

## Why My Mate Cries Chapter 51 - Tips

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### ALIYAH'S POV

The sun fell asleep behind the sloping and green mountains far too quickly. The scenery in front of me was serene and calm, and it gave me the warmth I sought. I drew in a breath and inhaled the cold breeze here from the balcony. The air blew my hair, and I had to tuck it behind my ear.

Laughter could be heard inside. I turned around and walked to the bedroom, exited it, and so I could check on Liana and Alice in the living room who were playing Checker. They were resting for a while right before they went back to sewing the bridal dress I would be wearing for the unification ceremony.

The ceremony would be held two days from now, and I was currently in the stage of purification, in which I needed to reduce my interaction with the other members of the pack, including Reid, and I had to be on a strict vegetable and herb diet. Reid would be staying in a different house for the time being as we have to abide by the ceremony phases as a respect to the pack's culture and the elders.

"I want some ice cream," I said as I settled on the couch and watched them play.

I knew I had to obey the purification rules, but my craving was becoming intense the more I thought about eating vanilla and chocolate ice cream.

Liana giggled as she turned to me. "You can eat ice cream, of course."

My eyes widened in delight. "For real? Are you going to give me some?"

Alice glanced at me mischievously and waved her finger, which told me otherwise.

"Not until the ceremony is done!" she exclaimed and laughed.

I pouted my lips. Folding my arms against my chest, I couldn't help but question these purification phase rules. I was not allowed to eat any meat and could only have vegetables, fruits, and herbs as my meal. I wished I could sneak into the main kitchen and steal a gallon of ice cream from the fridge, but I knew my friends wouldn't allow me to even set foot outside this place.

"I wonder what Reid is doing right now," I muttered as I sighed in defeat.

"He's probably losing his mind." Liana laughed out loud, shaking her head.

"He surely does. Have you seen his face when Klaus dragged him out of this place for the purification stage? It was priceless!"

They did a high five, and all I could do was sigh and smile a bit as I recalled Reid's pissed off expression earlier in the morning. I must confess that it was funny, not until I started to miss his presence.

"You guys have to behave and keep your cool. It's just for two days," Liana said.

"I am not complaining though," I hissed, and pursed my lips. "I just crave ice cream. That's all."

"Go ahead and eat the remaining bowl of vegetable salad on the table. Imagine you're eating ice cream, and that should be enough." Alice winked at me.

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Time passed so quickly that before I even realized it, I was already wearing the bridal gown which Liana and Alice prepared for me. It was an all-white off-shoulder gown made of satin, which had long sleeves and hems were filled with sequins with flowery design. My hair was curled this time with a flower crown on my head that complimented my gown, and then my hands were holding a white bridal bouquet.

The ceremony would be performed in the garden beside the pack house. All of the pack members were invited as the proclamation would be made after we exchanged our vows. At any moment, the ceremony would be about to start, and that thought made me feel both nervous and excited at the same time. My heart was racing so fast that it was making it impossible for me to breathe properly.

My heart was filled with joy. Recalling all those things I have experienced in the past, I never thought that I would find myself getting married and settling

down with the man I love. My emotions were so high that I ended up blinking my tears of joy away.

I guess if only my father and Shawn were here supporting me, I guess this unification would be a lot more thrilling, exciting, and heartfelt. I sucked in a breath and shoved that thought aside. For now, I guess it wasn't wrong to be selfish and seize this moment.

"Aliyah, it's time!" Liana shrieked in happiness.

I gasped and prayed to the Moon Goddess to bless the ceremony. I hoped nothing bad would happen and that the event would turn out great.

The elder whose name was Cecilia, assisted me as I walked my way out of the pack house. The moment I set foot on the Bermuda grass, I drew in a breath. Spread down the aisle were white petals. On either side of the aisle, our pack mates were gathered, and they were all standing up facing me.

"Don't forget to breathe, darling," Cecilia muttered.

I chuckled softly and breathed in as my eyes surveyed the entire place. This spring's unification ceremony brought such a satisfaction within me. I couldn't believe that I was walking down the aisle, and the people around me were cheering and were completely happy for me.

When I looked at the other end of the aisle, there I saw the best looking Alpha in the whole world. Reid was standing proudly, wearing a white tuxedo and his smile, watching me as I slowly walked my way to him. His eyes were filled with admiration, love, and excitement... and I knew for sure that the same emotions could be seen in my eyes.

"Hi..." he greeted me when I stood right in front of him.

My emotions welled up inside of me so that I couldn't stop a tear from streaming down my face.

"Hi..." I greeted him back.

We were both smiling at each other and were feeling this beautiful moment in our lives. It didn't take that long for the ceremony to begin. The great elder of the pack intoned his speech, which I couldn't fathom as my eyes were only fixated on Reid, my soon to be husband.

When it was time for us to voice our vows, I mustered my courage to speak despite my high emotions. I held Reid's hand and stared up at him intently.

"I, Aliyah Harper, swear to the Moon Goddess that I will give my life and loyalty to the Jewel Pack. I will accept my role as the Alpha's wife, and if I hurt or betray the pack, I will accept the Alpha's rejection and the punishment that comes with it." I bit my lower lip, hiding my smile when I noticed how Reid gasped softly, as if he was completely flustered after hearing my vow.

Then I continued, "And I vow to my mate, that I will love him and stand by his side through ups and downs, and will cherish our love and marriage, and be honest with him. I vow that I will never betray, harm, or hurt him, and I am committed to fulfilling my role as his wife. Lastly, I will respect the mate bond, and understand that we'll be bonded forever..."

After speaking those words, tears began pooling in my eyes. Reid held my hand tight. He inhaled heavily as I waited for him to speak his vow.

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 52 - Tips**

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### **REID'S POV**

When the day of the unification ceremony finally arrived, I came to realize a lot of things that did not cross my mind before. One of those things was the truth that even if I did not feel the mate bond the first time I met her, I would have still loved her; that Aliyah brought out the best version of me just when I thought I was the worst Alpha among all Alphas; and that when she set foot into my territory, she also brought meaning to my life, and made me feel at home once again after a long time.

"Are you nervous?" Klaus asked me as I waited for Aliyah's presence.

"No," I answered, clearing my throat.

Klaus gave me a wide grin and then tapped my shoulder. "You better get your sh!t together and don't stutter later."

"Fvck off," I cursed at him.

I breathed in heavily and swallowed hard. My palms were sweating so hard that I had to rub them on both sides of my pants. I couldn't wait to see my

mate any longer. It had been two days since I last saw her. I could hardly believe that it was only for purification, as I was so sure it didn't purify me but torture me.

The crowd cheered. It was at that moment that I stiffened in my place and looked over at the familiar woman who was walking slowly into the garden.

As I watched her walk down the aisle, my heart was jumping in joy. I couldn't remember the last time I've been this happy ever since my parents died during the pack wars. All thanks to Aliyah, I found my way to smile and be happy once again.

She never failed to take my breath away. Aliyah was no doubt stunning in her wedding dress, and the way she smiled at me was a constant reminder that I should be grateful to the Moon Goddess for blessing me with such a wonderful mate.

I badly wanted to rush towards her, wrap my arms around her and devour her with kisses. The mate bond was still so strong that it made me want her the moment our gaze locked. However, I kept my cool for the time being as I didn't want to look like an obsessive Alpha who craved to make love to his mate, even though it was true...

I freaking crave her...

The all too familiar warmth went through me the moment I heard her vow. She said it in the most genuine way, and that made me want to kiss her endlessly. She looked up at me, and all I did was squeeze her hand tight, assuring her that all those things she vowed to me were appreciated.

Aliyah's full attention was on me as it was time for me to speak my vows. I stared down at her, making her feel that she was the most beautiful woman in the world, and that my eyes were only made for her.

"I, Reid Lockwood, Alpha of the Jewel Pack, vow to the most brilliant woman in front of me, my mate, that I will love, protect, and lead her. I will remain faithful to her and swear to the Moon Goddess that I will never abandon or hurt her. I will respect the mate bond, and even if I were without it, I'd love her until my very last breath..." I intoned.

Aliyah's tears didn't stop as she listened to me, and I couldn't help but move my hand to wipe her tears away before I continued, "I would also like to take this opportunity to proclaim her to hold the position of being the Luna of the Jewel Pack—a Luna who is meant to lead and assist, but more importantly, to be the best person of the Alpha."

The elder asked, "Do you, Aliyah Harper, accept the position as Luna?"

She then chuckled and nodded. "Yes, I will be happy to accept the position of Luna for the Jewel Pack, to help Alpha Reid lead his members."

The ceremony went on, and during those times I was only looking at Aliyah, and still could not seem to grasp that a woman like her decided to bond with me forever. After the blood compact, we got to finally seal the unification with a kiss.

The overwhelming desire boiling inside of me made me devour her. Aliyah made a half groan before she giggled and then slightly pushed me back. I blinked when she eyed me playfully, and it was followed by a low growl.

"Everyone is watching," she whispered softly.

"And so what?" I furrowed my brows.

The elder cleared his throat, and then he spoke, "I am pleased to present to you, Alpha and Luna Lockwood of the Jewel Pack."

Our pack mates began clapping and even howling to cheer for us. They were evidently so happy to witness our unification, and the fact that we had a Luna in the pack made a lot of difference this time. I knew they hoped for a new beginning from this day on, and I would never let them down.

"Cheers to the newly wed!" Klaus announced.

People were congratulating us as we walked down the aisle while holding each other's hands, and I was so content to see my wife laughing heartily with our pack members. She blended into Liana's group. I was dragged by Klaus and Sage to the other side of the aisle, where all the other warriors were gathered to congratulate me.

"Calm your dick, Alpha. You will have some alone time with your wife later." Klaus smirked as he tapped my shoulder.

I clenched my jaw and fought the urge to kick his foot. My eyes landed on the group of women on the other side of the aisle, where I saw Aliyah being teased by her friends. They were teasing her about the honeymoon that would happen tonight, and I swore to God, it was one of the important highlights of the ceremony I've been meaning to experience.

Sage offered me a drink, which I accepted. "Congratulations, Alpha. You were so fvcking cool when you spoke your vows. You've really found your match."

I smirked at him and sipped from the wine glass. "Yeah, it may sound strange, but I'm beyond the moon right now."

"So, are we expecting a lot of pups for the next few years?" Klaus laughed.

I punched his chest a bit while I grinned. "No, I will respect Aliyah's preference for having kids. You..." I pointed my finger at him. "You better pursue your mate into marriage so that the pack house will be filled with pups."

"Nah, Liana hates kids. That woman is weird."

The three of us laughed. My eyes went back to where Aliyah was once again, and I smiled when I noticed that she was also gawking over at me.

This time, as a curious wife.

That thought made me feel the all too familiar warmth in my groin.

Damn it... I couldn't wait for the night to come, as that was the only time I could have her all to myself.

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 53 - Tips**

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### **ALIYAH'S POV**

I did my best to keep my attention fixed on Liana, Alice, and Charlotte, who were talking to me, congratulating me as, finally, I'd become Reid's wife and Luna of the Jewel Pack, but my gaze always found its way to follow Reid on the other side of the aisle.

I couldn't believe that we were, at last, married to each other. The unification was so unfeigned and surreal that I had to pinch myself just to ensure that this was not a dream; that I truly married the man who captivated my heart and soul.

My chest rose as I breathed in when Reid checked over his shoulder and glanced over at me. I could feel the searing desire building up within me, and I knew it was the same case for him. The mate bond pull seemed to have become stronger right after the ceremony. It was as if our marriage had awakened the beast side of me, and now I desired him in the most intense way. I had never felt it even before I got pregnant, and it was embarrassing to admit that I was feeling it despite the fact that I had a baby in my womb.

"Aliyah!" Liana snapped her fingers in front of me, ripping me out of my thoughts.

Blinking, I looked at her, and asked, "W—What did you... uhm, what did you say?"

Charlotte and Alice chuckled. They seemed to be amused by me. Shaking off the need going through me, I cleared my throat and paid attention to them.

"As I was saying, we prepared a place where you two can stay for your honeymoon!" Liana exclaimed and stared at me mischievously. "We know that you're pregnant, but according to Charlotte, you can still enjoy mating for as long as you're careful."

"Liana!" I called for her. My cheeks were heating in shame over this matter.

The three of them just laughed. Alice wrapped her arm to mine. "We also prepared nice lingerie for you as a gift. Reid will surely drool once you wear it."

"A—Alice!" I hissed.

However, a lot of dirty thoughts started to whirl around my head because of what she said. A big part of me was actually excited, though I must confess that I hate to be that obvious in front of them. For Pete's sake, I am a pregnant woman!



When the feast started, the garden became even livelier. Couples were dancing on the center aisle while the other members of the pack were seated at their tables and having their dinner. I was clapping my hands while watching Liana, Klaus, Alice, and Sage dance gracefully while a romantic classic song was being played.

“Are you having fun, wife?” A familiar and soothing voice whispered in my ear.

My heart began pounding aggressively when I turned to Reid, noticing his eyes burning with desire. I nodded slowly, licked my bottom lip, and cleared my throat. We were seated on the same white couch, and across from us was the crowd dancing happily.

His hand slid down my hips, and I shivered instantly. The intense heat that was going through me was making me unable to think properly. Reid’s breath brushed against the skin of my neck. When I looked up at him, a ruthless smirk was gracing his face. It was as if he already knew what I was feeling all this time, and he chose to tease me further.

“Reid...”

“You look so tired,” he said, and leaned down so he could whisper something in my ear, “And horny. How about we escape and proceed with the most exciting part?”

His fingers traced small circles on my hips, making the spark from his touch go through me. My mouth fell open. There was something in his words that completely bewitched me. Blushing, I nodded in response.

He then held my hand. We both stood up, and even before Liana and Alice could protest, we already escaped the event and proceeded to the place where we could spend the night.

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My eyes surveyed the insides of this elegant cabin where we would stay. It was rustic; the walls were painted brown and black. It wasn’t that big but was already enough for two people. The smell of fresh yet seductive perfume laced the air, and I couldn’t stop inhaling it.

The cabin was set up romantically. There were red and white rose petals on the floor, scented candles in every corner, and the heat coming from the fireplace added to the place's being so cozy.

I heard Reid's footsteps behind me. He wrapped his arms around my waist and then planted soft yet hot kisses on my exposed shoulder. I chuckled as his lips went up to my neck, licking my skin. That ignited the heat I've been feeling this whole time.

"I'm glad it's just the two of us," he murmured, still licking my neck, and then he breathed out.

"I am, too..."

My lips parted and I shut my eyes as what he was doing brought a powerful sensation within me. I leaned my body on his hard chest, tilted my head to give him a better access and bit my lower lip firmly.

"Shit," he cursed under his breath. "You literally smell of lust right now."

I mustered the courage to stand properly and spun around to meet his eyes that screamed of his needs... hunger... and love.

"So, are you..." I said in a fainting voice.

In a flash, he scooped me up and carried me upstairs. There I saw the bedroom filled with candles and petals too. On the bed, there was the lingerie that Alice had talked about earlier. It was a red, see-through lingerie that made my cheeks blush instantly. I couldn't help but tremble as I envisioned myself wearing it.

Then Reid put me down. He stood behind me, and I felt his finger brushing my skin at the back. That's when I realized that he had started unzipping my dress, and I shuddered when the cold night breeze danced against my skin.

I swallowed hard. My heart rate picked up as soon as he was done unzipping my dress, and it slid down the floor in an instant. I inhaled heavily, then turned around to meet his gaze.

No one was speaking. Our eyes were just locked on each other, seemingly communicating and fascinated with the desire flashing through them.

His hand moved, curling under my chin, and then he said, “You’re officially mine now...”

My cheeks burned. I offered him a smile—a smile that told him that I wouldn’t resist such an idea, as it was the only thing that made me happy; that made me whole.

“I’m yours, now and until my last breath, Reid...” I cupped his face and tiptoed to k!ss him on the !!ps. “Now, make love to me.”

His breathing was ragged as he claimed my !!ps. That night, I was immersed in a searing yet satisfying pleasure. Our bodies once again collided, and I knew that nothing could ever separate us now that we were officially bonded.

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 54 - Tips**

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### **ALIYAH’S POV**

Time seems to move so quickly. It had been a month since I married the alpha of the Jewel Pack, and everything was worth it. Reid and I had gotten much closer—both physically and emotionally.

The feeling was satisfying... I got to wake up next to the love of my life. Reid had been taking good care of me, and I could feel that I was deeply loved. He made me feel so safe and at ease, and the comfort he always brought was a constant reminder that I made the right choice.

Everything turned out great. The poor pack that used to bunk outside the border was now being led by Klaus. They have become the sub-unit of the pack and are being trained to fight as warriors that would protect the members of the pack in times of war, which I would never wish to happen.

And I’ve never felt more at home after the unification. The old folks were so fond of me. They kept sending me goodies to eat and use, which helped me have a good lifestyle as a pregnant Luna. In a matter of weeks, I started to gain weight. From being skin and bones, my body turned into an hourglass body, and my skin was getting brighter than before.

My little bump was becoming visible too, and Reid totally loved k!ssing it whenever he woke up and before he went to bed. Reid was so excited for me

to give birth to our child. He always talked to our baby as if it could hear him already. Those were the moments I would actually treasure in my mind.

“How does it feel that there’s a new life inside of you, Luna?” Ellie curiously asked while we were both seated in the main living room. I was helping her with her project, which was cross-stitching.

“It feels amazing, Ellie,” I replied, and smiled as I continued to stitch the silver moon on the soft white cloth. “I still can’t believe that I’m capable of carrying a child.”

“Women and their natural capabilities,” Ellie remarked, which made me gaze at her. “I wish the Moon Goddess would bless me with a child in the future too, Luna. I think being a mom is an amazing job.”

“Exactly.” My hand moved, pinching her cheek gently. “It seems like you’re learning a lot in school.”

She offered me a thin smile before she nodded. “I want to do better so I can become someone like you.”

Her words struck my heart, and I could feel the surge of warmth going through me. I wasn’t sure if it was because of the pregnancy hormones, but I’ve been emotional and teary-eyed. Even the simplest words of affirmation and appreciation could make me cry.

“You’ve become a sweet talker,” I uttered and ruffled her hair.

We both chuckled, but were interrupted when Reid and Klaus arrived. They seemed to have been discussing something serious as my husband looked very pissed off.

“No, I already told you once. Don’t make me repeat myself,” Reid snarled at Klaus, making his friend raise both of his hands in the air as if he was surrendering.

“Whoa! Take a chill pill, Reid. I’m just telling you the consequences if you don’t attend the conference,” Klaus snorted.

“Ellie, go to your room,” I told Ellie and immediately handed the cloth to her.

She did what I told her to, and then I stood up and went towards the men arguing in the foyer.

“Hey, what’s happening?” I curiously asked them.

They both turned to me. Reid clenched his jaw. His chest was moving up and down because of his high emotions, which I didn’t know the reason for. My brows furrowed as I looked at him, wanting an answer. However, he didn’t answer and just mumbled a curse. I had no choice but to glance at Klaus, and give him a demanding stare.

“What’s happening, Klaus?” I asked.

Klaus sighed in defeat. Swallowing, he answered, “You and Reid are being invited to the annual assembly.”

“Annual assembly?” I gazed between them, my forehead creasing. “What’s that?”

“It’s the annual meeting of all the high ranks of each werewolf pack in the country, where all issues, treaties, and alliances are being discussed. Every year, werewolf leaders do that to ensure the union among our kind,” Klaus explained, and then he glanced at Reid.

“My decision is final. We won’t attend,” Reid firmly said through his gritted teeth.

Klaus drew in a breath. “You’ve been missing the assembly for years, Reid. They’ve been asking us to join. Otherwise, they will consider us their enemies and attack us. We don’t want that to happen.”

My eyes widened at what he said. I swallowed hard. I could feel the goose bumps all over my skin just by imagining that different packs would come to this territory and kill us... As a Luna, I could never let that happen.

“Reid...” I called for his attention. “W—Why don’t we attend the assembly?”

“I said no!” he growled and then walked upstairs, leaving us dumbfounded.

I didn’t understand what he was mad about. I mean, if that annual assembly would discuss alliances and treaties, wasn’t it a good thing? If we could have

allied packs, then we could be relieved that somebody would help this pack in times of need. So, why was he refusing to join?

Klaus tapped my shoulder, and I spun around to look at him.

"I don't understand why he's acting that way," I uttered in confusion.

He sighed and clicked his tongue. "Every year, the pack that killed his parents hosts every assembly. That's why he never considered attending it."

My mouth fell open at that revelation. I sucked in a breath, and I finally understood why. I felt a pang of pain inside my chest. It would be very painful and aggravating to sit at a table with the people who harmed his parents... and his response to this matter was totally valid.

"I understand how he feels but..." Klaus trailed off. Inhaling sharply, he continued, "This will be our last chance to prove to them that we're not enemies. The Crimson Shadows just sent us a letter of threat, and I know they mean it. So, if it's not too much to ask, Aliyah, since you are our Luna, I hope you can convince Reid for the sake of many lives that are possibly at stake here."

Fear rushed through me. Here I was, immediately conflicted... My husband's feelings were valid, and I respect his decision because if I were in his shoes, I'd do the same thing as I couldn't afford to meet the people who ruined my family. However, there were lives that would be in danger if we didn't reconsider joining.

"I... I am not sure if I could change his mind, but I will try." I inhaled heavily and fisted my hand.

"Many lives will die if we don't attend, Aliyah. We have no choice. Reid has to understand that." Those were Klaus' last words before he walked out of the pack house.

I palmed my face and uttered a curse under my breath. I began walking back and forth in the main living room. I was contemplating whether I'd insist on attending the assembly or let Reid decide on this matter. However, I couldn't ignore the threat that could make things worse in an instance.

With that, I rushed upstairs and decided to talk to Reid.

## Why My Mate Cries Chapter 55 - Tips

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### ALIYAH'S POV

I shivered, walking into our home while my eyes surveyed the living room. The sound of something liquid pouring into a glass got my attention. When I glanced at the kitchen, there I saw Reid, who was drinking his brandy like it was only water.

Pain went through me as I watched him trying to keep his emotions under control, but deep within, a big part of him was breaking. Perhaps the invitation to the annual assembly opened some wounds that have hardly healed even after so many years. I totally understood that even though time couldn't heal the broken part of him, the wounds may close, but the scars would never fade away.

It was just right there, waiting for the perfect time to trigger him and make him feel the searing pain of how his parents died.

If only I had another choice... I would never convince him to do something that would bring back all the pain he once felt.

But I had no option. As the Luna of this pack, I had to decide what would be best for the lives of our people.

"Reid..."

He was about to drink another glass of his liquor, but he stopped midway and gazed at me. His brows were furrowed. Wrath could be seen in his eyes, and I knew behind it was his pain he was only enduring.

"Klaus told me everything," I added.

"No, Aliyah. We will never attend such a bullshit assembly." His voice was firm and cold, and it sent shivers down my spine. He then finished another glass of brandy and avoided my gaze.

"W—What about the threat, Reid? Our pack would be in danger if we didn't attend."

"They are just threatening us!"

“We can’t just assume, Reid. Hundreds of lives will be taken away if they start a war against us.”

“And so, we will fight!” He growled at me.

He was fuming mad, and I could feel my heart pounding aggressively while I watched him in this state. My lips trembled at the thought of witnessing a new war any time after the assembly. I envisioned blood and loud cries of agony. It was unbearable that my hand moved to hold my abdomen... I was scared that something bad might happen to our child if a war broke out, and so I had to be firm about what I thought was right.

“They will only outnumber us, Reid. Think of the lives of our innocent people.” I sucked in a breath and bit my lower lip. “I know that this will be so difficult for you and I understand where you’re coming from, but... this matter isn’t just about us. It’s for the entire pack, Reid. It’s for their precious lives. We need to protect them. We need to protect the future of our child...”

I could see how Reid trembled in anger. He slammed his hand on the countertop table. I was so startled by it that I ended up in tears. However, a minute later, he walked towards me, embraced and soothed me.

“I’m sorry...” he uttered. His voice sounded pained and vulnerable. “I’m sorry, Aliyah...”

I engulfed him in a tight hug as I sobbed. “P—Please reconsider it.”

He became silent for a brief moment. I felt him bury his head in my shoulder, and then he whimpered in frustration.

“Fine,” he replied, as he huffed out. “Just this once...”

“I promise. Just this once, Reid...”

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The day we needed to go for the annual assembly had finally come. Klaus, Sage, some elders, Liana, and Alice were coming with us too. Reid was completely half-hearted regarding the situation, but we had to go no matter what.



The annual assembly would be held near the East Coast, which was a two-hour drive from our territory. As it was explained to me by Liana, there was a private land there that was bought by the wealthiest pack that co-hosted the assembly, and we'd be staying there for three days.

We used two Wrangler jeeps on our way there, and during the drive I was totally quiet. I couldn't figure out why my body couldn't relax for a bit. My mind was filled with thoughts and worries as to what would happen in the assembly once we got there.

Reid was the one driving the black Wrangler, and he was silent all the time too. Though I wanted to speak with him, I held back as I knew things had become difficult for him.

After more than two hours, we finally arrived at our destination. The men started taking our luggage bags from the jeeps while I, Liana, and Alice started checking out the place. There were a lot of cars parked outside the metal gate that towered over us. It seemed that there were a lot of pack who attended the assembly. That alone made me feel mixed emotions.

I could hear the waves of the ocean coming from our direction. I couldn't help but admire the view, as it was the first time I'd seen an actual beach. The cold, salty breeze blew my hair, and as it brushed against my skin, I prayed in my mind that the assembly would end alright.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen for the next three days, but I hope it will be just pure fun," Alice said.

I turned to her and smiled. "Let's hope for the best."

"It should turn out fine since we already attended this time around," Klaus commented, wrapping his arm around Liana's shoulder.

Reid was still silent, but he held my hand and intertwined our fingers. That's when I realized that he was nervous. His hand was sweating and so cold. However, his expression remained blank.

"Are you alright?" I asked, and I squeezed his hand tight.

His breathing went ragged. He then nodded and said, "I have to be."

"Let's just put up with it for three days, hmm?" I told him.

He stared down at me in defeat. "I have no choice, Al."

Once we were all good, we finally went inside the private land where the assembly would be held. Falling in line along with the other packs, I couldn't help but survey the whole area. It was like a private forest that was being taken care of accordingly. Pine trees, and even all the green plants, could be seen in every corner. As I craned my neck to check where we would be heading, I saw some huge tents not far away from us. I was surprised that there were more shifters who attended than I thought.

My heart raced fast. My anti-social side had awakened as I was becoming too overwhelmed. If not for Reid, who held my hand tight, I wouldn't be able to think straight.

"I can smell how scared you are," he uttered softly as we walked.

"There are a lot of people here."

"That's how burdensome this sh!t can be, Aliyah."

"I know, but we still—" I wasn't able to finish my words when I felt someone with a hard body bump my shoulder.

That made me get closer to Reid, to the point that my body was pressed against his. When I looked at the man who bumped me, I stiffened in my place.

He looked familiar...

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 56 - Tips**

0 5 minutes read

### **ALIYAH'S POV**

I came to a halt. My eyes rested upon the familiar man who had bumped me and was now taking his way forward to where the tents were. My entire body stiffened because of the dreadful feeling that washed over me. I could not be wrong... that man was the Beta of the Silver Moon Pack, and my brother's best friend.

The memories of how my brother beat me up to death before I escaped lingered in my mind as if it all had only happened yesterday. My knees turned

to jelly at the thought of Shawn being here with our father; that our paths would cross again at any moment; that they would hurt me again...

"Aliyah," Reid called me, ripping me out of the terrifying thoughts that were slowly making me weak.

I turned to him. He looked at me worriedly. His eyes were seemingly trying to read my mind, and could see the terror in my face.

"R—Reid..." My voice quivered.

I wanted to say something, but the growing fear in my chest was unbearable, making it impossible for me to speak what bothered me at this point.

"You're scared to death. What's wrong?" he asked. His hands moved, caressing my arms as he tried to soothe me. "Do you feel any pain?"

"What's going on?" Klaus curiously asked, but Reid told them to walk forward and leave us for a moment.

Swallowing my saliva, I tried to hide in Reid's body like a child who did not want anyone to see her. I became too paranoid. I could never let my guard down, knowing that my family was probably here to attend the annual assembly.

I couldn't understand why I hadn't thought of that... As far as I could remember, my family loved forming alliances with the other packs to sustain our power and be on the top list of supreme packs. My father loved to be friends with the famous Alphas, as it provided the pack with a lot of benefits, from goods and services to even negotiations related to agriculture and weapons. With that kind of personality, of course, he would never miss an annual assembly where he could look for new allies. I should have realized better...

"You have to tell me what's bothering you, Aliyah." Reid's voice was firm, and his gaze darkened in frustration. "It's frustrating that I can't get into your head and read your mind."

"My family is here, Reid..." I let out a small huff and bit my trembling lower lip. "The man who bumped me earlier is my brother's Beta. They are here..."

I was shaking so badly when my eyes roamed around, taking secret glances at the people proceeding into the center aisle of the land. My hands were sweating in cold that I had to clasp them while I still tried to hide in Reid's arms.

"Are you sure?"

I glanced up at him and saw that he had clenched his jaw tight. The need to protect me was visible in his pair of blue eyes, and I could also see the rage behind them.

I nodded as I gasped and lowered my head. "Y—You have to hide me."

"You are my Luna. There is no reason for you to hide." He made a low growl.

"No, Reid. I can't show myself to them. T—They might hurt me..."

Reid began shaking his head before I even finished my sentence. He cupped my face and looked down at me intently. "That's impossible. They won't do anything that will ruin the assembly. Respect is a must in this place, Aliyah. Otherwise, they would be thrown out."

"They can't see me, Reid..." I almost pleaded. Tears formed on both sides of my eyes as I felt the all too familiar fear that used to haunt me at night.

"I promise that I will protect you," Reid said, and it helped calm me down.

He looked around, seemingly trying to make sure no one was gawking at us, and then wrapped his arm around my shoulders. My head was still lowered, and it was a good thing I was wearing a hoodie that I used to hide my face even more.

"Let's go, Aliyah. You will stay in the designated tent for us."

"I—I will..."

After almost a five-minute walk, we entered a huge white tent. There I saw our members who were unpacking their things. The tent was so spacious that it could be compared to the combined space of the main living room and kitchen back in the pack house.

I sat on one of the wooden chairs and let out a long sigh, while Reid was still checking things outside before he entered the tent.

“You’re going to stay here until the assembly is done,” he declared.

Still shuddering, all I could do was nod at him. A small part of me was guilty that I had to do things this way... to be on the run so that my father and brother would not find me, despite them being my family, but a big part of me was scared for my life... it wasn’t just about me anymore. I had a child inside my womb that I had to protect.

“What’s happening? Why are you both so serious?” Liana questioned us, putting both of her hands on the sides of her hips.

Reid’s breathing became ragged. The other members walked up to us too, and were all curious about what happened.

“Aliyah’s former pack is here. His brother is the Alpha of the Silver Moon Pack,” Reid explained.

Liana and Alice both gasped, and I could only let out a huff in both frustration and fear.

“It might cause a problem if they saw her,” Klaus remarked.

Reid nodded, still clenching his jaw tight. “That’s why she needs to stay here. I can reason out that she can’t show herself for the meeting tomorrow, and probably ask if we can go home ahead of time.”

“There’s no way her family wouldn’t find out that she’s here,” Cecelia interjected. “Her scent is so strong because she’s pregnant. Any shifter would be curious.”

“That’s what I need you here for, Cecilia.” Reid turned to her and continued, “Please look after her. No one outside the pack should enter this tent.”

“I got it, Alpha.”

Reid then knelt in front of me, holding my hands and squeezing them tight to assure me that everything would be alright. I was still feeling the dread curling into my spine, but I was glad I wasn’t alone anymore. I felt Liana’s hand on my back, and when I looked up at her, she gave me a reassuring smile.

“We’re going to protect you, Aliyah.” Liana caressed my back and it made me at ease. “So just stay calm. You can’t stress yourself. Your baby will feel it.”

“Thank you,” I said as a tear ran down my face.

Our attention was caught by the loud noise coming from the outside. It was like someone was announcing something regarding the assembly.

“To all the Alphas, please proceed to the red tent! Once again, to all the Alphas, please proceed to the red tent!”

Reid and I looked at each other. While I knew my eyes were radiating fear and worry, his were gleaming with determination.

“It’s fine, little wolf.” He squeezed my hand tighter. “Wait for me here.”

I closed my eyes and breathed in his scent. That was enough to erase the negative thoughts in my head. I then nodded, completely putting my trust in him.

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 57 - Tips**

0 5 minutes read

### **REID’S POV**

Rage coursed through my veins as I went out of the tent to go to where I would meet the other Alphas. I took a few deep breaths, surveying the whole area as I walked to the red tent, checking over every man’s face and trying to figure out who the hell was Aliyah’s brother among them.

That fvcking bastard who made my mate suffer had to learn his lesson very well. He was the reason Aliyah experienced so much pain that kept her haunted for most of her life. He and his incompetent father scarred her.

My wolf was howling for vengeance inside of me, and I could have sworn it was the same case for me. I wanted to seek revenge for what my mate had experienced, and I knew that the only punishment that would bring his family to the same level of agony as what she had gone through was death.

Aliyah would not have felt the knot of anxiety if only we had stayed in our territory. If only we had another choice. Ever since I’ve become the Alpha of my pack, I’ve been ignoring the invitation to the annual assembly. I hate to see myself sitting at the same table with the people who contributed to the horrible death of my parents. I did not even understand why they were doing such gatherings.

How could they breathe through this kind of delusion that all packs could form a union? That was nothing more than a mere obsession.

Despite this, I had no choice but to show up at the event. It was crucial because if I didn't do it, I would be putting my pack in danger. I could only pray that nothing terrible would occur while we were going through this pointless event; that Aliyah and our baby would be safe, or else I would end up losing my mind and forgetting all of the fvcking treaties that were signed.

The other Alphas were walking proudly to the red tent. Some even tried to greet me, but I only wore my dark smile, concealing the anger rushing through my veins. As an Alpha, I needed to show them that I was tough, unbreakable, and had firm hands, or else they would mock me and my pack if they saw a tiny weakness in me.

"Which pack are you leading?" A man asked behind me.

I turned to him and noticed his barbaric physique that screamed power and wrath.

"Jewel Pack. How about you?" I asked, but I wasn't interested at all.

"Night Walker. I was glad to find out that the most forbidding Alpha had finally come to the annual assembly." He smirked darkly as we walked. "Your presence might surprise the others."

"And I'm a little surprised that I earn such a title."

He tapped my shoulder and grinned. "That's the result of your unfriendliness."

After that, he let out a hearty laugh and then walked right by me. My jaw clenched tight as I drew in a long breath. I paid no attention to what he had to say and went ahead and entered the red tent. When I arrived, there were already more than ten men seated at the long rectangular table, and the others, including myself, had just settled in on the seat that was vacant.

As soon as I was seated, my eyes glanced over at the brutish man who was comfortably sitting across from me. His eyes looked very familiar, and I didn't have to guess why... because they were completely the same as Aliyah's.

I could feel my rage getting worse inside of me as I looked at him—the man who beat up Aliyah and threatened to k!ll her; the man who made her life a living hell. He noticed me glaring at him, and he grinned like a loon.

I wanted to attack him so badly, and tear his flesh apart until he became breathless. I wanted him to feel my wrath, but now wasn't the right time.

The meeting started, and just as the Night Walker Alpha had mentioned, my presence astonished most of the men sitting with me... that included the Alpha of the Crimson Shadows, whose father was the one who harmed and k!lled my parents.

"What happened that you suddenly changed your mind, Alpha Reid?" he asked.

I could not help but wince as I caught the sarcasm in his tone. His face was cruel, and remorseless, which made my palm twitch.

Another fvcking bastard...

"The invitation letter made me enthralled, so I decided to give this a.ssembly a try for once in my life," I answered.

Every one of them laughed, including Aliyah's brother, to whom I offered a deadly glare. The discussion proceeded with the treaties that needed renewing and forming allies to strengthen the power of each alpha.

"How about you, Alpha Reid? Who would you pick as your pack ally?" Another Alpha asked.

"Night Walker."

"It will be an honor!" The Night Walker's Alpha laughed out loud.

"What a pity," Aliyah's brother remarked, and I turned to him. "I want to form an alliance with the Jewel Pack. Perhaps you could reconsider since the Night Walker Pack is such a weakling."

I couldn't help but smirk. "That's fine. My pack is powerful, anyway."

Laughter filled the tent, and I was satisfied in seeing the irritation in Aliyah's brother. When the meeting was finally over, all of us went ahead and exited



the red tent. I walked as fast as I could as I wanted to get to our tent and check on Aliyah when I felt a heavy hand on my shoulder.

“Hey!”

That voice wasn’t difficult to recognize. I spun around to face Shawn Harper, who was grinning from ear to ear.

“I didn’t like the way you stared at me earlier, Alpha Reid.”

My eyes narrowed. “Do you have problems with how I stared at you, Alpha Shawn?”

I clicked my tongue as I tilted my head to the side. He glared at me. His jaw clenched along with his gritted teeth. I could smell the sudden frustration in his stinging scent, and it made me want to tease this fvcking bastard more.

“I certainly do.” He smirked firmly. “Do you think you have the right to insult me in front of the other Alphas?”

“I didn’t insult you. I only shared my opinion.”

“Opinion?” He laughed sarcastically. “Who are you fooling? You just downplayed me in front of everyone.”

I was about to say something; however, loud screams filled the area when two Alphas started to b.rawl on the ground. It caused a commotion in an instance. Their warriors tried to set them apart, but ended up fighting against each other too. The two packs became chaotic and attracted everyone’s attention.

I took a deep breath and was about to turn my back on Aliyah’s brother when he mentioned a name that was familiar to me.

“Aliyah,” he said.

When I turned to face him, I observed that his eyes were fixed on something off in the distance. When I followed his gaze, I saw Aliyah being dragged by an old man against her will.

“Aliyah!” I let out a terrified scream and dashed over to them right away.

Fvck! They saw her!

## Why My Mate Cries Chapter 58 - Tips

0 5 minutes read

### ALIYAH'S POV

As I remembered the past, it only gave me a bittersweet feeling. The agony I had been through shattered my heart and soul into pieces, and even though months had passed since I escaped from my abusive family, whenever I thought about them, the vivid memories of how they tortured and hurt me could still tear me apart.

Feeling a sharp anxiety passing through my chest, my eyes looked around the four corners of the tent where we stayed. The tent felt a little bit hot and humid. The elders, including Klaus, Liana, and Sage, went out a few minutes ago as the other members of each pack were called by some people who organized activities for all of the shifters. It seemed to me that this event was not just about the treaties, alliances, and all the other stuff in between, but also served as a perfect time for different packs to have fun.

Fun. How I wished I could get to experience it, but all I could do right now was hide and hope that my brother, or even my father, would never know that I was here. Otherwise, it would be a big problem.

“Alice, I’m hung—”

I was not able to finish what I was about to say when I saw Alice sleeping peacefully on the couch. I bet she was so tired after that more than two-hour drive going here, not to mention that we woke up too early to prepare for this event.

Sighing, I decided not to bother her anymore and just walked to the mini-kitchen to look for something to eat. Luckily, Cecilia had brought so many foods for us to share with each other, though they were sure that there would be a feast later on.

I grabbed a chicken sandwich and a bottle of milk from the container filled with snacks, and then settled into the small bed not too far away from where Alice was sleeping. Even though my chest was still tightening because of the fear engulfing me, I could never let myself starve as my little one needed to be healthy.

While I was eating, I wondered what the Alphas were doing right now. I was worried about Reid. I knew he was enraged by the time I told him that my family was here, and I could not help but fear what he could do. As much as possible, I wanted us to stay low-key and let this event finish without a bloodbath.

However, that was wishful thinking because loud screams began to echo from outside even before I could taste the milk. It took me a few seconds to get a grasp of what was happening. I heard Alphas shouting, growling, and the sound of punching was so loud that it made me gasp for air.

My heart pounded aggressively inside my chest. I went into an instant panic, thinking that it might be Reid and Shawn that were beating each other up outside. The thought of it made my entire body tremble.

I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if something happened to Reid!

"No... No... It can't be..." I mumbled.

The loud screams continued. It was as if there was already a battlefield outside. I was afraid that Reid would be in serious trouble, so I did not hesitate to go out of the tent to check what was going on.

My eyes widened at the sight of two packs clashing. Some of the warriors shifted into their wolf forms, attacking each other like beasts craving to kill.

"Reid... Oh my god! Reid, where are you?"

I walked forward even though my feet were shaking so badly. My eyes started to become teary as I tried to look for Reid in the crowd, until I fell on the ground when someone bumped into me.

A whimper escaped my lips. I was trying to drag myself to stand up when a hand suddenly appeared in front of me. Swallowing hard, I looked up to see the owner of that hand, and my world stopped moving when I saw the familiar face of my father, smirking devilishly at me.

"D—Dad...."

"It's really you," he said.

His voice made me feel the all-too familiar terror that I have lived with in the past. My tears streamed down my face, my heart pounding violently, and I was panicking at the danger that awaited me now that our path had crossed.

“What the fvck are you doing here, mutt?” he asked.

I cried in agony when he forcibly dragged me to stand up. His hand was gripping my arm so tightly that I could feel his claws digging into my skin. I tried to shove his hand away, but he was stronger than that and he easily pulled me closer to him.

The familiar horror I used to feel whenever he beat me suddenly crawled back into my body, making me unable to move further and breathless.

“D—Dad, please, let me go. You’re hurting me!” I begged.

“Oh, I’m really going to hurt you, sweetheart.” He grinned devilishly as he glared at me darkly. “How could you run away from your family?” he screamed straight at my face. That made me cry louder. “You’re supposed to serve us until your death!”

“Dad, please, no!” I tried to push him, but he did not even flinch.

He laughed out loud. His eyes glowed red because of his rage. Knowing my father, he would really do whatever would please him, and part of it was torture me.

“You should’ve behaved well, Aliyah. You know your worth is nothing more than a slave’s. Running away only means that you defy your own father!”

He raised his hand in the air. My eyes widened as I knew what he was about to do. I covered my face with my other hand, but before his hand could land on my face, I breathed the familiar scent of my husband, who immediately intervened and pushed my father as hard as he could.

Reid instantly pulled me in and covered me with both of his arms. He snarled at my father. I shuddered and gasped at what he did, but when I glanced over at my father, I felt even more worried as his eyes were already smouldering.

“Who the fvck are you?!” Dad growled. He marched towards us and tried to get me back. However, he shoved his hand and pushed him harder. “That’s my daughter!”

“You never treated her as your daughter!” Reid countered angrily. “She’s no longer part of your pack! She’s with me!”

My emotions welled up when I heard the familiar laughter of my brother, Shawn. He stood right next to our father and glared at us.

“Hmm, now I know why I didn’t like you, Alpha Reid.” He clicked his tongue. Shaking his head, he continued, “That’s my sister you’re protecting. Would you be kind enough to return her to us? I’ve been looking forward to a family reunion.” Then he looked at me. “Do you feel the same thing, Aliyah?”

Crying, I shook my head. I could not even say a word as my entire body was on the verge of convulsing because of the dread that consumed me. Seeing them right now brought back the horrible memories that I wanted to forget, and it made me want to run away for the second time around; to go to the place where they could no longer find me.

“Do not disrespect her in front of me!” Reid growled. His chest was moving up and down. At any moment, I knew that he’d lose his mind and shift to his wolf form.

That... That could not happen...

“Stay out of this, Alpha Reid,” Shawn warned him.

“No.” Reid shook his head. “I’m not letting you take my wife away.”

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 59 - Tips**

0 5 minutes read

### **ALIYAH’S POV**

“Wife? So you’re mated with my sister?”

Shawn laughed, which echoed in my head. He sounded amused at what he heard from Reid. I know. He could not believe that someone had decided to marry me. All my life, he’d been insulting me because I had an ugly body. A day would not even pass without him telling me how terrible it felt to have a sister like me.

And now... he’d learned that I was married. His ugly sister, whom he used to enslave, had a mate and got married.

Reid's expression hardened. "Do you have a problem with that?"

"Yeah. You married that wench whose wolf is mute? What a pity," Shawn replied, and I caught the menace in his tone of voice.

"Try to speak ill of her one more time, and I will tear your mouth apart," Reid warned him.

Giving my husband a one-handed shrug, Shawn then glanced over at me.

"You seem to have poor taste, Alpha Reid. You should've rejected my good-for-nothing sister. That mutt is a curse," he added without a glimpse of fear behind his menacing eyes.

I shivered. Fear and sadness both exuded from my heart. I could not figure out why pointing out someone's imperfections and defects became amusing for somebody. I've been meaning to get answers to why they loved to torture me not only physically but also emotionally using their hurtful words.

Was it really because they blamed me for the death of my mother?

Or didn't they love me at all?

"I told you to stop speaking ill about her!" Reid made a loud growl this time, and I knew for sure he had caught everyone's attention as the whole area fell into silence after what he did.

Footsteps were rushing towards us. When I turned to our side, I then saw our pack mates backing us up. Klaus and Sage's eyes started to shift. Just one word from Reid and I was certain they would attack.

"You have to calm down, young man," dad intervened. "Give her back and we can close this case."

"D—Dad, please. Stop this now..." I tried to beg. My eyes gazed at Shawn as my tears filled my eyes and cheeks. "Shawn, please."

"Stop dreaming. You will never get her back from me."

"It's not for you to decide." Shawn cocked his head to the side. "How about we duel?"

My eyes widened at his suggestion. A pang of anxiety went through me. Shawn had always turned the situation into a fight, and I'd never forget how easily he killed people after challenging them to a duel. He wouldn't think twice at all. He'd kill whoever came in his way.

With that in mind, I immediately shook my head, gripping Reid tightly in his arm, saying, "No, Reid... please, I don't want anyone to get hurt."

Reid stared down at me. His eyes screamed cruelty, and I knew he would not refuse my brother's challenge. I cried and gripped him as tight as I could, then I shook my head, pleading... begging for him to decline.

"Please, Reid... I don't want you to hurt. I—I need you... and they are still my family, please... I'm begging you," I hushed.

He kept clenching his jaw. Rage engulfed him to the extent that he had already partially shifted. However, if he initiated a fight right now, there was no way we could prevent a blood bath.

"Reid, just tell us what to do," Klaus snarled behind us.

But Reid was only looking down at me as if I was the only person that kept him sane, and I looked back at him, making him feel and realize that fighting wasn't the answer to this mess. He breathed sharply and then shut his eyes before he nodded his head. That, out of any, washed me with relief.

To our surprise, unfamiliar werewolves came and interrupted us, telling us that we had to behave or else we'd be thrown out of this place.

"We don't tolerate misbehaviour during the assembly. If your packs have issues with each other, solve them. This is not a place where you can brawl when you feel like doing so," one of them growled loudly.

Shawn raised his hands in the air, moistening his lower lip as he told the officers that he'd not start a fight anymore. On the other hand, Reid glared at my family when I tugged him away from them. It was a glare that clearly said he wasn't done with them.

"Klaus, Sage! Stop it!" Liana dragged the two men too.

Without even breaking eye contact with my brother, I pulled my husband back to the white tent. As soon as we entered, that was the only time I was able to breathe. Fear consumed me so that I didn't know how to react after what happened. All I did was spin around and wrap my arms around Reid's neck and engulf him in a hug.

He embraced me back. It was like he was going to lose his mind if he didn't do so. I could feel his frustration about the matter, but I was glad no one got hurt in the process.

"I don't want to stay here any longer, Reid. Please, please do something," I begged as we pulled away.

He cupped my face and then he nodded. Swallowing hard, he replied, "I will talk to the hosts and request that we leave first thing in the morning."

Tears filled my eyes. "What if my brother did something bad against us?"

He shook his head, caressing my back to soothe me. "I won't allow him to hurt any of us. I promise that I'll keep this pack safe."

I gasped, as those were the exact words I wanted to hear. I nodded my head and then embraced him again. In my mind, I prayed that the Moon Goddess would bless us with protection and peace.

The next day, the whole place was peaceful, which I did not expect. It was like a calm river. I stayed in the tent together with our pack mates while Reid attended another meeting with the other Alphas to sign a new treaty of peace. Despite this, many thoughts whirled around my head; most of them were what ifs that only made me more worried.

When Reid finally arrived, I walked towards him, and asked, "What happened? Did they let us leave now?"

He then nodded, which made me smile.

"Let's not waste some time and leave this place immediately," Reid declared.

We all nodded at him. After preparing all our things, we then left the tent. I could feel the other packs gawking at us as we walked away. Reid held my hand as he smiled at me.



“You have nothing to worry about. Everything will be fine, Aliyah.”

I sighed in relief and offered him a thin smile.

I could not help but look back as we walked to the main gate. My eyes found the menacing eyes of my father, who was only watching us from afar, and the way he gazed over at me sent shivers down my spine.

It was a gaze that told me this would not end here just yet.

## **Why My Mate Cries Chapter 60 - Tips**

0 5 minutes read

### **ALIYAH'S POV**

“Holy crap. I thought we were going to die there! What happened yesterday was so intense!” Liana exclaimed in relief when we got into the Wrangler jeep.

“Liana,” Klaus called for her warily. “Let’s not talk about it anymore. Aliyah doesn’t want to hear any of those things that happened for sure.”

“I’m fine. T—Thanks,” I said, and gave them a reassuring smile.

We were already on our way back to our territory. I could not help but look at the East Coast Ocean on the side of the road. It was such a satisfying view that it made my heart calm. The salty and humid breeze blew through my hair, and I tucked it behind my ear as I continued to admire the clear blue waters. It was like a reminder that no matter how bad yesterday was, the sun would always rise again and give me another chance to spend a new day better.

“But seriously, I think I finally understand why Aliyah left her pack,” Liana remarked. “I looked at her brother and didn’t see any remorse in his eyes. I wouldn’t let someone like him get close to Aliyah. He’s a red flag.”

“Don’t worry, Aliyah will be safe in our pack,” Klaus assured her, and then he winked at me.

I chuckled a bit and said, “Thank you. I feel so relieved that you are here for me.”

“Of course, we’ve got your back, girl! No one can harm you!” Liana intoned energetically.

My gaze turned to Reid, who was driving the car silently. From the corner of his eye, I saw the sheer amount of coldness and danger. He might have moved on yet from what happened yesterday. I mean, who else would? It was almost like another pack had just declared a war against the Jewel Pack.

I couldn't help but feel guilty. If not for me, I knew that mess would not have happened in the first place. I felt sorry for Reid as he had to deal with my brute brother. I was all too aware of how difficult it was to keep his emotions under control, despite his urge to avenge what I had experienced from them. I just hoped nothing bad would happen moving forward, as I did not know how I could still be sane if someone tried to ruin our peaceful lives.

My hand reached for Reid's arm, and my touch made him take a quick glance at me. I offered him a reassuring smile, as I began to caress his arm to make him feel that everything would be alright.

Or so I thought, because as soon as Reid turned the jeep into the left alley, a woman with long black hair and a black dress blocked our path. He immediately stopped the jeep. The same went for the second jeep that our other pack members used.

My eyes were fixed on the woman. She was looking at us intently. She was dressed up as if she was the highest priestess... like the women I've read about in some books when I was young. But I knew they couldn't possibly be lurking in werewolf territory.

Unless they were—

"Fvck, that's a rogue witch," Reid uttered in disbelief.

At what we heard, we all gasped. I experienced a sudden wave of anxiety. I was well aware of the strength of witches. They are the kind of creatures that vampires and even werewolves avoid at all costs.

"What does that woman want?" In a panic, Liana inquired.

"Calm down, Liana!"

"How can I, Klaus? There's a witch blocking our way!" Liana burst out, and the next thing I knew, she was pulling her hair in frustration.

“Reid, what do we do now?” I asked Reid worriedly.

He inhaled sharply and glanced at me. “I will talk to her and find out what she wants.”

“W—Wait! Is it safe?” My heart rate picked up as I processed his words. “If she’s really a witch, we don’t have a chance to fight her if she attacks us.”

“We’ll never know unless I try,” Reid answered firmly before he got out of the jeep.

My hand instantly went down to my abdomen, as I was afraid that something bad would happen again.

“Klaus, follow him. We can’t let him talk to her alone,” Liana urged Klaus.

“Both of you stay here,” he warned, and Liana and I only nodded.

We watched Klaus follow Reid as he walked towards the witch. I didn’t like how she eyed them, as if she was plotting something in her mind. I clutched a piece of my clothes I wore, and in my heart I prayed to the Moon Goddess to guide us.

However, the next thing that happened shocked me to the core.

“Klaus!” Liana screamed out loud in the passenger seat when Klaus suddenly floated in the air.

It was as if there was an invisible force that was dragging him all the way up, and even if he tried to move, nothing happened to stop what was happening to him. My heart raced so loudly as I gazed back at the witch who used her hand to manipulate Klaus’ movement. In just one snap, Klaus was slammed into the front of the jeep, making him scream in pain.

Liana and I both screamed in fear. Reid shifted into his wolf form and tried to attack the witch, but she was fast enough to block his attack by using her other hand. It was as if there had been an invisible barrier preventing him from coming any closer to her, and the next thing that happened was she forcefully swung her hand as if she had pushed something, throwing Reid forcefully to the ground. In agony, his wolf form howled.

My chest tightened at the sight of him. I badly wanted to help him, but I didn't know how to. As tears began to stream down my face, I screamed his name. The witch continued after stopping briefly. She stepped over to Reid, pulled something out of her dress's pocket, and showed him what she was holding.

"Fvck, that's a silver bullet!"

The witch began murmuring some things I couldn't understand, and the other pack members tried to stop her, but it was too late; soon the bullet began to take on a life of its own. The bullet was fired into Reid's stomach with just one finger snap from the witch.

I screamed as I watched his blood splash all over the ground. She hurt Reid... She hurt my mate! The searing pain coursed through me so that all I could do was cry while the others tried to stop the witch, but to no avail.

After a minute, all of them were lying down on the ground, unconscious and hurt. Terror crawled down my spine when the witch turned our way.

"L—Liana..." I sobbed in both dread and despair.

"I'm here... I'm here, Aliyah," her voice was shaking as she tried to hug me from the back.

The witch walked towards us, and when she was standing up on the side of the jeep, I couldn't help but shake even more. She glared at Liana, muttered something like a spell, and then all of a sudden, Liana fell asleep.

"W—What do you want?" I cried.

She smirked. "I'm going to take you with me."

Eyes widening, I asked, "W—Where?"

"To where you really belong...."