

Claimed And Marked By Her Stepbrother Mates

Chapter 181-Cold War Between The Brothers

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Helanie:

After Lucy came out of the bathroom and we were set to go, Jenny called her brother, and the boys had already come to our hut. We spoke for a few minutes, which was basically just me giving them the same lie Norman had told me.

But now that we were all set to go and had come out, I saw Sydney and Salem standing outside their much smaller hut.

The two were talking, wearing blue and pink shirt dresses with a cut on the thigh, which was so high that their G-strings could be seen. The neckline was deep, as if they were ready to take off these dresses anytime soon when going for a swim.

Their cheery morning smiles faded when their eyes landed on me.

Sydney did a double take, whereas Salem rubbed her eyes to confirm it was indeed me she was seeing.

The two started to stare at each other and whisper while I smiled widely, walking alongside my friends.

"What is wrong with them?" Lucy asked as she slid closer to me, definitely noticing how weird the twins were acting.

"They are probably just wondering why I am smiling," I replied, my gaze narrowing at Salem, who was staring at me like she was contemplating how I was here on the beach with them.

"And why are you smiling?" Lucy continued to inspect me. It wasn't hard for anyone to notice the body language of us three.

"Umm, Helanie, Professor Norman is asking you to meet him behind the huts. As for the rest of you, breakfast will be served in five minutes. So why don't you go sit in that hut?" A warrior walked over to us, letting me know that I was being asked for. As for the rest, they were escorted to the long cylindrical open canopy that they called the big hut for breakfast.

I made my way to the three huts at a distance. Norman was sitting on a chair on the beach, a big umbrella over his head and a table full of refreshments. It was Kaye on the other side of the table that made my skin itchy.

Seeing him sit before me was hard. It took me back to the kiss and moments we had shared. But I had to be professional since I had worked hard for where I was today.

"Yes, sir?" I asked, watching him take off his sunglasses.

"I didn't want to ask you about it right away in the morning, Helanie. I knew it would cause you a lot of stress, so I asked my brother instead," the fact that he talked about not wanting to cause me stress really took me off guard.

"I don't understand, what is going on?" Kaye instantly straightened his back in his chair to question us.

"I asked Kaye who had found the Flame if lust during the test," Norman continued, and I side-eyed Kaye, who had been staring at me as if I would open my mouth and he would enter my body.

"Wait a minute, why is Helanie stressed about it? Did something—wait a minute, did you get drugged?" Kaye quickly get up and slipped closer to me as he tried sniffing through my hair.

"Kaye, we are not dogs," Norman shook his head, alarming him about the fact that I was looking awkwardly at Norman when his brother was sniffing through my hair.

"She stayed behind because of that?" Kaye asked again, and this time when I knew Norman had told me to lie about it, I felt like it would become messier if he found out Norman had stayed in the guesthouse.

He would think we are lying, and I don't want the brothers to turn against each other.

"It was Salem—," I announced, watching the brothers look at me. "I saw Salem run out of the guesthouse after she had sneakily placed the Flame of Dust in my croissant."

Kaye's body language suddenly changed as he turned to me, facing me and blocking Norman out of my sight.

"Why didn't you—wait a minute." He was asking for a lot of waiting today.

"You were drugged, did you do something? Did someone hurt you?" Kaye instantly grabbed my arms to pull me against his chest, which caused Norman to jump to his feet and come between us.

He had to manly untangle Kaye's fingers from my arms to release me.

"What are you doing?" I was so shocked that I just lowered my head when Norman asked Kaye that question.

If Kaye didn't stop acting like this, his brother would find out and then things would get so messy. He'll think I've been trying to pursue Kaye all this time.

"I'm just worried because you know what that FOL can do to someone," Kaye continued to express his worry.

"I know, Kaye. I'm a trainer too. But rest assured, she was fine. I took care of her. I personally stayed in the guesthouse to make sure nobody came to her or that she left," as Norman tried to comfort him, I watched Kaye shift his body weight on his one leg and question his brother with his eyes.

"You stayed in the guesthouse when she had FOL in her system?" The way Kaye posed that question sounded more like an accusation. I could be wrong, but I swear I've heard better tone from him.

"Yeah, but I had given her a sleeping pill so that she—," Norman tried to speak, but Kaye only shook his head, which made Norman shut up.

I've never seen such a look in Norman's eyes, but it was as if he didn't like his brother watching him with so much negativity.

"You gave her a sleeping pill and you stayed in the guesthouse? Did something happen before that?" Kaye proceeded to ask Norman, making it so awkward between the two of us.

And I could tell that Norman was not lying because I did find the pill bottle in my room.

Now that Norman was being questioned, I also felt like it was a question to me.

I just needed to remind him that I wasn't his problem anymore. Especially when Kesha came out in a pink bikini from her hut, which was on the side of the two brothers' hut.

"Sir, I am fine and I am grateful Professor Norman took care of me. As for the culprit, it is Salem," I lifted my chin, my tone not shaky at all as I told my truth.

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

Chapter 182-My Personal Maid

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Helanie:

Kaye was watching my face with sadness. Did he want me to appreciate him for questioning his brother? He couldn't act all heroic to me anymore. He had a chosen mate that he should be taking care of.

"Come over here," Norman gestured to the warrior who had brought me here before.

"Bring Salem Coombs to me," he told the warrior, who quickly sped up to bring the culprit before us.

I didn't know what it was, or maybe I did know—it was the fact that his brother had questioned his morals. Norman looked very uneasy and restless. He had been pacing back and forth while Kaye stood in one spot. He rarely ever moved from his spot.

Kesha had walked past us like we didn't even exist to go swimming. She did call for Kaye one or two times, but he entirely ignored her, and it's not like she came to ask him if he was hearing her.

She proceeded to enjoy herself.

After a few seconds, Salem appeared with the warrior. Her pale face told me she was already suspecting what this was about.

"You drugged Helanie last night?" Norman asked, his hands on his waist.

"You know what we should do? We should throw her in the cage of the frogsters," Kaye interjected, not even letting her answer Norman, who closed his eyes to express his frustration with his brother.

"What? I don't know, sir, what you are talking about?" Salem gulped, lying through her teeth.

"Salem, I confirmed it from the CCTV outside the guesthouse," Norman bluffed, and she instantly started yapping in her defense.

"Wait. Do you mean you ate the croissants? I baked those for a couple. They had asked me to use them as their kinky time—" The minute she fell under the harsh glare of Kaye and Norman, she shut up her nonsense.

"I swear I don't know. I baked them for someone else," she began to sob, her face in her hands.

I watched Norman clench his jaw. "This is what you guys do in your spare time? Fulfill your kinks with such dangerous herbs? So, no matter what the reason, you are getting punished."

Once Norman understood that there was no way she would openly admit to drugging me, he decided to latch onto anything just to punish her.

"But I am already serving a punishment," Salem argued in a whimper.

"You will be Helanie's personal maid, doing all her chores and taking orders from her for the next two weeks," Norman declared her punishment, and her eyes spiked with genuine tears.

She was in shock.

"Sir, that is not fair. She is just an omega, and I am—" I have never seen her look so miserable. Just the thought of serving me had shattered her confidence.

"Then why are you so obsessed with her?" Kaye didn't care how he came off. He let his professor mask slip and acted on a personal level.

"I am not," she begged, even her palms meeting this time.

"First, you lie about her and lock her in your bedroom, and now this. No, serve the punishment, or I will have to blacklist you for this year. You will be joining next year as your fellow's junior," Norman spoke up, taking over the conversation.

"Your pick," he tilted his head.

The two brothers stood before her, hiding me behind their backs.

It was the most bizarre sight ever. They were defending me, punishing someone for me.

"I will do it just because you think I should be punished," now that it was made clear to her that nobody was sparing her, she was back to acting all obedient and innocent.

"You two go now. Helanie, enjoy your breakfast." Norman was really sassy not to even ask her to enjoy her breakfast.

We both silently walked back to our hut, where everyone questioned what had happened. Later, Norman made an announcement that because of the whole room-locked incident and Salem not looking apologetic, she would be serving as my personal maid.

I saw the looks on everyone's faces. They were as shocked as Sydney and my friends.

But my friends were secretly rooting for the moment I started giving her tasks.

The rest of our three-day stay was the best.

At night, soft lights from lanterns and string lights shone, making the beach feel magical. The air smelled like flowers and the sea, and sometimes you could hear soft music from a nearby bar, making the mood even better.

This beach was a hidden paradise, a place where nature and luxury came together in perfect harmony, giving everyone a chance to enjoy the calm and beauty of the world. Then, on the last night, they had music on the beach where everyone danced for hours before we all went to bed.

It was so hard to say goodbye to this place. The perfect Dream Island. The journey back to the hostel was so tiring. We were exhausted but given a few days off to rest before we joined classes again.

Once we were back at the hostel, I quickly dropped my bags and landed in my bed, my arms spread.

Lucy was slowly unpacking her bags, not even taking a rest. I could tell she was still upset about a lot of what happened on the beach and in the cage.

After that cage incident, Gavin and her relationship took a huge downfall. They would talk so officially, where he would show care, and she would respond like a robot.

"Lucy, let's go grab the timetable from the academy for our next classes," Lamar, who had noticed how lonely Lucy was even when she was around us, included her in a task to take her mind off things.

I gave him a look of appreciation because at least Lucy working on something would get her distracted for a while.

Lucy got up from the carpet and followed him outside, making sure she gave me a head nod.

After she left, I heard a knock on the door and couldn't help but wonder who had come.

"Come in," I said, and Jenny stepped in, her demeanor weak and her eyes on the ground.

"I came to ask you something. Why are you upset with me?" she was direct as she, too, had noticed I had been very cold to her lately.

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

Chapter 183-One Of Those Alphas.

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Helanie:

I sat up, watching her stare at my face and wait for my answer. I had been avoiding these questions back when we were at the beach because I didn't want to spoil anyone's mood. But there were times when I saw Jenny notice my body language and ask me if I was okay. I would give her my casual head nod and avoid eye contact.

But of course, she wasn't stupid and had noticed that something had switched in me after that cage incident.

"I really like you, Jenny. You know I befriended you and trusted you when you said nothing was going on between you and Gavin," I started as I recalled how we began our friendship in the first place.

"And there is nothing," she confirmed, but me shutting my eyes made her realize I wasn't done talking.

"I just want to know the truth, Jenny. The way Gavin saved you just made me feel so itchy. I am not saying he should have let you get hurt, but to do that when he knew his relationship with Lucy started to deteriorate because of her suspicions that there was something going on between the two of you, yet he chose you over her, just made me feel like we are in the dark about something," I watched her look so sad, and her lips quivered when I used a little harsh tone with her.

She had such a gentle tone that even when anyone raised their voice at her, she would freak out and start tearing up. Not everyone, just the people that were her family and friends. I guess she held too many expectations from people around her.

"Why don't you ask Gavin why he did that? I am not supposed to get between their relationship. Whatever he is doing, he is doing on his own," she spoke in a murmur.

"And I will just say that if she can sleep with Lamar and be friends with him, go out to the academy even now while I have to be questioned for saving my friend out of reflex, it's a bit hypocritical of you, Helanie. I expect you to make better judgment," Gavin arrived out of nowhere, interrupting us.

"I will leave." I could tell Jenny had had enough of everyone dragging her into their relationships.

"No, you should stay because it is not your fault. You are my friend, and I don't regret saving you," Gavin had the nerve to want her here after she looked so uncomfortable. And I am so glad she spoke up for herself.

"No, Gavin. You are wrong for this. You cannot drag me in punishing her. I feel used right now. You are doing it on purpose, but you are also ruining my friendship with them," Jenny uttered, tears spilling down her cheeks.

"Fine. I get it. I just don't get this one thing," Gavin bit the inside of his cheeks, nodding his head before he continued. "How is she a victim and I am not?" Gavin asked us.

"She cheated on me after thinking I was cheating on her. All on the basis of just her thoughts, while I am being crucified because I saved Jenny after knowing Lucy cheated on me. And these are not just my thoughts—it is a confirmed fact. I knew Lucy wouldn't die; she was fine after one transition. She can take her anger out because of her delusions, but I cannot, even when it is based on factual information."

I suddenly felt a weird guilt hit me when he explained how unfair we had been to him.

"Just because she looks cute when she cries? Helanie, I gave her a chance because I still couldn't see her cry and try so hard to be with me. But you know what happened after I gave her a chance? She asked me to stay away from Jenny. So she is still acting like—" He closed his eyes as he groaned, "All the while she acts completely normal with Lamar, who she had slept with, made out with."

I steadily got off the bed because I began to feel guilty now.

"Gavin—" I tried to approach him, but he showed me his palm to make me stand back.

"It is fine, it really is. I don't want you guys to leave her alone and let her suffer alone, but at least don't judge me this hard that you all push me away. By the end of the day, I only want a friend who understands me," he whispered softly before he turned to rush out.

As he started to rush out, I had to follow him. He was right. We have taken care of Lucy, but we forgot about him.

So now was the time we became the friends he had expected us to be.

"I will use the stairs," Jenny gently patted my back, awkwardness still lingering at the fact that I was questioning her.

I took the elevator while thinking about what would happen next between us friends. I was worried. Once the elevator stopped and the door opened, I found Jenny on the ground floor with Gavin.

She was making sure he didn't get away until I had arrived. But just as I was about to get off the elevator, I saw someone come and hug Jenny from the back.

It all happened in a quick movement. So I just stood and watched it happen.

The guy had blue, sparkling eyes, his blond hair spiked up. The freckles on his face were so prominent and the radiance dripping from his eyes.

But that wasn't why I was observing him with so much intent.

It was the fact that I had seen this face before. His face before he picked Jenny from the ground and gave her a good circle while Gavin stepped aside.

"My beautiful mate, did you not miss me at all?" As he put her down and turned her to question her, his voice made its way through my ears, and shivers covered my body.

All I could remember was something he had said in my ear when he raped me that night along with his other alpha friends.

"After this, you will always miss me."

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

Chapter 184-He Claims We Are Mates

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Helanie:

I shut the elevator door closed and went straight to the top, hiding in my room until I was certain they were no longer in their main spots. I then rushed out of the hostel to make my way to the woods to get off this feeling of disgust and hatred.

I don't even know how far I was going as I ran like a madwoman straight down the mountains and to the woods.

It was weird energy, a boost that I had not felt like that before. All the memories of that night rushed back, and I felt so weird and dirty.

How the fuck did I continue to live without thinking about them every day?

Why was it taking so long for me to take revenge?

And how am I supposed to take revenge?

I wanted to get trained so that I could confront them, but now that he was in my academy, I ran out like a coward. Once my legs gave up and I dropped to my knees, I began to sob and scream into the air.

"You must be really enjoying it all, huh? Can't see me happy?" I screamed as I lifted my head to stare at the moon goddess.

"I hope you feel my pain one day in the worst imaginable way," I shouted, sobbing and then covering my face in my hands.

That's when I heard the wind whooshing and something moving past my body so quickly that I suddenly stopped crying. I raised my face from my hands and looked around, turning to my back to see where that thing had landed. It had hit a tree.

"An arrow," I uttered, staring at the golden pattern on it.

"Not just an arrow, sweetheart. It's going to be the best future weapon—I just need to tweak a few things," Maximus' voice came through, making me quickly get to my feet and start clearing my vision and my cheeks from my tears.

"What were you doing here? Don't tell me you came here chasing after me?" He walked into view, wearing a brown leather jacket and brown pants with a white shirt. He reached for the arrow to take it out but then turned to stare at me.

I noticed a small bottle of white powder in his hand that he was probably using to tip the top of the arrow before launching it.

"I wanted to take a walk," I uttered, realizing how sour my tone sounded, so I quickly cleared my throat.

"You have been crying?" his tone changed—not the usual flirty one.

"No!" I lied, turning my head to the side and hugging myself.

"Hey, you can't lie to me, you know that, right?" His comment made its way to my ear, and I couldn't help but watch his face in bewilderment.

"Eh! You probably don't know. I don't know how it works," he shook his head, confusing me with why he thought I couldn't lie to him.

"Anyway, now that you are here," a smirk displayed on his lips as he began to walk toward me.

I started to step back. Somehow, I would have found his flirting tiring but also cute if it had happened before I had seen that alpha's face. But today, him walking in my direction and me stepping back was reminiscent of that night.

"I will spend some time with you," he said, and as my back hit the tree, I started to panic.

"You touch me—and I swear—" my voice broke, causing him to stop in his tracks and narrow his eyes at me.

"Oi! What happened? You know I won't touch you without your permission, right?" he almost yelled before walking over to hunch down to my face's level.

"Helanie, I want you to tell me what happened. Did someone bully you?" he demanded an answer sternly this time.

I didn't want him to know I was disturbed, but I couldn't help it. As I shook my head, he bent down even more, his hands on his knees.

"Then who hurt you? Tell me their name, and I have the perfect weapon for them," he mumbled, eyeing the arrow and the bottle of white powder on the ground.

"Which, by the way, you didn't even ask what it was," he straightened his back, his voice full of confidence. "This specific weapon can cause the type of itching that would make even the worst creature look funny."

He patted his back, stepping away and grabbing his weapon.

"And I know you will remember this and use it on some test. You know, I've been hearing some things about you," he kept talking, and weirdly enough, I had nothing to add until he mentioned that part.

My ears perked up, and the fear of what he might have heard about me drowned me.

"What about me?" I asked, a gulp running down my throat.

"The council asked us brothers about the girl without a wolf who is acing the academy like a pro. Do you know you've done so impeccably mixing two herbs that everyone has been mentioning you? They're intrigued by you," he spoke warmly, steadily causing my heart to fill with so much ecstasy.

Prior to him telling me this, I felt like I was wasting my time. The way I couldn't even face that alpha and ran out of the academy had me thinking I would never be able to do better or take my revenge. But now, there seemed to be hope.

"Even I am amused. Helanie, your courage and willpower are amazing, and whenever someone praises you, I feel so happy and proud of you. You know why?" he stated, already making me feel better, but I was curious to know what he had to say next.

"Because you are my mate," he declared, causing my jaw to hang low and my eyes to bug out in shock.

I am his mate?

Since when?

"We are?" I asked, my voice filled with disbelief.

As I posed the question, he nodded confidently.

"Remember on the ground when we had a match? I felt something with you. And once your wolf is awakened entirely, we will feel it again," he was so confident, while I felt so guilty because he was mistaking my pheromones for a mate bond.

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

Chapter 185-Not Entirely Lonely

Chapter 185: 185-Not Entirely Lonely

Helanie:

"No!" I shook my head, looking away awkwardly. Had this been going on in his head all this time?

"What no?" He sounded offended that my response was like that.

"It can't be. It wasn't a full moon, and I didn't even feel anything," I whispered under my breath, hoping that would make him retract his thoughts, but he confidently shook his head.

"You don't have a wolf, and also, because it wasn't a full moon. And you know, those who don't have a fully active wolf cannot feel the mate bond after the first time. And sadly, our first time was without the full moon, so now we have to wait for you to have a wolf to feel it again," he was explaining confidently, shrugging like this news didn't bother him.

He seemed to be enjoying the thought of being mates with me.

"Exactly, how can we feel the mate bond without a wolf moon?" I let out a laugh, a rather awkward one. So that he doesn't feel embarrassed and accepts that he is wrong in his observation.

"Helanie, it has to be a special bond, a mate bond then. Look, I know what I felt, so I am in the clear. Now, if it is too much for you to be mated to a dashing, powerful rogue king like me—" he had a smirk on his face, his voice all husky this time.

"Well, I guess I will have to wait for my wolf to wake up then," I quickly sidestepped him, moving over to the side to avoid being in his sight.

"I won't wait. I will pursue you, and I am shamelessly admitting it. I just cannot wait for you to be in my class," he mumbled in his beautiful voice and shocked me.

He was so excited, but why? Didn't they hate me?

"My mom stole your father from your mother," I stated, reminding him because I thought he had forgotten.

I wouldn't let him have too many thoughts about us being mates because I knew that was not true. My pheromones had confused him so much.

"And you are nothing like her. Listen, I get it. You are trying hard to get this kind of thing, and I am not afraid of a little challenge," he shrugged, moving to the other side.

I didn't know how to respond to him anymore, so I stayed silent.

"Let me walk you back to the hostel. It is getting late." Finally, he stopped using that flirtatious tone and offered to walk me to the hostel.

I would have asked him if I was managed, but the rogue world was a dangerous world, especially after the sun went down.

I started walking behind him. He hummed a few songs on the way that comforted me into thinking my life was normal too.

But what confused me so much was the fact that I once desperately wanted to be accepted by someone. So when Altan stretched his hand out for me, I accepted it happily.

But then, now that I have men pursuing me, I cannot hold their hands.

He left after we were near the hostel, and I went back inside. My body tensed up instantly at the thought of facing that alpha.

I was beyond scared because of the way I would have to face him, because I was close friends with Jenny.

"Helanie." Lamar found me before anybody else did. I was standing by the elevator, looking around all worried when he arrived. I didn't have time to speak with him out in the open, so I stepped into the elevator, but he quickly joined me.

Now he leaned back, his arms crossed over his chest, and his eyes observing me.

"What happened?" he finally spoke up when I didn't answer his silent gaze.

"Nothing. Gavin and I had a little argument. He was upset that we don't treat him the same way we do Lucy," I spoke, not meeting his eyes.

"Is that all?" he asked, and my body tensed up, but I only nodded my head.

"Yep!"

We got off on our floor and made it to our room, where Lucy was already in bed.

"Did something else happen?" I asked Lamar, who gestured for me to get on the balcony with him so that we didn't wake up Lucy. We sat on the balcony, and he brought out his special stash. Not drugs, but food.

"I cannot gossip without food," he mouthed, opening the pizza box and the beer cans.

"I don't drink," I replied.

"It's beer; everyone drinks beer," he insisted. "Come on, just one sip."

He insisted, and I grabbed the can, staring at it.

"Oh, don't impregnate it," he joked, and I rolled my eyes before taking a sip.

"Ew!" My first reaction was, *what the heck did I put in my mouth?* But after a few sips, I felt much better.

"Now, do you know Jenny's mate is here?" he asked, taking a big bite from the slice he had held in his hand.

With much fake confidence, I shook my head. "Really? He has already arrived?" I inquired.

"Yeah, he's our senior. So Lucy saw them together, and it made her feel guilty about her own shattered relationship with her mate," he continued with his mouth full. "You know, I don't really feel bad after sleeping with someone, but I do feel guilty for sleeping with Lucy. I think if I had not—" I shut him down because I realized he was wrong.

"Then she would have done it with someone who would have told the entire academy and made her look like a whore," I corrected him, and he smiled at me.

"Helanie, whatever bothers you at weird times. Because I do see a change in you every now and then. Whatever it is, I swear I will help you with it. I don't care what it would do to me, but I will protect you from these bullies like Salem and Sydney at all costs. Just please don't run away from your problems," Since he didn't know the exact reason why I was weird at times, he connected it to Salem and Sydney.

But his words still meant a whole world to me.

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

Chapter 186-The Quick Peck

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Helanie:

Lamar and I had such a beautiful talk on the balcony. He fed me well, and I couldn't believe I laughed even after facing that alpha. It was Lamar's effect and also the good news Maximus gave me about my accomplishments. So, I guess everyone was seeing my strength except for myself. We fell asleep after gossiping about everyone and woke up for the first class with Maximus.

We were in the woods, wearing red tracksuits for the first lesson.

"What do you guys think is the worst weapon in my opinion?" he asked as he strode in front of the four lines he had made for us. Sydney and I were at the front of the two lines in the middle. Penn and Hans were at the front of the lines at the corners.

"Me!" Sydney held her hand up to answer the question.

Her sister had been very quiet ever since she was punished to do my chores. I didn't make her do anything yesterday because I was feeling low myself. But in the morning, Lamar and Lucy kept bothering me, asking me to call Salem to the room to order her around and have her drop our beds.

I didn't call her.

I wanted to stay away from that negative energy, but I believed my friends' minions would make it happen after our class.

"Sure, go ahead," Maximus stopped before the two of us. His eyes would land on me, and a smirk would try to appear before he used his professional look and changed his attitude.

"Something that can instantly kill," she stated, and I heard everyone gasp as if they agreed with her.

"Do you all agree with her?" Maximus asked, and I couldn't help but wonder if he was doing this on purpose.

As everyone nodded, I watched him tilt his head and question me through his eyes.

"What about you, Helanie? What do you think?" he asked me, since I didn't fall for his trap. He wanted to play hero by giving me a chance to grab the opportunity and answer his question correctly.

Once I didn't, he called me out in front of everyone.

"No," I answered because I knew what kind of weapon was his favorite.

"Interesting! Why not?" he placed his hands on his waist, smiling because now I was headed the right way—the way he had chosen for me.

"You like a weapon that would cause a slow and painful death," I replied as I remembered how amazed he was with the itching.

A much wider smile covered his lips as he nodded at my response.

"That is true, class! Meet Helanie," I was shocked when he said my name as if they didn't know me already. "She has proven herself over and over again. But this time, she has actually caught the eye of the council. They are interested in her future at the academy. And it is a huge achievement for our academy in years. We have surely trained many skillful warriors and alphas who fought against the blue-jacketed hoodlums and took the crowns of the alpha kings, but her case is different. She doesn't have a

wolf, but her strength and intelligence are so far above everything that you can only imagine what will happen when her wolf wakes up."

His praise for me caused my cheeks to feel a strange warmth. I felt Lucy pinching my back, secretly teasing me, while Lamar whistled.

"Now, I will let you guys wander around and discuss things before we start the target practice," the mention of what class he was taking caused my heart to skip a beat.

Missing a target!

I would never.

I needed to be perfect at hitting the target.

"Everyone, you are free to choose whatever means and weapons you want for this class," he stepped away from the big table he had set up in the woods for us to choose a weapon from.

Everyone leapt to their feet to grab their weapons. Sydney chose a gun with silver bullets, others chose swords and different things, but I waited for my turn. I was in no rush. I had my eyes on this weapon ever since I had seen it in Maximus' hands—the itchy herb and the deadly arrow. I wanted to be perfect at it.

As I was about to grab the weapon, I found Lamar reaching for it. My hand withdrew, and I guess he noticed.

"It's okay. You can have it this time," he smiled, picking up a simple bow and arrow.

Of course, I didn't get the itchy herb because Maximus only wanted us to learn, so I grabbed the golden arrow while Lamar grabbed a long bow, and I held the compound bow.

Everyone started shooting at different targets, making sure there was a good distance between each other's targets because some of us had really bad aim—especially me. Never having held a weapon did this to me.

"Here, let me help you." Well, Maximus stole the chance and adjusted his body behind mine. He made me correct my posture and pull the bowstring. The wheel rotated, giving me a strange strength in my body.

"Keep your eye on your aim and the reason in your mind why you are shooting at your target," he whispered in my ear, his lips brushing against my earlobe.

Suddenly, the enthusiasm of learning shifted to his touch. I felt so meek when his big arms were wrapped around mine as he held the compound bow with me.

"Focus! On me, Helanie. Just me," he continued, making me nervously glance around to make sure nobody was watching us.

"And then—release!" he whispered, letting the bowstring go. The arrow pierced through the air, catching my full attention. The moment Maximus' lips touched my cheek, I let out a yelp.

I turned, and my arrow hit the target.

"What are you doing?" I wasn't mad at him. I felt much more comfortable, and that bewildered me. He was not my mate; that was Pheromones. So why wasn't I angry at him for kissing me?

"You taste so good," he winked, walking away while I stood in my spot awkwardly.

But before he could disappear entirely, he added, "I can give you private lessons if you want."

He wanted to use that chance to flirt with me, but I saw it as an opportunity to perfect my aim.

So I shocked him when I agreed, "Thank you, that would mean a lot."

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

Chapter 187-Invitation By The Alpha

Chapter 187: 187-Invitation By The Alpha

Helanie:

I could tell Maximus hadn't expected me to agree with him. But he eventually smiled and walked away.

It had been two hours, and I was trying my absolute best to shoot at the target. However, despite my efforts, not a single arrow hit the mark—except for the first one, which had been shot by Maximus.

There was a circle crafted into the tree by Lamar that I had been aiming for. I was exhausted at this point, wondering how long it would take before I got better at this. I

had been going with the flow all this time, thinking I had plenty of time to prepare for revenge. But now, one of them was already at the academy—and even staying in the hostel.

"Hey, Helanie! If you're done, should we go eat lunch?" Jenny called out from behind, surprising me with her sudden arrival. I had been avoiding her all morning, deliberately going to places where I thought the seniors wouldn't be.

I was doing my best to avoid her, but now she was here again. If I kept refusing her over and over, she might feel hurt—perhaps even think I was still holding her responsible for the strained relationship between Gavin and Lucy.

"Umm, you see, I'm so bad at this," I said, avoiding her gaze but trying hard to sound casual as I gestured toward the target.

"Yeah, but you can always continue tomorrow. It's not like Professor Maximus is going to test us right away," she replied, clearly noticing my awkwardness.

"Yeah, but... I'm not even hitting the tree. Why don't you all go ahead and have lunch while I stay here and practice a bit more?" I suggested with an awkward smile as I watched my friends gather around me.

"You guys go on ahead. I'd like to have a word with her," Gavin said, urging the others to leave. I noticed Lamar frowning, clearly reluctant, but a quick glance from me convinced him to lead the others away. The rest of the group started packing up and leaving as well.

"Are you upset because of what I said yesterday?" Gavin asked, stepping into my line of sight so I couldn't avoid looking at him.

"No! That's not it at all. What you said wasn't wrong. We should have been more thoughtful and considerate of your feelings," I replied quickly, wanting to ease any worries he might have.

"Then why are you avoiding sitting with us?" he pressed, walking over to the large table and setting his dagger down.

"I'm just really tired these days," I lied, unable to come up with a better excuse.

"Listen," Gavin said, turning to face me directly, "if you think I'd ever leave you, you're mistaken. You are my forever best friend, and I have so much respect for you. No matter what happens between Lucy and me, it won't affect our friendship. You're incredibly important to me," he finished, giving me a reassuring smile.

I noticed someone else wandering around the table to put his weapon down. Penn was pacing around me like a firefly, sneakily trying to overhear our conversation. On my right was Maximus, watching us from afar.

"Gavin! Nothing will ever happen to our friendship, trust me. I'm just not into the hostel's food right now," I said, using the excuse to cover up my real thoughts. "Since I've lived like a rogue, I can't eat the same kind of food for too long." I wasn't planning to join them for lunch either.

I knew I was being childish, and I couldn't avoid facing him forever, but I wanted to drag it out for as long as I could. The day he recognizes me is one I dread deeply. I hope that day never comes.

"Okay then, that's such a relief," Gavin said, placing a hand on his chest and sighing with relief.

"Hey, why don't you come with me to Benita's Café?" Penn smoothly interrupted, using the opportunity to ask me out in the subtlest way possible.

"I'm heading to the café anyway," he added with a sly smile, glancing at Gavin. "You go on and join the others. I'll take care of Helanie."

Gavin hesitated for a moment but eventually left. Now, Maximus stood nearby with his hands on his hips, looking grim.

"Shall we?" Penn asked, and I reluctantly said yes. I just wanted an excuse to stay out until it was late, so I could avoid confronting my biggest nightmare.

I followed Penn in silence as we walked to his car. He opened the door for me, and I sat in the passenger seat. As he started the car, he cleared his throat, probably trying to start a conversation.

"In a few weeks, we'll get some holidays. Where do you plan to stay during that time?" he asked, reminding me of my impending homelessness.

"It's only a few days. I'll manage something," I replied, clasping my hands in my lap.

"Ahem! I was thinking..." He hesitated briefly. "Since the holidays are for the Warrior War in my pack, why don't you come and watch? I'd really like to show you my pack." His offer was kind and sincere. I would have loved to accept it, but Jenny's mate would be there too.

I hadn't told them about him, nor had I tried to learn anything about that bastard alpha so far. Being in the same pack as him would be unbearable.

"Oh, I wish I could join," I said, turning my head toward the window.

"Why not? Everyone else is coming too," he said, pausing briefly before adding, "except for the seniors. They'll have exams, so don't worry—those top seniors won't be there."

My heart lifted slightly at the thought. If all the seniors had exams, then that Alpha wouldn't be there either.

"So, will the hostel stay open?" I asked.

He shook his head. "Remember our trip organized by professor Kaye? The seniors will be away for a test trip this time, so the hostel will be closed."

I nodded to myself. If I didn't have a place to stay as the hostel would be closed, and the seniors wouldn't be at Penn's pack, then maybe I could go with him.

"Cool," Penn said, smiling as he stopped the car outside Benita's Café.

I sighed quietly, unsure if this was the best choice but feeling like I had no other option.

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

Chapter 188-And The Devil Follows

Chapter 188: 188-And The Devil Follows

Helanie:

This café is always full of drama—or perhaps I should say, whenever I step into it, I witness a drama unfold.

We entered, and everyone bowed to us because of the wristbands, especially since Penn was an Alpha. Penn was ever the gentleman, pulling out a chair for me, helping me sit, and then taking the liberty of ordering for us.

Benita herself walked out of the kitchen with a menu card in hand. She always made it a point to personally bring the menu whenever someone special arrived. Her eyes narrowed as they landed on me, followed by a subtle shake of her head. She made sure not to let Penn see her reaction, though. He had no idea I had once come here seeking a job, only to be rejected because Benita thought I was a prostitute. Of course, the academy wouldn't allow any scandalous jobs, so I wasn't sure what she had been thinking.

"Alpha Penn, how are you?" she asked in a cheerful tone.

"I'm perfect. How are you, Benita?" he replied, his charm evident in every word. As he began speaking, heads turned to him—it was impossible not to notice his presence.

"I'm not well. Oh! Your parents must be so proud to have a son like you. Mine barely want to lift a finger," she said, smoothly transitioning from a simple greeting to venting about her family woes.

"Wait, what did he do now? I thought he'd changed after getting admitted to Fellmoon Academy," Penn asked, leaning in with genuine interest, as if he already knew the person in question.

"Penn! You'd think he'd care about his old mother, but no. He's a complete mess. I thought this academy would teach him responsibility, maybe even give him some courage to stand up for himself and his family. But all he does is drink whenever he's home on holidays. I'm so worried about him," she said, her face reflecting the deep concern of a worried mother.

"Maybe it's just the stress of the upcoming Alpha War next year?" Penn suggested. "He's fighting to become the Alpha of this pack, isn't he? How's that going? Has the current Alpha said anything? He can't be happy knowing your son is competing with him."

I turned my head to look out the window, only half-listening to their conversation.

"The Alpha is enraged, but he's maintaining his composure for now. Still, I've noticed he seems more relaxed lately. My son doesn't seem to value the blue jacket anymore, and they can tell he's not going to make it. And the Alpha's son—he's in the academy too. I'm sure he's making my son's life miserable over there," she said, pouring her worries out to Penn.

At this point, she was practically trauma-dumping, but Penn didn't seem to mind. He handled the conversation with such poise and maturity that it was impressive.

"I was hoping you could meet him once?" she asked, her voice laced with desperation. "I just want to know if he's okay, that the Alpha's son isn't causing him too much trouble."

Her worried expression told me that this Alpha's son must be a troublemaker, likely bullying her son. The Alpha Wars were notoriously tricky, and the pressure they brought could break even the strongest of spirits.

The two of them continued to talk before Benita took our order and left. During that time, I learned that she was the granddaughter of the Alpha of this pack—well, the former Alpha of The Dark Eclipse Pack. Her grandfather had once been the Alpha, but when the current Alpha joined the academy, he called for an Alpha War with her father, and her father lost.

Now, she wanted to reclaim the pack, as the Alpha crown had been passed down to them for generations before it was taken away by the current Alpha. Her best option was for her son to battle the current Alpha's son.

Once she left, I straightened up as Penn's attention returned to me.

"I was kind of expecting you to speak up and help her out. You always have the best advice," he said, though I wasn't sure why Penn thought I had such wisdom.

"I'm an Omega, Penn. I don't know shit about shit," I replied. As soon as I said that, he started chuckling.

"I like when you speak without any filters. Anyway, I'm taking you to my pack with me. Jenny will be so happy to have you, which brings me to my next topic," he continued confidently, tapping his fingers on the desk in front of him. "Are you angry with Jenny over that cage incident? I've noticed you haven't been talking to her like you used to."

"It's not that. You know the physical exercises are starting, and I'm stressing over trying to do my best. I'm not hanging out with anyone these days," I replied, my head lowering as my phone beeped in my lap.

Seeing Maximus' name pop up on the screen was strange.

"Anyway, you can always count on me for help with physical strength," Penn said, grinning. "I can make time for you in my busy schedule."

I rolled my eyes at him before gesturing for him to excuse me as I read the message.

My head was down, my eyes focused on the text.

Professor Maximus: How about you stop wasting your time and come to the garage for more practice?

Professor Maximus: I mean, only if my class truly means anything to you.

I narrowed my eyes in confusion, wondering why he was being so aggressive in the texts. Was he jealous that I left with Penn?

As I sighed and was about to text him back, I briefly raised my head, and what I saw froze me in place. A cold shiver ran up my spine when I saw that Alpha walk through the café door with Jenny.

"Oh! Rayden, Jenny! Come here," Penn called, and my heart sank in my chest. It all felt like it was happening in slow motion. I didn't want to confront this man or risk him recognizing me.

Suddenly, everything felt suffocating.

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

Chapter 189-Back To My Stepbrother

Chapter 189: 189-Back To My Stepbrother

Helanie:

"Guys!" he continued, and I quickly ducked, lowering my body and sitting under the table for a minute before crawling out to the other side of the café.

"Hey!" I heard Penn sound exhausted.

It seemed like Jenny and Rayden were having a deep conversation or maybe an argument, so Penn's repeated calls to them were ignored.

"Oh, come on," I heard Rayden's voice as he angrily followed Jenny. I took the chance to reach behind the counter. Penn turned around to look behind him, but their argument was helping me escape. I ran behind the counter and then entered the kitchen, briefly standing there and staring at them.

Jenny finally saw her brother and approached him with Rayden tucked behind her.

I could tell Penn tried to tell her I was with him as he pointed at the empty chair, but then he looked confused when he didn't find me there. He looked around, but I had stepped away from the small window in the door.

There were chefs and servers back there, watching me as I made my way through the back door.

"Really? You're that type?" I heard from behind, my tongue between my teeth.

I turned and saw Benita standing there with her hands on her hips.

"I got an emergency call," I said, though it sounded like complete nonsense.

"And instead of telling that poor guy the truth about wanting to leave, you're sneaking out like a coward through the back door. What emergency? You know the jacket holders

aren't allowed to sell their bodies, right?" She had the nerve to say that word in front of her cooks.

I stared at them watching me, then gesturing at each other in shock.

"Don't throw accusations when you don't know me," I straightened my back, realizing that if I didn't shut her down today, she'd think she could say whatever she wanted and bully me.

"Huh, isn't it obvious that you were going to the sketchiest streets with that guy who was here earlier?" She made sure everyone heard her as she accused me of going to that shady place.

I nodded, catching her off guard. "We accidentally took a wrong turn. But why were you there?" I placed my hands on my waist as I watched her posture falter.

"What are you insinuating?" Now that she was on the receiving end of such accusations, she sounded offended.

"What? I thought we were playing 'Guess Who Was Doing What in That Street?' For you to encounter me there, you must have been there too." I rested my case, and as she fell short of an answer, her server gasped. I turned and ran out the back door.

I had a feeling her next move would be to call Penn in the back and have him catch me red-handed as I tried to escape.

Instead of going back to the hostel, I went straight to Maximus' garage without informing him.

I was just scared, with so many thoughts running through my head, and I wanted to get away from everyone for a while.

Besides, I couldn't go back to the hostel in fear. I had such a narrow escape from lunch, I might not be able to escape dinner.

While on my way to the garage, I wrote a text to Penn.

Me: Hey, I'm so sorry for leaving like that. I had an emergency and couldn't leave from the front door.

I saw that he read my message instantly, but then he never responded, and I wondered if it was because I had upset him. Of course, I would be upset too if I took someone out for lunch and they left without telling me—especially through the back door.

While he didn't respond, his sister did.

Jenny: I know you left because you saw me. I don't understand why you're hating on me. Please speak to Gavin; he'll tell you I'm innocent.

I hissed under my breath, feeling guilty for hurting her. She was getting the wrong ideas because of how I was avoiding her. The timing of Rayden's arrival had been so bad. However, now I had his name and knew a little bit about him.

When I reached the garage, as expected, I found it open. Maximus was shirtless, his pants hanging too low with a lug wrench in his hand. He was moving it around, staring at the dirty car in front of him. But then he suddenly stopped and turned his head to look at me.

"I want to be perfect at aiming my target," I said, my words precise, my determination evident in my voice as I demanded he teach me.

"Helena, come in," he instantly reached out and grabbed my hand, pulling me into the garage.

I don't know why I couldn't speak another word for about ten minutes, but it wasn't a problem since he didn't ask me any questions either. He wrapped his brown leather jacket around me to warm me up and ordered me food.

"First, we'll eat something, and then we'll talk about the training," he said, returning with a dirty white shirt on, paying the rider.

The minute he placed the food down, I attacked it. I was starving. I don't know if it was from hunger or anger.

I grabbed the burger and started shoving fries into my mouth. However, it didn't take long before I felt embarrassed when I looked up and saw him staring at me.

"Oh! A competition—I love it," a proud smile spread across his lips before he grabbed the burger and started biting into it like crazy.

It made me feel better about myself and eased the guilt. We ate like barbarians, and once we were done, he returned with large stones.

They all seemed similar, but he laid them on the table for me and made a pyramid of some, a little further from the garage door.

"How about we play a game?" He smirked. "Whoever hits the target can kiss the other one anywhere they want."

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

Chapter 190-Kissing Game

Chapter 190: 190-Kissing Game

Helanie:

"Just so you know, I'm not kissing you or letting you kiss me," I said as I watched him aim at the targets.

"Don't ruin the fun, Helanie," he said through gritted teeth, acting like he had to focus so hard to make a perfect shot. He was only doing this because I had told him how unfair it was since he was so good at it.

He launched the stone, and it hit the pyramid perfectly, crashing the stones and scattering them across the ground.

"Aha!" he laughed, turning to me and pouting his lips. He gently tapped his lips as he puckered them, making me roll my eyes.

"So, I will select—" As he started walking around me in a circle, I shook my head to dismiss any thoughts forming in his head.

"No! You are not kissing me," I refused, but he let out an evil chuckle.

"Okay, since you're so scared—" Those words were deliberately chosen because he knew I came here determined to be good at aiming.

"I'm not scared," I stated confidently.

"Then come on," he insisted, stopping right in front of my face.

"This is like a win-win for you. I win, I kiss you. You win, you kiss me," I frowned. "How is this beneficial for me?"

I watched him narrow his eyes at me, then bend down to place his hands on his knees.

"Oh really? You don't think you'll be pleased in return? You're acting like my kiss is nothing," he pouted like a child, making me sigh in exhaustion.

"Just a quick peck, I promise. Okay?" He stretched his neck back and muttered, "Since my kiss is so disgusting..." He was definitely upset that it came across like that. He wanted me to immediately start celebrating that he would kiss me.

"Why don't you work harder to aim better so you can win? That way, you can choose to kiss the back of my hand only, so you don't have to worry about your gracious lips touching my pathetic body anywhere else, mate!" Him calling me "mate" was his way of showing he was offended that his mate didn't want him to touch me or be touched by him.

It's not that he wasn't an attractive man. I was just guilty of not being able to explain to him why what he felt wasn't a mate bond.

I felt like I had led him on by accident.

"Fine. That will be okay," I agreed, at least he wasn't wrong. I could try to win in that way.

"So, I won," he suddenly repeated his victory, informing me that I could worry about him kissing me later, because right now, he had won this round.

"Okay," I felt so shy but kept my posture, ready for him.

He stepped closer, then steadily held my hand, raising it and kissing the back of it. A wave of heat ran through my body, warming me more than his jacket now. I shyly nodded and slipped my hand out of his, watching a small smirk play on his lips.

"My turn," I said, walking over to the spot while he went outside to set up the pyramid again. I stood in my spot, my eyes on the stones, and when I tossed my stone, it landed so far away as if I were aiming at the air.

"Ooooh! Seems like you want to be kissed," he commented with a laugh, getting under my nerves. If there's one thing I've learned about myself, it's that I don't have much of a sportsman spirit. I can't stomach losing any match.

He walked closer once again, raised his hand, and the tip of his finger touched my cheek, making me shudder shyly. With his arm wrapped around my tiny waist, he pulled me in and lowered his face to mine. His lips brushed my cheek, and I swear I almost passed out. I hated how his touch was making me feel.

"Mmmm," he pulled back, moaning afterwards.

It was his turn, and he won again. His smirk kept growing. This time, he touched my chest, and my heart skipped a beat just thinking about it.

He lowered his face to my chest and gently gave a peck to my skin.

I swear, goosebumps covered my whole body as I wondered if it kept going, would he reach places that were forbidden? And it seemed to be his goal, too.

"Your turn," he said. I stepped back and checked the time on my phone.

"I'll start heading back now before it gets dark," I suggested, not realizing it was already getting dark.

He looked bummed but nodded finally, "Okay! I'll drop you off."

He insisted, and soon we were in his car, making our way back to the rogue community. I made him park a little further away, not wanting any rumors to spread.

I quickly jumped out of his car to avoid any more talking. He had flirted enough with me for the day.

As I walked back to the hostel, I texted him to let him know I had safely reached my destination. He had asked me to let him know when I did.

Thankfully, dinner was being served, and everyone was already in the hall, or so I assumed. Since my friends knew I was out, they weren't going to come call me for dinner. I took the elevator and had reached the 8th floor when I saw Lucy standing outside our room.

"You're here? Where did you go?" she saw me and rushed over to me instead of entering the room.

"No, I was just walking around. You know, being a rogue. Old habits die hard," I joked, using my rogue status as an excuse to always go missing.

"But why aren't you at the hall?" I asked, noticing that she looked out of it.

"Umm, Gavin wasn't there either," she uttered, "Look, I know you tell me to stop torturing myself, but we haven't broken up..."

In that moment, I had a very bad feeling about this.

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

- Chapter 191-Oh Gavin!

Chapter 191-Oh Gavin!

Chapter 191: 191-Oh Gavin!

Helanie:

"Please, can we go look for him?" she insisted, holding my hand and almost pulling me with her. My heart was pounding at the thought of walking around the hostel and getting caught.

"Lucy! Why don't we just give him a call instead?" I asked, starting to pull her back toward the room. We were playing a tug-of-war at this point.

"You think I didn't? I called him, and his phone is switched off," she replied, forcing me to stop pulling her.

"Then maybe he'll return, and you can ask him where he went. The rogue community is a big place; he could be anywhere," I said, offering a weak smile as I tried to sound helpful.

It pained me to watch her insist on going with her. Normally, I wouldn't even think twice about joining her, but tonight was different.

"Helanie, that's the fucked-up part. He's not outside. He's in the hostel. I saw him come in with a red rose, and then he disappeared. I asked the guard outside if he left again, and he said he didn't. He's somewhere in there, not even in his room," she said, rambling with so much concern that, at this point, I was confused too. Could the red rose have been for Lucy? But then why did he disappear?

"Okay, let's go look for him," I finally agreed. Watching her beg me to come with her wasn't easy.

"But please, if he asks you to leave him alone, you will not beg him to stay," I hated when she acted so miserable.

"I will not beg him to stay," she spoke softly, her voice sounding so low.

"Can we first go ask Salem to come clean our room?" She suggested, and I shot her a disapproving look.

"Really? You want me to ask for trouble?" I wasn't happy to hear that. I did not want to be around Salem whether it was to tease her or play with her.

"Helanie, she tortured you. If you don't make the best out of this punishment, she'll think she can get away with anything in the future. And trust me, she hasn't learned from her mistakes," she stated, making me realize she was right.

The reason Salem and Sydney kept hurting me was that they always got away with a slap on the wrist.

"Fine, let's go there first," I nodded. We were rushing because I wanted to be done with the search and get back to my room.

As we stood before Salem's door, I noticed Lucy looked slightly agitated. In fact, by the time we were outside the door, she had a hand on her chest and the biggest frown on her face.

"Are you okay? We can go back to the room--" I grew worried when I noticed tears in her eyes.

What was happening to her?

She ignored me and slammed the door open, confusing me. I had expected her to knock first. But the minute the door opened, I realized why she looked like she was in pain.

It was her mate bond that pushed her to visit Salem first.

Salem was in her bed, making out passionately with someone, who had perfectly tucked the red rose behind her ear.

"Gavin!" Lucy whispered, tears rolling down her eyes. Gavin was shirtless, under the covers with Salem. But I could tell they had just started getting intimate, as they still had their bottoms on and Salem was mostly dressed.

The two broke apart, and Gavin turned to face us.

"I cannot believe--" Lucy's hands flew to her mouth, shock evident on her face.

"Why the fuck did you not knock?" Salem had the nerve to get up and yell at Lucy.

"He is my mate--" Lucy stuttered shakily, her breathing becoming erratic. I felt so bad for her, I could almost feel her pain.

Gavin shamelessly got out of bed and grabbed his shirt. But Lucy wasn't having it. She rushed forward to kick his shirt away, but Salem grabbed her arm and pulled her away from Gavin, who didn't even speak a word.

"Hey! Hands off!" I stepped between them and pushed Salem. I had to come between them because I could tell Salem was about to get more aggressive with Lucy.

"Let's go, Lucy," I turned to face her, and she had already left.

Now it was just Salem and Gavin.

"How could you--" I shouted at Gavin, who instantly looked down before muttering, "Have you asked her that too?"

"Why this bitch, Gavin? Don't you know what she's done to me?" I yelled, confused about how he could do this to me and Lucy.

He didn't just betray Lucy, he hurt me as well.

"Worse than trying to kill you, like Lamar did? You forgave Lucy, and even Lamar," he defended himself.

I was in shock.

He was so busy trying to punish everyone by using different excuses that at this point, I didn't even know if I could ask him to explain himself. It was pretty obvious that he wanted to punish us and make a point, so he did.

"You heard him. You're so wrong to side with his cheating mate and question him," Salem muttered. I averted my gaze from Gavin.

"You told her," I felt personally attacked.

"How much have you been telling her about your friends?" I just felt like I couldn't trust him in that moment.

"I didn't say anything. She overheard us arguing one day and found out. But that's not the point. The point is, you're going to forgive me like you forgave her and Lamar, right?" He stepped out from behind Salem, who didn't look too happy that he wasn't yelling slurs at me for taking Lucy's side.

"You know what, you two are comparable," I said, and with that, I turned and left the room.

I had to go look after Lucy. But when I reached the elevator, I felt a hand on my shoulder that spooked me out so much that I turned to stare at the person, my eyes wide and shock clearly visible on my face.

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

Chapter 192-Oh Lucy!

Chapter 192: 192-Oh Lucy!

Helanie:

"What happened? Why are you looking at me like you've seen a ghost?" It was Jenny asking me that question. I thought someone else had recognized me.

I quickly gulped and straightened my spine to answer her.

"Helanie! Are you angry with me?" she asked, and I shook my head, walking past her.

I guess that's why she kept thinking I was angry with her--because she'd reached me at times when I was in a rush. Not to mention, sticking with her would mean eventually meeting her mate.

"I'm kind of in a rush," I replied, stepping into the elevator.

"I know," she said, rushing after me as the door closed behind us.

"You're rushing away from me," she stated, her eyes making me feel guilty. "You even left my brother at the café today. If I knew you'd run off just from my one glance, I wouldn't have gone there. I wasn't comfortable being with my mate, so I thought being with you guys would make me feel better."

I had to tell her something so she wouldn't feel guilty.

"Jenny, I'm going after Lucy. She found Gavin cheating on her with Salem," I said. My words caught her attention, and a gasp escaped her lips.

"What? Where is Lucy?" she asked, and I shrugged.

"Maybe in her room?" I replied, and Jenny shook her head.

"I was actually there before I met you. I was looking for you and found the room empty. I'm pretty sure I saw her run downstairs," she said, and I had a feeling she must have left the hostel again.

Thankfully, it wasn't a full moon night, but the outside still felt like a dangerous place to be.

"I'll come with you," she said. As we began rushing toward the exit, I had to remind her of something.

"Can you please not tell Penn or anyone? I think Lucy wouldn't want anyone else coming along with us," I said, my voice tinged with guilt. I was lying so bluntly now, without even thinking what if we encounter trouble and need help?

Then we'll call Lamar.

Once we stepped out of the hostel, I felt a brief sense of relief. But my concern for Lucy was increasing.

I had never seen her so speechless before. I remembered when she thought Gavin had cheated on her, she was so lost. Now that she'd seen him in action, I could only imagine her pain.

The two of us walked steadily, looking around for Lucy.

The mountains were a dangerous place, especially at night. And Lucy had this bad habit of finding solace in dark, dangerous paths.

We found her right next to the beautiful river that we had once spotted during our strolls. It was actually Jenny who suggested we check near the tree by the river.

Lucy was sitting under the tree, her knees pulled up to her chest, and her arms wrapped tightly around her legs. Her head was down, hiding her face.

"Lucy!" I called out, and she slowly raised her face, showing just how much she had cried. Her eyes were swollen and dull, a reflection of the pain she was carrying inside.

"It's over," she whispered under her breath.

"I don't think I can ever... forget about it now. And I don't think he'll keep up the façade of us doing okay. This was his last attack, and--" she sobbed as she spoke, her words shaking. Jenny and I rushed to kneel beside her, trying to offer some comfort.

"What do you mean? What if he asks you to be with him again? What if he wants to make it right?" Jenny murmured gently.

"No! There's no way we can go back from this," Lucy said, shaking her head. "I should've known it was over when I cheated on him. But now I saw him--with my own eyes..." She stopped mid-sentence, her lips trembling, and another loud sob escaped her.

"Lucy, he was wrong for this. You both were wrong," I said softly, trying to offer some perspective. "The right thing would've been to reject someone you couldn't trust. Or at least take time apart. But you both decided to cheat on each other instead--" I cut myself off as she shakily grabbed my hand, forcing me to look at her face.

Her eyes were filled with tears as she whispered, "It was all my fault. I started it. I slept with Lamar to hurt Gavin. So I can't act like the victim now, after I got a taste of my own medicine. I'm only crying because it's over now. I'm mourning the loss of my mate," she sniffled, taking heavy, deep breaths.

The realization of where things had gone wrong for both of them must've been so hard on her. She looked like a mess, and I genuinely felt bad for her. I wanted to comfort her, but in that moment, I couldn't think of anything to say.

And I believe her mourning the loss of Gavin was something she needed to do. She needed to get it out.

"But I have a request," she said, looking at both Jenny and me. "Don't ruin your friendship with him just the way you didn't ruin your friendship with me when I slept with someone who tried to kill you in the past."

It was a lot she was asking from me. Yes, Lucy had slept with my worst enemy at the time, but Salem was someone who showed no signs of redemption. Just because I had forgiven Lucy didn't mean I would continue forgiving everyone who betrayed me by sleeping with my enemies.

"Lucy, I respect your thoughts and concerns," I said, trying to make her understand, "but when your friend starts sharing a bed with your enemy, your secrets are bound to be whispered into their ears." I wanted her to know that I couldn't forgive Sydney and Salem because they hadn't just wronged me once--they had hurt me over and over again.

I wasn't that noble of a person to keep forgiving everyone.

"Ohh! So that's the truth about your pathetic friend," a voice suddenly cut through the air, making all three of us jump. It was Riri Isaac, one of the top seniors I had once thrown up on.

"I knew the juniors had much more interesting lives," Arlo, the one who had once called Lucy insecure, said as he appeared from behind Riri.

"What do you say we have a little fun with our juniors here?" Arlo smirked, his eyes narrowing at Lucy.

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

Chapter 193-The Disaster Saved us

Chapter 193: 193-The Disaster Saved us

Helanie:

"Of course, we can do whatever we want since we are the seniors," Riri smirked, stepping ahead. I could see some other seniors behind them, but the top seniors were only these two assholes.

"So, she had been cheating on her mate?" Arlo walked over to us, kneeling down so he could speak to Lucy, who already looked so broken.

"That is none of your business," I snapped, turning on the spot and hissing at him under my breath.

"We should go back," Kenny motioned with his hand, reminding me we should not mess with the top seniors.

"Why? Are you scared of staying here with us, Alpha's sister?" Arlo turned his attention to her this time.

"Yeah, let's go back," I announced, helping Lucy stand up, but Arlo stood up, facing us and restraining us from moving.

"Arlo!" I clenched my jaw, trying my best to stay calm. The night had already been stressful. Everything during the day was too much for me, and now this guy was trying to test my patience.

"Oh! No title, huh? How do you feel hanging around these people?" After commenting on me not using a title for him, he turned to Jenny. "These are weak omegas. Why hang around them?"

Jenny's body tensed as she had heard this too many times now. "They are better than anyone I've come across," Jenny said proudly.

"These people?" Arlo pointed at me and Lucy. "One is a cheater, and the other is merely a pretty face. What's so special about them anyway?"

It was time I spoke up. "Funny how there's nothing special about us, but you made it your mission to come after us and stop our path. If we're so boring and useless, why not leave us alone?"

I tilted my head and watched his smile fade a little. "How about we start with this overconfident kitten?"

Arlo said, and his friends began to form a circle around us.

"No! I say we attack this cheater. I hate women who sleep around," Riri commented as she walked in a circle around us. However, she suddenly stopped behind Lucy and shoved her so hard that Lucy almost crashed into Arlo's chest.

"Oops!" Arlo teased, smirking at the fact that she had touched him. I quickly held her arm and supported her body, helping her maintain her balance.

"That's enough! Now you guys are crossing your limits," I yelled out in anger, feeling like they should have stopped with the taunts. But they were starting to come closer, tightening the circle around us.

"No, it's not enough. And, bitch, if you touch my friend again..." Suddenly, Riri took a step forward and grabbed Lucy by her ponytail.

"Hey, let her go!" Both Jenny and I yelled in unison. Jenny grabbed Riri's arm, trying to pull her away from Lucy to set her free. That's when Arlo rushed forward and pushed Jenny to the ground.

It began to get extremely violent. Their friends started throwing their hands at us.

I could feel hits around my body, and some girl even pinched my back. Meanwhile, Arlo was making sure Jenny didn't get up from the ground.

Riri had grabbed Lucy's ponytail again and was starting to drag her away from us.

"Hey!" I tried to swing my arms around, but there were more than seven people apart from Riri and Arlo.

My friends were screaming in pain. I could see Lucy being tossed onto the ground by Riri before she started receiving punches. Arlo was throwing rocks at Jenny, who had her face covered with her hands.

"Let's show this bitch what it feels like to humiliate your fated mate by sleeping with someone else!" Riri screamed, before putting her hand on Lucy's clothes. I watched her apply pressure to Lucy's shirt, trying to tear it open.

Flashback:

My dress was ripped off my body in the most brutal way, my undergarments being pulled until I heard the snaps of the fabric splitting.

They made sure they were as wild and aggressive as they could be. I moved my arms around multiple times to save myself and hit at least one of them, but they were so strong that when they pinned me down, I couldn't move a muscle.

It was horrifying being naked in front of these blood-sucking alphas.

Every second I spent watching their eyes hungrily ogling every inch of my body was like a memory that would stay with me forever.

End of flashback.

Everything suddenly fell silent. My ears began to ring, and I heard a siren sound I had never heard before. The loud noise made me bend down and cover my ears. I wanted to know if they were hearing it too, but I guess they weren't, as their hands never stopped hitting me.

"Stop!" I whispered, my head down, and my palms tightly pressed against my ears.

"Let her go," I muttered under my breath, while my body felt like needles were being pricked onto my skin.

The sense of urgency took over my brain. I wanted the siren to stop, but it seemed to be calling for me. That's when I could no longer take it anymore.

I dropped to my knees, covering my ears, and yelled at the top of my lungs, "STOOOOOOOOOOOOOP!"

My scream pierced the air, fueled by my anger at the fact that Riri was trying to rip off Lucy's clothes. However, the minute I shouted, the earth beneath me shook, and thunder clapped in the sky.

"What the fuck?!" I heard gasps and murmurs of shock and fright. I raised my head to see everyone holding onto each other.

The earthquake was soon no longer a problem as hail started to fall out of nowhere.

"What the heck?!" Arlo yelled. "Look for cover!"

As they started to run away from us, I sniffled and ran for Lucy. Jenny had gotten to her feet and reached Lucy before me.

"Girls!" I heard Lamar scream, approaching us with a wooden plank over his head. He came and held it over our heads.

"Let's go," he said, giving us instructions to get to safety before the hail got bigger.

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

Chapter 194-And It Is About Time That We Meet

Chapter 194: 194-And It Is About Time That We Meet

Helanie:

"What was that?" Once we had made our way to Jenny's cabin, which was much closer to us than the hostel, Jenny asked. We couldn't focus on our path, as we were still remembering the warden. She would flip if she found us in this state.

Lucy's hair was a mess, and her shirt was torn at the shoulder. Jenny had many bumps and bruises on her body. My arms and back had pinch marks, red spots, and some of them were even bleeding from the girls behind me who had acrylics on.

"There was an earthquake that saved me in the nick of time," Lucy whispered, her hands clasped together.

"I just don't understand why those assholes followed you guys," Lamar hissed, giving us first aid.

"That was my karma--" Before Lucy could speak anymore, I had to shut her down.

"Oh, shut up! Nobody deserves to be bullied!" I yelled at her, and she instantly bit her tongue.

"Umm, Helanie!" Jenny gave me an understanding look, wanting me to calm down and not yell at Lucy.

"I'll see how I deal with them. By the way, Gavin had been looking for you girls," Lamar explained, and while the two stayed silent, I scoffed.

"I heard what he did," Lamar cleared his throat, his eyes seeking my glance.

"A lot happened tonight," Jenny uttered, rubbing her arms, as the rocks had been a really harsh treatment for her.

"But the highlight stayed to be the earthquake. It was unlike anything. Did you guys hear the siren?" As Lamar continued to talk about the earthquake, he mentioned something that perked up my ears.

"You heard a siren?" I asked, suddenly taking interest.

"We all did. Why? You didn't hear anything? It was right after you screamed," Jenny sat up in the bed, her legs folded under her body.

"After? But I was hearing a siren before that too. It was so loud," I touched my ears as I recalled the horrible sound. It sounded like the voice of someone, but it was merely a siren.

"Helanie! It was only after you screamed. There were no sirens before that," Jenny added, hinting at the discrepancy in our stories.

"Is that why you had your ears covered?" Jenny then mentioned the missing detail, and as I nodded, I saw Lamar cock his head. His eyes traveled briefly to Jenny, the two seeming to communicate silently.

"That's odd," Lamar finally commented.

However, our conversation was cut off when there was a knock on the cabin door.

"Who could it be?" I asked.

"Gavin! He's been trying to find my location ever since he heard from me that I found you guys," Lamar looked guilty for leading Gavin to us.

"I don't think any apology will matter now. I'm not saying I blame him for anything, but we're way past apologies. It's over for us," Lucy told us her decision, as Lamar headed to answer the door.

No matter what Gavin said to her, she wasn't going to accept that they should get back together again.

As Lamar had said, it was Gavin at the door. He walked in, leaving the door open behind him. I could see the crazy rain outside. The weather had gotten worse after the earthquake.

My body tensed up, but my eyes remained on Lucy's arms. She had visible goosebumps all over her body. She was looking straight ahead, avoiding eye contact with Gavin.

"I guess the rain will stop in an hour or so--" Lamar commented, heading to the window to close it, as the lightning kept scaring Jenny, who had gotten off the bed to stand away and let Lucy and Gavin speak.

"I've come here to say sorry to all of you for the worries and stress I've caused by acting differently. But I guess I can be okay now," Gavin said. I watched Lucy take a deep breath. I knew she was dying to let him know that she didn't blame him anymore.

But before she could say anything, Gavin spoke up again, with his own plan. "I think it's time we finish this cold war. We both cheated on each other. Now I just want to save my friendship," Gavin stared at me before adding, "and Lucy!"

She finally turned to him and straightened her back, her eyes showing so much interest in what he was about to say. "I, Gavin Tee, reject Lucy Dixon as my mate and free her from this pain."

Everyone gasped as they watched him take that step. Lucy's eyes widened, her lips letting out a yelp as she must have felt the most excruciating pain ever.

"Gavin!" I got up from the bed, upset that he chose this moment. She had just felt the pain of betrayal and the humiliation by the seniors, and now he came to reject her.

"I didn't want to linger on it anymore," Gavin argued.

"You asshole! She was in pain. The seniors bullied her and even hit her!" Lamar yelled, staying back when Lucy gestured for him to stay away.

"I didn't know the bullying was at the level of physical violence," Gavin spoke softly, but Lucy got off the bed and stood face-to-face with him.

"You are not wrong. I appreciate you setting me free. I, Lucy Dixon, accept your rejection. You are free now." As she accepted his rejection, I could see the relief in Gavin's eyes.

It hurt me because I could tell he was long over her before this day.

"I don't think--I can stay here tonight. I'll head back to the hostel." I just couldn't stand here and watch it. I was suddenly feeling so cold, as if the angel of death had just walked in.

When I met them, they were so in love, and now it was all over. Lucy still had love in her eyes, while Gavin was over her. I had seen him look more interested in Salem than Lucy, with just one encounter between Salem and Gavin.

"But--" Jenny complained.

"It's okay, I'll go with her," Lamar gave him a reassuring nod. As I turned to leave, I came face to face with someone who had arrived through the open door, and we hadn't even realized it.

"I was looking for my mate and realized she's at the cabin with her friends," it was Rayden standing right in my path, happily announcing he had arrived. His eyes suddenly fell on me, and I noticed a strange look take over his face.

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

Chapter 195-The Myth Of Queen Of Arthendel.

Chapter 195: 195-The Myth Of Queen Of Arthendel.

Maximus:

As I closed my eyes, I saw her standing before me. Her beautiful long blond hair danced with the wind, her rosy cheeks looking fresh, and her red plump lips causing my heart to skip a beat.

Helanie had the most captivating eyes I had ever seen. One could stare at them and never look away. The driver was moving slowly as per my instructions. I didn't want to reach the mansion already.

My mind was consumed with thoughts of Helanie.

My imagination ran wild when it came to her. If she ever found out how I imagined her, she would probably throw another two punches at me.

"Ughhh!" I moaned while leaning back in the backseat, savoring every moment of pleasure from imagining her.

In my thoughts, she started to take off her clothes. I had never seen her naked, so I could only imagine how amazing her body must look.

My excitement grew, and I heard a giggle. It brought me back to reality, and my eyes shot open. The girl I picked up from the bar was sitting at my feet, her lips tightly wrapped around my dick.

It was crazy how I couldn't fully enjoy it until Helanie came into my thoughts. This girl at my feet was good too. She seemed experienced. "Look at you, it keeps growing. I love a man with a long and thick dick," she shamelessly body-shamed others by constantly talking about big dicks.

I should have seen it as a red flag when I approached her at the counter, and she started ranting about how upset she was that her boyfriend had a small dick. I thought she was just talking, but nope!

She wanted a big dick.

With a smirk on her lips, she got up and raised her skirt, revealing she wasn't wearing underwear. My smirk matched hers as she sat on my cock, slowly taking it inside her. But she had to stop as she finally realized she didn't want that big of a rod in her. "Ow!" she winced in pain but kept trying to take it all in. "Oh my! Ouch! I am going to be in so

much pain in the morning. What are you? An iron man?" she complained, biting her bottom lip but not giving up.

My hands moved to her waist, and by grabbing her body, I helped her lower her body without taking any more pauses. "AHHH!" Finally, the moment I pushed her down, and my entire dick reached up her vagina, a loud scream erupted out of her mouth with tears streaming down her cheeks. "This is too—big for me," instead of enjoying the moment, she gave up. She quickly started to get up, "I don't want my insides torn apart."

My disappointment was through the roof. "Or maybe just give me a minute," she excused, and I sat up, nodding my head. "Should I drop you home?" Seeing her in so much distress made me feel so bad for her. She looked like she was in a lot of pain. "No! I don't want you to think I am an amateur. I have had sex so many times, but this—this is the kind of punishment I want for being naughty," she pouted, sitting on the side to catch her breath.

"And I want to return the pleasure too," she smiled, leaning over to my lips and pressing hers hard against mine. The moment we deepened the kiss, the car started moving. The driver instantly parked the car on the side of the road and started calling for the mercy of the Moon Goddess.

"What was that?" The girl quickly broke the kiss, a terrified look on her face. It caused me to gently hold her hand to comfort her.

"Driver, what's going on?" I inquired, wondering why a mere earthquake had caused him to sound so distressed.

"Your Highness, did you hear that siren?" he asked, turning to look at me. Milania started adjusting her attire.

"Maybe," I replied, shrugging. I had heard something, but I had been so focused on the kiss that I hadn't paid much attention.

"The siren calling for natural disasters is a very bad omen," the driver said, making me roll my eyes at him.

"Oh!" Milania suddenly hugged herself.

Her brown eyes and short black hair were the reason I picked her up tonight. I wanted to escape the thoughts of Helanie that had been driving me crazy, so I chose someone who was the complete opposite of her.

"My grandma used to tell me that when you hear the siren for disasters, it means she has woken up," Milania added, continuing the driver's discussion.

"Who?" I asked, in a nonchalant tone.

"The Queen of Arthendel," she whispered.

I frowned at her, then at the driver, who was bobbing his head so hard I felt strain in my neck.

"You two are delusional as hell. The land of Arthendel existed many years ago. No ancestors are left to continue the family tree. It's all just myths and stories," I said, already over Milania. After I told them I was a non-believer, I noticed the way they were looking at me—almost like they were disgusted that I didn't believe in this imaginary Queen of Arthendel.

"Anyway, drop her home after you drop me off first," I said, since we were already close to my mansion. I asked the driver to take me first, then drop her off on the other side of the road. She lived in a pack, and I was a rogue. Besides, my father would kill me if he saw me bring a one-night stand to his mansion.

Once I got off, I made my way toward the entrance, wondering what had really happened with the weather. It was starting to get worse.

"You shouldn't be out in the cold like that," a voice with a sultry tone called out. It was none other than Charlotte.

She was Helanie's cousin of sorts, but the two were very different. Where Helanie barely noticed me, Charlotte would do anything for my attention.

"And I feel like you need someone to take care of the problem in your pants," she giggled, standing at the entrance in a white, short silk nighty.

There was only one question in my mind: should I give her a chance to show me if she's any better in bed?

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

Chapter 196-Oh He Knows Me!

Chapter 196: 196-Oh He Knows Me!

Helanie:

"Hello," he spoke in his British accent, the accent that had given me shivers in my nightmares.

"Hey?" He waved his hand in front of my face to break my intense eye contact with him.

"Umm, hi!" Lamar quickly stepped up and extended his hand for a handshake. I jumped to the side to get out of his frame. As Lamar started to speak with him, I slipped behind Lamar's back.

"I am Lamar," Lamar said, and the guy shook his hand. However, there was a weird energy around him. No wonder he seemed hesitant to touch anyone who wasn't an alpha like him.

But he wasn't so thoughtful when he had his hands on a helpless omega that one night. My body shuddered, and I lowered my head, trying to calm my raced breaths.

Maybe he didn't recognize me.

Or else he would have said something.

"I am Alpha Rayden," he introduced himself, and the more I heard him, the more I recalled the ugly details of that night.

All I wanted to do was jump at him and claw the skin off his face.

"That is Gavin and Lucy, and she is Helanie," Jenny took over and introduced us in a very bored tone. I could tell she wasn't happy that Rayden had come to her cabin.

"Nice to meet you all. And thanks for taking care of my mate so well," he walked over to Jenny and wrapped his arm around her shoulder to squeeze her closer.

I gulped, my mind racing with so many thoughts. Why couldn't I kill him right now? I was sure my friends would help me, right?

No!

No one would be okay with the idea of killing an alpha. It would lead to life-altering consequences. No one is stupid enough to fight with an alpha when I can't even provide them with proof of the crime that had been committed that night.

My father never let me go to the hospital to get a test done.

"Hey, you okay?" I didn't even realize how long I had been staring into space until Lamar waved his hand before my face. I saw Rayden standing next to Gavin with his back facing me. Not being in his line of sight was such a relief.

"I am tired," I whispered to Lamar, not even courageous enough to raise my voice.

"Oh, I guess I arrived at a very bad time. I heard some commotion going on. What happened? Someone was talking about a lot of cheating in this group," Rayden said with a judgmental tone when talking about our group.

I mean, it was no secret that he didn't like us. He had to come here because he wanted to stay close to Jenny, who was probably doing her best to spend as much time apart from him as possible.

"Do you want me to drop you home?" Lamar asked, and I just shook my head.

"I want to go by myself," I whispered, and he instantly shook his head at the idea.

"Please," I requested, and he kept watching my face as though I had gone crazy.

I wanted to get out of there before Rayden turned around again. I didn't wait for Lamar to argue and started rushing out of the cabin. The others had been so busy that nobody noticed me, but Lamar was coming after me.

"I'll only make sure you're at the hostel's entrance, and then I'll go back to stay with Lucy and Gavin," he said from behind me. But I didn't slow down.

I would definitely thank him later for walking by my side. It really helped with my anxiety. After I reached the hostel, just like he had said, he turned around to leave when I called for him.

"Thank you, Lamar."

I watched him slow down and turn around to look at my face. "I'm always here for you."

With that, he sprinted back to the cabin because he knew Lucy would be alone in there. With the rejection, the two of them must be devastated.

However, I was upset that I couldn't stay with Lucy at that moment, and I couldn't even have a word with Gavin.

Although the two had messed up, I had a feeling that somehow Gavin was more at fault.

I could be wrong, though.

I was rushing to the elevator when I saw Salem get in with me. That was new. I groaned, almost hitting the button in anger.

She never uses the elevator, so if she was doing this to get under my skin, she had succeeded.

"Where is Gavin?" she inquired in a low murmur.

"Why? I thought he was in your mouth last time. Did you lose him just like you lost your shame?" I turned to her, already yelling in her face.

"Helanie! It's not my fault. Those two were long done. And besides, Gavin is a nice guy, and he's been a good friend to me," she shocked me with her words.

He was her friend?

So all this time, when she was bullying me and dragging me down, one of my friends was being a friend to her?

"Look, Lucy is not a good girl for him—" Before she could continue talking, I raised my palm and silenced her.

"And you're the perfect match for him? Is that what you're trying to say?" I scoffed at her and rolled my eyes at the fact that I wasn't letting her speak.

The elevator stopped at her floor, but she remained standing because I wasn't done yet. "Now get out. And remember to come to my bedroom because I want you to clean it thoroughly," I ordered her. I watched her open her mouth to express her shock before she walked out, and the elevator doors closed on her face.

"Ugh!" I grunted angrily, stomping my foot on the ground.

As I got off on my floor and reached my bedroom, I found a hand pull me behind the wall and pin me against it, with another big hand covering my mouth.

"I knew I had seen you before. You're the girl from that night," Rayden said, staring back into my eyes, his hand covering my mouth, and with his other hand, he made sure to hold me still against the wall.

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

Chapter 197-I Can Do No Wrong!

Chapter 197: 197-I Can Do No Wrong!

Rayden:

Few Months Ago:

"Ugh!" I groaned as I received another call from Jenny. She was my sweetest mate, but also a little boring.

"Yeah?" I answered the call, stepping away from my friends. We had received a holiday notification yesterday and decided to celebrate our return home with a good drinking night.

However, it turned out to be the best night when we spotted that couple in the underground train station.

We had been debating where to go to do drugs when it was mutually decided that the abandoned station would be the safest choice—no one would catch us there. But I guess what we did last night turned out to be far more thrilling than doing drugs.

I could still feel my hands on her soft body. My dick stirred in my pants at the thought of being inside her.

"Where were you all night? Are you with that redheaded bitch?" Jenny's angry voice pulled me back to reality as she shouted through the phone.

I rolled my eyes harder. We'd been through this before—her constant claims of feeling betrayed. Last time, I'd managed to lie my way out of it, but if she kept complaining, her brother might actually hire someone to come after me.

Neither my friends nor I would like that. We were free spirits, unbound by restrictions, and we despised being scrutinized.

"I was doing my last practice before the holidays so I could come and enjoy my time with you," I snapped, using a harsh tone to shut her down.

The best way to avoid being interrogated is to yell and shut the other person down. It always works.

"Anyway, I'm not going to answer any more of your questions. Last time, you had me under interrogation for two weeks. I've told you already, that was the last time I'd tolerate your disrespectful questioning. I'm an alpha—I'll be going to battles and doing important things. What will you do with all that pain if you can't even handle a little discomfort from me working out?"

I got off the bed, shirtless, wearing only black shorts. My friends were still asleep, but I had to get ready and leave because my insecure mate couldn't stop overthinking her imaginary pain.

"I want—" Before she could keep complaining, I cut the call and dressed quickly. As I was heading to my car, I received a text from my friend.

Fox: Can you go check the area where we left her? I want to make sure she's dead. It'd be bad if she somehow survived and got a DNA test done.

I knew why he wanted me to confirm she was dead—it was because of the coward in our group. He'd start panicking if he thought she might still be alive.

Me: Sure, I'm headed that way. I'll update you on her situation.

I lied. I had no intention of returning to the scene of the crime. She had to be dead. We'd had her all night, and I'd watched DID strangle her with his own hands. She didn't have a wolf—there was no way she survived.

I planned to go back home to calm down my enraged and disheveled mate. These flings were fun for a night or two, but deep down, I wanted to change for my fated mate. It would take time before I could fully commit to Jenny and become loyal to her, but it was definitely on my bucket list.

When I returned home, I switched off my phone so I could rest before seeing Jenny. After a few hours of solid sleep, I woke up expecting to see countless missed calls from her. However, I found it odd that I hadn't received a single one.

Curious, I checked her profile and realized she had blocked me. That wasn't a good sign.

I changed quickly and headed to see my parents. The moment I arrived, I sensed something was terribly wrong.

"You idiot, what did you do this time?" My father stood in front of me, his expression stern. He didn't even welcome me home or ask me to join them for lunch, though the meal was already served.

My mother, as usual, didn't dare defend me in front of him.

"I don't know what you're talking about," I replied, keeping my tone soft and feigning ignorance.

"You fool, that girl is talking about rejection! What have you done? Don't you realize how much help her father is giving us to keep this pack from falling apart?" My father's voice thundered through the room, drilling into me just how crucial it was for Jenny to accept me.

"She's talking about rejection?" I asked, stunned. I had expected her to cry, throw a tantrum, or break a few things like last time. Then, eventually, she would have no choice but to move on and return to normal.

That was the problem. If Jenny reacted this way every time I spent the night with someone else, my life would become unbearable due to my father's anger .

"I'll speak with her," I reassured my father, though I was panicking inside. He wouldn't hesitate to kick me out of the pack if things went south. And if there was nothing left of our pack because Jenny rejected me, I'd lose everything.

Our pack's survival depended heavily on my union with Jenny. Her pack was thriving, while ours was barely holding on. I couldn't live the life of a commoner—I needed to fix this.

"And make sure you tell her how much you love her. Or else—" My father left the warning unfinished, but his eyes made it clear. Losing all my luxuries would be the ultimate punishment, and I wouldn't survive it.

"I will," I nodded, suddenly losing my appetite. I had to see Jenny and convince her parents that she was just insecure and overly sensitive.

As I drove toward her pack, I couldn't stop thinking about the girl from last night. What if she had survived?

"No! I'm sure she's dead. And if she's not, I'll kill her myself," I muttered determinedly under my breath.

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

Chapter 198-Right Between His Legs

Chapter 198: 198-Right Between His Legs

Helanie:

"So, you didn't die, huh? What makes me wonder is, why are you at the academy? And the bigger question is, what did you tell Jenny that made her refuse to let me back into her life for even a moment?" His voice turned harsh, and the darkness in his eyes deepened as he pressed his hand harder over my mouth.

His touch froze me in place, disgust and goosebumps rippling through my body.

I was hyperventilating, struggling to take steady breaths, terrified of what he might do next.

"How the hell did you survive? Why did you come to this academy and befriend my mate? Do you think you can pull this off to get back at me for that one night?" He leaned into my shoulder, his words sliding like poison directly into my ear. Torture—that was his intention.

I held my breath, desperate to avoid any further connection between our bodies.

"You know, I don't even remember your body or how you tasted. So why do you still have that night burned into your mind? If you were even slightly sane, you'd thank the Moon Goddess for surviving and move on. Someone with more brains would've promised herself never to get into trouble again. But you love trouble, don't you?"

His hissed words felt like slaps across my face. I had often asked myself how the alphas must feel now. Would they regret ruining someone's life like that? Maybe they woke up plagued with guilt. But hearing him speak about that incident as if it was my fault made it clear—they were irredeemable.

"Anyway, now that I'm here, I'll fix everything you've ruined. And not only that—if you even think about opening your mouth, I'll let everyone know your truth. I'll tell them that before coming to this academy, you were your pack's whore, sleeping with alphas to trap them with a pregnancy and force them into your cage. Not that I'll need to do much more than that. Everyone listens to an alpha," he sneered, his voice thick with venom, chuckling mid-sentence as if the scent of his cologne wasn't already making me nauseous.

"Oh, wait—I remember something," he said with mock excitement. "It's nothing big, but it's something. Do you remember when I was fucking you, and you begged me to stop? And then I came all over your face—"

His laughter exploded, loud and cruel, making my jaw clench so tightly it hurt. He acted like he'd achieved something extraordinary, his grotesque delight sending a wave of rage and disgust through me.

I had never expected to encounter such a monster.

In my head, I thought he would freak out and start apologizing to me. I imagined he'd convince me he wasn't in his right mind that night, that it was all a mistake.

But I was so wrong.

"What? Are you going to cry again and beg me to let you go?" he whispered against my mouth, his breath making my stomach churn. I closed my eyes, scrambling to think of what I could do. If I didn't act, he'd believe he still had power over me—that I was still the same girl he had used and tried to kill.

That thought was unbearable.

Without hesitation, I bent my knee and struck him hard in the groin. The next thing I knew, all the color drained from his face, and his eyes bulged.

His mouth opened as though to yell, but only a strangled, painful cry escaped.

"FUCK!" he finally groaned, his hands releasing me as they flew to cradle his aching crotch. Tears streamed down his face.

"This is just the beginning, you asshole. I'll make you regret ever having a dick," I spat, grabbing a fistful of his hair and yanking his head up to meet my glare. My words were a venomous whisper, dripping with fury. Then, with all the strength I could muster, I shoved him backward and bolted for the elevator.

I didn't stop to check if he was regaining his posture. I knew it was only a matter of time before he came after me. Once inside the elevator, I frantically pressed every button, my hands trembling in haste.

The doors closed just in time. For a brief moment, I hugged myself, tears streaming down my face as the adrenaline began to wear off. My body shook, and my breaths came in sharp, shallow gasps.

But my relief was short-lived. The elevator dinged, signaling a stop, and the doors slid open. I froze, ready to step out, only to see him rushing down the stairs, his face twisted with rage.

Panic surged through me, and I slammed the "close door" button repeatedly. The doors sealed shut again, and I collapsed against the wall, gasping for air.

"He's going to make me regret this," I muttered to myself, my chest heaving.

Desperation guided my hand as I saw the red button for the 10th floor light up. Without a second thought, I pressed it, praying it would give me enough time to escape. I couldn't keep running—I needed to find a safe place to calm down and figure out what to do next.

When the doors opened on the 10th floor, I stepped out cautiously, hugging myself tightly. My mind raced, but I couldn't shake the cold creeping through my body.

The floor was eerie, shrouded in dim light and silence. I frowned, feeling a strange chill settle over me. I had heard whispers about this floor—a place that only appeared once in a blue moon.

"You're back! I wondered when that was going to happen," a familiar, chilling voice echoed, sending a new wave of goosebumps across my skin.

I froze, my breath hitching.

"Ah! I smell fear on you. Is one of them here now? What's his name—Rayden Mores, isn't it? The alpha of the Shifters pack. He's a nasty one," the voice sneered, its tone dripping with malice.

"What are you going to do, Helanie? You're not strong enough to fight him. Your wolf hasn't even woken up yet," it continued, growing darker and more menacing with each passing second.

Chills ran up and down my spine as I approached the door. It looked eerily like an exact replica of my dorm room. The corridor, too, was an uncanny mirror of the floor where I lived. It was unsettling how identical everything appeared—yet something about this place felt deeply wrong.

"Go on, step inside. This room is much better than the one you stay in, Helanie," the voice coaxed. At first, it sounded like a man speaking, but midway through the sentence, it shifted into a woman's tone, and now a haunting blend of echoing pitches that seemed to come from everywhere and nowhere at once.

"If you like it here, you can choose to stay in this room," it added with a chilling calmness.

I hesitated, my hand hovering near the door handle, when the voice spoke again, its tone darker now, filled with something sinister.

"And if you want... you can let me into your body. I will take revenge for you."

My heart thundered in my chest as my steps faltered, freezing me just outside the door. The weight of its offer pressed down on me like a physical force, making it hard to breathe.

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

Chapter 199-Off-Limits Now

Chapter 199: 199-Off-Limits Now

Helanie:

"What happened? Why did you stop? Don't you want to take revenge? Let me in, and you can be the best among everyone. The power you will hold will let you do wonders. Those Alphas won't stand a chance against you," the voice urged, its tone growing impatient. It almost sounded excited at the thought of me letting it take over my body.

"No!" I groaned, pulling my hand back from the doorknob.

"Why not? You could get revenge on anyone with the power I'm offering you," it said, sounding slightly disappointed that I had withdrawn my hand.

"What would you gain from helping me? I know no one does anything for free. So, what do you want in return?" I asked, my voice steady despite the growing tension.

At this point, I had seen enough terrifying things that the voice, and whatever dark secrets it held, didn't scare me as much as it had the first time.

"Hmm, you're quite cunning, Helanie," it replied. "Most people who have been through as much trauma as you wouldn't think twice before accepting help. As for me, I just want to help. I'm cursed to remain trapped here for eternity. My punishment ends when I help someone. I want to help you and finally be set free. I want to leave this world and be with my loved ones in the afterlife."

The sadness in its voice was almost heartbreaking.

"Who are you? What did you do to deserve being trapped here?" I asked. But the voice went silent.

Just then, my phone started to ring. I frowned as I glanced at the caller ID: Professor Kaye Calling...

I declined the call and looked around, feeling the cold air bite at my skin. Moments later, another call came through—this time from Lamar.

I scratched my scalp, confused.

"Go take the elevator. I'll see you again soon," the entity advised. I hesitated but eventually stepped back into the elevator.

After reaching my floor, I decided to answer the next incoming call, which was from Kaye.

"Hello?" I said, but was met with heavy breathing on the other end. My body froze, and a sudden wave of dizziness hit me.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing.

"Helanie?" Suddenly, he said my name, and I straightened my back.

"Where the heck were you? Your friends called me and told me you've been missing for hours, and then—" As he spoke, he abruptly stopped and began to moan loudly.

"Ughhh, Kesha, you're so sexy."

I pulled the phone away from my ear, disgusted. Raising my head, I realized I was back on the tenth floor again.

It felt like I was stuck in a loop.

"It was just a little hint to show you how much things can hurt you," the entity said mockingly. "Kaye will soon have sex with that chosen mate of his. And then what? You'll cry and feel lonely. Let me help you!"

So it was all just an illusion. This entity was messing with my mind, forcing me to confront painful truths.

Instead of engaging with it again, I turned and rushed back to the elevator. But this time, it felt real—no illusions, no tricks. I left the tenth floor and finally made it back to my own.

The minute I stepped out of the elevator, my breath hitched. Rayden was leaning casually against my dorm room door, his hands shoved into his pockets.

My body tensed. I hadn't expected him to follow me.

I stayed rooted just outside the elevator, debating whether to step back inside and retreat to the ground floor. But no—that would make it seem like I was afraid of him.

"What happened?" he asked from across the hall, a nasty smirk plastered on his face.

"Step aside. This is my room," I said firmly, keeping my distance.

"I'm sorry, but I don't take orders from anyone," he replied, shrugging nonchalantly.

Just then, the door behind him opened, and he nearly stumbled back before catching himself. Lamar stepped out, his gaze flicking between us.

"What's going on here?" Lamar asked, his tone calm but with an edge that suggested he'd overheard something.

Rayden's smile widened as if he was trying to ease the tension. "Nothing," he said smoothly, slipping his hands back into his pockets. "I think your friend doesn't like me very much. It's so hard to get your mate's friends to like you, isn't it?" he added with a forced chuckle, placing a hand on Lamar's shoulder.

Lamar didn't flinch but simply folded his arms over his chest. His piercing glare bore into Rayden's hand until he got the message and removed it.

"Look," Lamar said, gesturing at me with a quick glance. "That girl over there? She's my best friend. She's very—very—dear to me. To the point that I wouldn't hesitate to shove my hand up someone's ass and pull their alpha wolf out through their anus if they upset her."

The threat wasn't direct, but we both understood it. Rayden's smirk faltered slightly.

"She's a special one," came another voice. Gavin appeared at the top of the stairs, his narrowed eyes locking onto Rayden.

"Jeez! Calm down. I was just teasing her," Rayden said, raising his hands slightly in mock surrender. "I saw her coming and decided to stand outside the door to block her path. Of course, I know she's important to you all."

The disappointment on Rayden's face was evident. I bet he'd never expected me to have someone who would stand up for me. Not after how easily they'd played me the last time, when Altan ran away from the scene of the crime.

"You shouldn't joke with her," Lamar said firmly. "There are plenty of other girls in this hostel. Try pranking them. She's off-limits."

This time, Lamar placed his heavy hand on Rayden's shoulder.

Though Rayden didn't budge—being an Alpha, his strength was unmatched—it was clear Lamar wasn't intimidated by him either.

"Got it," Rayden muttered under his breath, his smile fading. He began walking past Lamar and then me, briefly locking eyes with me before taking the stairs.

I hurried toward my room, eager to put this whole interaction behind me, when I heard Gavin call out, "Helanie!"

Without turning around, I replied, "Not tonight, Gavin. I don't want to talk."

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

Chapter 200-The Hero's Entry

Chapter 200: 200-The Hero's Entry

Helanie:

That was all for the night. Thankfully, Lamar didn't delve into the topic further. Lucy was already asleep in the bed. Lamar told me that he brought her back after she acted unusually cold. Jenny and the others had returned by the time I was at the tenth floor. I slept through most of the night but had a few nightmares. I frequently woke up to make sure the door was locked and that the Alpha hadn't gotten in.

"Isn't it getting colder?" Lucy whispered, walking beside me toward the academy. Our uniforms were neatly pressed, and our shoes were shining--not because it was a special day, but because while trying to distract her mind, Lucy had found a new obsession with cleaning everything.

Not only that, but Salem was going to come after class to clean the room, and I didn't plan to spare her.

Last night had been a lot for all of us. Our friend group was all messed up now.

"I think it will snow in a few days," Lamar said, running up to catch up with us.

"Lamar, why is your tie all messed up?" Lucy grunted at him, making him look down at his tie and shrug.

We were rushing together with a bunch of other students. I noticed Jenny and Penn walking ahead of us. Once Jenny heard our voices, she slowed down to match our pace, but I sped up to walk alongside Penn. I owed him an apology for ditching him the other day.

"Hey," I greeted him, but as soon as I spoke, he sped up, leaving me behind.

"Umm, it's okay. He'll be fine soon," Jenny caught up to me and reassured me that everything would be okay soon.

I honestly didn't want to try too hard to make things okay. I guess I was just fine this way. I had too much on my plate anyway.

"Guys, you go ahead and book seats for us while I go put my stuff in the locker," I announced, rushing toward the lockers. The class would begin in a few minutes, and I needed to be there. It was Emmet's class. Now, we had three ongoing classes: Professor Emmet's, Kaye's, and Maximus training.

Kaye would mostly give us lectures on herbs and introduce us to the herbs found in the rogue community.

I placed my bag in the locker, but before I could shut it, someone slammed the door shut in my face, making my heart sink in my chest at the sight of Rayden. Seeing him so early in the morning was bizarre.

"Hm, it's nice to see you got a backup, but don't get too full of yourself just because some Omegas tried to defend you. But I must say, you surprised me last night. You seem to be growing more confident now," he said, leaning against the locker, locking me behind him as he spoke with crazy confidence and a nasty, hissing tone.

I was starting to feel agitated around him. He was like a blood-sucking parasite who would drain me dry.

"But I'll do my best to squash a little creature like you under my shoes very soon," he smirked, his hand reaching out to grab a strand of my hair. My heart sank again.

Just then, his head was suddenly shoved down, and he grimaced, releasing me from his hold. It was Emmet.

He had come toward us with a book in his hand that he hit Rayden on the back of the head with.

"Why are you standing here, blocking her way? She's supposed to be heading to her classrooms," Emmet said, looking much fresher than the last time I'd seen him. But his eyes held an anger I hadn't seen before.

"Sir, she's a junior and I'm a senior--" As Rayden opened his mouth to explain why he could bully me, Emmet hissed at him.

Emmet was so much taller than Rayden that he could literally swallow him in one attempt. Rayden wasn't short either; he was tall and muscular, but the rogue brothers were gigantic.

"Not her. You are not allowed to bully Helanie," Emmet's words, said so loudly and without hesitation, made Rayden look at me, then at Emmet, in confusion.

"May I know why, sir?" Rayden asked politely, making sure not to piss Emmet off, who already looked very upset.

"The day I answer to you will be the day of doomsday. Now go back to your class. This kind of behavior might be acceptable in your previous academy, but here, you cannot question the trainers," Emmet extended his long arm and pointed down the hallway. Rayden quickly got to his feet.

After Rayden left, Emmet stepped closer to have a word with me. I was really glad he had shown up when I needed him.

"I'm really upset with you, Helanie," he spoke immediately, leaving no room for greetings or pleasantries.

"Why? What did I do, sir?" Since he was so angry, I decided to stay calm and not push him further.

"You skipped my last class as if it meant nothing," he complained, walking alongside me.

"No, that's not true. I swear I wasn't feeling well, so I had to--" As I started explaining, he silenced me with a smile.

"I'm just joking. But tell me, how are you now?" His voice was kind and soft-spoken, just like before, even with his deep, heavy tone.

"I'm fine now. Doing very well, actually," I replied. Walking with him was comforting. There was a sense of ease when he was around me, as if no one could hurt me now. I don't know why I felt that way about him, but it was all I could think of.

We reached the class, and I went ahead and sat down in my chair with Lucy and Lamar. Penn was sitting with his sister, as always.

After the class was over, Lamar turned to me and spoke in a whisper. "Both Salem and Gavin missed the class."

It wasn't until he mentioned that that I confirmed he wasn't lying.

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