The Alpha King's Human Mate by HC Dolores **Chapter 111**

The Alpha King's Human Mate

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"There will never be anything as nerve-wracking as meeting your partner's parents for the first time."

Unknown

whipped her head around to find Sebastian, and her stomach sank when she caught sight of him, completely engaged in conversation with one of his pack's elders

It took Aria at least ten seconds to overcome the sheer panic that was coming face-to-face with Sebastian's father for the first time. She

It didn't look like he was coming to save her anytime soon

So, with a lump in her throat, she mustered up every bit of courage she could to look Alpha Bellevue in the eye and say, "Yes, I'm Aria."

He looked her up and down, his arms crossed. It wasn't a lecherous look like she was used to getting from men, but he certainly was

that is "T'm not too familiar with your father," Alpha Bellevue said, "I can't remember our paths crossing."

assessing her. Sizing her up like she was a cut of meat, and he was trying to figure out if she was good enough. Or good enough for his son,

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"They probably didn't," she replied, "My father liked to..." It took her a moment to find the words before she settled on, "Keep to himself." What she wanted to say was: my father isolated himself and our pack from anyone else who didn't share his traditionalist views, which is

why your paths never crossed

Still, Alpha Bellevue seemed to pick up on the subtext just fine

"Sebastian has told me about you and your family," he said, and his eyes narrowed, "I know your father was a traditionalist, but do you share his views?"

The question felt like a slap to the face. Not a harsh blow, but definitely

However, before she could even think of a response, he continued, "Traditionalists breed weak, oppressed women, which is not what my

pack needs." He leveled her with a stare. "It's not what my son needs

Aria wasn't sure what to say. What could she say to that? Alpha Bellevue's gaze felt suffocating, and fiddled with her shirt collar nervously.

either." (3 Now, that felt like a harsh blow

a question she hadn't been expecting

There were too many people crammed into this room, too many bodies, too many -"T think that's enough," Sebastian's voice cut through her stifling thoughts, and his immediate presence was like a weight off her chest

His hand found its way to the small of her back, and she couldn't help but lean into his warmth

Alpha Bellevue's eyes cut to his son

She could breathe again

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"Aria isn't weak," Sebastian said, and suddenly raised his voice so the entire room can hear, "I know some of you are curious about my

There were murmurs of agreement and nods throughout the crowd, and even Alpha Bellevue turned away to disappear into another conversation

She's still adjusting, but..." Sebastian glanced at his father. "She will be your future Luna."

mate, but I ask that you show her the same respect you've always shown me

honestly, I wasn't either. I thought it was just gonna be my parents."

"Are you okay?" Sebastian asked, peering down at her with worried eyes. "I know you weren't expecting to deal with all these people, and

but she could see the way that some of them were peeking at Sebastian, eager for their future Alpha's attention But he was too busy making sure she wasn't crumbling under the pressure

"I'm fine," she replied, even if she didn't feel that way. She took another look around the room. The pack was mingling amongst themselves,

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"You know what?" She said, "I don't want to be rude, but I'm exhausted from all the traveling. Do you think there's somewhere I could take

a nap?" It wasn't a complete lie. She was tired from all the traveling, but it was mostly an excuse for her to get out of Sebastian's way. She could tell she was the odd one out, and as long as she was down here, Sebastian wouldn't truly get to enjoy time with his pack

"Of course," he answered immediately, "My mom already set up one of the guest rooms for you, and I can help you get settled in too, send these people home -"

second bedroom on the right."

She smiled, "Of course."

photos

"T'm okay," she repeated, a little more forcefully, "Really."

"No, it's okay," she cut him off, placing a hand on his arm, "If you point me in the right direction, I'm sure I can find it. You should stay down here, and catch up with your friends and family. They've missed you, and they'll want to hear about your sister too."

make sure you're okay."

Sebastian didn't look particularly happy about that. "Are you sure? I have all the time in the world to catch up with my friends, but I want to

Aria nodded, and just as she made to walk away, he placed a hand on her shoulder. "If you need anything, you'!! call for me, right?"

He stared at her for a moment, and although he didn't seem convinced by her explanation, he eventually let up. "It's up the stairs, the

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With that, she followed Sebastian's directions — up the stairs, second bedroom on the right. She didn't miss the wandering eyes that stared

at her curiously as she passed by, but she wasn't brave enough to greet any of them. She wanted to be though

As she walked up the stairs, creaky and worn from years of use, her eyes were drawn to the photos on the wall. More specifically, the baby photos of Sebastian. Sprinkled between framed photos of what had to be his sister, Lily, were snapshots of his childhood: him as a chubbyfaced baby, him as a toddler running through the woods, him receiving some certificate at school, and him in what looked like graduation

hours Eventually, she made her way to the second bedroom on the right, and when she flicked on the light, she stopped in her tracks

There was something so endearing about seeing her mate in each stage of life, and it took everything in her not to linger in the hallway for

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It was more modest than she could've imagined. The room was relatively small with a full-sized bed, a plain comforter, and only a sparse

amount of photos and decorations. The open closet had a few hanging outfits in it, but they looked like jeansm and t-shirts. No fancy

She poked her head out into the hallway, and counted again. This was, in fact, the second bedroom on the right

This was Clark's bedroom More accurately, her Queen's childhood bedroom

Was this the bedroom Sebastian meant? Surely, it couldn't be...

But it wasn't a bare guest bedroom like she'd been expecting

It felt wrong to be standing in this room

Not only because this room used to belong to the Queen, but also because of her history with Clark

This room, if the scent and framed photos were any indication, belonged to his younger sister

But Sebastian said the second bedroom on the right

She didn't deserve to be in this room

dresses or ballgowns

But as she stared at the photos lining the desk, her stomach began twisting into knots. Clark didn't look particularly happy in any of the Bonus Chapter - Aria & Sebastian (11)

same bed, and this was a vacant room. She doubted the Queen would be returning anytime soon

framed photos she had in here, even the ones where she was smiling There was a photo of Clark standing next to her parents and siblings, but her smile looked forced. In another photo, she was seated next to

She supposed that it made sense they'd offer her this bedroom. She knew Sebastian well enough to know he'd never push to sleep in the

She looked miserable

werewolf classmates, and she was frowning,

And Aria recognized that look — she'd seen it on Clark's plenty of times in that cell Her skin started to crawl

She didn't deserve to be in here

She really didn't want to be in here

Without another thought, she scurried out of the room, shut the door behind her, and ventured further down the hall

She was so stuck on that image that she didn't even realize when she

All she could think about, all she could see was her Queen's grimy, frowning face stuck in that cell

found her way into another bedroom down the hall

She wasn't sure when she collapsed on the king-sized bed in the unfamiliar room or when she dozed off, buried under covers that smelled exactly like her mate