## The Alpha King's Human Mate by HC Dolores **Chapter 112**

Bonus Chapter - Aria & Sebastian (12) Bonus Chapter - Aria & Sebastian (12)

The Alpha King's Human Mate

"You could fill three lifetimes with the things people say about you when you're not there."

**Stewart Stafford** 

Aria woke with a jolt to someone stroking her hair. For half-a-second, her sleep-addled brain thought she was back in Liam's domain, stuck in her bunk bed or his bedroom

sheets-

leaving the door cracked

Her eyes fluttered shut

"What?"

"No way! Really?"

"T can't believe our future Alpha has a mate now."

Sebastian pulled her out of Alpha Liam's cult."

stuck with someone who probably flinches at shadows."

It felt like her worst fear come to life

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Her heart pounded furiously

pressed her lips to his

her lower belly

back

started to trail it lower

"What are you doing?"

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be nice."

to tell me -"

else'?"

"Tam not Liam."

that to...please me?" He looked sick even saying it

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"What? No," Aria protested, "It's just, you've been so good to me. All

"Is that what you think?" he said gently, "That you're a burden to me? That's not —"

His face pulled into a frown. "Hold on. What do you mean by 'everyone

Something dark flashed through his eyes. "Who told you that?" "Nobody —"

"No," he cut her off, his voice firm but not loud. "Who said that to you?"

Aria could tell by the tone of his voice that he wasn't going to let up

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that's all I could ever want from you." 2)

fell uselessly beside her

The feeling was almost indescribable

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His mouth moved slowly against hers, letting her set the pace

Well...there was one thing she could offer him

As suddenly as the thought came, she didn't hesitate

deserve a mate, let alone one as good as Sebastian

Her anxiety spiked — but only for a moment until she realized she wasn't with Liam anymore, but her mate. The comforting scent

enveloping her was Sebastian as was the soft touch to her hair

"Are you okay? I didn't mean to startle you." He must've realized she was awake because his hand stilled in her hair, and Aria had to bite back a whimper. She liked his touch

She shifted to look at him, rubbing the sleepiness of her eyes. "No, it's alright. I didn't mean to actually fall asleep, but I guess I was more

tired than I thought from the trip." Sebastian, who was sitting on the edge of the bed and still dressed in the same clothes, gave her a cheeky grin. "Oh, I have no complaints

You did fall asleep in my bed, after all."

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What? Aria shot up like a wire. "Wait, this is your room?"

She glanced at her surroundings, and berated herself for not realizing it before she'd passed out. The room was all dark, neutral colors but the personal touches were undeniably Sebastian: several family photos of him with both his sisters, a photo of his parents, and a couple of unwashed t-shirts scattered on the floor

As if that wasn't enough confirmation, the room reeked of him. Not in an unpleasant way — more like a wanting-to-roll-around-in-his-

forever kind of way She flushed. She hadn't meant to end up in his bedroom, but after rushing out of Clark's room, she'd just followed the comforting scent to...here

Sebastian must've seen the red decorating her face because he said, "Hey, there's no need to be embarrassed. Finding you up here, wrapped in my sheets, was like waking up on Christmas morning. You looked beautiful."

feeling a little dry." It wasn't true, but it was the first thing she could think of to change the subject

"Of course," Sebastian said, and then he stood up, "There's still some

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pack members mingling downstairs with my parents, so I'll get it for you." He shot her another smile before stepping out of the room,

Her cheeks became redder, and she couldn't bring herself to look at him as she asked, "Do you think I could have some water? My throat is

She waited until his footsteps echoed into the soft noise of voices downstairs before she grabbed the pillow — his pillow — and inhaled deeply

He smelled so good She could live in these sheets, in this bed

Aria's eyes popped open at the unfamiliar, tinkling female voice she could hear coming from down the hall. She didn't recognize it, and she

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hadn't seen anyone on the second floor — but maybe one of the guests had wandered up?

"Yeah, and did you see her?" A second female voice joined in, just as distant as the first

Did they know she was also upstairs? She didn't think so, not if they were all the way down the hall

"Yeah, more like a mouse than a future Luna," the first girl replied, her voice mocking. "You know what I heard?"

Aria's stomach clenched. She knew she could've gotten up and walked out of the bedroom to alert them of her presence anytime she wanted, but she didn't. She curled further under the covers, and strained her ears to listen to what they had to say about her

"T heard," it was the first girl's voice, and she could hear the smirk. "She came from weird traditionalist pack all the way down in Texas, and

Aria flinched. So this is what Sebastian's pack thought of her, how they saw her. She knew she was pathetic, but to hear strangers talk about it so openly..

"Poor Sebastian," the second girl's was syrupy with faux-pity. "He's been waiting so long for his mate and our future Luna, and then he gets

"Yeah, something tells me he'll be more of a caregiver and less of a mate," she sighed, "Oh, well. He's stuck with her now. Nothing he can

do to change it." That was the last thing they said before they moved on to gossiping about another member of their pack

"Yeah, apparently, she's all traumatized and shit. That's why she was hiding behind Sebastian downstairs, and wouldn't talk to anyone."

Bonus Chapter - Aria & Sebastian (12) Underneath the covers, Aria felt paralyzed

They're right. Sebastian takes care of me, makes sure I'm okay, soothes my anxieties, and does all of it without complaint He's the most patient man I've ever met, and what have I ever done for him? Ignore him and express my doubts?

He's been the best mate there is, and all I've ever done is be an ungrateful burden. Those girls are right. He might as well be my caretaker

And although she knew Sebastian didn't see it that way, some part of her wondered if, deep down, he felt that way. Some part of him - even

"Here's your water," Sebastian's voice suddenly cut through her spiral as he swung the door open, and strode up to the bed, a full glass of

water in his hands. "Sorry it took me so long. I got roped into a conversation with one of the Elders who wanted my opinion on border

a small part — had to be tired of constantly being patient, of constantly looking after her. And if he wasn't, she was sure he would be

Since leaving Liam's pack and meeting Sebastian, Aria had spent many nights, laying awake and agonizing over the fact that she didn't

And though he'd denied it, the girls gossiping in the hallway only proved that others saw how undeserving she was too

disputes. It was absolutely riveting, if you can imagine." He sat down on the edge, sitting the glass on the nightstand Aria grabbed the glass of water and drank greedily to hide the fact that she couldn't even force a smile

All she could hear was those girls' words circling in her brain, of Sebastian being stuck as her caretaker for the rest of his life

He'd probably never complain, but how long until he began to resent her? Began to resent that he gave her everything, and she had nothing to offer him?

She plunked the glass back on the nightstand so fast that water sloshed over the sides, closed the distance between her and Sebastian, and

Her lips molded to his like they were meant to, and her entire body tingled with something warm and pleasant until the feeling settled in

She waited for his hands to wander lower, but when they didn't, she took one of hers — which had been wrapped around his neck — and

First, over his collarbone and chest until her palm clasped over the bulge in his pants. Just as she began fiddling for the zipper, he stilled

She flushed. "Well, I was going to...you know, take care of you." The air was beginning to fill with tension, but her fingers remained in place,

"Yes," she said, and she was pretty sure her entire face had turned beet red. She wasn't entirely sure why he was questioning her or why he

the kissing and just gone straight for...you know? I'm not very experienced with it and I know most men don't like it, I just thought it would

Realization struck him, and Sebastian suddenly look disturbed by her apology. He stood up in a flash, turning away from her, and her hands

She tried to explain herself one more time. "If you just tell me what I did wrong, I promise I'll be better at it next time. Sometimes Liam had

He was shaking, just barely, and his voice was colder than she'd ever heard it. He whipped around to face her, that same disturbed look on

his face. "Is that...is that what that was?" He ran his hand through his hair again. "Did I do something? Did I make you think you had to do

Sebastian was frozen for a moment, and then, he started to kiss her

She pressed into him until she was practically on his lap, and his hands found their way to her waist to steady her

gripping the zipper of his jeans The furrow of his brow deepened. "Take care of me?"

"Tm sorry if I did it wrong," she apologized, "Should I have just skipped

was so upset. Wasn't this how these things went? Had she done something wrong?

At once, Sebastian pulled away from the kiss with furrowed eyebrows

Something tight began to settle in her chest. She'd been trying to show Sebastian that she did have something to offer him, and instead, she'd only upset him. She still wasn't entirely sure what she'd done wrong — only that it must've been something big

And she hated that he'd removed himself from her. She hated every inch of the physical distance between them

you do is take care of me, and..." She struggled to find the words. "I wanted to show you that I was more than just a burden, that I had something to offer you too."

Sebastian's face softened, and he slowly approached the bed, taking her hands in his. Her body visibly calmed at his touch

"No, you can say it's not true," Aria cut him off, "But I know it is. You may not see it yet, but I do and so does everyone else."

Aria froze. She hadn't even meant for it to come out, but in the heat of the moment, it had. "I just meant that I'm sure everyone else feels the same way. They think you're stuck taking care of me for the rest of my life because I'm all traumatized."

until she explained herself, so eventually, she admitted, "When you were downstairs getting water for me, I heard a couple of girls talking in the hall. I didn't see them and I don't know who they are, but they were saying how traumatized I was, and how you're stuck as my

trouble. I don't think they knew I was listening in, and they were just speaking the truth." |?

hands "You are not a burden to me, Aria. You say you have nothing to offer me, but every moment with you...you make me so happy. It's not a chore to spend time or take care of you — if anything, it makes me feel good. Knowing that I make you feel safe and like you can rely on me..

caregiver now that we're mates." She could see him getting visibly upset the longer she talked, so she added, "I don't want them to get in

Sebastian's eyes narrowed. "You can let me worry about these girls, but in the meantime, you need to know something." He squeezed her

"And what if I don't know when I'll be ready for it?" Aria asked, although even voicing the question made her heart pound with anxiety "Wouldn't it upset you to have it wait?"

He leaned down to kiss her forehead, and then leaned back, his face just inches from her. "So, I don't want you to ever feel like you have to

how you were taken advantage of before. When we decide to be physical, it'll be because we both want it and feel comfortable and ready."

offer up your body or please me physically — I never want things those out of obligation, and certainly not in a way that's reminiscent of

And she could tell, from the look in his eyes, he meant it

Sebastian only smiled softly. "I don't think you understand, mate. I'd

happily wait decades for you."