

## Chapter 103

103 Chapter 103-I will tell you a secret

"Please think about this carefully, Val. AlphaDenzel is deadly but also every woman's dream. Will you accept him if he is indeed in love with you but hides it because of his enemies?"

"What do you mean he hides it because of his enemies?" Valerie asked, feeling confused and helpless. Alpha Denzel, to her, was not someone who could easily be threatened.

Ryker saw the confused expression on her face, indicating an emotional battle going on inside her. If she loved his Alpha side, then that was even better.

"Please, just answer the question," he said seriously, receiving an unexpected answer.

"I don't know."

Valerie didn't know? She would rather not say as she was always decisive, not the kind of person who struggled to speak her mind.

"Yes, you do," he insisted, not allowing her to cower out of the situation.

Valerie's confusion increased, and she rose out of her chair. Ryker was afraid she was going to send him away and quickly stood in front of her. Her voice was suddenly teary, as her strong emotional facade was falling her this time. *W@w.n@v(e)sh@mE.c@m*

"He rejected me, and that cannot be justified."

Ryker felt he was getting close. There must be something else she was hiding, and he was determined to know about it. If she didn't hate his Alpha side, then how could she not like him?

"What if he has a good reason?" He asked, gazing into her sorrowful brown eyes. He knew it was too much for her to take, but she was strong enough.

Even with her injured hand, she tried to make him happy. Valerie was not a woman he would dare to give up on, aside from the fact that he would never be able to give the pack an heir without her.

Valerie didn't understand why their conversation was suddenly centered around Alpha Denzel. The mention of his name alone made her heart want to fall out of her chest.

"Are you speaking for him or for yourself?" She asked curiously, wondering if Ryker was there to spy on her for Alpha Denzel.

When Alpha Denzel smiled, he reminded her of Ryker, and now that Ryker was here, all he kept talking about was Alpha Denzel.

"It doesn't matter," Ryker replied, making it harder for her to decide.

"Are you talking about acceptance or love?" Valerie asked in a bid to clear the confusion from her mind.

"Both?" Ryker replied instantly, not giving her the chance to breathe. The moment she moved, he was right beside her, demanding answers to his fierce questions.

"I really don't know, Ryker. If he had a good reason for rejecting me, I honestly don't know what I would do if faced with that situation."

Ryker smiled slightly. If she was confused about the reality, then that was a good thing. It meant there was hope of her letting go of the bitterness in her heart as a result of it.

"I think I got my answer. You can't love me because you still love him."

Valerie was upset, feeling misunderstood. Taking steps backward, Ryker took a few steps forward but maintained a good space between them.

"You are crazy. All I feel for him is fear and gratitude." She didn't want to be weak but could not help it as she felt misunderstood.

Ryker calmly explained, "You know that fear is also an expression of love, right?" He was internally happy that she wasn't able to give a yes or no answer.

"Are you mad? He brought me here to torture me, and every day, I wait for it," Valerie raged. He scoffed internally. If he wanted to torture her, would he have brought her to this cottage?

"And he doesn't?" Ryker asked, feigning

cluelessness about the matter but not allowing his gaze to leave hers.

"I can't discuss that. He is still the Alpha of this pack," Valerie relented, drawing limits in the conversation.

Ryker was impressed. He must have hurt her as Alpha Denzel, but her respect for him refused to dwindle. "You respect him too."

"That is the right thing to do. I wouldn't like my subject speaking ill of me behind my back," Valerie responded.

It was enough for Ryker that his personality as Alpha Denzel still stood a chance.

"It's alright. Let's end it here."

"Are you upset?" Valerie asked suspiciously due to how he finally gave up.

"No. We might just waste the night arguing when there is a lot to learn. The night is chilly. Please get warm clothes. Or I can get it for you," he volunteered, looking sadly at her injured shoulder.

"No need." Valerie was already headed to

her bedroom when Ryker beat her to it.

He carried her there before and didn't think anything odd about it. "Please let me."

"You don't even know...." She was about to say that he didn't even know how she arranged her things but followed him when they both paused.

Ryker froze at the painting on the wall. It was the one he drew of her.

"I will pick the sweater myself," Valerie's voice cut through his trance.

"You are injured and still cooked. Please let me help. I will do the dishes too, but you know what, I'm glad you liked my painting," Ryker smiled. Valerie allowed him to do as he pleased.

She already cut out the notion of anything rising between them. As such, she couldn't feel bad about it.

The two arrived in the woods with touch lights and knives.

"If your hand feels better in a few days, you can spend some time sharpening more

sticks," Ryker said. He was sitting on a wood, sharpening a pile of sticks with his knife.

Valerie got tired of watching, and she began to complain. "Am I supposed to just watch now?"

Ryker loved her determination. "No. Alpha Denzel sets traps around the borders. I will teach you how to set your own traps. When threatened by a wolf but don't want to shift, just run as fast as you can and lead them to the trap." *w@w.n@v(e)sh@mE.c@m*

This advice was purposefully intended for wolves, and Valerie was glad for it. "Not a bad idea."

She used one hand but never complained as she followed the instructions of setting the traps. It was a slow process because of her injured arm but equally worth it.

Not until the sun began to rise before Ryker said hastily, "I have to go."

"Wait," Valerie grabbed Ryker's arm, returned around as she asked seriously, "Will you be back soon?"

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A smirk formed in the corner of Ryker's lips as he responded,

"If you allow me to kiss you deeply, I will tell you something I've never told you before."

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