

# The Alpha King's Human Mate by HC Dolores

## Chapter 75

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"v's not over till it's over. And when it's over, it just begins again." Kate McGahan

Given how late it was, Griffin didn't stick around long to talk to those who had gathered to meet him. He made just enough small talk to satisfy the castle staff and the guards, most of them just happy he'd made it back safely. I tried to get out of Griffin's way while he spoke with the others, but he hadn't let me. He simply tightened his grip on my waist, refusing to let me out of his arms. Not that I really minded. It was the first time in weeks that I'd felt those arms around me.

He carried me all the way back to our rooms with his nose buried into my neck, and it wasn't until we passed the threshold that one of us spoke for the first time.

"I know I was only gone for a couple of weeks," he said, "But without you by my side, I can promise you it felt much longer." Griffin laid me down on the bed, and as soon as he'd kicked his shoes and jacket off, he joined me.

The way that I curled against his chest felt almost instinctual - like I was trying to make up for the past couple of weeks by soaking up as much physical contact as possible. "I missed you too," I said, "I worried

about you a lot." Chapter 75,

Griffin's large fingers ran through my hair. "I worried about you too, little fox."

At that, I turned to look at him. "You worried about me? You were the one chasing down a power-hungry Alpha. I was sitting in a heavily guarded castle. What could you possibly have to worry about?"

"Pll always worry about you as long as we're apart. No matter how guarded this castle is or how safe you seem, my wolf is only soothed when I'm the one protecting you." \*)

His eyebrows furrowed, his face twisting into frustration. "And it ended up being a pointless chase anyway," he said, "When I got there, Liam was gone. His land was empty and there was no sign of his pack. He must've known I was coming and gone into hiding."

I felt my stomach drop - he hadn't caught Liam? When Griffin had walked through those doors, I'd simply assumed he was coming home because he'd put the threat to rest.

But it sounds like it's not over. "Is that why you came home?" I asked.

"Yes and no. Leaving you ~ as well as this castle - vulnerable too long is always risky. It also became apparent after a couple of weeks that Liam had hidden too well," Griffin sighed, "As much as it pains me to say it, we'll have to wait till he sticks his head out of the ground again. And he will. He's too power-hungry to hide underground like a rat Chapter 75,

forever. Eventually, he'll try to conquer more land, recruit more people to his cause, and when he does...that's when I'll put an end to his little power trip. For good." (")

The stress on Griffin's face was clear as ever. He looked like he was carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders - even more burdened than when he'd left.

And I doubt that stress is going to disappear until Liam is gone for good.

I moved one of my fingers up to his face, tracing the curvature of his furrowed brow. "I'm sorry you have to deal with this. You haven't even been King a year and you're already putting out fires."

Griffin stared down at me, his dark eyes thoughtful. "It's part of the job description. Besides, it's hard to be too upset when I've got my mate in my arms." As if to prove his point, he pulled me closer to his side.

I gave a small smile. "Can I ask you something?" "Hm?" "Did you have nightmares while you were away? Like about me?"

Griffin's frown deepened and he was silent for a moment. "Yes," he finally said, "I dreamt that Liam's disappearance was a ploy, that he'd managed to sneak into the castle while I was gone and kill you. It kept me up at night." Chapter 75,

So it hadn't just been me. Griffin had been affected by bad dreams too. Instead of bringing me comfort that I wasn't alone in my experience, it only made me feel worse. I remembered how anxious the dreams made me ~ I didn't want Griffin to go through that.

"Wait," Griffin said, looking down at me, "How do you know about the dreams?"

"Thad them too," I confessed, "I dreamt that Liam managed to kill you while you were away."

His lips twisted into a snarl. "Oh, I'm sure he wishes," he said, and then his hand cupped my jaw, "But that would never happen, little fox. You don't need to worry about that. Truthfully, I didn't expect you to have those kinds of dreams."

"What do you mean?"

"T've heard that mates experience nightmares when they're apart," he said, "But this is the first time I've dealt with it. I was almost prepared for it, I suppose. But you don't have a wolf. I didn't think you would even have nightmares."

"Well, I guess we learn new things every day," I said, "At least we both know now. Next time we'll both be prepared for them."

"God, the very thought of having to leave you again kills me," he groaned, "I know I'll need to again - to put down Liam at least." I couldn't say he was alone in that thought. I'd just gotten Griffin back, Chapter 75,

and the thought of having to spend another couple of weeks without him felt unbearable.

God, I feel so co-dependent.

What was it that Ivan said? That I'm lucky to experience this kind of love? I suppose he's right, even if it does make me feel needier than I've ever felt in my life.

Griffin suddenly leaned down, pulling me into a searing kiss. My lips immediately molded to his, and he tasted just as I remembered him. "I don't want to think about leaving you right now," he whispered against my lips, "I just want to think about being here with you right now." He paused, and I felt one of his hands brush against my thigh. "And making up for lost time."

And make up for lost time, we did.

Twice.