

Claimed And Marked By Her Stepbrother Mates

Chapter 201-Everyone Chooses Me

Chapter 201: 201-Everyone Chooses Me

Helanie:

"What are you doing?" Lamar asked as I sped back to the hostel to catch Salem and Gavin. I didn't know why I was doing that.

"They have rejected each other, so they can—" Lamar shut up when I suddenly stopped in my tracks and turned around to glare at him.

"Okay, I'll come with you," he muttered, using a gentle and understanding tone now.

"I'm not going there to reconcile. I'm going to let him know that our friendship is over. He made his bed with my enemies," I hissed, briskly making my way to the hostel.

Kaye's class would start in ten minutes, so I planned to be back by then—if only I could find Gavin and Salem together.

I know everyone might be thinking why I was so harsh toward Salem and not when Lucy had slept with Lamar. The difference was that I was in a different state back then. Today, I was all messed up, feeling this rage in me that I couldn't express fully.

My brain didn't allow me to forgive Salem, and she never apologized either. It was like she just expected me to reset my mind about her after she messed up every time.

Now, as I faced Rayden, I realized I didn't want to forgive anyone.

I just wanted revenge.

And just like I had expected, the minute Lamar and I stepped into the hostel, we encountered the two together.

Gavin stood with his back against the wall while Salem was blocking his path with her hands on the wall.

"Tell me," she raised her voice, and we decided not to step into their fight.

"You've been asking me the same question for the past hour, and I don't know what to say to you," Gavin sounded exhausted, but his eyes told me he really liked Salem.

"That's because you keep dodging me for an hour! Why were you hiding from me in the hostel? Did you really think you could leave without me catching you?" She turned her hands into little fists and slammed her fist on the wall near him.

"Why are you avoiding me?" she posed the question again, and Gavin sighed in response. I could tell he was finally going to answer because I saw him gulp.

"Because my friends don't like you," he responded, and I watched her body tense up.

"What's that supposed to mean?" I could hear a little sadness in her voice this time, not the usual commanding tone she used.

"Salem, you've messed up so many times with Helanie that I don't think my friends would accept me in their group if they found out we were dating. So, it's better we just stop seeing each other. Let's call that moment one big mistake and move on." He finally raised his voice and set himself free by sidestepping away from her arms.

Even she backed down and pouted. "All that because Helanie hates me?"

"No! She doesn't hate anyone. You've been very rude to her, Salem. How do you expect her to be okay with you hanging around us? Because I'm sure I won't stop being with my friends," Gavin yelled, making her lips quiver and bend downwards.

"But—you're choosing your friends over someone you like?" she asked in a shaky tone.

I did not expect to witness all this. I noticed Lamar staring at me with his eyebrows raised and his arms folded over his chest.

I felt guilty for coming here like a madwoman to tell Gavin that we would no longer be his friends. For the first time in so long, I guess I acted like a teenager.

"Salem, I thought she would accept you into our group like she accepted Lamar, but I guess you never earned her apology. It's better if we stay away. I don't want to lose my friend," this time, he used the plural, specifically including me.

"Let's go before things get awkward," Lamar tapped his fingers on my shoulder to get my attention and whispered.

I rolled my eyes at him but eventually agreed. Turning around, I walked away. The two of us left and reached the academy in silence.

A few minutes later, Gavin arrived, but Salem never came.

"Hi," Gavin approached me, sounding awkward, a forced smile stretched across his lips.

"Hey, you missed the first class," I cleared my throat to sound normal, but it didn't change the fact that Lucy and he had destroyed everything that had ever been between them.

"It's fine. I'll give him my register," Lucy replied.

"You know, Professor Emmet was talking about the history of the Rogue Land—it's so intriguing," Lucy, who had been busy pretending everything was normal, suddenly jumped into the conversation, including Gavin in the discussion she was having with Lamar and Jenny about the lecture.

"Really? What—what kind of interesting?" Gavin showed interest, though he seemed confused by how Lucy could still talk to him so casually.

"There were monsters—especially in our hostel. You know, when their father first arrived at the hostel, it was taken over by some monster," she whispered dramatically, trying to set the scene.

Her smile was sweet, but somewhere in her eyes, I could still see the pain. However, she was trying her best to revive our group's laughter by avoiding everything that had happened.

"Hm, I do feel a presence in the hostel sometimes. Especially the night I was very stressed and was in pain—," Gavin started to bring up the night of Lucy's betrayal but stopped himself abruptly. He had punished her already, so perhaps it was better he didn't dredge it up again.

"Exactly! Even I felt it sometimes," Lucy's excited agreement made me raise my brows at them.

"I have felt it too," Jenny added, shrugging her shoulders.

"What about you, Lamar?" I turned to ask him, beginning to feel genuinely creeped out about the hostel. It wasn't just the eerie presence—I had actually been to a floor that didn't even exist.

"I am the monster," Lamar said, his tone eerie and deliberate. The way he pronounced the words made everyone fall silent.

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

Chapter 202-Locked In The Same Room As The Devil

Chapter 202: 202-Locked In The Same Room As The Devil

Helanie:

"I know how the students can get the monster out of you," it was Kaye, who arrived out of nowhere. It was time for his class, so when we were talking about the monster in the hostel and gathered outside the classroom, he probably saw and overheard our conversation.

Lamar instantly fixed his posture and looked down.

"Everyone inside," Kaye spoke casually but with a hint of harshness. One could tell he wasn't in a very good mood.

Everyone went inside, but as I walked beside him, I felt him gently pat my back with his hand. His touch was always so comforting, and that is what riddled me with guilt.

I didn't like the fact that it was so easy for him to remind me that I had started to feel something for him in the past.

The class was amazing—the brothers knew how to deliver exciting lectures. But after the class ended, I began to feel uneasy about Maximus' class.

Mainly because this time Penn was in our group, and he was avoiding me like I was a disease.

We all went back to the deep mountains, the ground used for aiming targets in groups. Penn was in our group.

We each had our picks, and everyone started shooting at the targets.

"Ow! You freaking idiot, watch where you're shooting!" a scream erupted, causing everyone to stop and turn their heads toward Salem. She had narrowly escaped an arrow fired by one of our classmates.

My eyes darted to Gavin, and I could see how concerned he looked before quickly looking away.

Maximus noticed the commotion and instantly joined us.

"Everyone, there's a little change of plans. Since you're all so amazing at shooting your targets—" that was a taunt, "how about you all try with stones first? Once you get better at your aims, I'll allow you to use weapons."

He was right. It was actually dangerous to give omegas like me such powerful weapons. The reason I had been so scared while holding a weapon was that I was afraid I might hurt someone if I missed the target.

Now that we all had stones in our hands and pyramids of stones in our view, it was much easier for me to shoot recklessly.

I could tell Penn was really good at shooting. He was able to hit his stone perfectly and make the best pyramid collapse.

Some students were in my line of sight, while others were far away on the open ground. I chose the area with the most trees because I didn't like being in the open ground where I could be easily seen.

"You know, your cousin was flirting with me hard last night," I turned at the sound of Maximus' voice. He had arrived from behind me, a smirk on his lips.

"Kaye?" I acted like it didn't bother me.

Why would it bother me anyway? It's not like he was my mate or something. Then why did it bother me, even just a smidge?

"And I declined her," he said, and my body tensed up. "But I won't lie to you. There was a brief moment where I thought about giving her a try. But you know what stopped me?"

He stepped closer, gently placing his hand under my arm to correct my posture as I held the rock before launching it.

I didn't say anything, so he continued, "Because I knew if I did something with her, I would never have a chance with you. And I would rather choose you than a few hours of pleasure," he whispered directly into my ear.

His other hand, resting on my back, slid to the front and placed itself on my stomach. His slow push from the front forced my back against his body.

His manly hands roamed along my arms before reaching for my wrist, twisting it slightly so I held the stone tightly.

"Now launch!" he whispered, his lips pressed firmly against my earlobe.

I'm not sure what happened, but when I launched the stone, the pyramid shattered under the impact.

"Yayyy, I did it!" Excitement and happiness coursed through every nerve as I jumped up and down joyfully. My friends heard me and ran toward me.

I spread my arms uncontrollably, not realizing who I was moving toward for a hug. My instinct led me to Maximus, who steadily opened his arms.

But before I could crash into his embrace, Jenny darted in and hugged me first. Lucy, Lamar, and Gavin arrived at the same time. Lucy wrapped her arms around us, and Lamar completed the group hug with his own addition. Gavin, however, stood to the side, clapping awkwardly, unable to participate.

My eyes flicked to Maximus, who mouthed something to display his disappointment that Jenny had stolen the hug. He dramatically lowered his arms and shook his head.

What a drama king.

It was the highlight of my day for a reason.

I had been trying my best to learn to aim perfectly because I had already picked a target in my mind. And my target had recently joined the academy.

We enjoyed the rest of the shooting session, and although I didn't perform as well as that one perfect shot, I was still happy.

Once the classes were over, we returned to the hostel. Now that Rayden had already recognized me, I didn't feel the need to hide from him anymore. I remembered the instruction: I should not be left alone and should always stay around my friends for safety.

"Okay, you guys can go ahead and reserve the chairs. I'll come in a minute," I said to Lucy and Lamar, who were too eager to head down and smell the food first.

I wanted to take a quick shower and change before joining them.

The lunch would be served in a few minutes, but those two couldn't wait. Hence, they left me at the door and walked away.

I entered my room and was about to lock it when a pressure against the door pushed it open.

An intruder walked in, his face twisted with a nasty expression.

Rayden.

He locked the door behind him and turned to face me.

The two of us, alone in my dorm room, created the most terrifying face-off I had ever experienced.

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

Chapter 203-Only When I Am Angry

Chapter 203: 203-Only When I Am Angry

Helanie:

Panic surged through my veins, and my steps faltered, retreating backward to put as much distance between us as possible.

"What happened? Not so confident when you're alone?" he commented, his hands tied behind his back as he leaned casually against the door.

He looked like a devil, staring and smiling at me.

"Get out," I mouthed, forcing the words out, but only air escaped my lips.

"Hmm? Say that again. Sorry, I didn't catch your gentle whisper," he teased, leaning forward as if pretending to hear me better.

"I said, get out, or I'll call for help," I whispered, my knees trembling.

The anger I felt at facing him again only deepened my hatred for the Moon Goddess. In this moment, I truly wanted to curse her for this. Not only had she burdened me with those cursed pheromones, but she also ensured my misery by denying me a wolf. If I had a wolf, I would have at least tried to run for safety—even now.

But no! I am not alone this time.

As I lunged toward my bag on the bed to grab my phone, he attacked me from behind. His hands wrapped around my waist, lifting me as though I were a doll, and he tossed me onto the bed. It all happened so quickly that before I could process it, he had already pinned me down.

"You know what?" he laughed in my face, using one hand to pin both of mine above my head while silencing me with the other. I thrashed my legs, but he swiftly spread them

apart, positioning himself between them. This left my legs helplessly dangling behind his body and filled me with a renewed sense of disgust at his repulsive touch.

"Hush, calm down. You really hate my touch, don't you? The door is not locked" he whispered, his words prompting me to glance at the door. Sure enough, the lock was undone.

"Now, you can get out from under me and make a run for it. But you know you won't. Sure, you might have secured admission into this prestigious academy, but imagine this: I got transferred here midway. For that, I had to pass some terrifying tests—not like the ones you took. I'm far more powerful than you, Helanie," he deliberately dragged out my name, sending shivers across my skin and leaving me covered in goosebumps.

Tears began to sting my eyes, and his smirk widened in response. "I know you're probably thinking about asking your friends or that arrogant professor for help," he added, sneering as he mentioned Emmet in the most disdainful way.

It was clear he wasn't pleased with Emmet warning him to stay away from me.

"But do you know why I didn't listen to him and still followed you? Because I know you can't tell him—or anyone—anything," he said smugly.

I tried to struggle, even attempting to open my mouth to bite his palm, but he pressed down so hard that I feared he might break my teeth.

"And this isn't a challenge, just a fact: I did some digging and found something very interesting about you," he added with a chilling tone, his threats laced with confidence and malice.

Suddenly, he released my mouth and hands, getting off me. I quickly sat up and scrambled back against the headboard, keeping my eyes locked on him.

But it was clear he'd already delivered his threat effectively.

"You ran away from punishment and faked your death. Do you know what will happen if that becomes public knowledge? When everyone finds out you lied about your status as a rogue—and that you were never officially exiled from the pack—you'll be handed over to the Council for judgment. And let me remind you: they despise omegas like you.

"As for your father, who lied about delivering punishment to you—he and his entire family, including that little sister of yours, will be hanged in public," he concluded, standing at the foot of the bed. His words sent a cold shiver down my spine.

"And it's not like you have any proof against us. So, by exposing yourself, you'd only be causing damage to yourself, not to me or my friends," he said smugly. Hearing him mention his friends was like a knife to my already fragile mental state.

"So, from now on, you'll be a good girl and do as I tell you. Or else—" he paused, noticing the deadly glare I shot at him.

"And that rogue professor of yours won't be stupid enough to jeopardize his academy's reputation and authenticity by sheltering someone wanted by the pack," he continued, his tone dripping with arrogance.

"It's a world of alphas, Helanie. She-wolves like you are merely born to please us. But some of you never seem to understand that—and end up getting yourselves in trouble," he said coldly, making my stomach churn. My thoughts immediately went to Jenny. She didn't deserve this.

He didn't understand the concept of consent. This unhinged man now held my secrets, and I knew I had to do whatever it took to protect myself—and ensure he never victimized anyone else again.

"That's all I wanted to say. I'm a nice guy. I didn't want to be rude to you. But if you listen to me, I'll listen to you. A good friendship and understanding can be formed between us, Helanie," he said with a twisted smile. "Now, now! I'll leave so you can get ready for lunch. I'll sit with you today, okay?"

He was trying to play mind games with me, pretending we could be friends.

He blew me a mocking kiss before heading out of the room. I stayed put, staring at the empty space he'd left behind before letting out a hiss of frustration.

Anger surged through me like never before—the fury of being blackmailed, manipulated, and demeaned. I closed my eyes, clenched my fists tightly, and trembled from the force of the scream building inside me.

Suddenly, I began to hear a high-pitched ringing in my ears, like sirens blaring inside my head.

And then—the bed beneath me started shaking violently. I snapped back to reality as the realization hit me.

"Earthquake!" someone yelled in fear.

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

Chapter 204-That Alpha Is Dumb

Chapter 204: 204-That Alpha Is Dumb

Helanie:

"And the siren was so loud," Jenny leapt, talking about the earthquake and how the weather got worse after that. We were at the lunch table and, sure enough, just like the way Rayden had said, he was sitting with us.

He would pass me a quick glance and smirk but then look back at Jenny and act like he was listening to her.

"Anyway, Helanie was so good at the ground today," Lamar brought the attention to me, smiling at me. I bet he noticed I wasn't my regular self today. I could barely eat anything when, most days, after not eating for a while, I ate like a barbarian.

"She really was—" Gavin suddenly shut up as he narrowed his eyes behind Lamar. I was too focused on the scene behind them as well.

It was Penn flirting with none other than Riri. He was sitting with the top seniors and enjoying the lunch.

"Wow, that is new," Lamar followed our gaze and commented under his breath. Jenny's smile faded away quickly when watching her brother sit and enjoy a feast with someone who had beaten us up.

"I am done," Jenny announced, getting up from the seat to leave.

"What happened?" Rayden rolled his eyes, his focus on his food. One could tell he didn't even want to go after her but had to since he was her mate.

"I'm coming," he sighed, picking up a sandwich on his way to follow her.

I saw Penn side-eye Jenny but then force a smile when talking to Riri again. However, after a few minutes, he raised his head and our eyes met.

There was so much going on that I had to look away from him. With Rayden threatening me now, I couldn't really do much.

We finished the lunch and saw Penn take Riri out of the hostel. It all happened right before our eyes. Since we had back-to-back classes, the lunch was served way later than it usually does.

"Where is Jenny?" I asked Lamar, who was always the one who would keep an eye on us.

"She is in our room."

He replied.

So of course, she didn't go to her room where Penn might return to. I don't know why Penn was acting this way. Was he punishing me and not realizing that by doing so he was ending up hurting his own sister?

"I will go speak with her," I said, speeding up to reach the elevator before Rayden appeared. I got to my room and opened the door in hopes of finding her alone. But how the hell did I forget that she had Rayden with her now?

He was in our room, of course, acting like it was his first time. Jenny would not feel weird about him being in our room, but I did. He was like a ticking bomb and also someone who could be going through our stuff to find out more information about me and my friends.

The fact that he went out of his way to look into me in my pack was what made him scarier.

He stopped moving around just to acknowledge me before he began to pace around again. But this time, he had a smirk on his face as he used his phone.

Jenny was sitting on my bed, her legs curled up to her chest and tears brimming in her eyes. She raised her head to me, and I understood that she wanted me to sit with her. I walked over and sat down on the bed; she instantly put her head in my lap.

Rayden stopped pacing once again, this time to watch his mate interact with me.

"My brother has never acted this way. Why would he go out with someone who humiliated me so much?" she let out a cry, complaining in my lap. I was half-present consoling her, and half of my attention was on Rayden.

Being in the same room as him and acting normal was just so insulting to me.

"Maybe you should have a talk with him? Be open about it. What if he doesn't know what those seniors did—" As I spoke softly, trying my best not to be heard by Rayden, Jenny lifted her head from my lap to watch my face.

"That is not true. I told him everything," she sounded beyond hurt when telling me that her brother indeed knew everything and yet chose to hang around those messy individuals.

"I will have a word with him."

Rayden suddenly arrived and sat down with me, causing my body to go fully alert. He placed his hand on the mattress but 'accidentally' touched my hand. I got startled to the

point that my body jumped visibly, but he was quick to divert attention to himself while I snatched my hand away from his.

"Hey, I am sure he has a good reason. But if not, I will be the one punishing Riri for my mate." His fake sweetness and concern that he was suddenly showing seemed like just an excuse to sit so close to me.

I bet he knew what his presence could do to me.

I steadily rose and shifted to the other side where Jenny was sitting, but now I was in direct view of his eyes.

"No thanks. I guess Helanie is right. I will confront him about it," she cleared her throat, putting her head on my shoulder. I could tell he didn't like his mate putting so much faith in me.

"How about you go spend some time with your roommates? I want to speak with Helanie about something."

The minute Jenny requested he leave, I watched his jaw clench.

There was a weird look in his eyes whenever someone crossed him. His own reputation and self-respect meant a lot to him, but others meant nothing to him.

"Okay," he replied harshly and got up, strolling toward the door. When he left, he actually slammed the door shut hard.

"Who were you running from?" Jenny went straight to the point.

"Not from you," I replied quickly.

"Then Penn?" she asked, and I shook my head.

"Was it Rayden?"

The minute she said her alpha mate's name, my heart crumbled like a cookie.

"No! It was—someone else," I lied, but I noticed her not blinking as she shifted in front of me and kept watching my face in silence.

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

Chapter 205-Some Justice!

Chapter 205: 205-Some Justice!

Helanie:

Jenny never said anything and just remained sitting, watching my face. It was the most awkward few minutes of my life. For a moment, I felt like she knew I was lying to her.

And that she knew all my truths.

But then Lamar arrived with Lucy, and Jenny's attention was diverted from me.

"Let me take you to your room," Lucy spoke politely to Jenny. Ever since the rejection, Lucy had changed a lot.

She was like her old self—the one who was always loving and happy to help everyone around her. Thankfully, she stopped saying Gavin's name. But the sad part was that she was pushing herself too hard to act normal. It's fine to let the pain linger for a while instead of just hiding it.

The rest of the day was full. I didn't go for dinner, and neither did Lamar and Lucy. We were all tired, and since we had lunch late, we just went to bed early.

I had gone deep into sleep when I began to hear some whispers. They were the whispers that a distraught person would let out. I yawned and stretched in bed, opening my eyes and sitting up to narrow my eyes at the window in front of me. It was behind Lamar's bed.

The room was so dark that I could barely see anyone else. However, soon my body began to feel terror when a body fell from the top of the building.

It went down right before my eyes, and I froze in horror.

As I pushed harder and opened my mouth to scream, I heard my voice echo like the entirety of the tenth floor.

"Helanie!" A hand woke me up, making me realize I was sitting in my bed with my mouth wide open and no sound coming out of it.

"Lamar—I saw—someone fall from the floor above ours," I said, and he frowned, quickly holding a glass of water for me.

"The ninth floor is basically just a rooftop and no one goes there. And there was no one that fell down. You had a nightmare," he comforted, but I felt so uneasy. I turned my head for some reason to check on Lucy and found her peacefully sleeping in her bed.

"Okay, you need to tell me what is going on with you," Lamar insisted as he held my purple sweater for me. I wore it but stayed in my bed. He sat down under the same blanket with me.

"It is nothing," I replied, feeling so vulnerable for keeping so many secrets within me.

"You need to trust someone at least. Tell me," he insisted again, and I realized he wasn't going to let me go until I confessed to something at least.

"It is the—" My words got cut off when my phone beeped, and so did Lamar's and Lucy's at the same time.

"What is that?" Lamar frowned, matching the notification with mine.

It was a text from Penn to all of us.

I checked the time, realizing it was only 11:35 p.m.

"Why is he sending us a group text?" Lamar opened the text, and so did I.

Penn: Come to the Blue Road.

Lamar and I shared a glance, confused about what he was up to.

"Should we wake up Lucy?" Lamar asked in a whisper.

"I'm already up. You guys were whispering too loud," Lucy turned in her bed and sighed, picking up her phone and checking the message. Sure enough, she had received the exact same message as us.

"I say we ignore him," Lamar seemed to be done with the drama.

But I was curious. And rightfully so, because soon Jenny's message popped up in the group.

Jenny: What do you want from us?

That made me realize she was in the group too. So her brother had asked her to come as well?

I was slightly worried that he was pulling prank on us until I saw Jenny's message. He could ignore her pain but would never become the cause of it.

"I say we go," I said, quickly jumping out of my bed once I realized Jenny would definitely go.

"Yeah, we shouldn't leave her by herself," Lucy joined, getting up to look for her sweater.

"Okay," Lamar itched his scalp, yawning instead of getting ready.

"Lamar, don't fucking delay," I scolded him. He ran to his bag to grab a hoodie.

In a matter of minutes, all five of us were at the front of the hostel.

"Let's go," I said, but I noticed some other students coming out in groups. They were our classmates, and I wondered what was going on. Did Penn plan a party maybe?

We sat in Jenny's car and soon headed to our destination. I could tell Jenny was extremely worried and anxious as she kept rubbing her palms together.

But Lucy was there for her. She was doing her best to take care of Jenny, which was a good change I noticed. Once the toxic mate bond was over, Lucy had returned to her true self.

But now the issue was Penn.

The car stopped, along with many other cars stopping beside ours. We all got out to see a sight so terrifying that my knees turned weak.

It was Riri and the other girls and boys who had bullied us the other night. They were kneeling on the rough road with their hands behind their heads with Penn and Rayden standing behind them.

The only person missing was Arlo.

"What is going on?" I followed the crowd, watching Riri shake miserably. She was only in her bra and a tiny skirt.

"This bitch thought I was picking her up for some fun time so she came here looking like this for me. I had to set a perfect trap for this bitch." Hearing Penn use such language was so strange.

"This bitch over here bullied my friends and hurt my sister," Penn raised his head, making sure we knew why he had been hanging around her.

I never knew he was so full of vengeance in a good way, but I was scared to watch what he had planned for the ones in front of

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

Chapter 206-Such A Liar!

Chapter 206: 206-Such A Liar!

Helanie:

"You guys have eggs before you," Rayden smirked, his hands in his red jacket. He was the type who would wear his jacket everywhere, but seeing Penn do the same really shocked me.

I am not sure how I felt about all this, but I was up for a good payback. I think people deserve punishment for what they do to others.

"Grab them and have a perfect aim, since that is what we are learning these days," Penn announced, and everyone grabbed the rotten tomatoes and eggs.

I went ahead and did the same, out of my group, who were not sure if they wanted to do it.

After I grabbed the baskets, my friends stepped forward to do the same.

"We are seniors, and she is a top senior—," one of the girls started speaking while shaking in her spot.

"You can humiliate her today, but tomorrow, the top seniors will—," she shut up when Rayden hit the back of her head. He then moved to stand behind that one arrogant guy who was punching me a lot the other night.

I managed to get through the crowd and came to the front, with the others following me. I stood right before the guy who had Rayden stand behind him.

"I don't know," Jenny whispered. She was a kind-hearted girl, who couldn't hurt anyone. But I wasn't.

I was too excited to punish someone on a smaller scale first. That dude was happily pinching me with the others gathered around him that night. But the reason I picked him was because of Rayden behind him.

Everyone had eggs in their hands, but no one launched a single one because of the threat posed by Riri through her eyes.

She would wait for the morning when she could get back at us for the humiliation that was caused to her.

But right now, she couldn't do anything.

I held the tomato in my hand and threw it up, catching it again while deepening my eye contact with Rayden.

I then aimed at the guy, and guess what—for the first time, I hit the target so well. I hit him right in the face.

And then everyone followed my lead. They all began to throw eggs and tomatoes at their targets, some missing, while others just wanted to do it for fun.

Once the targets were all red and dirty, and our baskets were empty, we stopped. Riri was yelling throughout the whole time.

"Now listen, you dare try that again, and I will make sure I ruin your peace so well that you will quit this academy," Penn held her ponytail and stretched her neck back to make her look at him.

"Now go," Penn freed them. They all ran to their cars in their messy states, while our classmates slowly began to return to their vehicles.

Penn walked straight to his sister and held her hands. "I will never do anything that will hurt you. I just couldn't sit on the fact that she humiliated you the other night when I wasn't around. Jenny! You are an innocent girl, and I will do anything to protect you from the harsh reality around you."

When he spoke like that, I remembered my own stepbrother, Sullivan. He didn't care about me.

I lowered my head because Rayden had come and stood beside Penn now.

"We will both protect you," Rayden said in the nastiest tone. I raised my eyes to watch him grin at me.

"Anyway, I will leave now," Rayden checked his phone and announced his departure, almost in a hurry. We watched him leave without even asking Jenny if she would be fine.

"And we will take care of you too." As soon as Lucy hugged Jenny, I watched Jenny close her eyes and then suddenly shrug her off.

It all happened in a way that left us stunned. Jenny always wanted to be friends with Lucy, so for her to act that way was a bit odd.

"Did I do something wrong?" Lucy awkwardly asked, looking around at Gavin, Lamar, and everyone.

It was just our group with Penn now.

"Tell me, did she do anything?" However, the way Penn asked Jenny that question and pointed at Lucy seemed like a threat.

And Lucy understood it too, because she quickly stepped away from Jenny to avoid pissing off her brother.

"Hey! Put your finger down," I couldn't let him threaten Lucy that way by asking his sister what she had done like that.

Penn turned to me, tilted his head, and then narrowed his eyes. "It is not your fight. I am asking my sister."

He tried to hold back his frustration by warning me to stay out of it.

"Lucy is not alone. So if you think you will scare her by that little performance you did, you are wrong. Lucy will not be in the same position as Riri," I warned Penn, giving him a look that made him close his eyes and then hiss under his breath.

The two were acting like they were superior to others. But I was angrier at Jenny for shrugging off Lucy.

"And you! Why are you acting like Lucy had done something to you? Don't you know your actions are giving the wrong impression?" I turned to yell at Jenny, which caused her to raise her head and show her teary eyes.

"Don't yell at her," Penn hissed, stepping up to wrap his arm around Jenny's shoulder, but she shrugged him off as well.

"It is no one's fault but mine," Jenny whispered, her eyes down again.

"What do you mean?" I inquired, realizing it wasn't about Lucy only. She just didn't want anyone close to her.

"Jenny—" Gavin spoke, but that was when Jenny raised her head and looked confident enough for the first time throughout the night.

"No, Gavin. We should have told them this way long ago. Lucy had every right to be upset and get angry at us. We stopped her from showing her emotions and made her look like a fool." Jenny's words caused the hair on the back of my neck to stand up.

"You said you felt him betraying you, right? That is true. The night we spent in the hut for the backup tests, we had a few drinks, and we ended up—having sex."

The truth finally came out, and oh! The gasps that filled the air were terrifying.

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

Chapter 207-A Kiss To Help Me Through Storm

Chapter 207: 207-A Kiss To Help Me Through Storm

Helanie:

"We were drunk, and I didn't even know at that time that he had a mate. We did it and we woke up in the bed together. That's when he freaked out and told me that he had a mate. I swear I wanted to tell you, but he said he wanted you, so he would just make it up to you. But then things kept changing and getting worse and worse. I thought he would just win your heart back, but then—he started to hurt you for cheating on him and then—," she grabbed her hair in her fist as she cried, hiccuping loudly.

"Why didn't you tell her?" Penn questioned.

"I wanted to, but—," she let out a cry.

I turned to stare at Lucy and found her staring at Jenny's face in silence.

"I will go home now—," Lucy said, "and please, nobody follows me."

She added as she watched me and Lamar go after her, "Please!" she almost begged. I still wanted to follow her, but Lamar gave me a headshake.

Gavin was so embarrassed that he left soon after Jenny confirmed. It was all over the place, and I wondered how we would ever go back from this.

But I remembered how many times Lucy had told us that she knew her mate cheated and no one believed her.

"Jenny!" Penn gave his head a good shake of disappointment.

"I wanted to cheat on Rayden so that he feels the same pain, but then I ended up becoming the reason behind others going through the same trouble," she continued, sobbing loudly.

The more details she showed, the more I realized it was all Gavin's fault, honestly.

"And why did you accept it before Lucy? She was already over it and trying to grow out of that trauma of the toxic end of her mate bond," as Penn tried to make Jenny understand that Lucy might be more hurt now, Jenny raised a good point.

"No! She is not better. Don't you see? She is trying so hard to please everyone because she thinks it was all her fault. I cannot let her act like that when the real culprits are walking around with their heads up high!" Jenny stomped her feet like a child throwing a tantrum. But she was just angry with herself at this point.

"Okay, you need to calm down. I will drop you at the hostel so that you can—," Penn's words were cut short when Jenny gave him a headshake.

At the same time, I began to receive text messages from Maximus.

"I cannot face Lucy again. I want to go to my cabin," Jenny requested.

I sneakily checked Maximus' text.

Professor Maximus: "I found your friend sitting on the road and crying. Come collect her and show me your beautiful face to make my night as well.

I don't know how Maximus could say something serious and then add that little flirtatious demand at the same time.

"Are you coming?" Lamar asked.

"How about you go with them and I go collect Lucy? I know where she is, and I am the only one who can be with her right now." I didn't want Lamar to come with me because I knew Maximus would say something that would catch his attention. Lamar was always attentive to details anyway.

"Okay, but be careful," Lamar said, following Penn and Jenny. We still had some things to discuss with Jenny, and she was ready for it.

Hence, I planned to collect Lucy and make her confront Jenny because that's what Jenny wanted too. Once they left, I followed the road to the left, and sure enough, like Maximus had said, Lucy was sitting in the middle of the road with her legs crossed and her eyes on the sky.

"She is possessed," Maximus whispered, quickly stepping in and leaning into my ear before he pulled back.

I gave him a disapproving look before kneeling beside Lucy. "I know you are hurting, Lucy. But please, you need to pull yourself together."

I felt Maximus stand behind me, listening to us carefully.

"I can't believe that. I can't believe I was right all this time, but I was gaslighted into thinking I was paranoid and insecure," she whispered, a lonely tear making its way down her face.

"May I know what happened?" Maximus knelt down right beside me, facing Lucy, who fixed her posture when facing her trainer.

"She got cheated on and then faced the rejection but only to find out that her mate had actually cheated on her before all that," I started speaking, explaining everything to Maximus in detail over the next few minutes.

He had his head down, his arms folded over his knee, and his attention on my words.

"That is unfortunate. I'm sorry you went through all that. But Lucy! You have already been through it. Why cry another tear for that man? I know it's easier said than done. But try to think about your friends, they are so worried about you." He passed me a quick glance before staring back at Lucy.

"And if you still feel gloomy, you will go to my brother Norman's office and ask for help. He provides amazing counseling." I wanted to roll my eyes so hard at the mention of Norman. Norman and counseling sounds like a good joke.

"Okay," Lucy spoke in a soft murmur.

"Now go sit in my car while I speak with Helanie. I will drop you two at the hostel," Maximus told her, and she followed his orders.

I just had a feeling it would take her some time to feel herself again.

"Really? Does it really matter to she-wolves if their mates are cheating on them? I mean, what if they are not accepting each other? Of course, when they have, it is a different thing. But what about when they are not dating or—not even accepting each other?" His question was very specific.

Without even many thoughts, I remembered Kaye's words. He said the same thing to me. That unless we accept each other, he is free.

"I don't think anyone should hold anyone accountable if they are not dating," I replied half absentmindedly.

But it seems like Maximus liked my response.

"You take her to the hostel, please. I will go after Jenny and Lamar," I said.

"Love the way you order me," Maximus commented with a chuckle.

"I am going to kiss you now," he said and I rolled my eyes, my body betraying me with how good he looked tonight. However, as I was about to walk away, I felt his grasp around my arm. He pulled me over his chest and instantly pressed his lips against mine.

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

Chapter 208-Hard To Resist

Chapter 208: 208-Hard To Resist

Jenny:

"He had promised me not to tell anyone. Gavin said if I did, Lucy would break up with him. So when Lucy cheated on him, he told me I still shouldn't say anything because their relationship was already hanging by a thread. He claimed he'd just move on and win her heart again. I didn't want to be the reason they fell apart. But then he rejected her, and the guilt started to drown me. I felt like maybe I should have told her earlier. I was under the illusion they'd eventually work things out," I said, pouring my heart out to Lamar for what must've been half an hour.

Lamar was such a good listener. He didn't judge me, not even once. He didn't flinch at my words or make me feel worse.

My brother had left when he noticed how uncomfortable I was talking about all this with him around. I had asked him to find Rayden and make sure he didn't come looking for me. Penn understood and left, leaving Lamar and me alone in the cabin.

"You know it wasn't your fault, right?" Lamar said, tilting his head slightly.

"I don't know," I murmured, lowering my head even further under the weight of my guilt.

"Jenny, are you afraid of how Rayden will react?" Lamar asked softly. I lifted my head and shook it silently.

"I don't care about him," I replied with a grunt, rolling my eyes. "I bet he cheated on me long before I did. Probably more times than I can count."

Lamar leaned forward, his attention locked on me, his focus unwavering. It made him seem even more attractive. Confident, sure of himself, yet patient and kind. There was something magnetic about him; his presence always had me sneaking glances.

"What makes you say that?" he asked, his voice steady.

I grabbed the red hair from the side table and handed it to him. The lock of hair, sealed in plastic, looked out of place in the dim cabin light. Lamar took it, his eyes shifting between it and me.

"He had this stuck on his jacket after one of his so-called 'crazy nights,'" I explained.

"Oh," Lamar murmured, nodding as he processed what I'd said. His expression turned thoughtful, but his warmth didn't fade.

"You know what? One day, I'm going to get a DNA test on one of these hairs and confront him. I'll bring that witch right in front of him. Let's see how he denies it when she confesses to sleeping with him," I said bitterly, though deep down, I knew I wasn't in the wrong. Rayden had no right to keep dragging me along. Sure, he probably felt hurt the night I slept with Gavin, but not as much as he should have—because he was likely cheating on me too.

I felt that pain, even then.

"Hmm, you're a determined little kitten, aren't you?" Lamar chuckled softly. My gaze fell to his lips as he spoke. We were sitting across from each other on my bed, the dim cabin light casting a warm glow between us.

"Jenny, it takes courage to admit the truth. You could have kept it hidden forever, but you didn't. You stood up because you couldn't watch Lucy force herself into a life that wasn't hers. That says a lot about you. You're not just some spoiled alpha's sister; you're a good person," Lamar said, his tone understanding, his words like a balm to my wounded pride.

The more he spoke, the more comfortable I felt in his presence.

"Your mate must be very lucky," I blurted out before I could stop myself. Lamar laughed it off, his eyes glimmering with amusement.

"What happened?" I asked, unable to resist when he smiled so charmingly.

"I don't have a girlfriend. And I don't have a mate," he replied casually, but his words sent my heart racing.

I found him so attractive. He had listened to me vent for hours, and now he was telling me I was a good person. He saw me in a way no one else ever had. He was so different.

"What?" he asked, his smile softening as he caught me staring.

"Nothing. You'll think I'm crazy," I mumbled, lowering my head to avoid his gaze.

"Come on, I won't judge," he coaxed gently. He wasn't wrong—he never judged.

"I find you very attractive," I confessed, my cheeks heating up with embarrassment. I was sure I was blushing furiously as he leaned closer, his eyes locking onto mine.

"Really?" he whispered, his voice low and soft. With a finger under my chin, he tilted my face up until our eyes met.

"I find you attractive too," he murmured, leaning in. His lips brushed mine softly, and in that moment, the world around us seemed to fade away.

My heart instantly fell for him as I wrapped my arms around his neck. He laughed softly into my mouth before grabbing my waist and pulling me onto his lap, holding me securely.

His lips moved in perfect rhythm with mine, sending goosebumps over my skin.

"Mmm," I sighed as we deepened the kiss, our passion intensifying. We began tearing off each other's clothes, the heat between us building with every touch.

My heart pounded like a drum in my chest. Sitting completely naked in his lap felt natural, almost inevitable. His body was sculpted, rippling with muscles and adorned with tattoos. He held me tightly, guiding me as I sank down onto him.

He was already hard, his heat filling me, warming me from the inside. I gasped, breaking the kiss as he began to suck on my breasts, his mouth hungrily exploring my body.

I moaned softly, the sound escaping my lips as his hands roamed, gripping my hips firmly. My body moved perfectly against his, our rhythms perfectly in sync, I found myself on the bed, face down, as he shoved his dick in my vagina from behind.

Each thrust sent waves of warmth and pleasure coursing through me. His grip on my body caused the thrusts to be faster than I had expected. His hands slid to my chest, cupping my breasts while he kept me upright, guiding me into a perfect position.

We lost track of time, caught in the heat of the moment, giving in fully to each other. The night stretched on, and we fucked the whole night and then fell asleep.

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

Chapter 209-Everyone Is Sleeping Around

Chapter 209: 209-Everyone Is Sleeping Around

Helanie:

His lips tasted like fresh cherries, intoxicating and sweet. His arm was wrapped tightly around my waist, his body pressed firmly against mine. The disgust I used to feel upon someone's touch was slowly fading when only around certain rogue brothers and it really confused me. But then my body would remember and I would flinch hard.

However, before it could go any further, I remembered we weren't alone either. My eyes darted toward the car, and I broke the kiss, gently unwrapping his arm from around me. Lucy wasn't in sight.

"She's lying down in the backseat," Maximus said, noticing my discomfort and answering my unspoken question.

"What are you doing?" I asked, the realization of what had just happened washing over me. Kissing him was a mistake.

"Your friend ruined my plans for the night, so I decided to steal a little kiss to salvage it," he replied smugly, a teasing smirk playing on his lips. His tone was almost infuriatingly cocky, making me roll my eyes.

"What's your point? I'm your student and your stepsister. What exactly are you planning here? Because, Maximus, I didn't feel the mate bond with you. I'm sure whatever you felt was just heat from the combat," I said coldly, even though I didn't entirely believe my own words.

My life had turned into a complete mess. My friends were fighting and hiding things from me, my reputation at the academy was hanging by a thread, one of my mates had found a chosen mate, and now his brother was claiming to be mine. On top of that, the seniors would undoubtedly be plotting their revenge after their humiliation.

With all this chaos, I couldn't afford to focus on the romantic side of my life. And I certainly couldn't accept my mates—not with the promise I made to myself and the challenge I issued to the Moon Goddess.

"I felt it," Maximus said firmly. "I know we're mates. As for my intentions, they're clear. You extend your hand, and I'll hold it." His playful tone had vanished, and I could sense his displeasure at how dismissively I spoke of our mate bond.

"Anyway, I'll drop you both—" he started, but I cut him off.

"How about I just go back to where Jenny is?" I suggested, but he shook his head.

"Jenny has her brother and Lamar. Lucy's alone. Go with her and text your friends that you won't be at their cabin tonight," he said, his tone now practical and calm, more like someone trying to help than someone pushing his agenda.

I'd spoiled his mood, but at least I got some insight into what he was thinking. Sadly, I couldn't indulge his delusions. I had a mission.

I climbed into the passenger seat, leaving Lucy to sleep in the back. When he dropped us off, I gently woke her and helped her upstairs. She clung to me as we entered the building.

Once inside the elevator, she kept hugging me tightly. As I pressed the button for our floor, a red button lit up unexpectedly. Before I could say anything, Lucy lifted her head, her eyes fixed on it. Then she turned to me, her expression mirroring my own confusion.

"You see it too?" I asked, my voice barely above a whisper. Her reaction confirmed I wasn't imagining things.

"There's no tenth floor, Helanie. Why is this button here? It wasn't there before," Lucy whispered, her voice trembling. I could see the goosebumps rising on her skin.

"We should let it be—" I started, but my words didn't seem to register. Before I could stop her, she pressed the button.

"Lucy!" I yelled, but she simply shrugged.

"I just want to forget about the pain I'm feeling right now," she murmured, her voice heavy with emotion. It was clear that she was desperate for a distraction, even if it meant venturing into the unknown.

The elevator doors slid open, revealing the tenth floor. But what we saw was unlike anything we expected. It wasn't the dorms. Instead, a narrow, mist-covered road stretched ahead, flanked by dense woods on either side.

"What is this place?" I asked, my voice barely above a whisper.

"Oh..." Lucy gasped, clutching my hand tightly.

"Do you know this place?" I asked again, watching her eyes remain fixed on the misty road. She nodded, her face pale.

"This... this is where Gavin and I first met," she whispered, her voice breaking as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Aw, you poor soul. Why would he cheat on someone like you?"

The sudden, unfamiliar voice made my blood run cold. My body shuddered, and even Lucy stiffened in shock. She met my gaze briefly before turning her eyes back to the road.

"Who are you? How do you know what happened between me and my mate?" she called out, her voice sharp and unsteady.

A chill ran down my spine as I realized this floor wasn't random—it was for Lucy. I'd been to the tenth floor before, but it had never been like this.

"Because I know what happened, Lucy Dixon. You didn't do anything wrong. You're a good person," the entity's voice resonated with a strange, soothing certainty. Its focus was solely on Lucy tonight.

That's when it hit me—something my friends once mentioned. They'd felt a strange presence in the hostel whenever they were deeply depressed.

Tonight, Lucy was deeply upset, which must be why she found the elevator's hidden button. None of the others had ever found the tenth floor because they'd never been in the elevator while in a state of such raw despair.

"Let's go," I said firmly, grabbing Lucy's arm and starting to pull her away. She seemed strangely fascinated by the voice, likely because it was telling her things she desperately wanted to hear from Gavin.

The entity called her name again, but I had already dragged her into the elevator. As I pressed the button to head back downstairs, Lucy kept her eyes fixed on the misty road until the doors finally shut.

We made it back to our room, but Lucy remained silent.

"Lucy, I don't think that floor is a good place to visit. Next time, we won't press that button, okay?" I said, sitting on her bed. She broke her distant stare and gave me a small nod.

"Okay," she murmured before slipping under her blanket.

I let her be, hoping sleep would help her clear her mind. Heading to my bed, I grabbed my phone and sent a quick text to Lamar:

Me: I'm at the hostel with Lucy.

But there was no response. I eventually dozed off, the weight of the night heavy on my mind.

In the early morning, a text from Jenny jolted me awake:

Jenny: You're probably going to hate me more, but I slept with Lamar.

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

Chapter 210-All The Brothers In A Locked Room With Me

Chapter 210: 210-All The Brothers In A Locked Room With Me

Helanie:

I read her message and rubbed my eyes to shake off the sleep before I responded to her.

Me: It is none of my business.

And I wasn't being sassy about it—I really meant it. Lamar was single, and Jenny was on the verge of being single. If not, I would be the reason she was left without a mate soon. Of course, her mate wouldn't stay alive for too long anymore. I would not let it happen. I would make sure he got the death penalty from the council.

While Lucy was still asleep, I took a shower and got dressed for the academy. But something hung in the air—a weird hesitation, uncomfortableness. After I came out of the bathroom wearing my uniform, I moved over to Lucy's bed to wake her up. She always wakes up before everyone else.

"Lucy! Hey, good morning." With my hand running through her hair, I tried waking her up. Her pixie cut hair was now much longer. But she refused to move, causing me to worry.

"Lucy?" My gentle tap became a good shake, and she finally opened her eyes.

"I'm not feeling well. My head hurts, and my eyes are on fire," she said in a raspy tone. I saw her swollen eyes, which she could barely keep open.

"Can I please take a leave? I want to rest," she requested, shaking from the cold under the blanket.

Seeing her like this was not easy for me. After the rejection, she pretended so hard to be fine. The burden of guilt was so heavy on her that she tried to befriend everyone and act fine. But soon the truth was out. And now she didn't even want to pretend to be okay.

"It's okay. You rest, okay? I will write a leave of absence for you and get it signed too," I said to her, touching her forehead to check her fever. She didn't have a fever, so that was good. I left her in the room and walked out to take the elevator.

I began to feel extremely anxious, and to make matters worse, a message popped up on my screen from someone I didn't expect.

Professor Demon: Come to my office after your classes.

I sighed in stress, wondering why Norman was texting me this early in the morning.

I got off the elevator to find Jenny wandering around in a disheveled uniform and messy hair. It seemed like she was waiting for someone. She held her phone in her hand and kept pacing from one corner of the hall to the other, her eyes on the staircase.

I avoided her and tried to walk past her, but she saw me and ran in my way.

"Helanie!" Her hand held onto my arm, making me stop in my tracks.

"Are you still angry with me?" she inquired, sounding low and guilty.

"I'm not sure what I'm feeling, Jenny," I said without looking her way.

"Where is Lucy? I was meaning to speak with her," her voice was full of guilt. But I was more shocked at the fact that Lamar had slept with Jenny as well.

So is this how Lamar will act whenever someone in our group is upset?

"Maybe not today. She is not feeling well, so she's resting," I had my head to the side, uttering without much enthusiasm.

"I guess she is not feeling well because of me," she whispered under her breath but didn't release my arm.

"I don't know. I'll go to class now," I whispered, and I guess by now she realized I wasn't talking to her either.

"I will come with you," she insisted, beginning to walk along with me.

"Who were you waiting for?" I asked as we walked out of the hostel.

I could notice the hesitation in her body and her eyes lingering on her cellphone a lot too.

"Lamar--," she quickly shut up after saying his name.

"Wasn't he with you?" I asked. "I read your text this morning."

Jenny's hold on my arm tightened as she answered, "He was, but then when I woke up, he was gone. And not only did he leave, he left with that strand of hair with him."

I noticed her muttering the rest of the sentence under her breath.

"What hair?" I questioned in confusion.

"Oh, that red hair from the girl you think your mate cheated on you with?" I asked, and she nodded her head aggressively.

"Why would he steal that?" It didn't make sense to me that he would steal it.

"Maybe your mate did back when he was at the cabin?" I asked in bewilderment.

"No! The strand was there with me last night when I was showing it to him. But it was gone after he left," she explained, confusing me even more.

I had never been so confused before.

"That's odd," I muttered to myself. I had no clue what my friends were doing now. But I wanted to focus on that scum and avoid pissing him off, all the while planning a perfect trap for him.

We made our way to the first class and sat happily to listen to Emmet. He was always so full of wisdom. He even took Kaye's class. I heard Kaye was busy preparing for the seniors' trip.

After the class was over, I remembered I had to go meet Norman.

"You go ahead and wait for me outside. I'll join you shortly after submitting Jenny's leave of absence," I said. I had written it down before leaving my dorm room. Now that Norman had called me for a meeting, I decided to submit the leave as well.

But when I knocked on the door and entered his office, I was met with an even bigger shock: all the brothers were in the office, waiting for my arrival. That was not what I had expected.

"Close the door once you get inside," Norman spoke from his seat. He looked even bigger in that miserable office chair.

I gulped and walked in, closing the door behind me.

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

Chapter 211-Someone Is Ready To Listen

Chapter 211: 211-Someone Is Ready To Listen

Helanie:

"Yes, sir?" I stood in front of them, my hands tied in front of my body under my abdomen in perfect posture.

Norman had his coat off, his off-white shirt wrinkled from the muscles holding up the shirt at multiple places. He was buff, and today he looked like he had done an intense workout before coming to the hostel.

He had his arm extended on the table, playing with the paperweight, and his body leaned back in the chair.

Next to him sat Kaye on the chair, his arms folded over the table and his head down, but he was watching me through his thick eyebrows.

Maximus stood next to the window, his hands in his pants' pockets and that casual smoldering look on his face.

As for Emmet, he stood behind the empty chair, his one arm folded over the high back of the chair, and his eyes noticing my every move.

"Umm, did I do something wrong?" I inquired, feeling overwhelmed by being under the scrutiny of such powerful werewolves.

I always thought I had moved on from some of the trauma until I was in a place similar to the last one--a place where I was alone with powerful men. And every time I remember, nope! The trauma is still there.

I was trying my best to keep my composure and not shake in front of them.

"Have a seat," Norman finally spoke up after letting me think over what I might have done for a good two minutes. I moved slowly and took the chair. Emmet stepped out from behind the chair and sat down, all their eyes on me now.

"Can we just start talking? She is getting anxious," Kaye hissed in a whisper, thinking only his brother would hear.

Norman nodded his head exaggeratedly and straightened his back in the seat.

"Helanie! When you first took admission in the academy, everyone thought you wouldn't go very far. Honestly speaking, I was one of them," he paused to take a break, "but then you proved us all wrong. After seeing your performance in all the tests, everyone is shocked, but all eyes are on you."

The minute he said that, I found my heart revive. My posture straightened and a smile covered my lips. I noticed Kaye, Emmet, and Maximus smile at me, looking so happy.

"The council has been frequently asking about you as well. The way you handle every exam despite having no wolf has left everyone in awe. I hope you continue to show such courage and determination, and big things will be promised to you. We are seeing a lot of potential in you, Helanie. Just make sure you don't let the friend drama drag you down," As he continued, he mentioned my friends, and my smile started to falter a little.

"My friends?" I asked because I was curious what they knew.

"Your friends had been getting in trouble a lot. We even received complaints from the top senior about last night, and sadly, one of them has said your name in the report as well," it was Emmet who spoke up this time, looking slightly disappointed that I took part in that activity.

"You guys bullied the seniors and then egged them along with the top senior. May I ask why?" Kaye asked, his head tilted and his eyes narrowed at me.

Before I could answer, he added, "I think it is about time you think about your friends seriously. Alpha Penn doesn't understand how risky it could get for you and the others in the group who aren't from big packs to back them up or pay heavy fines," he explained, causing my body to twitch a little.

So his problem was Penn?

"Sir, thank you for your appreciation and concern. But about that report--I understand where it might be seen wrong. But we had a good reason. They bullied us the other night--" I was shut down when Norman shook his head, and I got the cue that he didn't like what he was hearing. Or maybe he didn't agree with what I was saying.

"Don't you know the seniors are given permission to give juniors a tough time?" Norman asked, but not in a taunting tone. He was keeping his regular sarcastic ass in his pants this time.

"I do know that, sir. Which is why we never retaliate when they bully us in the academy. But sir--that was outside the academy. One of my friends was going through a rough patch with her mate, and that's when they attacked us. Not only was the attack verbal, but--" I took a deep breath as I contemplated what I could do in this moment.

They were all watching me, and I felt like I had someone who would listen this time, something that I wished someone had done for me last time.

When I walked barefoot home that night, I had prepared a whole paragraph of how I was in pain and how I felt throughout the night. I hoped to sit and tell the council and my father everything so that the rapists were put behind bars.

But all my hopes were shattered when I wasn't even allowed to speak my truth.

So now was the time.

I instantly rolled up my shirt and sweater sleeves to show the pinch marks to the brothers. And their reaction encouraged me to explain everything.

"What the fuck is that?" Kaye pointed at the pinch marks.

"They have pinched me so many times, pushing me, and then--they started throwing me on the ground--and--," even in this cold weather, I began to feel sweat on my temples. "They--they tried to rip off my clothes. And then--" As I raised my head and noticed them watching my face, with their eyes wide and anger written all over their faces, I realized I wasn't quite telling them about what happened to Jenny, Lucy, and me that night. But I was only narrating what had happened to me.

"That is what happened to Jenny and Lucy, I was pinched several times," I finished abruptly, looking down and lowering my sleeves.

"Did you hear that?" Kaye muttered, pointing at me.

"This is not bullying, this is assault," Maximus approached the table, his voice harsh this time.

"We need to do something about this," Emmet determinedly slammed his fist on the table. I was in shock, watching these men ready to fight for me, for the right cause.

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

Chapter 212-Lamar Played Dirty

Chapter 212: 212-Lamar Played Dirty

Helanie:

"That is not what we mean when we say the seniors are allowed to bully juniors. It is mostly by words or by challenging them to a combat in front of the trainers," Norman said, his eyes narrowed as he spoke in anger.

"That is why Alpha Penn did it. I am sure it was the wrong way--," I uttered.

"And two wrongs don't make it right. I will definitely spare you and everyone involved, but the fine has to be paid," Norman added, making me sigh in relief.

"We will pay for your fine," Maximus quickly added, but I noticed Norman tilt his head to glower at his brother for making that decision without his permission.

"It is alright. I will do it on my own this time," that was the plan. I wanted to get a job and do something for myself. Maybe they were right; we all needed a job so that we don't wander around after academy and get ourselves in trouble.

"May I leave now? My friend--Lucy Dixon is not feeling well, and I have to go check up on her before I am headed to the ground for target practicing," I said to the brothers, who still looked pretty angry at the fact that seniors did this to us.

"Sure," Norman said, eyeing me to leave the application behind.

As I was headed out, I heard Emmet say something that caught my attention. "The top seniors will be pursued for getting physical, as well as they need to apologize to the juniors."

At least there was justice somewhere. I left for the hostel to check up on Lucy and, weirdly enough, I noticed someone was using the elevator.

That was odd.

Nobody uses the elevator unless it is me or someone extremely sick. There was only one person who was sick today.

"Lucy!" I uttered her name, rushing to take the stairs. I just had a very bad feeling about her taking the elevator.

It took me a while, but I noticed my strength had gotten better now that I am more on the active side of my lifestyle.

I reached the top and went straight into my room to find Lucy sitting in her bed with a food tray from the hostel's kitchen in her lap.

"Hey, was it a half day?" she asked, a very subtle and weak smile on her lips.

"Umm, no! I came here to check on you. Were you--in the elevator?" I asked, feeling a bit shy to question her simple action.

"Yeah. I couldn't really take the stairs. I'm still having such a headache, but I wanted food, so I took the elevator because that was easier," she answered, taking a big bite from her sandwich.

"Oh, okay. I will go to the ground for practice. Please message me if you need anything, okay?" I was relieved that she was taking care of herself. Last night, when she heard the truth, she had gone numb.

"Okay," she smiled, and while I was heading out, she added, "And Helanie, thank you so much."

Well, I was happy to be there for her. But right now, I needed to go practice some more. As we stood in a line, ready to take our spots and start practicing, I watched Lamar arrive. I remembered he had skipped the first two classes as well.

And now, he looked like a mess. His shirt was all messy, and bags were under his eyes.

The minute Jenny saw him, she tried to rush over to him, but I held her hand to stop her.

"Not here. There have been complaints about him already. I was barely able to dodge the punishment, but we were still fined. So, can we do all this once we are off the ground?" I whispered in haste before she confronted him in front of everyone and our group was tagged as the messiest juniors ever.

Thankfully, she understood, but not before she received a text from her mate. I knew it was her mate because every time he texted her, she would roll her eyes hard.

"Dammit, he is here," she muttered under her breath, rightfully upset, as this was our practice class. Why the heck was her mate coming here now?

We didn't have much time to react because we saw that asshole walk onto the ground and speak to Maximus. I guess he asked to have a little chat with his mate. Maximus let him, watching him walk over to us. My body shuddered, and I started looking around, even more puzzled because Maximus was watching us.

"Everyone else, go back to your positions and start practicing. I will now start approaching everyone and give them separate time," Maximus announced, but I was distracted by how angry that bastard looked as he grabbed Jenny's hand to pull her away from the ground.

I just couldn't stand here because I was curious. I had to know everything about him so that I know when and how to attack him.

Hence, I followed but stayed a little afar from them, still behind the trees as they faced each other on the road.

"What is it?" Jenny hissed at him.

"What did you do last night?" he asked her, phrasing his question with better details next time, "When I left, what did you do? You weren't stressed out. In fact, you were happy that your brother took a stand for you. So tell me, what the fuck did you do that I felt that much pain?" he muttered under his breath, his hands tightly balled into fists.

I was scared for her. He was a dangerous and nasty creature who had no knowledge of right and wrong.

If she told him that she had cheated on him, he might even hit her. I knelt down and grabbed a rock, just in case it was needed, but I was shaking so badly that I didn't know if I could even make a good hit.

"I was practicing," Jenny threw the same excuse in his face that he had been throwing in her face for a while.

"Jenny! Tell me, what did you do?" As he tried to smile, which made him look even creepier, someone arrived who shouldn't have intervened.

"I will tell you what she did. She did me." It was Lamar, standing tall with a smirk on his

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

Chapter 213-I Wish He Becomes The Punching Bag

Chapter 213: 213-I Wish He Becomes The Punching Bag

Helanie:

I was in disbelief watching Lamar join the two and even air her business out. From what I know, Lamar never really sleeps with anyone and tells the world.

So what the fuck was he doing now? Why do this to Jenny?

She turned to him, her face turning pale. "What are you saying?" It was evident through the look on her face that she was eyeing him to take his words back or maybe make it sound like a prank.

Her jackass mate stepped aside to keep an eye on both of them now.

"You have two minutes to explain your comment to me," the bastard alpha warned Lamar, who shrugged.

"I don't need time to tell you what I meant. We had sex last night, plenty of times in her cabin. In fact, if you go there and check the bin, you will find my semen in the used condoms," Lamar explained, giving details which made Jenny cover her mouth in shock.

"What the fuck!" her mate turned to her, raising his hand when Lamar jumped between them.

"Why the fuck are you so scared of him and not telling him about us? It's not like you want to be with him anymore," Lamar yelled, making me step out from behind the trees. But my aggression was slightly low from how I usually jump between people to break apart a fight.

I didn't want to be in that asshole alpha's view.

"Is it true? Is what he's saying true?" her mate yelled at the top of his lungs.

Jenny was in shock, her hands still over her mouth and her eyes spilling silent tears of fear.

"It is true. You wanted to know the truth, didn't you? And she has been over you for a very long time. She even slept with Gavin. Why the fuck did you not feel the pain when she cheated on you so many times? Or maybe your alpha wolf is not as strong as you make him seem," Lamar was out of line, screaming while chuckling to get the alpha all riled up.

"You fucking moron, you have no idea who you have messed with." As expected, the alpha took a hit to his ego and lunged at Lamar, throwing a punch that Lamar dodged.

It all happened quickly, so when Lamar sidestepped the punch, Jenny got hit.

She landed on the ground, blood spluttering out of her nose.

"Hey!" Lamar yelled, pushing the alpha away from Jenny, who sat on the road with her nose covered in her hands.

"Jenny!" Even I made a run to her and knelt down beside her.

"Oh!" The voice from Rayden made me lift my eyes.

"Now it makes sense. I can tell who encouraged her to do all this," he nodded his head, his eyes staring at me.

"You did," Lamar noticed and stepped in our way, blocking me from the nasty eyes of the unhinged alpha, whose name was so hard for me to pronounce most of the time.

The commotion escalated, and then someone's arrival put a stop to everything. Lamar and the jackass, who had their hands on each other with their collars all twisted between each other's fingers, stepped away as Maximus arrived.

"What the heck is going on here? Did you come here to do this?" Maximus yelled at Rayden, who quickly looked down before he started defending himself.

"I was aiming for Lamar—he slept with my fated mate, and he's telling me that my mate is sleeping around with everyone. That is disgusting for a mate and humiliating too. This friend group, all they do is fuck each other and then act like they're just friends," Rayden started complaining, tears beginning to leave his eyes. I couldn't tell if he was genuinely hurt or acting this way to ease up the punishment he would receive for hurting another student.

But I noticed he wasn't in uniform, and I wondered why.

Oh! I remembered. Since he wasn't in uniform, he could get fined for the altercation, and if Jenny's family forgives him, he will be spared entirely because they are mates. Lamar might get a severe punishment for instigating him.

But that wasn't the main issue. The main problem was the look on Maximus' face when Rayden explained the dynamic of our group.

"That is not true. The girls in my group are very respectable," Lamar was now trying to defend us after he had come here and exposed Jenny's business without her permission.

I never expected him to be a whistleblower. I'm glad I don't share my secrets with anyone.

"Really? First Lucy was sleeping around in the group. She had sex with you and Gavin, who was her mate. And now my mate, she slept with Gavin and you. And Goddess knows how many Helanie is sleeping with because I keep seeing her spend time alone with—"

That was all Rayden had said when we watched a horrifying scene of Maximus throwing a punch from the side that knocked Rayden to the ground.

Silence engulfed us as we watched the alpha pass out from the punch on the road.

"And that is how you shut up a disrespectful, ugly pig," Maximus yelled at us. "Lamar, get her help and then come to my office." Of course, Maximus was angry at all of us.

"And you! You are coming with me," Maximus pointed at me, causing Lamar to raise his brow before quickly reaching for Jenny.

"I'll call Penn to come collect this bastard too and present him to me and my brothers after he has learned not to drag everyone's name into his mess." That was a clear warning from Maximus to everyone who might use my name in this argument.

I wasn't a child who didn't know he was threatening them to keep my name out of their mouths.

"Come with me," he yelled again, and I stood up, following him to his car in bewilderment.

"What about the training?" I asked in a meek tone, and he had only to turn and pass me a deadly glare for me to shut up instantly.

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

Chapter 214-The Mother And Her Teacup Party

Chapter 214: 214-The Mother And Her Teacup Party

Helanie:

"Yeah, and put Rudy Archer and Sage Milan as the instructors for the day," Maximus was on a phone call with someone, organizing the whole day's routine for the juniors and assigning two top seniors as their instructors.

I was sitting in the backseat of his car like a child scared of being scolded by her parents. But it wasn't my fault. He was so angry and yelling a lot too.

I had never seen him look at me with that much anger. He even slammed his car door twice when getting in.

"Where are we going?" I asked after I couldn't just sit in silence and let him take me wherever he wanted.

"Helanie, I want you to stay silent for a while," he muttered, fixing the rear view mirror to pass me a challenging glare.

I sank back in my chair and kept looking outside the window. The fact that he just drove around for half an hour without any destination and then finally seemed to take the right path—but a path to somewhere I didn't expect him to take me—confused me.

"Wait, are we going to the mansion?" I put my hands on the window, looking outside like a child, and questioned him.

"Yeah," he answered bitterly, grunting right after that.

"But why? I didn't want to go back there," I blurted out, instantly making it clear that I had no plans of returning to the place where I was once kicked out from.

"Helanie, you are going to sit in silence and let me drive. I get extremely distracted when I'm angry and someone is talking to me, you get it?" he hissed under his breath, making it clear that he wasn't in the mood to listen to anything.

"Are you angry about what that alpha said?" I hesitated at the mention of that alpha. Even thinking about him saddened my entire being.

He didn't answer me and kept driving. I remembered the road to the mansion, especially the road up to the main gate.

It reminded me of the day I had escaped my death sentence and came to my mother for shelter.

In those moments, I badly wanted a mother to hide me in her wings and protect me from everything harsh in this world. But that didn't happen.

I met the angry gaze of a mother who would rather hug and call her friend's daughter her family than embrace her own vulnerable daughter.

My pout hardened, and I folded my arms over my chest as he stopped the car and got out. He walked over to my side and opened the door, but I stayed sitting, swinging my legs and staring at my white knee-high socks.

"Helanie, come out," he insisted in a harsh and commanding tone.

"Did I not tell you I didn't want to come back here? Why didn't you listen?" I muttered, not even turning my head to look at him. I kept my chin down and continued swinging my legs, slamming one down and then raising the other, arms still crossed tightly over my chest.

"I wanted to have a talk with you here, not at the hostel or academy," his tone softened a little once he realized I wasn't going to act guilty and take his anger.

"Then there are cafés for that," I hissed, finally turning my head to glare at him.

"Yeah, but this is your house too. You can't just ban it for yourself, especially when—" He stopped mid-sentence after receiving a disapproving glare from me.

"I want you to come to the mansion. And you are going to, since you're my mate. You need to warm up to coming back here because the way you're so aggressive about returning to the mansion makes me wonder if I don't do anything now, you'll only grow more stubborn about it," he spoke in a whisper, causing my body to twitch slightly.

It felt entirely weird to listen to someone make such future plans for me. It's Maximus now, but it was Kaye before that.

And, to be honest, I've never had anyone make plans with me or for me. I used to be the one constantly asking Altan about our future, and he would dodge the question.

"Please, can you come inside? Or do you want me to be dramatic and cause a scene so everyone starts talking about how the rogue king tossed his stepsister over his shoulder and took her inside?" He had a sly smile on his face when he posed the little threat, making me narrow my eyes at him.

"Fine, I won't do anything like that. Which is why I'm requesting: can you please come in?"

I could tell he was holding back his anger from the earlier issue. I felt like I could go in and hear him out. If I didn't, he would assume my group just messes around, like Rayden made us seem.

After I sighed and slipped out of the car, he held my hand to drag me after him. It looked so weird, but I just followed him in silence.

Once we entered the mansion, my body was covered in goosebumps at the sight of my mother, Aunt Emma, and her daughter Charlotte sitting in the living room, enjoying some tea. They wore beautiful dresses, had full-face makeup, and even their hairstyles were done perfectly.

One could easily tell Charlotte wakes up late, does her morning routine, and then gets showered with love by the women around her for the rest of the day.

The minute they saw me arrive with Maximus, their hands froze, teacups suspended mid-air. Charlotte was quick to elbow her mother, clearly expressing how distraught she was to see me. I remembered when Maximus told me Charlotte had made a pass at him.

Was that why she looked so upset seeing me being dragged upstairs by Maximus?

My mother tried to make eye contact with me, but I quickly looked away.

Maximus took me to his bedroom and slammed the door shut. It felt so weird being alone in his room after he had kicked me out the first time.

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

Chapter 215-Norman Doesn't Want To Lose Me

Chapter 215: 215-Norman Doesn't Want To Lose Me

Helanie:

"What was Rayden saying? Is it true that your group is getting involved in such immoral actions? Did Lucy cheat on her mate? Did Gavin cheat back on her? Did Jenny cheat on her mate with both the group members?" he phrased it all and made me realize how bad it sounded.

"Helanie, I am not saying I believe in that man when he spoke about you. But you are going to get yourself in a lot of trouble like that. Why is your group so hell-bent on ruining your progress?" My body flinched when he used a bitter tone for my friends.

"You are making it seem like they are doing it on purpose. They were having troubles, and trust me, it is normal in mates," as I was in the process of explaining about my group to him, his door started getting banged on like someone had to pee inside.

Maximus frowned, even hissed under his breath before answering the door. It was Kaye, who slammed the door open and then got inside, even hitting Maximus with his shoulder as he did so.

"What is going on? Why do you have her here in your bedroom?" Kaye almost yelled before he took a deep breath, swallowed some of his anger, and then opened his eyes to ask the same question in a much better tone this time.

"Why is it that I heard from the warriors that you have asked Sage and Rudy to be the juniors' instructors because you took Helanie with you?" Kaye placed his palms together, using them to gesture at me and then back at Maximus, a way to control his wrath.

"Something happened on the ground today," Maximus groaned when being questioned.

"And it was related to Helanie?" Kaye asked, his entire focus on me.

"Yes! Because of that, her group of friends are getting questioned, and guess who is leading in the group? Helanie! Her progress is making her stand out, so when these things get out, she will get bad grades and reputation," Maximus finally straightened his back to face his brother much more furiously now.

"Huh? What kind of stuff are you hearing?" Now that Kaye heard it was about my reputation, suddenly he was interested in the topic.

"Alpha Rayden made a claim that everyone in her group is sleeping together. The confirmed cases are—Lucy, Gavin, Lamar, and Jenny," Maximus said their names, and my body felt this urge to defend them hard.

However, there was another knock on the door, and I couldn't help but lower my hands to show how exhausted I was to see another person coming to see what was going on.

As the door opened, Emmet walked in this time. But the exhaustion on my face changed to embarrassment.

I didn't want the rumors to be discussed in front of him. He takes me with so much respect that I don't want to be seen like a whore in front of him.

"What is going on?" Emmet asked in his casual sweet tone. His eyes quickly scanned me to make sure I was fine before he turned to his brothers.

"Oh look! The sleeping prince came out," Maximus made eye contact with Kaye, who rolled his eyes at the arrival of Emmet.

Wow!

I didn't know there was trouble between the brothers. The way they were hostile right off the bat towards Emmet was seriously worrisome.

"Helanie! Come with me. I will drop you to the hostel," Emmet said, avoiding the harsh glares and weird looks from his brothers.

"No! I brought her here to discuss some stuff with her. She will leave when I say so, and not when you decide for her," Maximus quickly got in his brother's way, using a much more distasteful tone with him.

"I know what happened. I heard everything. Helanie has nothing to do with it. Those are just teenagers going through a hard phase. Helanie doesn't have to answer for anything," Emmet explained, tapping his two fingers onto Maximus' shoulder to gesture him to step aside and let me pass through.

"How is it not involving her when Rayden used her name too? He was spreading rumors because the reputation of her group is not well. It can get her in trouble," Maximus yelled, and I saw Kaye shift swiftly to look at me for answers.

"Rayden said her name?" However, I realized the severity of the situation when Emmet sounded concerned.

"Exactly. It sounds odd, and because of the last encounter of the juniors with the seniors, her group is already being mentioned as troublemakers. Where she is doing great things, her friends are busy ruining her reputation," Maximus explained, putting the blame on my friends once again.

This time, since the door was open, Norman walked in without having to knock on it.

"Seriously? Here?" Norman asked, giving us a tired look.

"And you! What is wrong with your group? Why am I receiving a second complaint in one week from your team?" Norman was much more vocal and loud when questioning me.

"My friends are having some trouble—," I was shut down when Norman continued.

"First, you guys should have come to us and let us handle the other situation when the seniors attacked you all, instead of planning revenge and assaulting them back. And now—we are getting letters that you are all doing—weird stuff in your dorm rooms," Norman took a pause, but I believe the thing he censored wasn't a good one.

"What letters?" Maximus asked Norman, who held up a bunch of anonymous letters to his brothers.

"What is it?" I asked.

"Someone is sending letters saying your group is involved in unholy activities," Kaye mumbled, reading the letter.

"Who sent these? I am going to—," Emmet shut up when both Kaye and Maximus shared a glance. That was an odd reaction, and the way Emmet quickly cut off made it even weirder.

"Anyway, I will deal with these, but I don't want any more complaints. You're leading our academy by surprise, and I don't want anyone to mess it up," surprisingly, Norman pointed at me and yelled. This was the first time he was stubborn about making sure I didn't lose my progress.

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

Chapter 216-Facing My Evil Mother

Chapter 216: 216-Facing My Evil Mother

Helanie:

"Now let's go. You need to be back in your academy and make sure you tell your friends to stop with their weirdness," Norman yelled at me from over his brothers, who didn't look too happy.

But they were too busy judging Emmet as he crumbled the letter in anger.

"Mention a gorgeous girl, and the alcoholic is suddenly growing a spine," as I was walking past the brothers to follow Norman, I heard Kaye make a comment. And I knew it was towards Emmet.

I suddenly just felt so bad for Emmet. Whatever made him drink was overlooked. He was called these names without any mention of what made him turn this way.

After experiencing my own trauma, I've come to realize that the behavior of others is usually rooted from a deep trauma of some sort.

As I reached the first floor, I noticed Norman look a bit uncomfortable. He kept looking up as if checking on his brothers but would then force himself to focus on taking me back home.

"You can go talk to them, I can wait here," I said, and when he looked at me, I shrugged.

I bet he wasn't happy that I knew what he was worried over. But since I had already said it, he took the chance and rushed upstairs. I strolled and reached the living room where the women were once part of. They were not here anymore, but their little tea party was still ongoing from the hot tea in the teacups.

"Why are you back here? And why was Maximus holding your hand?" I recognized the annoying voice of Charlotte. I turned around and saw her stand there with her hands on her waist.

I was hoping she wouldn't instigate me anymore. I was no longer the Helanie who would listen to them and only nod her head.

I grew a big tongue after becoming part of the academy.

"And why are you--huh! That uniform!" She sounded so upset when picking up on my uniform.

"What is your problem? Is it the fact that Maximus brought me back here or that I got admission in the academy?" I questioned in a stern and exhausted tone. The tone that instantly plucked her eyes out of her sockets.

I could almost hear her scream in her head as she pointed at me, 'Look at the audacity of Helanie for using such a tone with me.'

"You know you probably got the admission because the brothers felt bad for you and were nice to you on the testing grounds," she added, probably thinking she ate.

"Charlotte! If you think it is that easy and anyone can be a part of the academy by just making the brothers feel bad for them, why don't you try it too? You can ask your mother to rub some butter on my mother's nose and well and convince Lord McQuoid to give you admission in the academy! At least that will help with the bitter itch that you are having," I muttered in a sassy tone, my hands on my waist and my body language just like the mean girls.

I swear I would hate anyone doing this to me, but only if unprovoked. Charlotte deserved it.

"How--," before she could ask me how dare I speak to her like that, my mother dearest arrived.

"Mom!" Charlotte called for her mother, who I could tell had been hiding behind the door and listening in on our conversation. She jumped out, looking like a bouncer as she walked our way with her eyes narrowed at me.

Charlotte instantly ran into her arms, poor girl crying because I gave it back to her.

"Why are you back here? Why now? Why won't you leave me alone? You didn't want to be a part of my family until you found out I am going to marry a rich and powerful man. You only came back to take advantage, and now you got one. You are part of the academy, thanks to me," hearing this from my mother was really painful. But I didn't show it to her.

Imagine being told that you're being talked about because of how well you're doing in the academy, but somehow my mother never acknowledges it. It just hurts.

"When I left this mansion, I left the memory of you and I behind. I'm sure you did it too. And thanks, because it helped me find my own path and not rely on a bunch of people who never saw me more than just a weapon of revenge against their mates," I spoke, my voice shaking a little. It's not easy to find out that your parents only wanted to use you to hurt each other.

They only loved me until their rejection. Was I never more than that?

"You will not dictate my life and my suffering like that. I did not weaponize you. In fact, I don't even want to acknowledge you as my daughter. You are nothing--" As she screamed in my face, she made me tear up. Good job! She could really break my confidence just like that.

But I shut her up when I screamed back in her face, "And I hope to stay that way. You are not my mother, as I am not your daughter. So don't fucking yell at me. Don't fucking tell me what I should and shouldn't do with my life. And go ahead, fucking take care of that brat," I shouted, making Emma quickly put her hands on her daughter's ears so that she wouldn't hear the bad words being said about her.

"Mommy, now you have to get me an admission in this academy," Charlotte began to sob on her mother's chest while my mother kept staring at me with her eyes wide and tears forming in them.

"What? Does it hurt? Huh! Don't worry, once you get past the phase of wanting a family, you'll stop getting hurt by everything they say to you," I gave her a forced and very miserable smirk before I turned around to leave.

But that's when I spotted Norman standing behind us, listening to us.

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

Chapter 217-The Night I Felt The Mate Bond With The Lycan

Chapter 217: 217-The Night I Felt The Mate Bond With The Lycan

Helanie:

Once I sat in Norman's car, I started to take deep breaths. "Wow, I finally did it," I said to myself, but the minute Norman stormed back in, I gulped and sat straight.

He sat in the driver's seat and started driving, but the minute he adjusted the mirror, I knew he was ready to have a talk.

"You really didn't want to come back, huh?" It was more like a statement to himself than a question to me.

"I would much rather live in the woods than in a luxurious place where I am not respected," I replied, looking outside the window.

"And what about your friends? They are causing damage to your reputation," he stated as he brought up the main topic again.

"They are not doing anything to me. I get involved because I care," I replied again with much confidence this time.

I was not guilty of having my friends and being part of their messed-up situation. They needed me, and I was not a coward who would turn her back on her friends just because she wants a peaceful life for herself.

"What if they become the reason you lose the great opportunity of becoming a top senior in the future or maybe even getting more privileges?" It was odd how he always asked so many questions to me. It wasn't that he wanted to get to know me, but more like he was intrigued.

"Norman, I don't know about you or others around me. But I am there for my friends. Just because they have flaws doesn't mean I will leave them. I have my own messy situations too. But they stand with me through and through. I will not leave them just because someone is spreading rumors about us. I am not scared of rumors," I stated confidently.

I couldn't be too afraid of everything. Not to mention, I was already living a life where I had to be very cautious for my past catching up with me, and now I have to be concerned about who I befriend.

"Hmm, never really expected such courage from you," his comment compelled my eyes to him.

"I just don't understand how their personal issues can damage my reputation. Just because they are having trouble, should we leave them? These things exist because people see them as such a big deal. That is why they are now called a rumor. Rayden accused our group of messing up, but he never told anyone that he had been cheating on Jenny and always gaslights her whenever she questions him. She was left with no other choice but to give it back to him. And you must have heard how he acted when he felt the pain. Why didn't he take her excuse like she has to take his every time he cheats?" I asked, and Norman sighed.

"Because Lamar confessed. You need to also hold your friends accountable when they do something wrong. Confront Lamar and ask him why he exposed her business like that," he was not wrong, but I had a question for him.

"What would you do if your brother turns out to be someone who is hurting others? Let's just say, your brother is the real one having a hard time, would you confront him?" The minute I inquired it from him, I saw his body language change.

His shoulders slouched down, and he almost missed the turn.

"I will not--do it publicly. But I will do it in private and then make sure he doesn't do it again," he replied, but there was a weird hesitation in his voice for the first time.

Not like how he always talks like he knows everything.

"Anyway, it is the month of the eclipse. Emmet will have a lecture prepared for tomorrow about this month, but I will tell you briefly that the month will have lunar eclipse two hours every night. The lunar eclipse is a, um--more like a full moon in a weird way. Whenever the eclipse happens at night, it gives out the effects of a full moon, which means every night will be a full moon night for two hours. Just remind the warden to tell the students not to leave their dorms and the hostels after midnight," he explained, but took weird pauses in between.

I sat curiously and then asked him something that I didn't expect to get him so nervous, "Does that mean the lycan will be out every night now?"

He swiftly turned his head to me, almost going off the road before he grunted, "How do you know about the lycan?"

"I heard the rumors--and then I saw him too," I said casually, not really thinking it would be such a big deal.

I mean, that is what he meant when he said to not go out at night, right?

"Helanie, a rumor is just a rumor--wait! Did you say you encountered the lycan--?" He immediately parked the car on the side of the road and jumped out of the car.

I was regretting even mentioning it now.

"You--," I have never watched Norman hyperventilate like that. He sounded like a beast going crazy. I could even hear a gulp that he forced down his throat.

He ran to my side and slammed the door open, making me jump back in the seat. I felt like he was going to rip the door off.

"It was you that night?" As he posed that question, goosebumps appeared all over my skin, and I just kept watching his face.

"What do you mean? How do you--," I gulped, feeling a weird coldness around me. It was like I was staring into the eyes of someone who knew my secret about that night.

Who knew that I had felt the mate bond with the lycan?

But that can't be. He wasn't there, then why was he asking me that question?

"Tell me, was it you that night?" he continued, his eyes starting to turn red from holding back tears.

In a mild and scared tone, I replied with a head nod and then uttered, "Yes! It was me that night."

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

Chapter 218-A Sex Toy

Chapter 218: 218-A Sex Toy

"Were you--were you there?" I asked, stuttering and not even able to finish talking.

"The warden told me someone left the hostel that night, and I didn't know--Helanie! Why? Why do you keep getting yourself in trouble?" As he resumed with his casual, cocky, and rude yelling, I realized he knew nothing.

I am so glad I didn't end up telling him anything. What if I had confided in him about the Lycan and gotten myself in trouble?

"I was--looking for my friend Lucy. She was in the woods too. But then the Lycan attacked me, and my friends had to come to save me," I replied with much ease now that I knew he wasn't there and knew nothing more than what the warden had told him.

"Ugh! I don't want any more complaints. You are about to set a new record where a girl without a wolf is acing every test, and you are doing everything in your power to ruin it for yourself. I don't want that," he was leaning in the doorway, his finger posing a threat to me.

"I thought you wanted me out of the academy," I shrugged, folding my arms over my chest, and I could tell he didn't like it. He hated when someone acted tough or not respectful in front of his royal highness.

"I didn't. Because I thought you would not be a great fit, but you proved it otherwise, and now my academy is about to set a record. So you better--behave," he yelled, reaching inside with his big head forward.

"What if I mess it up? I mean, I don't know, I am just a girl without a wolf." Now that I knew he was so looking forward to a record that I was definitely excited for, I decided to tease him just a little.

"Helanie, I will not hesitate to spank you if you ruin this," he muttered, realizing how bad his words sounded, "I mean, I will--spend time scolding you. That is what I said."

Oh goodness, is that what it looks like to make a giant man like him blush?

"Okay! I will behave," I replied because I wanted to go back home now. His cologne was extremely strong; that chocolate scent was too much.

I was starving too.

He nodded his head and then took the seat to drive me to the hostel. Thankfully, none of us started another conversation. I had too much of the McQuaid brothers for the day.

My confidence was also over the roof after giving it back to all my bullies today, but once I got off his car, I remembered the whole mess that would wait in my group now.

I remembered every word that the brothers spoke and decided to have a meeting with my friends.

They needed to get their shit together before they all got kicked out of the academy. I sent a group text and asked them all to come to my dorm room in ten minutes.

I entered my room to change before their arrival and noticed Lucy's bed was empty. She must be at the hall for dinner. So I took a quick shower, and by the time I came out,

sure enough, all my friends were in the room. I expected a few to be difficult, but they took my text very seriously.

Now I stood before them in blue baggy jeans and a purple sweater on, my hands on my waist. Lucy sat on the bed, a tray of food in her lap, having literally no care in the world about what was happening around her.

I saw Gavin look at her and then look down. At least he looked guilty. Lamar stood with the wall, his head down and his hands in his pants' pockets. Penn stood next to his sister, who refused to transition and let the bruise decorate her face.

"I am sorry. I didn't mean to--hurt Lucy. I just got scared when I slept with Jenny and--," Gavin took the lead but couldn't finish because Lucy didn't even seem to realize we were discussing her. She cracked the crab leg and excitedly dipped it in the sauce.

"Lucy! I thought somewhere along the line I would make it up to you, but I was so scared of being called a cheater that I just--played you. And then when you cheated on me, my ass was so hurt. Merely because I knew I did it while I was drunk. I know it is not an excuse, but you cheating on me twice just made me so angry because I knew it was over. Yet I fucked up when I forced myself to give us a try and--" he reached over to the bed and sat down, talking to her, but when she raised her head and frowned, he stopped talking.

"Oh, it is alright. You cheated, I cheated, then you cheated, now the game is over. I forgive you, and I am really not upset," she shrugged, sounding extremely satisfied as she put her focus back on the crab legs.

That was odd and not normal.

"How about we talk about this asshole who played my sister?" Penn yelled as he brought our attention back from Lucy and towards Lamar, who looked away while rolling his eyes.

I didn't really like his attitude. I never thought Lamar would be acting this way again.

"I didn't know she was going to hide it from him," Lamar finally spoke up, not really making it easy for himself.

"Really? And you just accidentally told him about Gavin too? You were purposely instigating him. Why?" Jenny got up, yelling, but her brother held her back by holding her arm.

"I am sorry, okay? I got angry that you were still planning on staying with that douchebag. I was like--wow! She slept with me, and now she wanted to be back with her mate? I am not a sex toy, okay?" Lamar yelled, silencing us all as he put a different narrative out about himself this time.

He wanted something serious with Jenny?

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

Chapter 219-The Missing Evidence

Chapter 219: 219-The Missing Evidence

Helanie:

Hearing Lamar caused silence for a minute before Penn tried lunging at Lamar.

I had to get in their way before they started fighting in my dorm room, and once again the attention would be back on our group.

"Stop this!" I yelled, getting in between them and extending my arms to push them both apart.

"We have been under the scrutiny of the trainers because of what's been going on in our group. One more discourse and our entire group will be punished or might even get suspended," as I yelled, they went silent.

Jenny took slow strides to reach Lamar. Her eyes showed how much rage she had in them. She muttered, "You had no right to play me like this. I don't believe you did anything because you wanted something serious with me or that you wanted me out of Rayden's cage."

A big tear rolled down her face, but she sniffled it back to add, "But tell me, where is my stuff that you stole from me?"

"What did he steal from you? Is it--something branded?" Penn quickly questioned his sister, whose eyes were stuck on Lamar.

"Please, give me back that thing. It is the only thing that I have that can help me get freed," she uttered, tears streaming down her face at this point. She was no longer yelling or shouting at Lamar but requesting him.

I watched Lamar look away, not even showing concern or guilt for making her so vulnerable.

"I don't have your thing," Lamar shrugged. Penn stared between the two before he grabbed Lamar by his collar to issue a warning.

"Whatever you stole from her, I want it back before midnight, or else--" Penn threatened, making it hard for me to separate them at this point.

"I told you, I don't know what she is talking about. And what can you do anyway? Because we can settle this outside right now," I knew Lamar was not afraid of any alpha, but going outside after dark would be stupidity.

"Nobody is heading out for a month. The warden has made it clear," I mentioned the announcement from earlier that she made after Norman told me to inform her about the lunar eclipse month.

"You want to know what I can do?" Penn avoided me and kept shaking Lamar, who steadily lowered his gaze to stare at Penn's hands on his collar before he grasped his hands to free himself.

"Ask her what went missing?" Lamar turned to Jenny, who gulped anxiously.

I guess she must have told Lamar too about wanting to get the DNA test done for the strands of red hair so that she could find the girl and make her confess before the council that Alpha Rayden has been cheating on her. That way, she could demand a rejection, and Rayden wouldn't be able to dodge it anymore.

Penn now turned to focus on his sister because of the way Lamar spoke about the missing item.

"What is it that he stole from you?" I sighed as Penn posed that question. Lamar was constantly avoiding making eye contact with anyone at this point.

Gavin stood in the corner with his head down, but he was getting a lot of notifications on his phone. And then there was Lucy.

I turned briefly to check on her and found her more worried about the meat stuck in the crab's leg than what was going on in the room right in front of her.

"I think--I might have misplaced it. I will confirm it and then--" Jenny kept her head down, not even raising her eyes.

"See, she doesn't even know what I stole, and you are threatening me for it. How rude! Just because I accidentally told her mate out of anger and frustration that she cheated, you guys are now labeling me as a thief as well?" I was so upset and disappointed with Lamar. Why was he punishing Jenny like that?

Penn looked disappointed and embarrassed, and since he had nothing else to say, he grabbed his sister's hand and pulled her away from us.

"That is it. Your friendship with this group is over. Ever since they came into your life, you have turned into a mess. You forgot about your mission and why you came to this academy. Let this be an eye-opening event and pray Rayden forgives you after this," Penn was speaking in a harsh tone with her.

Since I knew Lamar had messed up, even I couldn't defend my group. Her brother had every right to look after her, but him not wanting to realize she was not happy with Rayden was where he messed up.

"Let's go," he dragged Jenny out of the room, passing me a last glance as he exited.

"You should go rest too, Gavin. And probably check those messages," I said to Gavin, giving him a disapproving look. With his head down and his eyes on the ground, he nodded and left the room.

"Oh shoot! There are no crab legs left. I'll go get some mussels. Do you guys want something? They're treating us very well tonight," Lucy jumped off the bed with the tray in her hands and a smile on her lips.

Of course, seafood is not cheap, but her behavior was so off. This was not normal, but before I could even muster some courage to remind her that acting like everything was fine was crazy, she had run out of the room.

Now that it was only Lamar and me left, I decided to confront him.

"You stole those hairs from Jenny. I'm not going to ask you why because I'm sure you won't be honest with me. But return them to her. You said you were shocked why she isn't telling Rayden that she cheated so he can reject her. Well, she wants to prove to the council that he cheated first so she can demand a rejection because, considering how messy and awful Rayden is, he still might not reject her," I yammered, hoping anything I said would help him realize he was just causing trouble for an innocent girl.

And just when I thought he would consider my request, he faced me and, in a very selfish and cold tone, replied, "Ah! I don't have it. And if you're done lecturing me, I'll go rest now."

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

Chapter 220-In The Dark

Chapter 220: 220-In The Dark

Helanie:

I couldn't make Lamar speak with me. And in anger, I just didn't want to request a talk with him either. Lucy returned with more food and sat in the bed to eat alone with a smile on her lips.

I wanted to speak with her, but she looked so comfortable that I felt guilty for almost trying to make her cry over the injustice that happened to her. But since it was too early to do so, I decided to give her a day. She would probably be herself by the morning. Denial could be dangerous.

I lay down in the bed after Lucy was done eating, and we both fell asleep before I woke up in the middle of the night at the sound of the door closing. Rubbing my eyes to confirm, it was Lamar who had left.

The night was still not over, and it was only 12:15 a.m. I guess I will take a walk near the library. The warden told us the library would be open till morning so that those agitated wolves who wanted to go out at night but couldn't anymore have somewhere to stay awake at.

But since nobody liked the library as it didn't help an agitated wolf, I planned to go there. I didn't have a wolf, so I guess I would find something to read and spend time with. I had no clue where Lamar had gone, probably to some girl's room to get the heat off and change his mood.

Once I was on the ground floor and was about to enter the library, I realized somebody was already there.

Storming inside, I began to reach the last shelves where a little light was turned on. However, it was a flashlight that went out instantly after my footsteps became too loud.

I knew who it was.

I could hear little sobs from the corner right beside the last shelf. There was just a little space by the wall where he had fit himself perfectly and was sitting on the floor with his knees curled to his chest.

"Lamar?" Even though I had never heard him cry before, I just knew it was his cries.

He stopped, and it was I who turned my flashlight on this time. It was indeed him, sobbing alone and looking so miserable.

"Hey," I ignored everything else and quickly sat down beside him.

"Are you okay?" My question made him point at my flashlight; he wanted to sit in the dark.

Before putting out the flashlight, I noticed the red hair in the plastic bag placed in front of him and his eyes fixed on them.

Once it went dark, he began to sob again. My heart ached every time he hiccupped.

"You know whose hair these are," I commented, hearing his sobs die a little.

"Do you know her? Is she your—" I couldn't finish because he was already set on responding to me.

"My sister's."

My heart sank in my chest when he spoke in the most painful tone ever. This was the first time he was talking about someone from his family. He never really mentioned or talked about his family. I even heard him whimper like a child before he sniffed and started cleaning his cheeks with the back of his hand. I could see him in the dark, even though not very well, but the small light from outside the window a little far from us made us not so blind in the dark.

"Oh! Does she like him—" Thinking about a girl, that too Lamar's sister, in love with Rayden, was not easy for me.

She will have to face so much because of falling for the wrong guy. I had millions of scenarios playing in my head, but not exactly what Lamar was going to say.

"His victim," my muscles contracted, and silence engulfed me. It was like he spoke something so horrific to me that I failed to respond.

"She was my everything, my only family. We grew up together in foster care. It was just her and me. We would cause so much ruckus whenever someone tried parting us. She was, umm—my father's daughter with his mistress. But I didn't care. She was my sister. I never saw her as any less of a family. After our parents passed, we were moved around from foster care to another foster home. Every time someone came to adopt me, I would yell and scream to stay with her. It was usually me who everyone wanted because I was a guy, and they assumed I would grow up strong. But I didn't leave with anyone. I couldn't leave my sister behind—she was my family—Helanie—she was my family." His voice was so miserable that I instantly teared up but didn't let the sobs reach his ears.

I didn't want to intervene. I am not even sure how long he had been keeping all this in his heart.

"Where is she now?" I already suspected the answer, but I wanted to know how she was Rayden's victim.

"I dug her grave in the mountains. I go there sometimes to speak with her. I even told her about you—I said—'Hey, I found someone just as pure as you.' And then I couldn't tell her what similarities I saw between you two because, look-wise, you two are completely different," he uttered softly, but I knew what similarities he must have felt.

The smell of a victim is almost the same. The look on their faces and the broken dreams in their eyes are the same.

"She died—when and how?" I gulped, my heart racing in my chest. It was almost like I was asking about myself to him.

"She was murdered—she was killed in a way that—" Lamar started crying loudly now. I had to quickly hug him, but instead, he lay down and put his head in my lap.

He was all over the place, and I wondered what Rayden did to her.

"What was her name?" I asked just to calm him down, and his body relaxed a little.

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