

~SCARLETT~

If I'd known Wilder's full name since the beginning, I could have done this since I first met him and stopped all this from happening.

Now, Carter's life was in danger, and everyone who came to help us was also in danger. I'd caused trouble for everyone.

I'd never been more disappointed in myself like I was now. I should have tried harder to get away from him. I should have fought harder to protect Carter from these people.

I closed my eyes as I fought back the tears. It wasn't tears for Wilder, but tears for Carter.

Fox told me that I would soon find out who was the man I loved, and there was no question about it. I always knew that it was Carter; there was never any doubt in my mind.

Now, everyone here would know the truth as well. They would all know that it's always been Carter. Not even a powerful mate bond could change my love for him.

Fox growls at me and attempts to lunge for my throat, but Alaric's wolf grabs him by his leg and pulls him back down to the ground beneath him.

Ares and Apollo move before me to protect me from the other Cage brothers, who would possibly want to strike me for hurting their brother. However, they weren't trying; Fox was the only one who attempted to attack me and failed miserably.

Wilder's eyes are wide with anguish, and I know the exact second the bond breaks and strikes him. He falls to the ground as though his life has just been taken away from him. He continued to stare at me as though he couldn't believe I'd just done something like that to him.

How was he so shocked? It was always obvious that I never wanted to be with him.

It strikes me at the same time as well. It was an unusual feeling, but it was painful. However, I was still standing, throwing daggers his way with my eyes.

I knew that rejection was difficult for both parties involved;

I'd read about it at the academy in the past. However, none of the pain compared to the pain I felt now that Carter was dying in front of me. There was no comparison between the two. I would be over the broken bond much faster than Wilder would. I could already feel relief wash through me. I never wanted him as my mate. If I had a choice, I would choose Carter repeatedly. I wish there were a way to make him my mate; that way, I never would have had to put everyone through this mess.

Wilder opens his mouth to say something, but nothing comes out. I think his body can't recover just yet; he needs more time. There's also that look of betrayal from earlier as well.

He betrayed me first when he took me from Carter. If he truly wanted what was best for me, he wouldn't have tried to hurt the man I actually loved.

Now that the mate bond was gone, all I felt for him was hatred for what he and his family did to the man I loved.

Just like I suspected, without that mate connection, Wilder meant absolutely nothing to me.

"SCARLETT!" Clara shouts to remind me that we don't have much time left. I turned back around and felt my hands begin to shake uncontrollably.

I hear Wilder's roar of agony as I run back towards Carter.

Ares rushes over to us and helps us pick him up from the ground.

"Let's get him back to the truck!" Autumn tells us. "We need a doctor, someone that can drain the poison out before it can lead to death."

We all help carry him to the vehicle like she asked, and I rush into the back seat next to him. I held him tightly against me as Ares got in the front and started the truck.

Autumn and Clarissa also jump in while Carter's sister gets in beside Ares.

Clara surprises me when she gets on top of Alaric's Wolf to follow us.

"Hold onto him," Ares warns me before he presses down hard on the accelerator.

"I'll try my best to slow down the poison, but I don't know how long I can do that," Clarissa informs me.

"I'll help you," Autumn tells her as she nods.

"I love you, Carter," I whisper. "I love you so much. So please, don't give up. Keep on fighting for us!"

His fingers move a little, and I think it's his way of telling me that he could hear me and that he would try to fight the poison as much as he possibly could.

"He's going to make it, Scarlett," Autumn promises me. "We will do everything that we possibly can to ensure that Carter comes out of this alive."

I trusted Autumn; I knew that she would try her best.

I pressed my lips against Carter's forehead as more tears started to flow.

I love you.

I love you so much.