his jacket. 'Did he go to get a tattoo today?' she thought.

He noticed where she was looking. He pulled down his sleeves to hitle his wrist and said,

"I just asked a simple question. If you like that guy, just say it. What's there to beat around the bush? Your brother has already lectured me enough. I don't want to hear any from you."

Ava's gaze went back to Ian's face. She furrowed her brows. What did Stephen say?"

Ian stared at her with a blank face, indicating that he was not interested in talking about it now.

The weather was chilly, and Ava began to feel cold. She cast a glance at the door to her house. She thought she should ignore him like an invisible man.

So she turned around to leave.

But once again he spoke out.

"I see you don't like him. Otherwise, you did not brush the question aside."

She turned to him and replied,

"You are wrong. I like him. I like him a lot. And you know what? He told me today that he also likes me."

Ian's calm face immediately turned enraged. His brows arched as his eyes turned cold.

"What? Are you wondering how a boy like Luke can like me? Did you think you could bully me for the rest of your life simply because I was your mate and you rejected me? No way, Ian. He says he will protect me from everyone because he cares about me. So I don't need to think about my ridiculous past anymore." Upon hearing her, Ian shut his eyes and nodded his head. "Okay, I got it."

She was stunned. "What?"

He opened his eyes and gestured his head toward the house.

"Make your way to your home. Your parents are not at home. Stephen is outside with others. The maids are not at home because the chief maid has gone to see her sick daughter, so Stephen gave the others the day off."

Ava was amazed by his details. "How do you know all of this?"

"Before it's your house, it's our safe place. We just did not go there in the last few days because Gamma Harper recently got married. But from now on, you will see us more often," he replied very calmly.

Ava could not believe he could be this calm and composed. She doubted him, but her heart started to race when he said,

"You were right. I am not a good guy. Indeed, you should stay away from me." She felt strange. Wasn't it what she wanted?

"Hmm," she replied.

She saw him moving back and turned around to go to his car.

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At that time, his phone began to ring.

He paused and pulled out his phone from his pocket.

Ava was about to leave but stopped when she overheard Ian talking on his phone.

"What did you say? What happened to Steph?"

Her eyes widened as she listened to his words.

"Okay, I am on my way there."

After saying that, Ian hurriedly unlocked his car and got inside it.

Ava dashed to his car and opened the front door. She bent down and asked,

"You were talking about Stephen. What happened to him?"

Ian looked away from her and said,

"Get back to your house. He will be fine. I am going to him."

Ava hurriedly entered the car and shut the door. Ian looked at her with a frown.

"What are you doing?"

After glancing at him, Ava answered,

"I am going with you wherever you are going right now."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 78[941 words]

78

"Are you crazy? What are you saying?" Ian asked as his frown deepened.

Ava rolled her eyes. "Look, I don't want to go anywhere with yo-"

While she was speaking, Ian interrupted her by saying, "But you are still sitting in my car."

"The reason for this is that I am concerned about my brother."

"I have already told you. There is no reason for you to be concerned about him. I am heading over to check on him and make sure everything is alright. So go back to your house."

Upon hearing Ian, Ava experienced a sense of uncertainty regarding him. Why was he so hesitant to bring her along? Her brother might be in big trouble.

It was her responsibility to find out what happened to Stephen because she had already accepted him as her brother.

Ava gazed at the windshield while folding her arms against her chest and muttering,

"Don't bother. Just start the car because I am not getting out."

Ian held her gaze for a few seconds before starting his car and driving away from her house.

When Ian was busy driving, the whole car turned silent.

Ava slowly moved her eyes from the road and gazed at Ian.

She noticed that he was in a bad mood as if he was going to kill someone. His neck veins became more visible, giving him an intimidating look.

Ava gulped when she glanced at his hand, which was holding the steering wheel. The way he was clenching it, it looked like he would break it anytime.

Her eyes froze on the tattoo on his forearm. The yellow light from the streetlamps highlighted his tattoos in front of her eyes.

She examined it carefully.

It was a brand new tattoo of the moon and the sun facing each other. Between them was a thin line separating them from each other.

The design of the tattoo left Ava speechless. She had never seen such a beautiful tattoo before. It looked manly in his hand, but it also appeared to be painful.

As if lan noticed her looking at his tattoo, he pulled his sleeves to his wrist.

"Have you got a new tattoo today?" Ava asked in a low tone.

"Hmm."

It was the only response lan had given her. (1)

Ava regretted asking him that question.

'Why did I ask him that? I should not care if he gets a new tattoo. Why am I so shameless!' She scolded herself in

her mind,

The whole car was filled with lan's cologne, which caused Ava's wolf to move inside.

78

Ava closed her eyes as she wanted to feel her wolf entirely. Her wolf howled inside, and she flung her eyes open.

She let out a loud gasp!

'Are you back?' she asked her wolf.

However, her wolf did not respond; instead, she continued howling inside.

"Are you okay?" lan asked, casting a glance at her.

Ava tried to calm herself and mumbled,

"Yeah, I am fine."

She was at a loss as to why her wolf could still react to lan's scent after a long time of rejection.

After a while, Ava noticed that the car had entered a strange alley. She sat upright

in her seat. "Where are we?" she asked with a confused look.

She could see the walls of the alley were painted in different colors. The streetlights were red and blue.

She looked at the boys and girls who were roaming in the alley. They looked savage. The girls are dressed in short dresses and wearing dark lipstick. All of the boys had tattoos on their bodies. They looked terrible in Ava's eyes.

Ava gulped as she turned her head at Ian.

"Where are we?" she asked once again.

Ian parked his car behind a few cars and turned to face her.

"Why are you scared? Didn't you want to come with me?"

Ava cleared her throat, showing that she was confident. "Yeah. Where is Stephen?"

Ian grinned at her. "Stop giving this 'I am so concerned about my brother' look. I should waste my time with you a little more because before getting out of your house, I had a fight with your brother."

"Fight? For what?"

She had never heard members of the Power Gang engage in fights with each other. People at their university liked to call their group the epitome of friendship.

Ian leaned his back against his seat and looked outside the car.

31

When they saw him, the girls who were walking by the car gave him a wink. He smirked at the girls in response.

Ava scoffed when she noticed that.

'He started flirting right here! How cheap this boy is! I just can't believe it. Who knows where Stephen is!' she said in her head.

The smirk disappeared from Ian's face as he turned his head and met her gaze.

"What? Now can't I even look at the girls?" he asked.

"Yes, you can. But I did not come here to witness your flirting. I am going to look for my brother myself. You can enjoy yourself. By the way, he should know how worried his friend is when he is in danger."

After saying that, she got out of the car. She shut the door harshly. She did not even look back at Ian, who was staring at her through the window.

2/3

78

Ava started walking as she took out her phone from her bag. She dialed Stephen's number. But it was unreachable.

When she walked past some boys, they whistled at her.

She nearly froze. She was startled by their behavior. Boys at her university liked to mock her by giving her disgusting looks. When she became Stephen's sister, they stopped bothering her and were afraid to approach her.

But here, the boys were giving her different looks. She wanted to get out of the alley as quickly as possible.

At that time, she heard a boy from behind.

"Hey, sweetie! You look new here. Wanna have fun with us?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 79[966 words]

5/3

79

Fear began to grow inside her. She bit her bottom lip as her legs became heavy with fear.

The way those boys looked at her was something she had never experienced before. It was like she was some kind of food they wanted to have.

She ignored the boys' voices as she looked left and right. She noticed many sports cars parked along the side, indicating that everyone was wealthy there.

They came here with their friend circle to have fun with girls or have drinks. She could see them holding red cups, creating their own road club on the street. There were large speakers on one side. Music was playing, not as loud as in clubs, but enough to be heard throughout the alley.

4

She noticed another alley that connected with this one. 1

"Stephen must be there!"

As she was about to turn left, she ran into someone. Something cold dripped onto her white top.

She hissed as the icy liquid touched her breasts inside the top. She lowered her head and saw that her top was so thin that it exposed her bra in front of the boy she had bumped into.

"Maroon inside the white color! I liked it," the boy said, moving closer to her.

His behavior so terrified her that she retreated a step.

The boy started to laugh. "That's cute! How about you accompany me to my car? You can trust me on that..."

The boy grabbed her hand and leaned into her ear. Ava wanted to puke at the scent of his body. He chuckled and murmured,

"Every seat is soft and smooth. I bet you won't find any difference with the bed."

Ava was shocked by his words. Did he think she was one of the girls who had come here to seduce boys?

Just as she was about to push the boy, another hand reached out and grabbed the back of his neck.

Ava gasped when she saw the boys harshly away from her.

ove

She noticed a tattooed hand grabbing the boy, and her gaze was drawn to the sun and moon tattoo.

Unknowingly, she felt relaxed by feeling his presence. Her startled heart settled down, as if it felt safe around him

"lan!"

The boy spoke as he stared at lan with wide eyes.

"How dare you get close to her?" lan asked.

His eyes turned red, but Ava did not notice because she was behind him.

The boy started to tremble inside. "Is she with you? I didn't know."

tatu

lan glared at him and pushed him against the wall. It caused the boy's head to strike the wall. When blood dripped from the boy's head, he groaned in pain, Ava was shocked by seeing that.

"W-What have you just done?" She said to lan in shock.

79

lan's eyes turned back to black. He turned around to look at her with an angry face. "lan, he is bleedi-"

"Sssh."

Jan pressed his finger on her lips as he warned her to shut up through his angry eyes.

"You have already enraged me enough to leave the car and walk down this alley by yourself. Now keep your mouth shut if you don't want me to kill this boy."

Ava swallowed her breath as she could see how mad lan was. She glanced at his finger then returned her gaze at him.

lan's eyes were on her face, but then they slowly lowered to her top. They froze right there.

Ava immediately pushed him and turned away.

"What are you looking at?" she whispered in embarrassment.

She felt that lan was just like the boy who was looking at her with bad intentions.

However, she was taken aback when lan approached her from behind. Before she could turn her head to glance at him, she felt a black jacket wrapped around her body securely.

She looked at lan's tattooed hands, which were holding her from behind.

"Let's go," he said, taking her hand.

She looked at him from behind as he started to pull her along with him. She looked down at his jacket, which protected her upper body from the skimming gazes of other boys.

Why was she feeling so secure around him?

This incident reminded her of the day he saved her from being harassed by some boys at university.

Ian walked like a hard stone, and no one wanted to run into him for fear of breaking their bones. Everyone lowered their heads as he walked past them.

Ava looked at his black inner sleeveless t-shirt that he wore under his jacket. Since he removed the jacket, his upper body was almost exposed.

With those muscles that he always kept hidden under his clothes on display in front of her eyes.

The girls around them were staring at Ian with jaws dropped. Ava glanced at them, not liking how they were looking at him.

But she told herself she did not have to care about it.

Ian brought her to a place like an old basement. She could see what was inside through the yellow lights.

She was shocked when she laid eyes on Stephen and the other friends.

"Stephen!"

She let out loudly.

There were a few more boys with Stephen and the others. They turned their heads when they heard her voice. Stephen's eyes widened. "Ava? Why are you here?"

79

MAY

He was seated on a chair. But when he tried to stand up to approach Ava, the boy behind the chair pulled him back down.

"Oh! Who is this beauty? Did you bring her here to present her to our Alpha? I

see. She is quite presentable," one of the unfamiliar boys told Ian.

Ian let go of Ava's hand, which caused her to feel startled. Did he agree to take her here because he had this type of plan in his mind? 2

Was his hatred for her this deep?

But what happened next took her by surprise.

Ian rushed over to the boy who had spoken and kicked his chest.

"Dare to look at her once again, I will pull out your and your Alpha's eyes together."

80

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 80[992 words]

80

What the fuck was that!"

The boy groaned in pain. He was lying on the floor and had lost his strength to get up. The way Ian had kicked his chest, he was sure that he felt a broken bone inside his chest.

"Ian Dawson, you can't beat our men like this. We are not from your pack who will obey you like dogs," another boy spoke out as he tried to approach Ian.

Ian turned to the boy and punched him in the face.

"Dogs? Did you dare to call my pack members dogs?"

Ian's growling caused the others to be stunned. Ava stared at Ian. She realized that he was a very aggressive guy.

She had witnessed his aggression before when he was fighting with Luke. A few minutes ago, he almost killed a man by hitting his head against a wall, and now he was beating some men.

Her eyes shifted to his friends, who were watching the fight calmly.

Ava frowned at them. 'Why are they not stopping him?'

Her mouth set in a hard line as she looked at them.

When Ian approached Stephen, the boy behind Stephen moved forward and punched Ian's stomach.

Ava gasped when she saw it. Her heart began to race as if she could not see Ian in pain.

One of the boys spoke out with an aggressive tone,

"Stop messing with us. Thunder Howl Pack won't allow others to come after us. We never stopped you from coming into our pack. Then why did your friend stop us from doing our business here?"

Ronald, who was leaning against a wall, stood up straight after hearing the boy.

He walked toward Ian and said,

"Ian, let's do this calmly. But before that..."

Ronald paused for a moment and turned to the boy who had just spoken.

"Before that, let me give him back the blow."

After saying that, Ronald punched the boy in the cheek, breaking his cheekbone.

The boy could not take it as he tried to hit Ronald back. But Ian punched him in the stomach, causing the boy to bleed from the mouth.

"A punch should be powerful enough to make you bleed. Yours was a punch of a kid," Ian said, standing tall as if he did not get hurt a moment ago.

All the other boys attempted to attack them, but they all fought each other.

Ava dashed over to Stephen to untie the rope that was wrapped around his hands.

However, when she touched it, she hissed in pain.

"I-It-"

"It's damp with silver water. Don't touch it, Ava," Stephen warned his sister.

1/3

80

Ava shook her head. "No. 1 must be painful. Let me help you."

"No, Ava!"

Instead of listening to Stephen's words, Ava kept trying to help him. She felt pain in her hands, feeling like they were burning.

But she showed her bravery and untied the rope.

The moment she untied it, Stephen turned to her and asked

"Are you okay? Why are you here?"

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"I am here for you, Steph. What happened to you? Who are these people? And why did they tie you up?"

She was so perplexed about everything that she threw a bunch of questions toward him.

Stephen took her hand but failed to notice her burned hands. She bit her bottom lips in pain, but she did not let out a painful moan.

Stephen hid her behind a pillar and said,

"They will try to attack you. So stay behind it, okay?"

Ava nodded her head as she glanced at the others fighting each other.

Breaking into a rage, Stephen stormed over to the boys.

Ava's gaze trailed over Ian, who was looking fiercer. She somehow started to feel fear in her heart by seeing him in this look.

He looked very dangerous.

"Did your Alpha tell you all to come here to do these things?" Ian asked.

Stephen shouted while kicking a boy. "Ian, they wanted to supply those things to our varsity. We should teach them a lesson."

Ava was unaware of what they were talking about. She could only think that those boys were selling something among the students.

When Ian made a boy fall to the floor, he grabbed his hair and asked,

"How many boys did you sell them to? I will break your bones with that count."

When the boy refused to tell him, he got up and kicked the boy's legs.

Ava covered her ears as she began to feel like crying. She did not like to see violence. She was a kind-hearted girl who led a quiet life. 1

The sounds of breaking bones made her heart tremble.

She let out a scream when she felt a hand grab her wrist tightly and pull her out from behind the pillar.

Ian, Stephen, and their other friends turned to look at Ava.

They saw a boy who grabbed Ava's hand tightly. Their eyes froze when they saw he was holding a knife near Ava's throat.

"This girl is wearing your jacket. She might be special to you. What if we kill her?" the boy asked Ian.

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Ava's legs were trembling with fear. The sharp knife was just an inch away from her neck.

"Ava!"

Stephen tried to approach her, but the boy shook his head in warning.

"Don't dare to move. Why are you looking so concerned? You did not look like this even after we tied you."

Stephen growled at the boy and said,

"Leave her, bastard. She is my sister."

The boy raised his brow and turned his head to Ava. "Does Camma Harper have a daughter, too?"

"Leave her if you do not want to boil Gammas' blood," Stephen warned the boy.

But he shrugged his shoulders. His lips curled as he gazed at Ava's face.

"An innocent girl! How on earth is she your sister, Stephen? You must be kidding me."

"He is right. Let her go if you want to stay alive," Ronald said. He directed his attention away from Stephen and toward Ian.

The boy did not listen to him and muttered,

"I believe you all. She is Stephen's sister. So what if we can't kill her? We can harm her. It is up to you all whether you let go of our men and let us do our business, or you want this girl to be hurt."

3/3

01

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 81[952 words]

81

Ava closed her eyes when she felt the knife touch her throat

However, the boy moved it from her neck and held it near her arm.

"What about stabbing her arm, huh?"

Ava thought she would lose her arm today. She slowly opened her eyes.

However, she was taken aback when Ian picked up a beer bottle from the floor and hurled it in her direction. Fearing that it would hit her head, she shook her head. But never made contact with her body. Rather, it smashed into the boy's head.

The boy immediately released her and grabbed his head.

Ava turned around to see the boy's body fall to the floor.

The boy was groaning in agony, moving his body like a fish pulled out of the water.

Everyone turned to look at Ian. Shock swept over Ava. 1

Ian approached the boy with a glare in his eyes.

He avoided Ava's gaze and focused solely on the boy.

He bent down and snatched the knife from the boy.

"I warned you not to look at her, but you dared to touch her. I don't like it when someone ignores my warnings."

After that, Ian stabbed the boy in the arm with the knife.

The boy let out a scream of pain.

Ava covered her mouth as Ian twisted the knife, which was still piercing the boy's skin.

Her eyes became blurry. She was not used to witnessing all of this.

Ian raised his head and his gaze met hers. She blinked her eyes and tears streamed down her cheeks.

She turned away from him and ran towards Stephen.

Stephen hugged her and asked,

"Are you okay?"

She nodded her head while hugging him. Right now, all she wanted was someone to hold her and tell her

everything was fine. She wanted everything to be a nightmare so that when she woke up, she would not remember

1. it.

Stephen stroked her hair and said,

"No one will hurt you now. Don't worry."

She slowly opened her eyes and turned her head to glance at the boy. He was still groaning from pain.

Paul spoke out as he walked toward the gate. "I am sending men to clear this up. Cyrus looked over at Ian and asked,

81

"What are we going to do to them? Pack hospital or

Tan cut him off and replied,

"Send them to their Thunder Howl Pack."

Ava broke the hug and looked at Stephen.

"Thunder Howl Pack?"

Stephen gazed at her and replied, "They are Thunder Howl Pack's men. We don't have a very good relationship with their Alpha and officials."

Ava tried to think of the name of that pack. It sounded familiar. She had heard of the pack before. The pack's Alpha ascended to the throne at a young age. She glanced at Ian, who looked gloomy.

"No need to know about that pack. We are never going to have any kind of deal with that pack anyway," he said, indicating his words toward Ava.

After a few minutes, Paul brought some men to take the men to send them back to their pack.

Ava stared at the blood on the ground. She was in a daze. Her mother always took her away from this world. She had never been in this type of situation before.

Stephen raised his hand and placed it on her head.

"Lil sis, don't worry. Just forget about these, okay?"

Something came to Ava's mind as she was about to ask but paused when Cyrus said to Stephen,

"Your hand is bleeding, dude. Let's go to the pack hospital."

Ava noticed Stephen's wrists were bloody because of the rope that had been tied around them.

"I am going with you," she said, ready to go with him.

Stephen shook his head. "No, Ava. You should go back to our house. I will be fine and return home safely. I have some other work to do." (1

Glancing at Ronald, he uttered,

"I need your help with something. Drive her to my house."

Ronald glanced at Ava, then replied,

"Sure. Why not?"

Ava wanted to refuse, but she understood that Stephen might have some urgent work. So she kept quiet.

Stephen left with Cyrus, and Paul left with the men who were getting the boys out.

So only Ava, Ronald, and Ian were there.

Ian walked out of the place without turning to face either Ronald or Ava.

Ronald walked up to Ava and questioned,

"Hey! Are you alright?"

2/3

81

Ava lowered her head and inumbled,

"In truth, no I am not."

Ronald studied her for a moment before focusing on the jacket she was wearing

"That's Ian's jacket."

It dawned on Ava that she was still wearing it.

She was about to take it off, but Ronald shook his hands to stop her.

"No need to do that. I was just asking."

Ava thought her top might still be wet, so she considered wearing it..

"Okay."

"Then let's go," Ronald said, gesturing toward the gate.

Ava walked ahead, making her way to the gate.

As soon as she walked out, she noticed Ian leaning against the wall. He was smoking and looking to the other side of the road.

Ava paused her steps and followed his gaze. She noticed a couple making out on the street. She averted her gaze from them shyly.

Ronald's phone began to ring, and when he answered, he cast glances at Ava and Ian.

Ava waited for him to say something because she assumed the caller was Stephen.

But after hanging up the phone, Ronald stated,

"Ava, I need to leave now. It's urgent." 1

Ava was stunned. If he left, then who would take her home? It was already late at night. She was certain she would not be able to get a cab there. The way that people were looking at her while she was coming here was something that she could not forget. So there was no way she could leave alone.

"But then how will I-"

Ronald interrupted her and gazed at Ian, who was listening to them without looking at them.

"Don't worry. Ian will drop you home." (1

3/3

Don't Leave Me, Mate

Chapter 82[945 words]

82

7

82

"What? No!"

Ava shook her head. She did not want to go with Ian. She was terrified just from seeing his angry look.

Ronald let out a sigh as he stared at Ian, waiting for him to say something.

"Bro, can't you do that?"

Ian blew smoke out of his mouth and muttered,

"Ask her who brought her here. He will drop her back."

Ava gulped when she heard his deep voice. All the confidence that she had raised against him washed away tonight.

She could not forget the moment when she saw him stabbing the boy's arm. It pierced her mind. 2

Ronald's lips curled as he smiled.

"Then I am leaving," he said to Ava.

When he glanced at Ian again, his smile turned into a smirk.

"Bye, bro," he muttered to Ian.

Ian gave him a stern look. Ronald turned around and headed to where he had parked his car.

Meanwhile, Ava was feeling awkward.

She was with Ian Dawson. She took a few deep breaths to keep herself under control.

She gazed at Ian.

He was still smoking.

"Smoking is not good for health," she muttered in a low tone.

Ian's hand paused as the cigarette between his fingers came close to his lips.

He turned his head to look at her.

She averted her gaze away from her, fixing her gaze on the couple.

With his arms wrapped around the girl, the boy was giving her a passionate kiss.

Ava could see love in their actions. She wondered if lovers came there to enjoy their time there.

"Who told you it is bad for your health?" Ian asked and continued to smoke.

"If·

f you don't want to listen, that's your choice. Don't ask stupid questions," she replied, knowing that everyone knew about it.

While looking at her, he muttered,

"You are more harmful to my health."

She turned to him and asked,

"What?"

He shifted his gaze and bit the cigarette between his lips.

1/3

8

82

"You like Lake, don't you?"

He asked that out of nowhere. She frowned at him. "How many times do I have to tell you that?"

He nodded his head. "No need to answer again."

He turned to her and moved toward her. "You can keep it to yourself. I don't want to listen to that nonsense anyway."

Ava backed away until her back was against a wall,

But he did not stop from moving closer.

"W-What are you doing?"

"Looking at you," he replied simply.

He raised his hand to smoke again while staring at her.

She blinked, staring at the bad boy. The way he was looking at her, it seemed like she was an obsession to his eyes.

Her gaze lowered from his face and moved to his broad shoulder. She noticed a bruise on his arm, which was unnoticed by the others because of his tattoos.

If she looked closely, she could see a deep cut. She remembered a moment in the fight a few minutes ago when a boy tried to hit him with a bottle of beer, but he dodged with his arm. It was possible that he got hurt that time.

"Y-Your arm."

He moved his gaze from her and looked at his arm. He returned his gaze to her. "Are you concerned about me?"

His sudden question stunned her. She immediately looked away from him and cleared her throat.

"No, I am not. I was just saying that because you helped my brother a while back."

Ian scoffed upon hearing her. "Yeah, sure. But I should not have saved him though."

She gave him a surprised look. "But why? He is your close friend, isn't he? You wasted your time in the car too."

Ian's eyes were fixed on her, making her feel nervous.

Her eyes continuously went on his arm.

She was unaware of how dangerous these men were until tonight. They could kill anyone, and no one would say anything to them.

"Why did all of you fight with those boys? Why did they cage Stephen like that?"

Ian heard her questions. He inhaled the smoke deeply as his mind could not stay in her voice. His eyes were on her soft lips.

"They are drug dealers. They wanted to sell drugs to the students, which we don't want. So when Stephen caught them, they caged him."

"And why did you and Stephen fight?"

He raised an eyebrow and took another step toward her. "I am sure you would prefer not to know the reason."

She shook her head. "No, I want to know."

2/3

82

His body moved dangerously close to hers, and he muttered

"What if I told you that it is related to you?"

She was taken aback. "Related to me?"

She thought about it, although the closeness between them made her even more nervous.

"Why are you wasting your time thinking about the reason for fights between two close friends? Don't be so anxious, Omega."

Her heart skipped a beat when she heard him calling her 'Omega'.

No one had ever called her with her rank except him. Hearing that from his deep voice, she felt tingling inside.

The smoke from his cigarette was getting into her nostrils, causing her to cough slightly.

So she pushed his chest and said, "Move. I don't like the smoke of cigarettes."

He did not move as he tilted his head to get a better look at her face.

"It's not that bad. Wanna try?"

She frowned at him, getting mad at him. "What are you saying? I will never touch cigarettes."

The left corner of his lips rose as a smirk appeared on his face.

He placed his other hand on the wall beside her head and leaned close to her lips.

Her heartbeat quickened as she felt his nose brush against hers.

If he moved only an inch close to her, his lips would press against hers.

Then he spoke in a deep voice and made her shiver all over.

"When I asked if you wanted to try, I didn't mean you to touch my cigarette. I have many other ways for you to taste it."

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83

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - h Really 83[1,070 words]

83

Ava closed her eyes when she heard him. She did not know what had gotten to her. He possessed a scent that could entice any girl.

It felt like an addiction to smell it more and more. Ava's mind might have gone blank there.

She was captivated by his closeness, unsure of what she was allowing him to do.

She could feel Ian's nose move against hers, indicating that he was about to kiss her.

But then he backed away.

Almost instantly, she opened her eyes. Her gaze was drawn to his mocking look at her.

The mockery on his face caused her blood to boil.

She clenched her jaw, realizing he was making fun of her again, and fell into her trap once more.

She clenched her fists and said,

"What were you trying to show-

Ian interrupted her by tossing the cigarette and moving close to her.

She gasped, and he grabbed her hands, pinning them over her head.

She glanced behind him and noticed that everyone was preoccupied with themselves and not paying attention to what was going on between them.

Ian grabbed her jaw gently and muttered,

"I can not explain how I felt when I heard you left with that Luke guy. Why were you spending so much time outside with him? Where did he take you, huh? Did you enjoy spending time with him?"

Ava was astounded by his words. She tried to move her head away from his grip, but she froze when he pressed his thumb against her bottom lip.

He bit his lower lip while gazing at her lips. The movement of his thumb across her lips caused her to exhale deeply and take a deep breath.

His touches had the power to ignite her body.

What was this bad boy doing to her?

She did not want it, or did she?

"Don't let him touch you, okay? If he dares to come closer, just call me. I will break his hands."

"W-What are you..."

She paused when she felt him pushing his thumb inside her mouth.

His action caused her eyes to widen. His eyes moved to her eyes.

While locking eyes with hers, he brushed his thumb against her tongue and moved it in a circular motion.

His hand, which was pinning her hands, was moving down towards her body. He slowly wrapped it around her

waist.

Ava did not know what to feel. There were a lot of sensations going through her.

1/3

83

She felt his other thumb move on her waist as well.

He was playing with her tongue. He was enjoying the way she responded.

She could not push him or tell him to move as she had before.

Her eyes were half closed as she was feeling what he was doing to her.

His eyes were working like a slow poison. The way he was gazing at her, making her feel like she was naked in front of him.

He leaned into her ear, brushing his nose against the earlobe.

"You should accept who you want to be close with. Liking someone is temporary, but feeling someone's closeness like this, that maybe..."

He paused and let-out a chuckle.

His words and chuckle brought her back to reality.

He was teasing her again!

She became so enraged at him that she bit his thumb, which was still in her mouth.

He groaned and moved away from her face. He yanked his thumb into the air.

Ava glared at him, feeling satisfied by seeing him in pain.

"This is what you will get every time you try to get closer to me," she said with an angry tone.

However, Ian looked at her. She felt somehow scared, thinking that he would hurt her.

However, what he did surprised her.

He sucked his thumb, which she had bitten.

Her heart pounded like a marathon. She gulped and stared at him.

He smirked at her and asked,

"If you will give me this to get closer to you, then I can..."

He moved closer to her again, but she pressed her palm against his chest.

"You shameless man! You have a girlfriend."

"Fuck her."

Her hands were completely frozen. In her eyes, he was the most disloyal boy.

"Can't you think of another excuse to push me? Why do you always talk about other girls?" he asked.

Ava glared at him. "Because you think I am one of the-"

She stopped when she heard a voice.

"lan?"

Ava looked behind lan and saw it was the girl she was talking about.

lan turned around and looked at the girl.

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"Nova?"

Nova frowned at Ava and asked,

"lan, what are you doing with her?"

Ava felt embarrassed. She was currently feeling like the dirtiest girl in the world.

Because this boy's girlfriend was in front of her, and she had caught her so close to her boyfriend.

She knew how bad lan was, but she should have stayed away from him.

"Ava, what are you doing in this alley? And you are with Luke, aren't you? You even went on a date with him to a popular restaurant. Why are you cheating on him? Does he know about it?"

Ava suddenly realized she had almost forgotten about Luke

Why did she always forget about the world around her when lan was close to her? She looked away from Nova and mumbled,

"You don't need to think about Luke. Take care of your own boyfriend. He needs a girl, I guess."

After saying that, Ava turned in the other direction and started walking without looking at fan.

She did not care where she was going. But she was feeling humiliated.

"Ava, you became a cheap girl," she told herself in the end.

She did not stop and kept mumbling,

"You don't have any self-respect. You were with someone who has a girlfriend. You were with a bad boy who liked to have different girls every night. You are a fool. Your heart is an idiot to get nervous whenever he gets closer to you."

She felt like crying.

But she controlled her tears when she saw the boys and girls around her, giving her glances.

They might be making fun of her because Ian's girlfriend had caught her with him.

Ava wiped the corners of her eyes as she took a deep breath. Her eyes turned cold, getting mad at herself.

"Ava"

She heard Ian's voice from behind.

But she did not stop. Instead, she walked faster.

She felt someone grab her hand and turn her around.

"What Ian? Not satisfied with how you insulted me in front of your girlfriend?"

Jan looked into her eyes. "Are you crying?"

"Just leave, okay? Go back to your girlfriend."

When she tried to yank her hand away from him, he pulled her close to him and said,

"She is not my girlfriend. I broke up with her. For...for you. 5

3/3

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 84[953 words]

84

Tan did not like how Nova interrupted him while he was with Ava.

When Ava began to walk away, Ian turned to Nova.

"Why are you here?" he demanded, staring at her furiously

Nova's eyes trembled as she saw Ian's fierce expression.

"I-Ian-"

"And what were you saying? Which restaurant did she go to with Luke? Do you start spying on her?"

Nova shook her head. "No way. One of my friends was in the restaurant. She saw her and told me about it." Ian tightened his jaw. Just thinking about Ava going on a date with someone made his mind go crazy.

"Stay away from her. Don't dare to bully her."

"When did I bully her?"

"Don't tell anyone that she was with me."

Han's eyes went in the direction where Ava was going. Nova grabbed his hand and said,

"Ian, you have a wound in your arm. Did you get into a fight?"

He yanked his hand away from her. He turned to look at her

"I hope you did not forget that we are done. So far, nothing much has happened between us. Then why did you make her feel uncomfortable by asking what she was doing with me? Did you intend to humiliate her by pretending you are still my girlfriend?"

"No, I-"

Ian grabbed her neck and warned her.

"I don't like to raise my hands on women. But if you try to hurt her intentionally, I will kill you."

Nova's eyes widened. She had never seen Ian feel so protective for anyone. She assumed Ian wanted to spend the night with Ava after seeing her makeover.

But the way Ian warned her made her believe it was more than that.

"Ian, please don't misunderstand me."

Ian let go of her neck and said,

"Don't try to get close to me. And forget her words. I don't need any girls anymore."

His eyes moved to Ava's back as he said,

"I have fixed my gaze on someone. I no longer need new girls to go out every night."

Nova was speechless. She had seen lan go to private rooms in clubs with new girls every other night, but after she became his girlfriend, he never slept with her.

Now when she thought he would go back to his old self and it was the only reason for the breakup, he shocked her with his statement.

1/3

84

After rushing toward Ava, lan reached out and grabbed his hand. He noticed her red eyes, which indicated that she was crying.

He did not want to see her cry.

She was misunderstanding him that Nova was still his girlfriend. It was his fault. He did not tell her about his breakup.

Therefore, he told her about it and the underlying reason for it.

On the other hand,

Ava was taken aback. She was confused by his words.

"You broke up with her for me?"

lan's grip loosened as if he realized what he had just said.

Ava pulled her hand back and said,

"Stop playing with me. I am a simple girl. Just let me live my life like other girls. I don't want to get into your all's lives. I am not the type of girl you think I am. Please don't destroy my life like this."

She almost begged him, not knowing that tears had already fallen on her cheeks.

lan's focus was not on her words but on her tears.

"Stop crying. I am not destroying your life, okay? I was just..."

As if he lost his words, he turned silent.

She took off his jacket and pressed it against his chest.

"Thanks for the jacket," she mumbled.

She turned around to glance around her. It seemed everyone stopped what they were doing and stared at them.

She tried to figure out how to get on the highway.

Ian grabbed her hand, which took her by surprise.

"I am dropping you home," he said, turning his head to her side.

She let out a deep breath and remained quiet.

She was not aware of the alleyways. So her only option for returning home was to go with him.

He returned to his parked car after passing through the alley. He opened the front door for her.

She got inside the car and sat unmoved.

Ian came to sit on the driver's seat and started the car.

The whole ride was silent.

Ava's mind kept replaying the words Ian had said to her.

She did not even dare to move her head to look at him.

She could not find a reason for him to break up with Nova for her.

84

'He was lying. There is no way he will break up with his girlfriend for a girl he neglects. He only wants to break me. I can never let him do this to me,' she told herself.

When the car arrived at her house, he pulled it over.

She did not want to spend even a single moment with Ian. It had been so many times when he got closer to her.

She could not believe this boy would not make fun of her for this night in the future.

He might be feeling proud that he had seen her looking weak in front of him and his touches.

She tried to open the door but paused when she realized that the door was locked.

She turned to look at Ian.

He was not looking at her. His gaze was fixed ahead of him.

"Unlock the door," she mumbled.

When he turned to her, she immediately looked away from him.

She looked down at her lap, waiting for him to unlock the door. However, he did not do so.

"You wanted to know what had happened between me and Stephen."

She shifted her gaze towards him. He was gazing at her.

"He asked for something that I can't do."

"What did he ask?"

Ian moved toward her, which caused her to move back.

Her eyelashes fluttered as he leaned close to her face and replied,

"He asked me to stay away from you. I can't do that because I don't want to do that."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 85[1,017 words]

85

Ava's heart froze at his words. She stared at him. He was so close to her face that she could feel his breath.

She assumed he was teasing him because he wanted to make her believe that. He would then make fun of her after she had put her trust in him.

Ava looked into his eyes and said,

"I prefer to keep my distance from you. We are no longer mates to whom you must be bound. You are now free, Ian Dawson. You can live your life without any stress. No one will make fun of you because an ugly and weak omega is not your mate anymore."

The expression on Ian's face changed when he heard her words. He realized Ava was reminding him of what he had said to her before rejecting her.

He clenched his jaw because he no longer wanted to play the good boy role in front of her.

It was true. He was trying to be a good and calm boy in front of her. He was trying to keep his patience with her. But now, he wanted to show her his true self. 2

It was his fault that he had rejected her. However, he was now regretting it.

He moved back to his seat and ran his fingers through his hair.

"Ava"

"Ian, I don't want to listen to you. Thank you for driving me back home. Let's not talk to each other from tomorrow."

After saying that, Ava inhaled deeply. She waited for him to unlock the doors.

Upon noticing his complete stillness and silence, she gave him a quick look and uttered,

"I don't want to have anything to do with you."

He turned to face her and asked,

"If I say I regret rejecting you, will you-"

She cut him off and asked,

"Do I look foolish to you?"

His brow furrows in response to her question. He knew there was no way she would believe him.

When he leaned in, Ava felt her heart race.

"W-what are you doing?" she stuttered.

His gaze lingered on her face. He grabbed the door and asked,

"I want you to stay away from Luke and all the boys who want to get close to you."

"I will not listen to you. It's my life, my choice."

"And your choice should be me, Ian Dawson," he muttered.

She was caught off guard. His name came out of his mouth with such a deep tone, it sounded different.

She gulped as she looked into his eyes. They turned dark.

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85

"W-What do you mean?"

His gaze dipped and shifted on her lips.

"I don't want to lie to you anymore. I want you. And I am not kidding with you. I am damn serious."

Ava blinked, unable to believe what she had heard.

If he had said that before the rejection, she would have fallen head over heels for him. But now it was too late.

In her eyes, he was a person who did not value her.

Ava lifted her hand and placed it on his shoulder to stop him from moving closer. He glanced at her hand before returning his gaze to her.

"Do you think everything is a game? You rejected me as your mate. Do you know what this means? You rejected your fate. It was not a relationship where you can break anytime you want. You broke me brutally. You hurt me so deeply that I will never be able to recover."

Ian's gaze paused as his brows arched. "What can I do to make you feel better?"

He spoke softly as if stroking her with his alluring tone.

However, she was no longer the same Ava who was in love with him.

"If you want to make me feel better, then stay away from me. Your presence bothers me," she mumbled, moving

7 her hand toward his chest.

He closed his eyes as if he were feeling her touch.

"What if I say that I want to bother you until I will make you mine?"

Her hand froze on his chest. She swallowed her breath and tried to remove her hand from his chest.

But he grabbed her hand and pressed it against his chest once again.

"I know you want me too. I can see that. Why are you resisting yourself?"

Ava looked away from him. She did not know if he could hear her loud heartbeats. She tried to calm her heart.

She yanked her hand away from his grip and replied,

"You are wrong. I don't want you. Now unlock the door before I-"

Ian unlocked the doors before she could finish her sentence.

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"Go. You don't have to kill me for not unlocking the car door. But let me tell you something: one day, I will lock you in this car. That time, I will not let you go." (2 After saying that, he winked at her.

He had a smirk on his face as if he had been granted the right to be himself. When Ava realized what he had just meant, she nearly choked on her own breath.

"Shameless!"

She muttered and rushed out of the car.

She started to walk hurriedly toward the door of her house. She looked around at the other cars and spotted Gamma Harper's car there. She realized that he and her mother had come back.

2/3

85

She heard Ian's loud voice from behind, which caused her to pause her steps.

"You ignited a fire inside me when you said you don't want me, Nerd."

She turned her head to glance at him. She saw that he was out of the car, leaning against the door.

"You see everything as a game," she replied.

He chuckled at her before folding his arms against his chest, causing his muscles to bulge.

"Why don't you come and play this game with me? Let's see who caves in."

me?

Ava gave her a stern look, letting him know how much she hated him.

He shifted his eyes from her face to her dress and said,

"I forgot to tell you. You look hot today. I hope the next time you dress up like this, only for me."

She listened to him with her jaw clenched. His words had made her angry with him. He was doing all of this just to tease her.

She stomped her feet on the ground in rage and turned around. She made her way to her house's door while muttering,

'Go to hell.'

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 86[1,054 words]

86

Tan chuckled while looking at Ava. She was walking towards her front door.

When he noticed her entering her house, he got into his car and drove away.

His gaze was fixed on the road as he drove to the pack house.

He was not fond of that house. Even though it was his home, he felt suffocated there.

The way his father ruled over him there, he did not like such a life. He liked to be free where no one could tell him what to do.

After all, he was the boss of his own life.

When he arrived at the pack house, he got out of the car.

While playing with the car keys on his finger, he entered his house.

"Look at your brat!"

He heard his father's voice and paused his steps. He turned his head and noticed that his parents were in the living

room.

He rolled his eyes at them.

"Don't you both have any other work besides sitting in the living room? Every night I come back, I see you sitting there."

Alpha Martin and Luna Carolina got up from the couch.

"Ilan, you saw us here because every night we wait for you to return," Luna Carolina said.

Meanwhile, Alpha Martin was glaring at Ilan.

"Good to hear that. But I am not a kid whom you have to supervise. You two can go and have a sound sleep. Thank you." 1

Though his tone was polite, there was a touch of sarcasm in his words.

Alpha Martin walked toward Ilan and glanced at the keys that Ilan had been playing with his finger.

"You bribed my guards to manage to get your car back," Alpha Martin muttered.

Ilan's hand paused as he realized that he was not supposed to use all the cars for a week. It was his punishment. But he was so angry today that he called his driver this evening and asked for his car.

He clenched the keys in his fists.

Alpha Martin scoffed at him. He turned his head to look at his wife.

"Carolina, you said your boy is stubborn. What about him now? He could not even spend a day without the luxury

we provide him. How do you think he will become a head Alpha? Is that position a piece of cake?"

Carolina closed her eyes as she rubbed her forehead. She got in the way of the father and son once more.

She did not know who was more stubborn.

"Tell him to return everything, whatever he took today."

Alpha Martin's words enraged Ian. He was mad because, in his eyes, his father treated him like a servant who did

1/3

86. 86.

not know the work.

He grabbed his father's hand and put the keys on his palm

"You can have your car to yourself."

His father glanced at the keys and muttered,

"You said the same thing last night but could not resist having-

"Martin, let it slide for this time," Carolina said as she interrupted him.

Ian stared at his father with his cold eyes. His father was also looking at him.

Carolina held Ian's arm and said,

"Go to your room: Your dad is mad. He will be okay tomorrow."

Ian yanked his hand away from her grip and muttered,

"He is mad at me all the time. It doesn't affect me anymore

Ian's parents watched him going upstairs to his room. Martin looked at Carolina. "What will I do to this boy?"

Carolina lowered her head. "Maybe we should give him some time."

Martin shook his head as he glanced at Ian's room. "It would be a miracle if someone came into his life and taught him a lesson. He is not living in reality. This attitude won't work in the war. To protect his pack and maintain a stable aura in front of other Alphas, he must create an image. Like the Alpha of the Thunder Howl Pack."

Carolina raised her head to look at him. "That Alpha also has a bad reputation. People are scared of him because of his badboy image. He is young but dangerous."

Martin moved his gaze away from Ian's room after hearing Carolina.

He looked at her and replied,

"But he is not as disobedient to his parents as our son. That is the reason why they inherited him at such a young age."

Carolina nodded at him. Her mind was clouded by memories from the past. She

let out a deep breath, shaking the memories away.

Inside the bedroom,

Ian spent the night thinking about Ava.

He felt less heavier after telling Ava what was on his mind.

He smirked when he thought about how she was nervous when he got closer to

her. He believed he would not have to make much effort to make her get close to

him.

When he woke up in the morning, he considered leaving early to go to the university.

He grabbed his wallet and noticed some cash. He walked out of his room and left the pack house without taking his car with him.

He took a bus again, thinking that he would meet Ava on the bus again.

But it looked like yesterday was a fortunate day when he could meet her there. Today, she might have considered taking her father's car instead of waiting at the bus stop near her house.

2/3

86

Ian reached the university and walked like a king on the campus.

No one dared to ask him anything since yesterday he had beaten a boy enough to give others the same warning to shut their mouths..

He noticed students were looking at something on their phones. He frowned at them.

What were they looking at so curiously? There might be new rumors spreading on campus.

He saw a boy walking past him while looking at his phone. He snatched the boy's phone and saw what everyone was busy watching.

His calm and curious face slowly turned gloomy when he saw a post with some photos.

The photos were all of Ava and Luke together.

They were having-dinner together. It looked like they were enjoying each other's company. Ian was aware of it. But what caught his attention was a video attached with the photos. He played the video, and his brows lifted:

In the video, Luke was saying to Ava, "Hike you, Ava."

Tan was about to throw the phone in anger when the boy next to him grabbed his hand.

"Please, it's my new phone." 1

He tossed the phone to the boy and walked toward the lobby area with a furious

face. 'He proposed to her last night. So she was right when she said she likes him and he likes her too?'

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 87[1,016 words]

Ava walked into the campus and noticed people glancing at her.

She rolled her eyes and murmured, "What again?"

She tried to ignore the people, but one of the boys approached her and asked,

"Ava, are you really with Luke? Is there any chance to reconsider it?"

Ava was stunned. A surprised look appeared on her face, as she did not know how this boy had heard about her and Luke.

"What do you mean?" she asked, giving him a confused look.

The boy handed him his phone and showed him a video.

She watched the video where Luke had proposed to her. It looked like Luke was a little loud at that time. It was because she was about to leave the cafe, and he tried to stop her from leaving

"So, is this now the talk of the town?" she inquired, raising her head to face the boy.

He scratched the back of his neck and exclaimed,

"You have many other choices, you know. They may keep their distance from you because of your brother. Even though we have seen you and Luke together. He was very protective of you."

Upon hearing the boy, Ava realized how Luke defended her in front of Ian.

There was a lot going on yesterday. The fight in the university, and later at that night Ian once again fought with other people.

Though last night was hard for her, she did not want to remember it again.

"Ava."

She heard her voice and turned her head in the direction of it.

Abigail came to her and wrapped her shoulder around her neck.

"What are you doing with this boy?" she asked, gazing at the boy.

The boy turned his attention to Abigail. "What do you mean by this boy? I am a member of team Black Diamond."

Abigail scoffed at him. "You and your whole team should stay away from my friend. Now shoo shoo."

The boy glanced at Ava for the last time. Ava handed his phone back to him. He left their sides when he found no hope for himself.

"What were you watching on that boy's phone? Oh, wait! The video, hmm?"

Abigail wiggled her brow, teasing Ava.

Ava shoved the thoughts and turned to look at her.

"So you also watched the video?"

"You also? Everyone has seen it, baby," Abigail said and winked at her.

Ava let out a chuckle. "Stop teasing me. I am already depressed."

1/3

87

Abigail started to walk, dragging Ava with her while holding her shoulder.

"Why are you depressed?"

"We didn't go on a date, Abi. He said he liked me. I told him that I needed some time."

"What's wrong with that?"

"It's just, even if it was a date, I don't like how they clicked in and my private life like that. I don't enjoy these people's lives where they feel like celebrities when others like to spread news about them like paparazzi."

Abigail understood what Ava meant, so she nodded her head in agreement.

They entered the cafeteria and sat at a table. Ava was about to tell Abigail everything that had happened yesterday.

But before that, someone placed a cup of strawberry smoothie on the table.

Both Ava and Abigail looked at it with confusion because they had not ordered anything yet.

But then they saw the fair hand of a girl. They lifted their gazes from the mug and looked at the person.

"What do you want, Nova?" Abigail asked.

Nova was standing there. She smiled at Abigail and then fixed her gaze on Ava. Beside Nova were with two other girls.

Ava realized that she had seen one of the girls in the restaurant last night.

It did not take long for Ava to realize who had recorded the video of her and Luke last night.

She was enraged by the thought and stood up from her chair.

"You! You were the one who posted that video, right?"

The girl laughed as she glanced at Nova. Nova smirked at Ava and asked,

"What's wrong with it? Are you embarrassed about being seen with Luke? Wait a minute. Shouldn't it be the other way around?"

Nova's friends burst out laughing. Their laughs gained other people's attention as they turned their heads to look at them.

"Nova and you two minions, my friend is already depressed about something. So fuck off!"

Abigail said after standing up from her seat angrily.

Nova raised her hand and placed a finger beneath her chin.

"Depressed? Why? Let me guess."

She took a brief pause before her eyes lit up as she smirked at Ava.

"Is that because you are not with just one man?"

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Everyone started to whisper about it.

"Not with one man?"

"Is she with other men at the same time?"

"So she is a two-timer? What a waste!"

2/3

87

They started to judge Ava with their skimming eyes.

The atmosphere turned heated as they started to talk about how Ava was taking advantage of Stephen's reputation after becoming his sister.

Abigail tightened her fists. Ava grabbed her hand to keep her under control because she knew her best friend was angry and would do anything to hurt Nova. She did not want to see a catfight for her.

Ava looked at Nova and said,

"How can you be so sure that I am also with another man?"

Nova gave her a sly grin. "Do I need to give proof for it?"

Ava raised an eyebrow. "Why not? I also want to see that proof. Why didn't you post it online like you made your friend post Luke's and mine video on the group? Are you afraid of something, Nova?"

Everyone was confused about how her going with another man was related to Nova.

Nova glared at Ava.

Ava smirked at her, stepping closer to her.

"You should not have messed with me. Now I have to reveal your secret, which you had kept hidden from others in order to maintain your so-called 'Future Luna' reputation."

Nova looked around and noticed others' perplexity. Upon seeing her response, Ava laughed.

It was her time to give her back.

"Ladies and gentlemen, our campus queen is deceiving you all. She is no longer Ian Dawson's girlfriend, or, I can say, his favorite girl."

Nova could not take it. She could not tell others about it. So she said to everyone,

"She is lying. Don't trust her. She is just-"

However, a deep voice interrupted her from behind.

"She is not lying. I broke up with Nova."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 88[1,112 words]

Everyone turned their heads to lan, who had just entered the cafeteria.

They were stunned to learn that lan had ended his relationship with Nova. She was his first girlfriend. Because he never dated anyone before. One night was always enough for him to get bored with a girl.

Nova froze with his deep voice. Her heart began to race but of fear. She recalled his warning from last night. She did not expect to get caught.

Ava glanced behind Nova and noticed lan approaching them

He was getting close in her direction, which reminded her of last night when he leaned close to her in his car.

lan came to a stop next to Nova. His gaze locked on Ava's.

Ava could see his eyes were enraged as if he was mad about something But they were not fierce, like last night when he beat the boys.

lan averted his gaze away from Ava and looked at Nova.

Nova's legs were shaking. She gulped and murmured,

"lan..."

"What's happening here?"

Nova turned silent. She did not dare to say anything.

lan's presence in the cafeteria made the atmosphere cold.

Abigail looked at lan and said,

"Your girlfriend... I mean your ex-girlfriend was disturbing Ava. Tell her to stay away from her. I would break her mouth if she dared to come to bother her again. She is no longer the future Luna, so I do not think we should be afraid to approach her."

Her words were loud enough to reach everyone's ears. She intentionally did that to let others know about it. It would put Nova in her place.

Nova gave Abigail a glare. Abigail gave her a scowl.

"What? You were the one who asked your friends to post pictures and videos of my friend and his future boyfriend.

oo

Ian was totally calm until Abigail referred to Luke as Ava's future girlfriend'.

He gazed at Ava, who was now looking at Abigail.

"Anyone can like a friend. What's with it? It doesn't mean they need to date or something. What's a big deal?" Ian muttered while staring at Ava.

His words caught Ava's attention as she looked at him.

"But if both of the people like each other, then they can date," Ava said in reply.

Ian's eyes darkened, which caused her to scoff at him. She had already cleared him last night that she did not want to have anything to do with him.

"Ian, are you single again?" One of the girls asked.

1/3

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They had dreams of becoming Ian's girlfriend, but they never got a chance.

Without looking at her, he responded,

"Of course."

His eyes were still fixed on Ava.

Nova felt like crying when Ian admitted it; she broke into tears and said,

"Ian, why are you doing this to me?"

Ian arched his brow and turned to Nova. "Start acting again? I never loved you.

We never slept either. Then what is there to cry about?"

His words shocked everyone. They could not believe that a boy like Ian who needed a girl every single night had never slept with Nova.

There could be two reasons.

Either he loved her and waited for her consent, or he had no interest in her at all.

By judging that it was Ian Dawson, everyone was sure that the second reason was the real reason.

Ava made a disgusting expression as she stared at Ian. Nova was not a good girl. But Ian was degrading her in front of others. He had no value in his eyes for a relationship. He did not know how to respect women.

So she shook her head and turned to sit back on her chair.

However, she came to a halt when Ian spoke again.

"Guys, don't mind, Nova. She was a bit upset. Well, it's not for the breakup. We broke up many days ago. But she is upset because she saw me with someone last night."

Ava turned her gaze to him. She shot a glare at Ian, telling him not to tell anyone about it since people would misjudge her.

Others were eager to know who Ian was with. They began to question him, trying to figure out who had caught his attention.

Ian smirked at Ava and said to others,

"I was with someone very special, you know. I can't tell you all her name until she reveals it herself. But let me tell you all one thing..."

He turned away from Ava and looked at all of the girls sitting on the tables, who were all upset with him. "From now on, no more girls for me. Maybe it is time to be

a one-woman man. What do you to say?"

Everyone glanced at each other, disbelieving in their ears.

Ava was surprised at Ian's words as well.

She felt Abigail moving close to her and murmured,

"Ava, has he lost his mind? Ian Dawson without girls? That's impossible. Who does he now want to impress by saying this?"

Ava closed her eyes, not knowing how to explain it to Abigail right now. Ian was just playing with her. There was no way she would fall into his trap this time.

2/3

Just as she felt a little relief that Ian did not take her name, Nova burst out in rage.

"Are you happy now, Ava? It's all because of you. You snatched my boyfriend away from me. I am no longer afraid to tell the truth to others. You were the one who was with him last night in the dark alley where he always goes with his friends. You were all alone with him. You are trying to seduce him and-ahhh!"

Nova felt pain in her arm when Ian grabbed it tightly. She thought he almost broke the bone.

"Didn't I tell you not to mess up with her? If you dared to humiliate her again, then she would think that I made you do that. Apologize to her right now."

Ian's angry voice echoed throughout the cafeteria.

People could not just believe what they were listening to. Nova's claims were almost believable because girls could do anything to get Ian's attention. But the way Ian took Ava's side, showed that he cared for Ava and got mad at her.

"I-Ian, you are hurting me," Nova sobbed.

"Say sorry to her right now. It looks like you think your dad's reputation can give you permission to insult the Gamma's daughter. Don't forget that the future head Alpha will handle the lives of all of the former officials. I will take care of your family after becoming the head Alpha."

Ava was taken aback. Did Ian just threaten Nova about her father and her family just because of her?

Was she dreaming?

She was about to shake her head to say that Nova did not need to apologize and she could just stay away. But Nova looked at her with furious and tearful eyes, gritting her teeth and saying,

"I am sorry, Ava. This is something I will always remember"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 89[978 words]

Ava averted her gaze away from Ian and focused on Nova. She could see Nova looking angry at her.

But was it her fault?

Ava let out a sigh and turned to Abigail.

"Let's sit already. We have wasted our time enough with these people. We have classes to attend, too."

Nova stomped her leg on the ground in rage and left the cafeteria, crying. Her friends left behind her.

Ian's eyes were on Ava. He noticed her sitting in the chair with her friend. Her friend was giving her a glance. By seeing how she was giving him a look, it was obvious that her friend did not like him much.

Everyone returned back to what they were doing. But they got the biggest breaking news of the year.

Ian Dawson was single again. Since he was in a relationship before, it was possible that anyone could get the change this time.

They believed he was just roaming around with Ava since Nova said she had seen him with Ava last night. They did not think Ava could keep Ian's interest in her for a long time.

Girls glanced at him with smiles. Some of them blushed just by looking at his attractive profile.

Ava was aware of everything that was going on around her.

Abigail frowned at Ian and leaned close to Ava.

"Why is he still around? And what was Nova saying? You were with him last night?"

Ava gave Abigail a pat on the hand. She shook her head and murmured,

"I will tell you about it later."

Abigail had grown impatient. She lifted her head and gazed at Ian.

"What are you doing here, Ian? Can we have some personal space, please? At the very least, let my friend breathe. Didn't you see how your ex-girlfriend was trying to insult her?"

Ian gave her a bored look. Then he shifted his gaze at Ava and approached her.

Ava fixed her gaze on the table as she listened to Abigail.

However, when she sensed Ian approaching, she raised her head.

Ian came to a stop beside her and looked down at her. Putting his other hand on the back of her chair, he placed his palm on the table in front of her.

He bent over to reach for her.

She was stunned by his action.

He leaned close to her. Everyone turned their heads at them again.

Abigail looked at them with shocked eyes.

"W-What are you doing?" Abigail said to Ian when she glanced at Ava and saw how shocked she was.

Ian did not glance at Abigail. He looked into Ava's eyes and asked,

1/3

89

"I watched the video where Luke said he likes you."

Ava blinked her eyes, not knowing what was in his mind.

Ian's gaze moved on her face. Her expression caused him to chuckle.

He was mad before. But after watching her like this, he thought she was cute. Her innocent expression lessened her rage.

He stood up straight and rested his hand on her head, Ava closed her eyes briefly before opening them again.

Ian patted her head with his tattooed hand.

The girls' jaws dropped when they saw how softly he interacted with her. It was a sweet gesture from a boy to a girl.

They were already stunned when they heard lan's words, but his actions made them feel unbelievable.

"Your expression conveys that you gave him hope. I hope you did not forget what I told you last night."

Ava removed his hand away from her head and glanced at others who were staring at her.

"What is with this new acting? J-Just leave."

She was unable to control her tone in the end. It was because her heart was racing faster. He always moved closer to her, as if he did not need her permission to touch her.

lan stepped back without breaking eye contact.

Everyone widened their eyes when lan said the next word.

"You caught the future Alpha's eyes, Nerd," he said loudly while stepping back.

Everyone let out gasps. Everyone in the cafeteria started talking about it in hushed tones. Girls looked in the direction of Ava and felt envious.

Abigail was too shocked to react. It was the first time lan had said something like this to someone.

Was he trying to play with Ava?

She held Ava's hand and uttered,

"Babe, are you okay?"

It was as if Ava came out of a spellbound that lan had created, she broke eye contact with him.

The atmosphere in the cafeteria became heated. Everything seemed to be disoriented. The sound of people's voices reached Ava's ears.

She saw lan grinning at her; he turned around and left the cafeteria.

She held her head and groaned.

"Ava?"

She heard Abigail's voice. She turned to Abigail and replied,

"I am not okay, Abi. I am messed up."

She then told Abigail everything that had happened last night.

2/3

89

Abigail's face was filled with shock. Ian's actions and words were unbelievable.

"I can not believe this! He said he wants you. What exactly is he looking for? What did he mean by that?" Abigail asked.

Ava lowered her head. "I don't know. I think he thought he could make me a fool."

Abigail reflected for a moment. She remembered Ian telling others that he would never go after another girl.

She rubbed her forehead, convinced her best friend was in danger.

They exited the cafeteria, heading to their classes. Ava's thoughts were still on what had happened in the cafeteria. "What about Luke, Ava?" Abigail asked Ava as her gaze fell on Luke, who was coming in their direction.

Ava turned her head and noticed Luke. She let out a deep breath.

"I will talk to him."

"About what?"

Abigail assumed Ava would reject Luke because she appeared to be confused with her heart.

But Abigail was taken aback when she heard Ava,

"I like Luke. I took time from him, but now I think I should start dating him. I don't want Ian messing up my life again." (3

Abigail was about to tell Ava not to do anything in a rush. But before that, Ava

walked toward Luke to stop him in the middle of the way.

She looked at Luke and said,

"Luke, let's date." (1

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 90[948 words]

90

Luke was shocked when he heard Ava. He found out what had happened in the cafeteria through his friends. Ian made it clear to everyone that he had his eyes on Ava.

He thought Ava would reject him and tell him that she would go with Ian.

But Ava's words surprised him.

"Ava."

Ava gave him a small smile and said,

"What you heard about me and Ian, I will clear it up for you. I was with him last night, but it was because Stephen was in danger. I told you before. I no longer have any feelings for him."

Luke's face broke into a wide grin. He smiled at her broadly and asked,

"Are you sure? Are you sure that you are giving me a chance?"

Ava nodded her head with a warm smile. Ian had already broken her heart. She did not want him to break it again. So it was better she gave it to someone else and be loyal to the person.

Luke pulled her into a hug. Ava glanced at others who were looking at them. She closed her eyes and wrapped her arms around Luke.

"I am very happy, Ava. I promise to always keep you happy."

Ava nodded her head after breaking the hug. He cupped her face and said,

"This weekend is the basketball tournament match. It's the finale, and I want you to come and support me. If I win, I will make the day memorable for you."

He indirectly told her that he would propose to her officially to become his girlfriend.

Ava shifted her gaze away from him and nodded her head in response. She had no idea why, but whenever she was near Luke, she never experienced that electrifying feeling.

Why did she feel it only when she was with Ian?

It was afternoon.

After attending all of her classes, Ava walked out of the campus. She glanced at Stephen and his friends. Ian was not with them.

Stephen walked up to her and asked,

"I heard what happened"

Ava interrupted him and said,

"Don't worry. I am fine. And thank you for supporting me. I heard you had warned Ian about me."

Stephen smiled at her. "I am your brother. It's my responsibility. But I am sorry. Even after trying, he..."

Stephen paused, losing his words to make her understand the situation.

Ava patted his arm and replied,

"Don't fight with your friends for me. I will handle it. I promise."

1/3

Stephen gave her a warm smile and stroked her hair in response. It reminded her

of Ian patting her on the head this morning

Ava thought about to call the driver, but Stephen said,

"Will you wait for me for a few minutes? I am also leaving right now."

"Sure," she replied.

Stephen went back to his friends to talk about something

Ava waited for him as she pulled out her phone from her bag and began to use it.

Her gaze shifted away from her screen when she noticed a pair of shoes approaching her.

She raised her head to look at the person.

However, she was taken aback.

It was the same guy she had seen at the restaurant. The boy with green eyes.

"Yes? May I know you?" she asked the boy.

The boy stared at her without responding, which caught her off guard.

"Excuse me? Are you listening to me?" She spoke again.

The boy raised his hand and moved his finger toward her face. Before Ava could say anything, he placed his finger in the center of her brows.

Ava felt like someone was jerking her entire body. The boy immediately removed his hand from her forehead and took a step back.

Ava's eyes widened. She had no idea what had just happened.

"W-Who are yo-"

Ava could not complete her sentence as someone called her from behind.

"Ava?"

Ava turned around and saw Luke approaching her. She could see that his eyes were on the green-eyed boy.

He came to stand next to her and frowned at the boy.

"Are you stalking her?" Luke asked the boy.

The boy raised his brows in response. Ava almost believed that he was mute if he did not speak out.

"Are you his boyfriend?" the boy asked.

Ava and Luke both were offended. They gave the boy a scowl.

"Who are you to ask that?" Ava asked, getting a little angry.

"Yes, I am her boyfriend. Now what?" Luke said to the boy.

Ava glanced at Luke. She remembered asking him about dating.

"I can't believe it. How can you date him?" The boy said, looking at Ava in disbelief.

2/3

90

Luke got so mad at the boy that he grabbed the boy's collar and asked,

"How dare you say that?"

"Luke!"

Ava hurriedly grabbed his hand, trying to break the hold.

"Please calm down, Luke."

The boy did not move. His eyes shifted on Ava. Ava was stunned when she saw his eyes glow green for a second.

Stephen and his friends dashed toward them. He freed the boy from Luke's grip.

"What happened?" Stephen asked Luke.

"This boy is stalking Ava."

Stephen glared at the boy and asked,

"How dare you stalk my sister?"

The boy looked at Stephen. His eyes glowed again.

"Is she your sister?"

"Yes, she is. Who are you? Why are you here? I don't think a wizard has the permission to roam around our pack like this."

Ava was stunned when she heard Luke.

'A wizard? He is a wizard! That was why his eyes glowed green!' she thought.

She did not know why the boy looked at her like that.

"I am from the Thunder Howl Pack. I had permission to come here. I am leaving the pack tonight. So don't be concerned about the permission thing."

This was the second time Ava heard about that pack. She glanced at Stephen and noticed his darkened.

"Then you should leave as soon as possible."

The boy nodded his head and replied,

"I will leave for sure. But before that..."

The boy paused and glanced at Ava, then muttered,

"I want to talk to her. I came to this university for her."

Don't Leave Me, Mate

Chapter 91[1,000 words]

91

Stephen tightened his fists in anger. "How dare you even say that?"

Ava could not understand why that guy wanted to see her. The way that guy gazed at her with his green eyes, she felt intimidated.

Ava noticed that both Luke and Stephen looked angry at the guy. Her brother was angrier.

She could still feel that boy's finger on her forehead, sending shivers down her spine. It was a horrible sensation for her. She had never experienced anything like that.

She was nearly shaken inside by what he had done to her.

"What do you want to talk about?" She asked the boy.

The boy's eyes turned sharper as he tilted his head, giving the vibe that he was not afraid of anyone.

Ava was able to understand his thoughts. Why would the boy be afraid of anyone if he could give them an electric shock by simply touching their foreheads?

Ava's thoughts could not last for long because a voice came from behind her which caused the green avert his gaze away from her.

"What's going on here?"

Ava looked over and noticed Ian. His brows knitted as he gave the boy a look. With a swift expression change, the boy answered,

"Ian Dawson."

It was a kind of greeting that the boy had not done to the other two boys.

Ian moved over to stand beside Ava. Ronald was with him.

Stephen did not look at Ian. He looked still mad at him.

Meanwhile, Luke was not pleased to see Ian there beside Ava. So he grabbed Ava's hand and said,

"I will drop you home. Let's go with me."

Ava looked at their hands, then cast a glance at the green-eyed boy.

"He can't handle you. Don't be with him," the green-eyed boys said.

Stephen growled at the boy and asked,

"Now you will tell who my sister should stay with or not?"

The boy shook his head and replied,

"I may not be her enemy but her well-wisher."

Ian stepped toward the boy. He stopped in front of him and brushed his shoulder. Boy to

"I am still unaware of your identity. But I can only guess based on what I have seen from a distance. You were bothering my friend," Ian said, glancing at Stephen.

Stephen could not remain calm as he spoke out.

"He is stalking Ava. He is from the Thunder Howl Pack. He said he wants to talk with Ava."

Upon hearing Stephen, Ian raised an eyebrow. "What do you want to talk about with her?"

It was the same question Ava had asked the boy earlier.

"I can't tell you. I want to observe her and-"

Ian grabbed the boy's neck to stop him from speaking further.

Ava gasped with surprise.

Ian glared at the boy and muttered in a low tone, which no one could hear.

"Observe what? She is mine. Do you still have the balls to check her?"

The boy's eyes widened by his actions and words.

"Y-Yours? But that boy said he is her girlfriend," the boy said while pointing his finger at Luke.

Ian glanced at Luke and grinned at him. He turned his head back to the boy and said,

"Let him believe that. Do you still want to learn more about her?"

The boy shook his head. Ian loosened his grip around the boy's neck and said,

"I am letting you go for now. Every one of your men is leaving. If you want to stay alive, you should leave as well."

As if Ian's warning had worked, he glanced at Ava one last time before leaving the university.

Ian turned around to look at Ava. "See? This is why you should be with me. I made him leave in a second."

Ronald let out a chuckle. Stephen stared at Ian without letting out any words.

Luke glanced at Ian and Ava, who were looking at each other. He cleared her throat before patting Ava's hand.

"Ava? Are you coming with me?"

Ava averted her gaze from Ian. She was about to answer yes when Stephen said,

"She is going back home with me."

Luke felt upset, but he did not stop Ava.

"Then I'm leaving. See you tomorrow," Luke said to Ava.

Ava gave him a nod. Luke glanced at others and thought of something. He moved closer to Ava and hugged her.

Ian's blood boiled when he saw that. Ronald grabbed his arm and murmured, "Calm down. That's just a hug."

Ian's eyes moved on Luke's hand, which was wrapping around Ava's waist. Ava also hugged him, which did not fit with Ian.

He rolled his eyes and looked away from them. Luke took his leave and got in his car, then drove away.

Stephen walked towards his car. Ava was about to sit in the front seat beside Stephen, who had just started the car.

But before that, Ronald grasped the door's corner and uttered,

"Let me sit with Stephen. You can sit in the back seat."

2/3

91

Ava did not say no to him. But she wondered where Ronald's car was.

Ronald bent down to look at Stephen after opening the door

"Take Ian with us."

Stephen held his hand still. He turned his head and gave Ronald an angry look.

Ronald hurriedly sat beside the driver's seat before closing the door.

Ava leaned her back against her seat. But then the door opened once again from outside.

When Ava looked over, she saw Ian getting into the car.

"What are you doing?" she asked Ian.

Ian sat next to her and smiled at her.

"What am I doing here? Well, I am going to accompany you. I thought you would feel bored."

He winked at her. Ava rolled her eyes and turned to look out the window.

Stephen looked in the rearview mirror and saw Ian staring at Ava.

"He is broke right now. Don't you think we should help him? Even though I am aware that you and Ian are at odds, you two fought..."

Ronald paused because Ava was inside the car with them. With a laugh, he said, "Let's help the future Alpha for today, okay?"

Stephen looked at Ronald and asked,

"What makes you sit here? She could have sat next to me."

Ian sneered at Stephen and spoke out,

"Calm down, buddy. I am not going to eat your sister alive, but I have plans to do so later." (3)

92

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 92[1,018 words]

92

The whole car went silent. Ian's words left Ava stunned. Her eyes froze as she gazed out the window.

Stephen turned his head to look at Jan.

"Can you please shut up?"

Jan smirked as he observed Ava's side profile. Ronald patted Stephen's shoulder.

"Why are you putting yourself between them? Your sister is capable of dealing with him."

Ava turned her head to look at Ronald. "Would you kindly ask your friend to refrain from speaking with me? I am over him."

Ronald glanced at Ava and gave her a cheeky smile. "Do you believe anyone has any control over him? Even his parents struggled to keep him under control. Who are we to have the power to do that?"

After saying that, Ronald burst out laughing.

The three people in the car looked at Ronald with serious expressions.

Ronald realized that and cleared his throat. "Oh, wasn't that funny?"

"No, not at all," Ava replied.

The car began to move as Stephen refocused his attention on the road and began driving.

The ride was silent.

Ava did not move her head and tried to remain still in her seat.

She sensed Ian approaching her abruptly. She looked at him and realized he was closer to her than before. He seemed to move his body, and his leg came to brush against her.

She moved her leg so it did not come into contact with him. But once again he moved closer. She closed her eyes in annoyance and turned to look directly into his eyes.

"What?" she asked in a low tone.

"What what?" he questioned back as he leaned to her and whispered.

She was about to push him with her hand, but he grabbed it and started looking at it.

"My brother is in the car, and you have the audacity to bother me!" She whispered angrily.

She noticed Stephen glancing in the rearview mirror. She felt embarrassed.

"What happened to your hand?" he asked with a desperate tone.

Ava frowned at his question and looked down at her hand. He was examining her palm. She took a careful look at it.

There were a few red lines visible in her palm, indicating that she had been hurt before and had healed.

It came as a surprise to Ava.

She had no idea when she got hurt. She gave it some thought and found a possibility.

It could be when she was trying to help Stephen by untying the silver rope. She felt pain, and her hand hurt a lot at that time.

1/3

92

However, how did her wound heal? She could still remember that when she was with Ian after the fight, she did not feel any pain in her hand!

Ian brushed his palm over her palm, causing her to feel ticklish. She yanked her hand away from his grip and fisted it.

She brought her hand close to her chest and began to think about how the wound had healed.

"So what is your strategy for this time, Ian?" Ronald asked Jan.

Ronald's question was out of the blue. It was clear that he asked to calm the atmosphere inside the car.

Ian gave Ava a stern look. He did not like how she snatched her hand away from him, but she let that Luke guy touch her, even though she hugged him.

His eyes shifted to her hand again, and they softened.

He tried to move his focus away from Ava and looked at Ronald.

"What strategy? I am going to win this game," Ian replied confidently.

Ava was lost in her thoughts. She could not hear the others' conversations. She was thinking about the guy with the green eyes.

Why was he so eager to see her? What exactly did he want to talk about? What did he do to her? What was that? What did he do with her forehead?

She raised her hand and touched between her brows. She was totally fine. Then why did she feel like his touch was still on her forehead?

So many questions were running inside her head. She thought she was going crazy.

The car reached Gamma Harper's house.

"Let's go."

Stephen and Ronald got out of the car, headed to the house.

Ava was lost in her thoughts and Ian was in her. So none of them got out of the car. (1

Ian's eyes were scanning her face and expression like a predator.

"What happened to you?" Ian asked in a low tone, getting that she was thinking something deep.

"I am thinking about that boy. His green eyes had something that caught my attention. It was like he was trying to tell me something. I had seen him before, and he did the same thing then. Today, the way he touched my forehead, I just-" Ava paused as she struggled to find the right word to explain

However, when she felt a pair of hands cupping her cheeks and turning her face, she realized she was with Ian and talking to him.

She immediately grabbed his wrists to remove his hands from her cheeks. But he tightened his grip and leaned in

her face.

His eyes were on her forehead, and he asked,

"Did you just say he touched you? In your forehead? How dare he!"

2/3

92

Ian's angry tone almost shook Ava from the inside. She frowned at him and asked,

"Why do you care if someone touches me? Just leave me."

He looked into her eyes and replied,

"I don't like to repeat myself. That Luke guy is not even my competition. So, now you are trying to get closer to that wizard?"

Ava's eyebrows raised as she realized she had almost forgotten about it.

She pushed Ian's hands away from her cheeks. "I accepted Luke into my heart. We are dating."

Ian clenched his fists. "What did you just say? Dating? Since when?"

"From today. I was the one who asked him to date me. I want him."

Ava could see Ian's eyes darken. She flinched when he punched the seat in front of him.

"So you want him? Even after so many warnings of mine, you still want him?" "Yes, I like Luke and-"

1

Ian interrupted her as he leaned close to her face. She gulped as his dark eyes pierced on hers.

"And I like you," he murmured as if completing her sentence.

He tilted his head and kissed her cheek, then muttered,

"I realized it after I rejected you. I really like you, Ava."

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 93[1,031 words]

93

Tan's confession left Ava frozen. The touch of his lips lingered on her cheek, giving her the electrifying feeling that she wanted to feel when she was close to Luke.

Ian's words did not only echo throughout the car but also in her mind. It kept replaying in her heart.

Ian backed away and looked at her. A grin appeared on his face as he caressed her chin with his fingertips.

"I know I-"

Ava pushed his hand hard, which shocked Ian.

Ava's frozen expression transformed into rage. She glared at Ian and said,

"Like me? As to how? Insulting me and attempting to force me into being with you against my will? For what? With the intention of playing with me like other girls and then breaking up with me like you did with Nova, is that what you want to do?"

Ian's brows lifted. Although he appeared to be trying to calm his anger in front of her, he grabbed the front seat with his fingers and held it tightly.

"I have already explained why I broke up with Nova. Just because of you."

Ava scoffed at him. "Yes, of course. I caught your eye. So, once you have gotten over me, someone else will catch your eye. It is as simple as that."

Ian shook his head. "That's not how-"

She cut him off and said,

"It's too late, Ian. I don't like you at all. Look around and try to fix your eyes on someone else. Because it's not like we are still mates and we are bound to be together."

After saying that, she turned to open the door. But Ian grabbed the knob and stopped her.

She turned her head, and her heart nearly stopped. He was closer to her.

"Just tell me why you are doing this. You were in tears the day I rejected you as my mate. You did not seem pleased with it. That means you wanted me, right?"

Ava collected herself and responded,

"As you said, I was crying that day, and you showed no mercy. Then why would I want to be with that boy? I would rather stay single than be with him."

Ian stared at her without moving. She let out a sigh and pressed her hand against his chest.

"I don't want another fight between you and my brother because of me. So you better not come to my house before solving your problems."

She pushed him, opened the door, and got out of the car.

She did not look back at him for once and made her way to her house.

When she entered the house, she noticed her mother was at home. Her mother was talking to Ronald and Stephen with a smile on her face.

Her mother noticed her and walked over to her. "How was your day, Ava?" she asked.

1/3

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"Fine, mom," Ava replied.

Her mother asked her if she had eaten yet. She said she was not hungry and wanted to get some rest.

Her mother looked at her for some time, asking if she was okay. She replied that she was fine and only felt tired.

"Where is Ian?" Ronald asked Ava when she was heading toward the staircase.

She came to a halt in her steps and turned to face Ronald. Her gaze shifted to Stephen, who looked calm.

She shifted her focus away from him and responded to Ronald.

"I don't know."

"But he was in the car."

"I think he does not want to come into our house anymore," she said before going upstairs, leaving both boys perplexed.

Days passed as Ava tried to remain close to Luke. She had made up her mind about him. She would be his girlfriend and would strive to live a happy life.

Both Abigail and Debra supported her, saying that she would never get a caring boy like Luke.

Ava always made an effort to avoid Ian at the university. Surprisingly, he also did not try to show up in front of her. It appeared that he had finally accepted that he and she could not be together.

It was late in the evening.

Ava and Stephen were sitting on the couch in the living room. They were watching a movie on their 85-inch TV. Ava looked scared because it was a horror film.

When a horror scene appeared on the screen, Ava became scared, while Stephen laughed louder.

With a mouthful of popcorn, Ava turned to look at Stephen.

"What's so funny in the movie? It's so scary! Why are you laughing, Steph?"

Stephen could not stop laughing, and seeing her terrified expression made him laugh even more.

"I am leaving then. Bye."

Ava put the bowl of popcorn on the small table in front of them and tried to stand up.

Stephen took her hand and sat her down.

"Lil Sis, why are you so angry? Isn't it funny? How could a wolf transform into a large black bird? Is this even a scene? That's hilarious!"

He started laughing again. Ava took a glance at the screen. Was she a scared kid? If she thought like Stephen, he was right. That was not a terrifying scene.

She shook her head. "No, no. I can't think like you boys.." Stephen ruffled her hair and replied,

"Your brother is a big boy. So you don't have to be scared of anything, okay?"

Ava smiled at him and nodded her head. In just a few days, she and Stephen had created a wonderful bond. If someone who did not know them saw them together, they would assume they were biological siblings.

The sound of the doorbell reached them. The maids dashed to open the main door.

When they opened it, Stephen's friends entered the house because it was their time to be together.

Ava stood up and said to Stephen,

"We will continue watching the movie tomorrow."

"How about another movie? It is a comedy rather than a horror film."

Ava thought for a moment before giving him a ng

"Sure."

As Ava headed to go to her room, she cast a sidelong glance at Stephen's friends.

Except for Ian, everyone was there. Ian did not visit her house after she told him not to.

She shifted her gaze away from them to concentrate on the steps.

Cyrus' voice rang out from behind her.

"It's been a while. Let's put an end to this fight. What should we do to celebrate

Ian's birthday? We should organize a party for him tomorrow night. What are your thoughts, Steph?"

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 94[972 words]

94

1

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Ava turned her head to look at her brother. Stephen was quiet. His friends looked stunned by his reaction.

The three of his friends stood up from the couches they had just sat on and asked,

"Are you for real?" Paul asked with disbelief.

"Stephen, you have changed after getting a family. We understand how eager you were to have one. But you are pushing your old friends," Cyrus uttered.

Ronald cast a glance at Ava, who was standing at the stairs te turned his attention back to Stephen and said,

"It looks like you are too protective about your sister. But you forgot who had been protecting you all along. He is Ian Dawson, our friend who has never abandoned us and has always protected us, even when we were lost."

Stephen lowered his head after hearing Ronald. He was right. Ian was the one who rescued them whenever they were in danger. Their lifestyles were part of his decision. If today they could live so carelessly and with some power, it was all because of Ian.

When Ava noticed her brother's silence, she turned and went downstairs.

She walked up to Stephen, who was sitting on the couch and placed her hand on his shoulder.

Stephen raised his head to look at her.

Ava could see his eyes were filled with confusion. His eyes begged her to allow him to be with his friend, even though it would cause problems in the future.

Ronald looked over at Cyrus, and Paul then said,

"Let's go. We don't have to come here anymore. He chose to be alone. It's Ian's birthday, and he expected us to sit here alone and think about the reason behind the fight? He is no longer our friend."

Cyrus and Paul looked at Stephen before turning to Ronald, who was already leaving the house. They let out a sigh and left the house.

Ava saw them leaving. She wanted to stop them but prevented herself. She thought she should talk to her brother at first.

So she sat next to him and said,

"Brother."

Stephen dropped his head and muttered,

"Don't mind my friends. They are just mad at me."

Ava was surprised that despite everything his friends had said to him, he was still thinking about her.

She locked her arm with him and rested her head on his shoulder.

Stephen gazed at her and said,

"I know he is a bad boy. But it is only from the outside. He has an inner softness.

He has some anger issues, and sometimes he does not like to listen to others SO-"

Ava moved her head from his shoulder and looked at Stephen.

"I don't need to know about him. But how long have you been friends with him?"

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Her question stunned him, but he replied immediately.

More than ten years."

Ava showed no signs of surprise. It was because she could see how upset Stephen was,

She had also seen lan's concern for Stephen when he received calls from others that night. Though Ronald was lan's best friend, lan tried to give attention to all of them. He valued their friendship. He was not a good mate, but he was a good friend.

"Stephen, don't fight like kids. Just let it go and release the grudge from your heart. I know you care for me, but I have talked to him about us. I do not think he will bother me again. Even if he does, you don't have to break your friendship for me. I will take care of everything"

As if Stephen only needed her consent, the heaviness in his heart lifted. He immediately hugged her tightly.

Ava let out a chuckle. Her smile faded when she realized that she had made her brother's life difficult because now his own friends were questioning him.

Stephen broke the hug. To lighten his mood, Ava asked,

"So what is your plan for his birthday?"

Stephen was taken aback by her easygoing demeanor. "It is fine if you don't want

to come to the party we are planning for him."

Ava shook her head and replied,

"Why won't I come? He is our future Alpha. Of course, I will come and enjoy the party."

Stephen broke out in a wide smile. After all these days, Ava finally saw that smile. It was as if he was upset over their fight.

Ava stood up and said,

"Then contact your friends and plan for Ian. I am going to sleep now. Good night."

Stephen grasped her hand. She looked at his hand before shifting her gaze to him.

"Ava, I have something to tell you."

"Yes?"

He loosened his grip and muttered,

"I have been observing Ian. He has become strange. I mean, he has changed. We have never seen him without girls, but now he is completely different. I heard what

he told the girls in the cafeteria a few days ago. I think he "

He paused briefly to look at Ava.

Ava gulped and averted her gaze from him. "Stephen, I-"

"Ava, you know how very protective of you. Still, I am saying it to you. I think he was right when he said he was feeling regret."

Ava stepped away from him and said,

"It's too late, Steph."

He got up and grabbed her hands. "I am not saying you should give him a chance. But I believe he should properly

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** Th*** is no need for him to make an apology. He just needs to keep his distance from me, which he is doing now, and the fi

did you miss the way he add the by who was foolish ough to touch you? That protectiveness... I had never witnessed him acting toward another in this y

Ava recalled the moments that Stephen reminded her of. Pat she had moved on, and there was no way she wanted to get in touch with tan

"Stephen, I am happy with Luke. He is going to ask me to be his girlfriend soon, maybe in the basketball final. I am willing to accept him: SO1 don't have to think about fannymore."
(7

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 95[992 words]

95

95

"Party? But last night..."

Ronald paused, as he spoke on the phone with Stephen. But his gaze was drawn to fan, who was sitting on his bike. While looking at the glass door of a tattoo shop, lan was smoking a cigarette.

"Ronald, you know I was mad at him. But then Ava-"

"Again Ava? What's wrong with you, Stéph? Are you still thinking about her? She looks happy with her boyfriend, Luke. What about lan? Can't you see his situation?"

Stephen was silent. As his gaze remained fixed on lan, Ronald exhaled deeply and let out a long breath. He could not see his best friend in this state.

Over the past few days, lan had stopped using his father's belongings, which included his father's money and vehicles. He started smoking more than he had before and stopped talking to everyone. Because he was broke, he wanted to drink but could not do it. On the other hand, he was the kind of person who would never ask his friends for financial assistance.

Roland used to believe that making lan realize his feelings for Ava would make everything right. That was why he was mocking lan about his feelings.

Who expected the situation to turn out the other way, with his best friend losing himself?

"I know everything. As of right now, Luke is not Ava's boyfriend. And now, what do you expect me to do? We are all bad boys. But when it comes to our family, none of us can see ourselves with them. Because we are aware of one another's personalities."

When Ronald heard Stephen, he rolled his eyes. "Bro, in the future, you will have to choose between your future Alpha and your lovely sister; who will you pick?"

As if Stephen were taken aback by the question, he cleared his throat and replied, "I do not believe that day will ever come."

11

Ronald did not want to argue with Stephen, but he was mad at his sister. When Ian was saying that he liked her and wanted to be with her, then why could she not reconsider it?

"Take an ear, Steph. You should enjoy your time with your little sister. There is no need to be concerned about Ian or his birthday. I am still alive to take care of it."

Ronald did not give him a chance to speak further and ended the call.

He walked over to Ian and leaned against the bike, standing next to him.

His eyes also went to the tattoo shop.

"What are you looking at?" Ronald asked Ian.

Ian's dark eyes were fixed on a tattoo, which he could see from outside.

The smoke that emanated from his mouth spread like a cloud around his face, making it difficult for other people to see it clearly.

"Nothing much," Ian replied.

The first thing that Ronald looked at was Ian's wrist, and then he moved his gaze to his forearm. He glanced at his

new tattoo.

1/3

95

"You were in a bad mood, so I didn't ask you. This tattoo..."

Tan lowered his head and looked at the tattoo. "You are right."

Ronald looked at him and asked,

"This is incredibly painful. Did you do that during your fight with Stephen?"

Ian gazed at him. There was a smile in his eyes when he spoke out.

"No. When I fought with her. She made me realize that I don't deserve her."

Without uttering a single word, Ronald continued to fix his gaze on Ian. Ian's gaze returned to his tattoo.

"Do you know why the sun and the moon can't be together Ian asked, looking at his tattoo.

"Why?" Ronald asked in a low tone.

After letting out a chuckle, Ian responded by saying,

"It's because the sun wants to protect the moon from itself. But it leaves no opportunity to fully illuminate the moon so that it can shine." 1

Ronald was speechless. Did he just refer to himself as the sun and Ava as the moon?

Ronald shook his head as he felt that Ian started to talk out of context.

"What about the line between them?" Ronald asked.

Ian's mouth twisted. He hissed as if he were in pain.

"This line is fate. Fate can never let the moon and sun be together. That thin line will always remind them of their places and always make them apart from each other." 1

Ronald patted Ian's shoulder and murmured,

"When did you start to think like this? This tattoo has a very deep meaning. Is she aware that you designed this tattoo specifically for her? I mean, whenever you see this tattoo, you think about her."

Blowing smoke out of his nose, Ian tried to find the right words to explain.

"She doesn't need to know. She is happy with someone else. I don't want to bother her again."

Ronald was sorry for him. The big bad boy had turned into a lover boy. "Tomorrow is your birthday. I heard your dad will return your bank cards. You will get your cars and bike back. What is your plan? Let's go somewhere with bikes."

Ronald had a simple plan. He would throw a party in his farmhouse and invite everyone on the campus to celebrate the night. However, before that, Ian needed to go to that place, which was a little away from the town.

"I can't go anywhere with anything. I don't want to use my dad's cars or cards anymore. I am okay with how I am. living. That bus ride, cheaper food, and no alcohol parties are not so bad, you know." \

Ronald gave him a bored look. "Bro, come on. Let's go with us. I promise we will have fun. You will thank me later.

I won't come."

"Come on."

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Their argument continued, as none of them wasted to fondly, as hard to ages with analit

He promised that he would accompany him and others to bike tira

Jan assumed it would be no more than a ride or a long dri

On the other hand, Ronald pondered in his head,

'I wish I could make you happy and persuade Ava to attend your birthday party, it won't be the best gift for you and your upset heart.'

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Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 96[1,027 words]

"So you are going to his birthday party?" Luke inquired, his gaze fixed on Ava. They were sitting on a bench near the basketball court. Since the basketball final match was the day after tomorrow, Luke was practicing hard.

"Yeah," Ava replied, sipping the apple juice that she had just bought from the cafeteria before coming to the basketball court.

Luke wiped his sweat with a white towel after turning away from Ava.

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Ava noticed that Luke was not pleased after hearing that, so she tried to ease his mind by explaining,

"Luke, I understand your thoughts, but as I previously stated, there is a beef between Stephen and Ian. If I do not attend the party and enjoy myself with you, Abi, and Debra, Stephen might believe that I have not moved on, which is not true. I have moved on, right?"

Luke turned his head to face her and asked,

"Have you really moved on, Ava?"

Ava was taken aback by his question. She got up from the bench and said,

"Why did you ask that? You know what I want; I have tried everything to move on, and now that I am feeling carefree, you are asking this question."

Luke stood up and held her hand. "Relax. Don't get mad. I was just asking."

Ava frowned at him. "You can't just ask me that every single day. Every day since I asked you to date, you have asked me the same question. What will I do to make you believe that I don't love him anymore?"

Ava felt tired of answering the same question. Why could he not see that she was trying?

It was not easy for her. If it was just a relationship that Ian had broken up, she could have gotten over him after some day. But he rejected her as his mate, which affected her wolf.

Her wolf was still not well. She could not feel her wolf except when she was close to Ian. She still could not understand why he had an impact on her wolf.

The last few days she had made every effort to avoid any kind of encounter with Ian. It somehow affected her wolf. The painful wounds that had almost stopped coming restarted to appear on her back.

Her back was hurting, and she could not tell anyone. There was no one who could help her.

She remembered Abigail's uncle, who was an Epsilon. He had told her that no one could help her or rescue her

wolf.

"Ava, I am really sorry. I really like you. That's why I don't want to lose you. Please don't get mad at me."

Ava heard Luke and let out a deep breath. She thought he was right from his perspective. He might be feeling

insecure.

Ava responded with a nod. "It's okay. See you at night."

Luke smiled at her and replied, "Okay."

Ava left the basketball court and went to the department of marketing. She waited for Abigail and Debra there. They both had the same classes today.

As Ava waited for them, she stood next to a window. She noticed her brother had come to the university by bike. Not only he but also his other friends did the same.

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96

She did not see Ian there. Perhaps they were able to convince him not to come to campus to that their party for him would not be ruined.

Before Ava could walk out of that building, Stephen had already started the bike and left the campus

"These kids are really rich! Private cars, bikes, sports cars, what more do they have?" She murmured and shook her head.

"Ava"

She heard Abigail's and Debra's voices. They called her together. Ava turned around and hugged them

"So what is our plan for tonight?" Debra asked.

Since Ava had already told them in their group about going to Ian's birthday party, they were aware of it.

"Let's go to my house. Then we can spend some time thinking about it," Ava offered them.

Abigail and Debra both agreed.

When Ava got in her car, Debra got inside. Abigail told her driver to leave because she was going with Ava

After the three of them were seated together in the backseat, the driver started the car.

In the whole ride, they laughed and gossiped about what had happened in their classes.

Everything seemed to be getting normal for Ava. It was like after staying away from Ian, she had almost forgotten him and his closeness. 1

"The girls finally stopped talking about you and Ian. Now there are new rumors circulating about you. They are saying that Luke will kiss you if he wins the match," Debra said, winking at Ava.

Ava was stunned. Because of what Ian had said to her in front of others in the cafeteria, people used to talk about them. However, once they saw her and Luke together, they assumed Ian had stopped approaching her and she was now only with Luke.

"K-Kiss?" Ava mumbled.

She just thought about something like that with Luke and her heart clenched inside for no reason. It felt as though she was not ready for it yet.

But she did not tell her friends about it and slid this topic with a laugh.

Abigail glanced at Ava and asked,

"Are you sure you are going tonight?"

Ava nodded her head. Debra wrapped her hands around Abigail and Ava's

shoulder since she was sitting in the middle, then said,

"If not tonight, then never. If that day I had been in Abi's place, I would have suggested you play with that bad boy.

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"And what about Luke?" Abigail asked Debra.

Debra smirked at her and replied, "She can have both, you know."

Both Abigail and Ava gave her a poker face, and Debra burst into laughter.

"Okay, okay, I was just kidding. Come one, guys."

2/3

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Ava looked out of the window as she recalled the day in Stephen's car. Ian made a confession to her. She believed he was just trying to play with her. That type of playboy could not be played by any girl.

"What are you planning to wear? Have you decided?" Abigail asked Ava.

She turned to look at her, and Debra then shook her head in response.

Debra's eyes brightened as she said,

"Why don't you wear the black dress you bought last time? That dress with the back chain! Your body and curves would look so hot on it."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 97[1,005 words]

97

Ian was at his home. He did not attend university today because his friends had planned to go somewhere together.

Sitting on the floor, resting on the edge of the bed, he threw the ball to the wall, which returned to him the next moment. He wore a sleeveless black t-shirt. Whenever he moved his hand, his muscles moved with it.

"Ian, you-"

His mother, Carolina Dawson, paused at the door.

She noticed her son was focused on the ball. Though his sharp eyes were on the ball, he looked into some other thoughts.

She stepped into the room and walked toward the bed with slow steps. She sat down on the edge of the bed, where he was leaning back.

"Ian."

Ian grabbed the ball tightly when he heard his mother. He turned his head to look at his mother.

"Mom."

Carolina stared at her son. Ian had become more calm over the last few days. Her son was not like that. Though she and Alpha Martin always tried to discipline him, it did not mean she expected him to lose himself.

He did not change himself but instead became silent. As if something was bothering him. She feared that something had shattered her son's heart.

Carolina reached out and ruffled his hair. "Ian, my son. What happened to you suddenly?"

Ian raised his brows and asked,

"What happened to me? Nothing."

Carolina was taken aback by his calm, composed tone of voice. It indicated that he was upset.

She removed her hand from his head and placed it on his shoulder.

She pointed her finger to his muscles and said,

"Did someone break my strong son's heart? Tell me. Have you scared anyone with these muscles, tattoos, and piercings?" ¹

Ian could not help but laugh. He realized his mother was trying to cheer him up.

He smiled at his mother. He leaned into her lap and rested his head.

"Mom?"

"Hmmm?" Carolina asked, moving his fingers on his soft locks.

"Mom, am I too bad?"

Carolina paused her hand and tilted her head to look at him.

"Wait a minute! Are you saying this? I can't believe it."

Ian closed his eyes on his mother's lap.

Carolina continued to play with his hair. "Why is it giving me the feeling that someone taught my son a lesson

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that we couldn't teach him even after so much scolding?"

Ian listened to her without letting out anything. He felt like he was missing his mother's soft tone and caring

touches.

He did not know when he drew a line between himself and his parents that he could not share anything with them. His father was exempt since he was strict to him, but Ian did the same with his mother as well.

"Mom, what if I say I did something really bad and now I am regretting it? Do you think that I can be forgiven?"

"Hmmm. Well, that depends on what you have done. Is it something that really hurts someone? Like it left a scar on their hearts and they could never forget it?"

Ian's eyes flung open. He thought of Ava and tried to connect his mother's words to her.

Did he deeply hurt Ava by rejecting her, leaving a wound in her heart?

He indeed insulted her throughout the university and humiliated her a few other times. He regretted everything,

In the last few days, he only thought about her and realized that he liked her very much. It was not something physical, but rather something close to his heart. In fact, his wolf also desired her.

"Ian?"

"Yes, Mom."

"Are you in love?"

His mother's question froze him. He blinked his eyes and slowly raised his head from her lap.

He glanced at his mother, trying to understand her question.

Love was a big thing. He had never considered it. He believed he liked Ava and wanted to be with her. He had no idea about their future, nor did he consider it in his mind.

Despite this, he felt possessive whenever he got close to other boys. He even felt it when he first saw her with Stephen. Luke was someone he hated because he was with her.

"Love?" he muttered in a low tone.

Carolina looked at him closely and said,

"If you feel that you can't see a girl with someone else except you, but at the same time you can let her do that for her happiness, then that's called love."

Ian's heart was shaken a little. Wasn't this what he had been doing for the past few days? He left Ava to be with Luke because she wanted to be with that boy.

Looking at his puzzled expression, Carolina smiled at her son.

She cupped his cheeks and kissed his forehead.

"My baby, if you love someone, you can go for her. Just don't play with her, and always be loyal to her. A playboy attitude may attract escorts, but a dignified woman would only want your loyalty. So if only you are ready to change yourself, you can have her. Tell her what's in your heart and make her believe that you are only her man."

Ian stared at his mother for a while in silence until a ringtone caused him to look away.

He got on his feet and grabbed his phone from the nightstand.

It was Ronald's call. He received the call, and Ronald told him that they were all outside the pack house.

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Ian hung up the phone and turned to his mother.

Carolina got up and smiled at him. Ian hugged her.

"Thanks, Mom. You said a lot of things today. I will keep them in my mind."

Carolina patted his back and wished him all the best. She did not ask anything else, as if giving him personal space.

Ian grabbed his black jacket and left the house. He saw his friends sitting on their bikes.

His eyes fell on Stephen, but he did not say anything to him

However, Stephen got off the bike and approached him.

"lan."

lan gave him a look but did not greet him.

lan assumed that Stephen would tell him about staying away from his sister again.

But Stephen surprised him when he pulled him in a hug.

"I am sorry, buddy. I should have ended the fight that night. It took me so long to hug my friend."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 98[955 words]

98

A car came to a stop in front of a big house. Three girls stepped out of the car.

The three of them looked hot and attractive. Others around the car looked at them with surprise.

"Look how they are looking at us!" Debra said to Abigail and Ava.

Ava cast a glance at the others. She could see boys who were about to enter the house eyeing her from afar. Meanwhile, the girls gave her cold looks.

She lowered her head to look at her dress. Her upper body was covered fully by the black dress, but it was perfectly fitting with her body. It ended up in her mid- thighs. Since it was a fitted dress, she felt that it was too short. Half of her thighs were visible. She was not fond of revealing dresses,

"I swear! Ava looks bang-on. Boys are going to dream of her after tonight," Abigail said.

Ava glanced at her and let out a chuckle. "I know you are trying to cheer me up."

"No way. She is so right. Look at you. With this look and appearance, you can kill any boy, and they will be ready to let you do that," Debra uttered.

The three of them laughed at their own words.

Ava shook her head, then took a deep breath.

"Let's go inside," she said.

Ava entered the house with her friends. She could not help but be in awe when she saw Ronald's farmhouse. It was very similar to Stephen's farmhouse. However, the difference was that it was near the hillside. Driving on this road was difficult, so everyone came with their drivers rather than driving their cars on their

own.

In daylight, you might be able to see the hills' beauty. But the long windows allowed everyone to see outside. There were trees all around the house. In the darkness, the hills looked like black shadows.

Ava walked inside while looking around. Since it was a Power Gang's party, there was no doubt they turned the house into a club.

Ava could see girls and boys enjoying the party. The loud music and smoke made her vision blurry. It was like there was an addiction to the smoke that could drive people's minds crazy.

"Let's have a drink," Abigail asked.

Ava and Debra agreed and headed to the bar. After grabbing three glasses of beer, they walked to a corner.

"Where is your brother?" Debra asked Ava.

"Maybe he is coming with Ian," Ava replied.

Just at that moment, all the lights in the house switched off. Ava grasped Abigail and Debra's hands tightly. She was afraid of the darkness.

"It's okay, babe. It might be a blackout. They will arrange something soon," Debra said, calming Ava in the dark.

"Yes, Ava. We are here with you. Don't worry," Abigail added, patting her hand.

Everyone was making loud noises due to the sudden power cut. However, when they heard the bikes' loud silencers, they became silent. They realized who had just arrived.

After a while, the main door opened and the lights turned on.

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Ava felt relieved when the lights came back on. She exhaled deeply. However, when her gaze fell on the door, she nearly forgot to breathe.

Jan was at the door, looking at the people at the party. He had a confused look on his face. It was as if he was unaware of the party. After all, it was a surprise party for him.

His black clothing gave him a charming aura. Ava's gaze moved to his face. He had his one brow pierced, which enhanced his attractiveness.

Ava shifted her gaze to his lips when he bit his bottom lip with his teeth. Her heart raced as she noticed the mole under his lower lip.

Despite the distance between them, she felt very close to him. She could see him very clearly. She felt enchanted as if she could see him without boundaries.

"Here is the birthday boy!"

Ava looked away from him when she heard the other girls.

She noticed that Debra and Abigail were looking at her.

"What?" she asked in a whisper.

Debra glanced at him and mumbled,

"Why did you look lost in him just a minute ago? What's on your mind, Ava?"

Ava froze at her question. "No, that is not-

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"Or perhaps you accepted my suggestion?" Debra remarked, raising her brows.

Ava smiled at her. She knew her friend was just pulling her leg.

But when she glanced at Abigail, she saw she was calm.

"Where is Luke?" Abigail asked.

Ava pulled out her phone from her bag to call Luke. She dialed his number and found it was ringing.

While holding her phone near her ear, she once again glanced in the direction where lan was.

Her heart skipped a beat as she noticed him looking at her.

She felt a shiver run down her spine as she saw his eyes move down her body, observing her from head to toe.

She recalled what had happened in Stephen's car a few days ago.

"Hello? Ava?"

She quickly turned away from lan and exhaled.

"Ava, are you hearing me?" Luke's voice spoke out again."

Ava realized that she was holding her phone and Luke was in the line.

"Luke, where are you? We are at the party, waiting for you.

"I will be there soon. I am on my way, Ava."

"Okay, come safely."

2/3

98

"Alright."

After hanging up the phone, she turned to her friends. Only Abigail was there because Debra had already cleared the dance floor.

Abigail gestured to Ava to look somewhere.

"You came here to enjoy the party, right? Why bother confronting the birthday boy?"

Ava nodded and turned back to look at lan. He was no longer looking at her.

When she noticed Stephen was talking with Jan like old times, she felt relieved in her heart. She did not want to ruin anyone's friendship for her.

Ava took a sip of the beer and said to Abigail,

"You are right. It should not even bother me."

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 99[976 words]

Jan spent the entire day riding the bike with their friends. I did not bother his father about getting his bike back. Paul had an old bike that he gave lan.

When lan considered returning to the pack house, Ronald offered him and the others a ride to his nearby farmhouse.

Jan did not think much, and he agreed with him.

But when he arrived at the house and walked inside, he was surprised.

His friends planned a party for him. The beginning hour of his birthday was still a few hours away. They told him

to enjoy the night and then cut the cake in the middle of the night that they had prepared for him.

At that moment, fan's gaze landed on the hottest girl in the party. For him, it was none other than Ava.

However, for some reason, he felt she was more beautiful than hot.

Her dress covered her upper body, leaving her legs exposed. They looked fair and smooth. Her thighs brushed against one another as she moved closer to the bar.

lan swallowed as he nearly lost control of his mind. He was having wild thoughts about her.

That dress was scornful to his eyes because he could see every curve of her body.

When she turned around, a few boys were staring at her back.

lan clenched his fists while looking at them. His friends' eyes were on him.

"What's wrong?" Stephen asked.

Ian looked away from the boys and shifted his gaze at Stephen.

"Nothing."

Roland glanced at Ava and asked Ian,

"Are you bothered by someone's presence?"

Ian shook his head before murmuring, "Tonight, some people will die at my hands."

His friends were stunned. However, when they looked in the direction where Ian was looking again, they understood what he was talking about.

Stephen found Ian's angry reaction amusing. He motioned toward the couches. They all sat down there together.

"My sister is hot. What can other boys do? It's not like we never look at other girls."

Today, Stephen had an open conversation with Ian about Ava. So everything between them was now totally okay. They were really close friends, and nothing could shake their friendship.

Ian knew Stephen was correct when he mentioned other girls. But, why couldn't Ian's heart accept it?

His eyes were bristling with jealousy. He did not like how other boys were staring at Ava.

Many girls came to Ian. They even prepared gifts for him, which Ronald instructed them to place on the large table near the dining room.

Some of the girls wore revealing clothes to impress Ian. Little did they know, Ian Dawson had changed. He was no

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longer attracted to the alluring bodies. Someone else now owned his heart. Everyone started to drink. A few girls joined them on the couch.

A girl wearing shorts and revealing tops approached Ian and sat next to him before he could refuse her.

"Hi, Ian. What's up?"

The girl reached over his t-shirt and put her hand on his abs. Jan was about to push the girl away, but his eyes fell on Luke entering the house.

He saw Luke directly go to Ava. They smiled warmly at one another and then hugged.

Ian's grip tightened around the glass he was holding. But he was conscious not to break it.

"If you keep staring at her like that, then there is no reason for this party. Just enjoy it, Jan. Go and talk to her, or just leave her and feel the night," Ronald said to Ian in their mind link.

Ian did not respond, as he was watching how Luke was holding Ava's waist. He did not like the way Ava looked so comfortable around Luke.

Why was she not pushing that boy away from her, as she had done every time he tried to get too close?

He felt the girl next to her grabbing his hand and placing it on her thigh. He looked down at his hand and noticed her moving it to her upper thigh.

She almost brought his hand inside her shorts, but he yanked it away.

"Leave," he murmured, turning away from the girl.

His eyes drew on Ava again, but his heart started to beat faster when he noticed her looking at him.

She took a quick glance at the girl and then at him. Luke said something to her, and she looked away from him.

'Did that bastard try to portray me wrong to her?' he thought in his mind.

He was certain Ava misunderstood his intention. She might be thinking that he was with this girl.

Luke took her and her friends somewhere far from his sight. He felt insecure on the inside.

"Ian, did I make you mad?" the girls whispered in his ear.

Ian looked at the girl and replied,

"Yeah, I am mad. Do you want to break my anger?"

The girl responded by nodding her head.

Ian looked in the direction that Ava had gone and said,

"Go find Ava, and then bring her here."

The girl was shocked. She got up from the couch. She recalled what happened in the cafeteria a few days ago.

She had only one question in her mind. Was Ian pursuing Ava?

The girl did not want to pass up the opportunity to be with Ian, even if it was only for a minute: So she dashed to her friends and asked them to gather some people.

As Ian was drinking while talking with his friends, that girl came back with Ava and her friends. Luke was also

with them.

2/3

+25 BOWS

Some familiar faces from the university approached them as well.

"Why are all of you gathered here as though we are going to play a game?" Ronald asked.

With a nod of her head, the girl replied,

"Why don't we spin the bottle?"

Stephen shook his head. "No way. I don't want anything like the last time."

Ian glanced at Ava, who was standing next to Luke, then he turned to Stephen.

"Last time I missed the game. It's my birthday party. So I think we should play. How about we drop the dare and just ask the truth?"

100

Don't Leave Me, Mate - Chapter 100[984 words]

The group of people that the girl chose and gathered there agreed to play the game. They chose an empty hall room to play the game.

Ava did not want to play the game, but Luke persuaded her. He said he wanted to enjoy the party with her. How could Ava forget that Luke was a party freak?

Abigail and Debra were thrilled because there were no dares and none of their friends would have to bear any consequences.

As Stephen and his friends got up from the couches to move on, Ava did her best to ignore Ian.

However, when he walked past her, his arm brushed against hers, causing her to jerk inside.

Luke grabbed her hand and asked,

"Are you alright?"

"Y-Yeah."

Luke noticed her changing behavior, but he did not say anything to her.

After trailing Ronald, they walked into a room filled with couches.

But everyone chose to sit on the floor.

Everyone sat on the floor and placed a bottle in the center.

Ava noticed her friends patting a place for her to sit. Ava lowered her dress and sat down, folding one leg over the other.

She wished she had not worn this dress. She had to sit uncomfortably on the floor because if she moved slightly, the people in front of her could see between her thighs.

She sat embarrassedly, hands on her lap to conceal her thighs.

Her gaze was drawn to Ian, who had come to sit in front of her on the opposite side. He was facing her. She assumed he purposefully chose that place.

Ian did not look into her eyes. Instead, his eyes were on her bare thighs.

She gritted her teeth in rage.

'What a shameless man!' she thought.

However, the next thing that Ian did really shocked her and others around them.

Ian rested his back against a couch. So, after looking at her dress, he turned his head and reached out his hand to grab a small pillow from the couch behind him. He tossed it to Ava and said,

"Sit comfortably.

Everyone was shocked by his actions and gentle words.

Ava immediately placed the pillow on her lap and sat properly.

She felt bad for mistaking his intention when he looked at her thighs.

1/3

Ava glanced at Luke, who was staring at the pillow. Meanwhile, Abigail and Debra's jaws dropped.

Everyone started to get excited when Ronald spun the bottle

Stephen was the one in front of the bottle when it stopped spinning.

"Have you ever been in love?" A girl asked.

"No, I don't trust in love. But maybe things will turn around if I find someone who can look out for me and my attitude." Stephen answered.

Girls and boys cheered him as they liked his answer. Ava smiled at her brother. She hoped he would soon find the girl he truly wanted.

Next, the bottle stopped in front of Abigail.

It was Debra who raised her hand to ask her a question. Abigail glared at her and shook her head.

"You can't question me. No, no,"

With a sly smile, Debra questioned,

"Are you crushing on someone over here?"

Abigail did not look at anyone. Debra laughed at her. "Come on, babe. If you can't answer, you have to drink the whole bottle of the whiskey."

"Have you lost your mind?"

"Yes, I have," Debra replied.

Ava patted Abigail's shoulder. "Just answer her. You don't need to take names."

"Yes, I do have a crush on someone here," Abigail replied.

Ava was taken aback. Glancing around, she tried to figure out who it might be. She was unaware of it. Abigail would have to ask later. But then she thought when Abigail wanted to share it with her, she would. So she should not press her for anything to spill.

When it was Luke's turn, Abigail asked him,

"Is it true that you will soon propose to Ava to become your girlfriend? Do you really like her?"

Ava gave Abigail a look. Abigail winked at her.

Luke chuckled and nodded his head.

"That's true, I will. I really like her. She is just the perfect girl for me."

Ava heard Luke's answer, but her eyes went to Ian. Ian's eyes darkened as he stared at Luke, seemingly intent on killing him.

Ava quickly averted her gaze from him and grabbed Luke's hand. She recalled Ian beating the boys when she went with him to rescue Stephen. She could not get over how ruthlessly he could beat others.

She was concerned for Luke.

Luke caressed her hand and leaned close to her ear. He whispered to her,

"Are you impressed with my response? Well, that's true."

2/3

100

Ava pursed her lips and lowered her head. She did not know what to say.

She began to feel like she was not doing right with Luke. Did she really like him in the same way he liked her? Or

did she just use him to move on in her life? Would there be any future for this kind of relationship?

"Ava! It's your turn!"

2

She snapped out of her thoughts when she heard Abigail's voice. She noticed the bottle had stopped in front of her.

"I'm

going to ques-

The girl who was with Ian was about to question Ava. But Ian cut her off and asked,

"Have you ever loved someone?"

Everyone was shocked when Ian mentioned love. They could not believe what magic had done Ava to him that he began to speak in the language that he had never wanted to learn.

Ava glanced at Ian, who was looking into her eyes.

Ava's heart was pounding.

She felt Luke patting her hand. She turned to look at Luke. He was aware of her past.

"It's okay to answer. You don't need to give him the name to satisfy his ego.

Ava realized that he was right. She could just tell the truth and leave the name behind. It was not like she was still in love with him.

She could feel Ian's gaze under her when she was looking at Luke.

She took a deep breath and locked her gaze with Ian, then replied,

"Yes,"

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Ian looked mad. His eyes were as sharp as knives. He did not wait for a second before asking her another question.

"Who is he?"!