

Claimed And Marked By Her Stepbrother Mates

Chapter 111-The Mockery!

Chapter 111: 111-The Mockery!

Helanie:

"And someone drew on it too," she laughed as she showed the test I had tossed away when I found out I was pregnant. What are the chances that out of everyone, they found the test.

I welled up but kept my posture, trying so hard to think about something funny to avoid tearing up in front of everyone and exposing myself.

Sydney was holding the test with a napkin, a grimace on her face.

"That is disgusting," Salem commented, "I hate girls like these. Why spread legs apart when you are too ashamed of getting pregnant."

"That is rude," Jenny added, which made Sydney turn to look at her in anger.

"Jenny is right. What's so funny about it? How about Sydney comes here and tells us why she thinks this is so funny?" Emmet gestured at her with two fingers, signaling for her to walk up to him and stand in front of the whole class.

She did so, still holding the test wrapped in a napkin.

"It's because it has to be an illegitimate child, or else why would a mother toss away the test? Or maybe she was excited at first, drew a broken heart because she wasn't sure if her mate or baby daddy would accept the child, and when he didn't, she threw it here. But she won't be able to hide the belly for too long." She was talking and moving her hands around, shrugging and rolling her eyes.

All those gestures hit me hard.

"And you got all this information from the doodles on the test?" Emmet placed his hands on his waist. If she was any wiser, she would have read the room. But she was too cocky to understand anything.

"Yes! And whoever this girl is, she must be out there. I was laughing because people make choices that can either make or ruin their lives. This girl decided to get knocked up by some guy who isn't ready to take responsibility, while look at us, look at me and my sister. We chose to be here at this academy. I guess priorities are different."

I had no clue how she managed to make this about herself, but my head was hurting a lot now.

"Okay! You're a good storyteller," Emmet said, snatching the test from her hand with the napkin and eyeing her to walk back to her team. "Just because you all are a part of this academy doesn't mean the others living their lives are any lesser than any of you. I'll throw it away. Just so you all know, I'm not pregnant and not hiding anything."

That was a direct taunt at Sydney, who looked very disappointed after she thought she had "won" by comparing her life choices to someone vulnerable.

As I raised my head, I noticed Lamar staring at me. Shoot! Was he observing me the whole time?

I quickly looked straight ahead and sniffled, "It's so cold."

I said it clearly to Lucy, making sure Lamar could understand I was red because of the cold, not because the girl with bad choices, like Sydney, was talking about me.

"Now, in groups," Emmet ordered, and all the teams gathered together but kept a little distance. I was so consumed in my own thoughts that I didn't even realize Lamar was now standing right next to me until he cleared his throat.

"You okay?"

"It's cold," I said in a bitter tone, not even making eye contact with him.

"Okay, and how many did you collect?" he inquired, looking through my basket that I quickly hugged to hide from him.

"Come on, how about we trade?" he asked, and I glared at him, watching him smirk at me.

"Don't be so stingy," he said, not even waiting for my response. He snatched the basket out of my hands, shoving his basket into mine.

"Lamar! What the heck are you doing?" I grunted at him, trying to reach for the basket he had stolen from me. But he held it out of my reach, laughing a little.

"This is not a joke, Lamar. Give me my basket back," I glared at him, but he just shrugged.

"You're acting like you've gathered all the herbs from the mountains," he commented with an exaggerated eye roll. "Besides, people say I'm very lucky. Maybe my basket will bring you some luck too."

"Hey—" I shut up when I realized it was his team's turn to turn in the baskets. He winked at me before walking away with Sydney and Salem.

"What did he do? Did he take your basket?" Lucy asked, peering into my basket—actually, Lamar's basket that I now had.

"Don't worry, I didn't collect many anyway," I said, not too bothered. I just hated how every day felt like such a battle for me.

Imagine the chances of the test being found by Sydney. It was just so messed up, like the moon goddess was torturing me.

"And he collected a lot," Lucy's comment made me lower my head to look into his basket. And like she said, it was filled to the top. I raised my head to find Lamar standing with Emmet.

He was looking at me when he winked again. Why would he give me his basket?

I guess we had been staring for too long until Lucy elbowed me, and I saw Emmet observing us both. He didn't look too happy.

"Eyes here," he told Lamar, pointing at his basket.

Then it was our turn. Everyone handed over their baskets one by one as Emmet counted them. I was last.

"What is going on?" Emmet asked out of the blue, confusing me with what had happened.

"Was he bothering you?" Emmet asked, mentioning Lamar, who was now standing with his teammates.

"No!" I shook my head.

"Impressive!" As he finished counting, he commented with a smile on his lips. I frowned in confusion because Emmet gave me a head-nod, a head-nod that he hadn't given to anyone else. I began to wonder if Lamar's basket was fuller than everyone else's basket.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 112-He Comes With A Bad News

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Helanie:

Everyone now anticipated the outcome of the test. My best guess was that Sydney would definitely become the class monitor. If she didn't, she might just rip her hair out.

"I'm so nervous. What if Jenny ends up becoming the class monitor from our team? Or her brother?" Lucy whispered into my ear, her gaze fixed on Jenny.

"What makes you think our team collected the most herbs?" I asked, worried why she was so certain about our team winning. We barely tried.

"Lamar's basket was full," she replied with a shrug. I sometimes wondered how she casually argued with Lamar after cheating on her after mate with him.

"But what if, collectively, ours is less?" I shrugged. She pouted in response. "Besides, why would it matter if Penn becomes the class monitor? He's an alpha, and I'm sure he'll be able to handle the responsibilities well."

Lucy turned to look at me like she'd seen a ghost. "No! Not him. He'll favor his sister. And whenever there's a group assignment, he'll make sure my mate is paired with his sister," she grumbled bitterly. I felt bad for her—she didn't need to be so worried or insecure.

"Let's just hope and pray the best person gets the badge," I said earnestly. The last thing I wanted was another bully taking control over us. It would be a nightmare on top of what we were already dealing with.

"Team A and B did amazing, so we will choose the class monitors from these two teams. However, Helanie collected the most herbs," he added, lifting my basket. I felt so out of place. It wasn't my credit to take, but why did Lamar do that?

"I'll let you decide who should be the class monitor among your team," Emmet informed the two teams, letting us come up with a decision.

I watched Sydney and Salem gather in a circle with their team, while our team huddled together.

"I think I would be amazing as a class monitor," Penn, who barely ever talked, shrugged, his hands in his pockets.

"Okay, I think Helanie should be it, since she found the most herbs," Lucy said, causing Penn to narrow his eyes at me.

"You want to be class monitor?" Penn asked me directly, and before I could shake my head, Lucy spoke for me.

"Yes, she does, but if you don't want her to be, we can do a vote," Lucy said, holding my hand and putting pressure on it secretly to tell me not to reject the offer. I knew if I disagreed with her, she would die from anxiety.

"Well, I have no issue. I'd love to see Helanie lead as an omega," Penn said, stepping back when I thought he would retaliate. However, his comment was slightly obnoxious.

"Okay, I'm not comfortable—" I shut up when Emmet walked up to us, his head down as he played with the dirt on the ground.

"So, what did you guys decide?" he asked, raising his head a bit sneakily, as though he wanted to know what we were talking about.

"We want Helanie to be the class monitor—" Lucy was interrupted when I shook my head at her. I guess I should have let Penn know that I didn't want to be the class monitor. But my mind was so all over the place that I couldn't react immediately.

"Amazing idea," Emmet quickly took the notion and walked away, making me feel even more helpless.

"You're just saying no for no reason. Professor Emmet also wants you to be the class monitor because he knows you'll be able to deal with the students better than those witches," Lucy hissed at me, clearly upset that I was saying no so repeatedly. Penn stood in his spot, observing me.

I hated it whenever someone's eyes lingered on my face for just a bit too long.

Emmet stood with the other team and then returned to make an announcement.

"Class, we have found our two class monitors. It will be Helanie—" He took a pause before adding, "and Sydney."

I knew it, of course. We'd be butting heads so much now because she would try her best to make it seem like she's doing most of the work while I'm wasting my time.

"And I hope Sydney will remember to behave around Helanie. Because this time, her mistakes will not be overlooked," Emmet said, with some guts, mentioning something that had been said not to be repeated.

It was because many students didn't know about the issue apart from our group from Shelter. Of course, Jenny knew because Gavin had told her, but Penn now had his eyes on Sydney before he looked away and got lost in his thoughts.

He was a weird character; I didn't know where he fit in.

We began our journey back to the hostel, and after hours of walking with many breaks suggested by Emmet, we finally arrived.

"Everyone, take your notes from the front desk and head to the hostel. Food will be served soon, so eat it while it's warm," Emmet said, ready to depart.

"Can you please go grab my notes? I need to use the restroom," I asked Lucy, who gave me a nod and walked with Gavin to the front desk. I couldn't wait to get to the hostel to use the bathroom, so I rushed into the academy's restroom.

After using the restroom, I came out in a hurry to meet Lucy outside when I bumped into someone. My body almost flew back from the heavy build of the guy. However, I didn't fall down. He had grabbed my arm and prevented my fall.

"Watch your step, little wolfless creature," Norman mumbled, the same hostility in his eyes from before.

I steadied myself, and he let me go.

"Sorry, I was in a rush," I muttered.

I attempted to walk past him, but his comment made me stop dead in my tracks.

"Hmm, I hope you're keeping that diamond bracelet safe. You don't want to lose such an expensive gift."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 113-Too Expensive

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Helanie:

"Diamond?" I lowered my head to stare at the beautiful bracelet. But now, it felt so heavy on my wrist.

"Don't act like you didn't know," Norman scoffed, making me lift my head and look at him in disbelief.

"What? You think I don't know what you like?" The mockery in his tone, paired with the raised eyebrow, made me clench my jaw.

"Please, do tell me what I want," I said in a gentle tone, though I gritted my teeth to show him I wasn't pleased with his taunts.

"Like mother, like daughter. Your mother loves diamonds too. She would do anything—and I mean anything—to get her hands on something with diamonds in it. And look at you! With your sad face and always being weak and meek, you somehow managed to get one for yourself." He shrugged like he knew me inside out.

"Wow!" I said, forcing a smile and nodding my head. "I didn't know you were paying so much attention to me. I'm flattered, sir. Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts at all times." My mocking tone wiped the smirk off his face.

He glanced around, probably checking if anyone was watching him lose his composure, and then hissed, "Don't you dare disrespect me, Helanie. My brothers won't always be around to protect you from my punishments. In this academy, you are under me. I can punish you any way I want," he snapped, pointing his finger at me as his massive figure loomed over me.

"Okay. Anything else?" I asked politely, though I took a step back. His intimidating size was overwhelming and triggering.

"Huh! I should be the one asking you that. Is there anything else you plan to ask from my brother? Maybe a mansion? A car?" he sneered, clearly trying to get under my skin, before turning to walk away.

I watched him leave, rooted to the spot. Despite my show of confidence in front of him, I felt utterly disrespected.

"Oh, and—" he called over his shoulder, "I hope you'll work really hard to stay in this academy. Fail even one exam, and you're out."

After throwing that parting shot, Norman walked past me to torment his next victim, while I stayed behind, staring at the bracelet on my wrist.

"Are these real diamonds?" I felt so bad and guilty for accepting this gift. I wish Emmet had told me these were diamonds. But then again, why would he flex about what he was gifting me.

In that moment, I made up my mind to return the gift. Emmet had done a lot for me; he didn't need to do anything extra. Besides, I did not want his toxic brother's eyes on me. I marched straight to his office, which was on the second floor, and knocked on the door.

"Come in," a voice called from inside. It was his husky voice. I opened the door and found him sitting at his desk with his glasses on and some files in front of him. I could tell he looked a little tired, as he had planned to leave after our hike when he got into the academy. However, he wasn't alone. His brother sat with his back to me, but I didn't need to see his face to recognize him. It was Kaye. And I swear, he knew I was there because he tilted his head and then leaned back in his chair, moving it sideways.

"Is everything okay? Why aren't you at the hostel for lunch?" Emmet took off his glasses while speaking in a gentle, steady tone, even though he seemed a little bothered before my arrival.

"I wanted to have a word with you," I murmured, slowly walking to the side to stand next to Kaye.

He hadn't looked my way directly, but from his body language, I could tell he wanted me to know he had acknowledged my arrival.

"Sure, Kaye—" Emmet gestured at his brother to leave us alone, but Kaye shook his head.

"I'm not going anywhere. She can talk in front of me; I'm pretty sure she won't have trouble," he said, turning his head toward me, his voice suggesting he wouldn't like it if I asked him to leave.

However, I didn't want to complain to Emmet in front of Kaye.

"What is it about?" Emmet asked, probably thinking it was related to school.

"About this," I sneaked a glance at my hand and then touched the bracelet with my other hand's finger.

"Oh, what about it?" Emmet asked. Since he hadn't asked his brother to leave after I mentioned the bracelet, I decided to go ahead with the conversation.

"I can't take this," I said, taking it off and placing it on the table. Kaye's head moved toward the bracelet, and I watched him stare at it before raising his head, looking at me from the side.

"Why not?" Emmet placed his hands on the files, his head tilted as he waited for me to answer his question.

"Why didn't you tell me these were real diamonds? I can't accept something so expensive." My voice carried a hint of discomfort. And I was uncomfortable.

Material goods meant nothing to me. In fact, I still carried the burden of Emmet paying for my fees and other things. I couldn't let him spoil me.

"Helanie, this is your stepfather's money. You deserve it as much as the rest of us. Now please, don't insult me by returning it." Emmet's voice had turned a little harsh, leaning more toward sadness, and it really made me feel bad. He had been nothing but helpful to me, and I insulted him?

"No! I didn't mean to insult you. I would never! I'm so sorry—" I had no clue what got over me, but I began to repeatedly rub my hands together and apologize.

Tears suddenly filled my eyes. I had never been so weak. Why the heck was I so messed up these days?

And then it struck me.

My hormones.

I was pregnant, with so much stress and so many changes happening to my body now.

"Helanie—" Emmet looked shocked, his voice taking me aback. I quickly stopped pleading and looked down in confusion. Even Kaye seemed to have stopped rolling in his chair.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 114-Her Mate Cheated Whole Night

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Helanie:

The way he said my name, I thought he was going to yell at me.

"Hey, it's okay. You don't have to apologize. I mean, please accept my gift. I didn't mean to say that you insulted me," Emmet said as he got out of his chair to approach me. His voice was now calm and soothing.

"Now, take it," he insisted and held my hand in his manly big hands and placed the bracelet back in my hand.

"Umm, Emmet—Norman wants you to visit his office," Kaye intervened when Emmet just placed his hand on my shoulder. His touch was so soft and comforting.

Emmet turned to him and watched him for a moment. "What does he want?"

"I don't know. You need to go see," Kaye said, sounding serious.

"Okay, and Helanie, don't take everything so seriously. Just accept my gift and go eat your lunch, okay?" Emmet's voice was so sweet as he insisted I don't talk about returning the gift. Then, when he gently placed his finger under my chin to lift my face, I felt my heart skip a beat.

Without any thought, I just nodded obediently.

Emmet walked out while I grabbed the bracelet. I thought that was it—I'd be out of the office and that would be done. What I didn't realize was that Kaye had made Emmet leave for a reason.

The minute I was close to the door, Kaye rushed out of his chair and stepped in my way, turning me around by holding my arm and pinning me against the door.

I had my eyes on his face, wide with shock.

"Kaye—" His name left my lips in an utter plea.

"Why did you get so sad so quickly?" He placed his hands on the wall beside me, his body hunching down to my level, but he couldn't quite reach my face because of how tall he was.

"It was nothing—" My response came out in a whisper.

"Helanie! You don't have to feel so sad and apologetic, especially not to any of my brothers. And this bracelet, it is yours. All the wealth my family and I own is equally yours, my mate." His whisper hit my skin as he leaned down, his eyes looking through mine. My body got covered in goosebumps, the hair on the back of my neck standing too.

"And—don't—" He suddenly gave me a peck on the lips, and I couldn't even move a muscle in shock. "Never—" He gave another little peck. "Be sad—" As he gave another peck, the touch suddenly turned from pleasant to traumatic. I don't know why but the sweetness of his touch took me back in time.

Right before my eyes were flashes of that night and their lips against mine by force. It shouldn't have happened because Kaye's touch was not harsh and neither was it forceful. It was a kiss of a mate, like a shelter during a storm.

"No!" I don't even know when I pushed Kaye back and almost screamed at him, "I should go."

I couldn't even look at him to see how he would react and turned around to storm out of the office.

It wasn't until I was on the ground floor, heading out the gate, that I realized what I had done.

I didn't want Kaye to feel like I was disgusted by his touch. I was just not ready because of what I was dealing with and all the secrets I had been keeping inside. But now, I was worried about how he would take my rejection. Even the cold wind felt like hot air from hell.

"Helanie," Jenny, standing by the tree, was a shock to me. I thought everyone had left by now.

"I was waiting for you. What took you so long?" She smiled, rushing to hold my hand. I noticed she was always very affectionate, wanting to hold hands and all.

"I was—umm—where's Lucy?" I looked around and questioned.

"She and Gavin left. They had a little argument," she uttered through gritted teeth and then bit her tongue when mentioning their argument.

"Really? About what?" I questioned as we strolled toward the hostel.

"Umm—so, Gavin had a pain in his chest the other night. And then, he felt something again, so he was asking her questions, but she wasn't taking it seriously," Jenny explained. I felt shocked that the two had argued in front of others.

"What if others were also there instead of just you?" I stopped talking and turned to her, but she shook her head.

"No, it was just me," she shrugged.

"Oh, ah! I heard Gavin had pain the other night. He couldn't even transition or anything," I sighed, feeling like I needed to speak to Gavin at least once. It had been days, and we hadn't been able to talk about anything—mainly because I was avoiding him asking me if I knew what Lucy had been up to these days.

"It must have been bad. So bad—" The strange grief in her voice made me raise my eyebrow at her.

"You know how it feels?" I don't know why, but I felt like I should ask her that question, so I did.

"Were you told and explained—" As I started to clarify my question, she explained it to me herself.

"I've felt it. I've felt that pain with so much intensity, Helanie, that I thought I was going to die. The whole night, I thought it would end now—now—but it didn't. It just kept going, and I knew—he was cheating on me because he didn't even pick up my calls that night. But—well—I know that pain, so yeah—" Through her weak smile, she uttered the most painful words.

"Oh, Jenny, I'm so sorry," I instantly held her hands to comfort her.

"Helanie, I even threw up blood because whoever he was with, he didn't stop until morning," she continued to tell me her heartbreaking story.

At that moment, I realized how little I knew about the people around me.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 115-Just The Two She-Wolves In Pain

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Helanie:

"He and I had been friends since we were kids. We grew up as friends, the three of us. In fact, he was like a brother to Penn," she took a pause to take a deep breath and added, "and then we fell in love. We also felt the mate bond, but we had already been dating long before that. I was beginning to think I had found my soulmate and that I would never be alone as a she-wolf—but then—one night—it just happened. I felt this pain and started calling him, but he wouldn't pick up my calls. I went to my brother's room because of the pain I was feeling, and he woke up Dad, who also called his parents, but nobody knew where he was until morning. He arrived straight to my mansion and claimed he had been training the whole night."

There were tears in her eyes as she spoke about her mate. We had taken a stroll away from the academy instead of going to the hostel. She was really emotional after we started talking about the mate bond and mates cheating on each other.

"Then? Did you believe him?" I asked, and she shook her head.

"But others did. They all told me that there could be a million different reasons. He could have been really hyped up due to the training or gotten injured, and I was feeling his pain. Helanie, I just don't believe it, and sadly—" she paused, and I already knew what she was going to say next.

"You are still fated to him," I stated, not even asking her a question.

"Yeah. That is the painful part, that I don't know the truth, and my family just wants me to stay with him. In fact, they're planning our summer engagement next year," she sighed, turning her face to the side.

"Do you still like him?" I wondered what would happen to her if he didn't admit the truth. Isn't that what happened with Lucy too? Did she feel the same way? I mean, Jenny's situation was worse because of her throwing up blood and all, but pain is pain, and I guess it's the reason behind the pain that hurts them for a longer period of time.

"I do. That's the part that makes me the most angry. I still love him, but then I remember that night, and I just want to know the truth so I can reject him without worrying about whether I made a mistake in judgment," she uttered quietly, lowering her face into my palms.

I realized that Jenny was very fragile and adorable. She was a gentle soul who deserved better, better than the fated mate who was probably gaslighting her.

"Can't you ask for an investigation?" I inquired, letting out a sigh.

"No one will investigate an alpha, Helanie," she replied with a sad, little, exhausted sigh that escaped her lips, making me feel even worse. She seemed so helpless.

"You know, I've always dreamed about going to the Fellmoon Academy," she mentioned, referring to the pack's biggest academy and the rival of ours. "My mate and I used to talk about it a lot." There was a broken smile on her lips that I couldn't ignore.

"Then what happened? Why did you choose RVS?" I asked, now interested in her words.

"Because my mate went to FM first. And after he cheated on me, I changed my mind. Even when I was told I was too weak to qualify for RVS, I tried. I didn't want to be in the same place as him." She paused to wipe away a tear trailing down her cheek. "It's very easy for elites to get into FM. They have quotas for alpha, royal beta, and royal gamma

children. One extra seat, even if they don't qualify. So, he went there. But I decided to come here—I didn't want to be anywhere near him."

She sniffled, her tiny hands trembling, likely at the painful memory.

"Your brother didn't want to use that privilege" I asked curiously. She sniffled again, using the back of her hand to wipe her cheeks.

"No. He always thought FM was for weak alphas. Besides, he had to take a step back so I could have the chance to take that seat. But I'm glad I came here," she sighed and gave me a broken smile.

"He calls me sometimes, acting like everything is fine. I just wish there were a way to find out who he spent that night cheating on me with. I only remember one of his new FM friends making a comment about some girl who had just turned 18. It was a joke," she said, raising an eyebrow at me.

I frowned, prompting her to explain further. "His friend said, 'What if he just gifted a girl who turned eighteen his dick for one night? Just a gift from an alpha.' Even though he made it sound like a joke, I felt like it was true. There has to be some truth behind it. But who knows? Anyway, I'm stuck with him," she shrugged, her expression torn.

I didn't know what to say to comfort her. All I could think was how glad I was that Altan was never my mate.

Imagine not only being gang-raped but also feeling the betrayal of your mate, watching you get eaten by some hungry alphas, only to run away like a coward.

"Anyway, I just hope things get better between the two of us," she uttered and looked down. At this point, I wanted to ask her so many questions about her friendship with Gavin, but because she kept tearing up thinking about her mate, I didn't want to pressure her into more stress. At least, not for now.

"Let's go—," tapping the back of her hand, I had already managed to say so much when someone's arrival brought silence to me. And I almost got a feeling like I got caught betraying my friend.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 116-A Little Sensible

Chapter 116: 116-A Little Sensible

Helanie:

"I've been waiting for you at the lunch table, and you're sitting here?" It was Lucy, her eyes suggesting she saw this as a betrayal.

"Oh, I didn't realize we had skipped a meal—" I mumbled, my words trailing off as Lucy started to walk away.

It was an obvious indication that she was hurt and didn't like me sitting and spending time with Jenny.

"Lucy—" I called out to her, getting up in haste.

"I think it's because of me. She clearly hates me," Jenny sighed, following me to the hostel.

"Not that. That's not the issue. She's just worried about her mate bond with Gavin," I excused her as I had to go after Lucy. I could tell her conversation with Gavin might not have gone very well.

I asked around after entering the hostel and found out that she had gone to her dorm room. So, I quickly took the elevator and pressed the button. However, as soon as the elevator doors closed, my eyes landed on the floor buttons, and my heart sank when I saw the 10th-floor button. I blinked repeatedly to make sure I was seeing it correctly.

My fingers hovered over the button, even though I had already pressed the button for my floor. Something told me I shouldn't double press it. I remembered the last time this happened and thought I had pressed the wrong button.

So, I decided to see if doing nothing would change anything.

As the elevator moved up, my heartbeat escalated along with it. Then, it stopped at the 8th floor.

I was slightly confused, wondering what was going on.

The door opened, and I stepped out, but I immediately stepped back to take a picture of the floor buttons, thinking that would be the only proof I could show myself later that I hadn't hallucinated.

However, the moment I got back in, the 10th floor was gone.

I groaned, feeling lost once again, but rushed out because I had another mess to deal with. Lucy might be thinking I'm on Jenny's side, but in reality, I'm her friend, and I genuinely don't know if Jenny is to blame for the pain Lucy felt that night.

"Lucy!" I entered her room to talk to her and make her understand that what she was doing was unhealthy.

She was curled up in bed, her knees pulled close to her chest and her arms wrapped around her legs.

"Gavin said he's getting tired of me," she stated, her eyes fixed on one spot.

"And I think you're tired of me too. I mean, who would want to be around someone who's always dealing with one thing or another? My tantrums must be too much for you too." What she said reminded me of myself.

I sat down on the bed with her and held her hand, making her sit up straight and face me.

"You are my friend, Lucy. I could never get tired of your shenanigans," I let out a little laugh, and she smiled awkwardly. "As for Gavin, I'll talk to him. He should be more considerate of your emotions. But this whole mess you started with Lamar—I don't know who's entirely wrong and who's right."

She nodded, understanding my point.

"I want to be honest with him, Helanie. I want to tell him what I did, and maybe then he'll feel less guilty about what he did and come clean about it." Her hopeful voice made my body shudder, but I masked it under a straight face.

I wanted her to be honest with him, but not with the thought that he would be too. I'm not even sure if he cheated or not.

"There's a big chance he would... reject you," I murmured, and her hands slipped out of mine.

"How about we wait, and I'll try to poke around to find out if he did cheat on you—" I spoke in a gentle tone, understanding that she was emotional and needed someone beside her right now.

She had already made a huge step in cheating on him, so now we needed to be very careful with our actions.

"Bad advice!"

We both turned to Lamar, walking out of the bathroom after he had taken a shower. His brown shirt was soaked. Did he not know how to use a towel or what?

"And who would need your advice?" I rolled my eyes at him.

"You two should. As a guy, I know how we deal with stuff like that. Even if we've cheated on our girl, we just can't stomach the fact that she cheated on us. And if she confesses, instead of coming clean, we'd leave her because we've already cheated, so now her cheating on us gives us a good excuse to not feel guilty and also leave her and find someone new as... we already did with who we cheated with," he yapped on, even though I was eyeing him to stop saying anything that would hurt Lucy.

She heard it all and then instantly covered her face with her hands, starting to cry.

As I gave Lamar a harsh glare, he mouthed an apology to me, "Sorry."

"Listen, I'm just being honest. You've already punished him, right? And if you still want to be with him even after he confesses that he cheated, you should just let it be. Because trust me, men don't like the taste of their own medicine," he walked over to Lucy's bed and stood beside it.

Although I wanted to argue with him, I just couldn't disagree. I remembered what Jenny said. Even when she threw up blood, her mate never admitted it and gave her random excuses every time it was brought up.

"I think he's right. You should really wait until we find a way to deal with this matter," I decided for Lucy. I knew it wasn't my place to make decisions for her, but she was emotional and might make a mistake.

I just wanted to make sure I knew the truth behind Gavin and Jenny before Lucy told him anything.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 117-He Knows!

Chapter 117: 117-He Knows!

Helanie:

"I hate to admit it, but maybe he is right," I repeated myself with a much bigger frown this time.

"I am never wrong," Lamar sounded cocky, which made both Lucy and me give him a judgmental glare.

"Except for the time when I—" he looked down, mentioning the night we didn't want to talk about again. It wasn't the worst thing that had happened to me, so it didn't really traumatize me like the other night. I guess it's because of how much worse my previous trauma was.

"At least you look apologetic. Your girlfriend doesn't even seem to care," Lucy rolled her eyes when mentioning Sydney. But somehow, Lamar looked so lost at the mention of his girlfriend.

"My girlfriend?" Lamar raised his brow, asking us in a mild tone.

"She's talking about Sydney," I rubbed my temples, my voice full of exhaustion.

"She's not my girlfriend," he scoffed at Lucy, who stared at his face before hugging herself. I wondered what she was thinking in that moment. Probably the fact that she slept with someone who sleeps with everyone—literally everyone. Hopefully, Lucy wasn't keeping many hopes up with this man.

"Okay, take a shower, and then we'll see what we can do to find something to eat," I told her, pushing her toward the bathroom to freshen up. I was starving too, and my legs were hurting from the hike. I wasn't like them, who had their selves' help. Once she went into the bathroom and started the shower, I turned to look at Lamar, who was still roaming around the room, occasionally glancing at me.

"I know about your situation," he muttered, making me fold my arms over my chest and watch his face in silence. I was just waiting for him to say another joke or make another foolish comment.

"Do you know who the father is?" The moment I heard those words from his lips, my posture shattered, and my lips parted to let out a gasp that I quickly tried to cover up.

"Huh? I didn't know you had gone crazy," the awkward smile on my lips must have given away the truth.

"Helanie, you cannot act like it's nothing. You will start showing signs soon, and then what? What about the physical changes?" he attempted to come closer, speaking in whispers. I stepped back and held up my palm to silence him.

"I don't know what you're talking about. Is this your way of torturing me? Are you trying to start a rumor?" My voice was shaky as I kept trying to deny the truth, but he looked so confident about his statement.

"Okay, if you don't want to admit it, that's your choice. I'm just trying to help," he said, using a much more understanding tone before walking away to sit on his bed.

I kept staring at him as he used his phone. "There's a place I can take you two for lunch since we all missed lunch." He sounded so casual, as if he hadn't just given me the biggest shock of my life by telling me that he knew my secret.

"How—how can you help?" I stammered, and everything went silent almost instantly. He steadily raised his head, and our eyes met.

"I don't know what to do," I continued, and he put his phone down, sighing tiredly.

"Do you know the father? Was it a one-night stand?" he asked, not trying to sound sarcastic or mocking.

With a shaky feeling in my body, I shook my head in answer to his questions.

"Do you want this baby?" he inquired. I lowered my head. My hand very steadily moved to my belly, and I rubbed it, wondering what I truly wanted.

"Helanie, you make the decision, and I'll take care of it for you," his voice was so comforting that I kept looking down and let him speak. "And if you want to keep the baby, I can manage that too."

I thought I didn't want this baby, but there was a strange feeling inside me that made me wonder if it would be wrong to not want this child.

"Hey, don't think too much. I can try to get a leave for you—" he began, but he was interrupted when I raised my head and spoke up.

"I don't want this baby."

"It's not my baby," I didn't know why I thought about it, but I just couldn't accept this child.

"Okay, you don't need to say anything else, and trust me, it will never reach anyone's ears ever," he said, giving me a warm head nod. By then, Lucy walked out of the bathroom wearing a blue dress.

"How about you two girls get ready, and we head out for lunch? There's a small pack nearby with the best cafe, I've heard. How about we go try that?" he suggested, and Lucy looked over to me.

I was too stunned to speak. I didn't even know what had just happened. Did I really just speak to Lamar about my pregnancy? Could I even trust him?

"Okay," I uttered, rushing into the bathroom to take a hot shower. My body needed it so badly.

After I dressed in baggy jeans and a white shirt, I topped it with my purple sweater and walked out of the bathroom, thinking I might catch Lucy and Lamar making out again. However, that wasn't the case this time.

The two were sitting separately on their beds, using their phones.

"All set? I've called in a favor from a friend at the hostel. He's lending us his car," Lamar slipped his phone into his pocket and got up from the bed, inviting us to join him. We followed him to the door, and then I knew I had to take the elevator. But instead of going alone, I noticed Lamar passing me to enter the elevator before me.

Lucy seemed to have no choice but to join us in the elevator as well. I used to be the only one who frequented the elevator, but today, it was the three of us.

When we exited the elevator, we came face to face with Jenny and Gavin. The two were standing at a distance. Jenny was with the board, looking at the notice, while Gavin was on his phone, texting someone.

I had a feeling things weren't going smoothly now that we had encountered the two on the ground floor—practically not together, but still present in the same place at the same time.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 118-The Friend Who Trusted me

Chapter 118: 118-The Friend Who Trusted me

Helanie:

Lucy's phone beeping was the sign that Gavin had been hitting her up, actually.

He raised his head to acknowledge us, and after giving me a nod, he walked over to us. Lucy acted timid, steadily holding my back and moving closer to me.

"What's up? You guys headed somewhere?" Gavin asked.

"Yeah, for lunch. Want to join us?" I asked, feeling bad for him catching us like that. We should have asked him to join us.

"I'm not sure if everybody wants me to join them," Gavin muttered.

"Gavin, please come," Lucy came from behind me and spoke to him nicely. Gavin smiled at me.

It was after some time that the two were smiling at each other genuinely. I just wish Lucy hadn't done what she did.

But for now, I really wanted to leave this hostel and go eat something.

Before we could walk out, Jenny came after us. She seemed to want to join us but instead, stood to the side, rubbing her palms together.

"You want to come?" Lamar asked her, making Lucy glare at him.

If she comes with us, things might get a bit awkward, but then I remembered she had skipped lunch too. So, as we all watched her face, she smiled and nodded her head as she accepted the offer.

Now, it was just us walking out of the hostel.

"Why did he invite her?" Lucy whispered in my ear, making me uncomfortable since Jenny was right beside me on my left.

I tried to warn Lucy with a look, silently pleading with her not to say or do anything here, but she ignored me. Instead, she kept making remarks about how shameless Jenny was for tagging along with us.

"Oh, shoot! How are we all going to fit in one car?" Lucy pouted as we reached the vehicle. I knew exactly what she was trying to do.

"No need to worry. I can take all of us to the café," Penn's voice interrupted, and suddenly, he arrived in his 7-seater Rolls-Royce SUV, pulling up smoothly right in front of us. He got out, flashing a welcoming smile. Wearing sunglasses and branded clothes, he looked like a rich alpha straight out of a book.

"Wow! Is this your car?" Gavin exclaimed, jumping up and down excitedly as he stared at the luxurious vehicle.

"Come on, hop in," Penn insisted. Without delay, Gavin jumped into the backseat, followed by the rest of us. Penn and Jenny sat in the front, with Penn taking the wheel.

"How are you?" I asked Gavin. He had twisted in his seat to talk to Lucy and me. However, Lucy had nudged me into the middle, likely to avoid any awkward interaction.

"I'm great, especially after feeling that pain," Gavin said pointedly, his words clearly aimed at Lucy. He added, "Twice."

I noticed his gaze flick toward Lucy, who had clenched her fists tightly.

"I hope you two resolve this matter soon," I said softly. I didn't have much else to add, but guilt weighed on me for not telling Gavin about his mate's betrayal. It was far too complicated—both of them were my friends.

"And you don't know anything about what might have happened that night?" Gavin asked me suddenly. The moment those words left his mouth, my throat went dry.

It felt as if he already knew I was aware of the night he was talking about.

"Why are you bothering her, Gavin? How would she know?" Lucy quickly interjected, leaning forward before turning to face him.

"Why do you sound so nervous, as if I caught you in a lie?" Gavin scoffed, his tone sharp and bitter. I had never seen him this angry before.

"Guys, please remember we're not alone," I whispered, gently pushing both of them back into their seats.

"I'm telling you, Helanie, if I ever find out that you knew something and didn't tell me, I'll be very upset with you," Gavin stated firmly before sliding away from me and looking out the window. His words made my stomach drop.

Lucy gently held my hand, trying to reassure me that everything was fine. But it wasn't. Even though I didn't say it out loud, I was blaming her for Gavin's comment. Still, I wouldn't let her do anything out of pressure—it wasn't her fault entirely.

Soon, we arrived at the café. The moment I saw the place, my heart started pounding like a drum. It was that café—the one owned by Benita.

I had come here once for work, and the judgmental way she had looked at me still haunted me. That single encounter had crushed my confidence so much that I couldn't muster the courage to apply for another job afterward. Worse, I was terrified that she might recognize me from that desperate night when I had accepted Lamar's offer to become a hostess just to make ends meet.

We all got out of the car and walked inside, greeted by other servers. My heart thudded painfully in my chest; I silently prayed that Benita wouldn't come over and say something in front of everyone.

"Lamar—," I whispered, hoping to discreetly get his attention. Unfortunately, my attempt wasn't subtle enough; everyone in the group turned to look at me.

"Nothing," I mumbled quickly, brushing it off. They continued walking toward the last table, leaving me to trail behind.

When we reached the table, I wanted to sit with my back to the main counter to avoid being seen. But that spot was already taken by Gavin, Penn, and Jenny. Lucy and I had no choice but to sit where we were in clear view of the counter.

From our table, I could see Benita working, handing out orders. My heart raced as I hoped she wouldn't notice me. But then it happened—her eyes landed on me, and she froze for a split second. Her smile faded as recognition lit up her face.

She began walking toward our table, smiling faintly at first, but with every step, the smile started to fade. Her eyes were fixed on me.

"Greetings! What brings the RVS students here?" she said with a forced smile, making it clear she'd noticed the bands on our wrists. It dawned on me just how much respect students from RVS commanded everywhere.

"Food, what else?" Lamar smirked, throwing out a casual comment. She laughed politely, but I noticed her narrowing her eyes at him briefly before turning her gaze back to me.

"I think I know you," she said with a smirk, making my palms sweat nervously.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 119-The Argument

Chapter 119: 119-The Argument

Helanie:

"Really? Who?" Lamar asked, either out of plain stupidity or ignorance.

"You!" She pointed her finger at Gavin instead, who shifted in his seat before smiling.

"Yeah, I've been here before. It was when I was getting ready for the backup tests," he admitted. "Why don't you surprise us with your best meal, like you did last time too," he said while holding the menu.

"Sure, I would! Oh, I see you brought your mate here too," Benita smiled as she started taking orders.

"He talks about me, and I'm—cheating on him?" I noticed the shift in Lucy's demeanor. I didn't want her to take the lady's comment too seriously because I didn't want Lucy to do something irrational in the heat of the moment.

I just wanted her to take some time and ask Gavin if he had actually cheated on her or not. Because, like Lamar said, if she confronts him directly, he might never confess.

Thankfully, she left without causing more trouble, but Lucy had gone utterly silent the whole time.

Penn was busy on his phone, so I assumed he only tagged along because he knew his sister would be alone if he didn't join.

As for Jenny, she sat with her shoulders slouched sadly. Lamar was the only one talking, and Gavin was engaging with him.

"I can't hide it anymore," Lucy whispered in my ear as she stood up, causing the hair on the back of my neck to stand on end.

"Lucy—" I grabbed her hand, trying to pull her back down, but she shook her head.

"Can we talk, Gavin?" she asked, interrupting his conversation. Lamar's eyes darted to mine, and I gave him a look. He understood what I meant.

"Umm, the food is about to be here. Why do you need to talk right now? And in front of everyone? Rude!" Lamar tried to play it off, but Lucy seemed determined, and, surprisingly, Gavin seemed intrigued by what she had to say.

"Sure, what is it?" Gavin asked, folding his arms on the table.

"Can we go outside and talk?" Ignoring everyone, Lucy directed her attention solely to Gavin, and he focused only on her.

"Lucy, maybe let everyone eat first," I urged her, still holding her hand. I really didn't like the idea of her speaking to him here. There were so many people around.

Why would she do that?

"I need to do this. I can't live with this guilt. He deserves to know," she said aloud, not even trying to whisper. Everyone heard her and stared in confusion.

But Gavin, of all people, just nodded, his jaw clenching as if he already knew what she was guilty of. Of course, the pain he felt that night was a reminder of something Lucy had done wrong.

"Let's go outside. You guys enjoy the feast," Gavin said, standing up and walking away, with Lucy following closely behind him.

The awkward silence lingered for only a few seconds before I hastily got up to follow them. This was news that Gavin wouldn't take lightly, and he would clearly need someone by his side to calm him down.

I was also worried about how he might react to Lucy admitting she had cheated on him.

I needed to be there to ensure they both stayed safe and kept their hands to themselves during such a big conversation.

"Helanie, you shouldn't—" Lamar immediately got up and grabbed my hand. I could see in his eyes that he didn't want me to go after them, and I understood why.

"Too much stress," he mouthed silently.

"All worth it for friends," I replied. I knew I was already weak and hadn't been eating properly, given my current state. But being there for my friends was important to me. I had never had friends before, so now that I finally did, I was willing to do whatever it took to support them.

"Then I'll come too," Lamar insisted.

It was odd how Penn remained seated, watching the situation unfold without interfering. He didn't seem shocked, interested, or concerned about what was happening.

Jenny, on the other hand, looked puzzled and worried for all of us.

"No, I don't think Gavin would appreciate seeing you right now," I said, shaking my head at Lamar. "If you go outside while Lucy is telling Gavin she cheated on him with you, he'll take it very hard. And honestly, nobody would blame him."

"Don't worry, I'll be fine," I added, seeing the concern in Lamar's eyes. I had to reassure him so he wouldn't follow me.

After he reluctantly backed down, I quickly made my way outside, where Lucy and Gavin were standing face to face.

"What is it? Are you finally going to confess to what you did to me?" Gavin asked her, his tone harsh and his eyes blazing with rage.

"Are you ready to tell me why I felt pain that night?" Lucy confronted him.

I didn't immediately step beside them but stayed back, keeping my eyes on them in case they lost control of their emotions.

"I told you, I was upset about not being accepted into the academy. When I was with the others in a shelter, I started feeling like I could never compete with them. I was frustrated and down. I tried to transition in the woods, but due to the stress, my wolf couldn't come out. I was failing at everything, and that might have been why you felt something strange in your heart," Gavin yelled, his voice rising with frustration.

Lucy hugged herself, her arms wrapping tightly around her body. I could see the regret on her face now that he had answered her question honestly.

"So, tell me, Lucy—" Gavin started, but before he could finish, her mouth fell open, and a gasp escaped her lips.

That reaction seemed to throw Gavin into an uneasy state.

"I thought you cheated on me," she murmured, her voice barely audible.

It took Gavin a few moments to process her words before he finally spoke. "Is that why—did you cheat on me?"

This was what I had been afraid of, and now it was finally happening.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 120-The Bitter Truth And Shattered Friendship

Chapter 120: 120-The Bitter Truth And Shattered Friendship

Helanie:

"Tell me, did you cheat on me? Is that why I felt that pain?" Gavin insisted, his voice unwavering. But Lucy's confidence had been shattered.

I guessed she had hoped for a different outcome when they came out of the café. She had really believed Gavin would confess something that would justify her cheating back on him. But now that it turned out to be a huge misunderstanding, she seemed uncertain whether she could tell him the truth and still save their relationship.

"I was distressed, and maybe that's why you felt that pain," she said, clearing her throat and instantly lying, even though she had come out here to tell him the truth.

"No, Lucy. You're not lying to me anymore. You need to tell me the truth now. It's now or never," Gavin said, keeping his distance from her. She didn't try to move closer to him either.

I stood by and watched as two people—mates—who had once loved each other deeply and seemed so full of life began to fall apart.

In that moment, I couldn't help but think about my own relationship. How would I react if I ever faced Altan again? Would I hit him, slap him, curse him, or just cry at the fact that I had ever loved someone so weak and cowardly?

But what would I want to hear in that moment—the truth or a lie that might make me feel less disgusted with him?

I would choose the truth.

"Lucy—" Gavin yelled, and at last, she opened her mouth to confess.

"I did," she said, her voice trembling. Silence engulfed them.

"You did what? Say it clearly," Gavin demanded, his tone now broken. The harshness and anger had dissipated, leaving only pain.

"I cheated on you. I did it with someone, and then I made out with him again the other night when you felt that pain," she admitted, her voice barely audible as she closed her eyes in shame.

My breath hitched when Gavin turned to look at me, his eyes shooting daggers.

"What is she saying? She did it with someone—" Gavin stammered, his words tumbling out in a confused jumble. There was a strained smile on his face, one that suggested he was desperately hoping we'd tell him this was all some sort of sick joke.

His hands flew to his head, grasping his hair in disbelief.

"We didn't finish—" Lucy stammered, as if that detail would somehow help the situation.

Gavin abruptly stopped pulling at his hair and rushed toward her. I instinctively stepped between them in a split second.

"Oh, thank you so much for not finishing," he yelled sarcastically. It seemed he wasn't trying to hurt her but needed to confront her face-to-face, to make sure she understood the depth of his pain.

"So wait a minute—" Gavin's voice grew quieter as if he were piecing everything together. The realization dawned on his face.

"So you cheated on me, and you just kept going without even confirming if I cheated on you?" he hissed, his eyes spilling over with tears.

Lucy clutched at my sweater, seeking some form of comfort, but I couldn't help wanting to reach out to Gavin instead. He looked utterly destroyed.

"And then—you just kept lying. Was it really you thinking I cheated on you, or was that just an excuse you made up to cheat on me?" His voice broke as tears streamed down his face.

I wished Lucy would say something—anything—to help calm him down because he was spiraling. His hands tugged violently at his hair, and he was breathing heavily, his veins bulging in his neck.

"And you—" Gavin's finger suddenly pointed at me, and I realized it was my turn to be confronted.

"You knew about it? Because she was in her room that night, so—wait—" He slapped his forehead, little sobs of helplessness escaping his lips.

"Gavin—" I started, stepping forward to try to comfort him, but he raised a hand to stop me.

"Who was it?" he demanded out of the blue.

I silently prayed that question wouldn't come up.

"It was a mistake. I was so broken ever since I felt that pain—Gavin, it was so consistent for days that I just—" Lucy finally opened her mouth, her voice trembling, but Gavin shook his head. He wasn't listening anymore.

"I don't care," he snapped. "I told you on the first night you called me, accusing me of cheating, that I felt distant from you. I was miserable—wondering if I would ever even make it into the academy, if I could be with you and share that experience with you. But no, instead of supporting me, you accused me of sleeping with someone."

"Yes, I grew distant from you, but I never cheated on you. But now—it doesn't matter. You cheated on me." He clenched his fists, his voice trembling with anger.

"Now tell me—who the fuck was it?" His voice turned from broken to harsh, the words cutting through the silence like a blade.

"Gavin, why do you want to do this to yourself? Whoever it was, it wasn't serious. And she's not even—" I tried to step in and resolve the matter, but he hushed me, his glare stopping me mid-sentence.

I realized I was wrong. He had every right to know who it was, as long as he didn't do something reckless and get himself into trouble, like picking a fight with a classmate.

"You stay out of it. You chose her friendship over mine, Helanie," he snapped, pointing a finger at me. His anger burned in his eyes, making them red and fierce.

Guilt consumed me. It was my first time making friends, and I had already managed to betray their trust.

"Tell me," Gavin yelled, his voice breaking as Lucy shook her head. She lowered it, sobbing while wrapping her arms tightly around herself.

"It can't be nothing because you did it twice. Is it—your roommate? Because who else would have been in the room at that hour of the night?" Gavin's mind was racing, piecing everything together with terrifying precision.

"Was it Lamar?" he finally said, his voice trembling as he uttered the name.

Lucy yelped, covering her mouth in shock, but her reaction gave her away.

That was it. The truth was out, raw and undeniable.

I wasn't sure how things would go from here, but a heavy, nauseating feeling settled in my stomach. Everything was spiraling out of control, and I suddenly felt very, very sick.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.