

Chapter 65 Clearing my mind

Enzo's POV

"Dee, you are mistaken," I said, shaking my head with disgust all over my face. "Bethany is certainly not my mate and Lila shouldn't be thinking such things."

Dee stared up at me as I stood to my feet with alarmed eyes.

"I'm so sorry. I just thought-"

"You've been thinking wrong. Why did you think such a thing?" I asked, keeping my eyes locked on hers.

"Because Bethany mentioned it..."

"Bethany? She's the one who told you that she's, my mate?" I asked in disbelief.

"Yes," Dee said nodding her head. "But she's been using the fact that she's your mate to get me to do her bidding. I wanted to be kind to her for your benefit... I had no idea she was lying to me."

"She was," I muttered. "Has she been cruel to you?"

"Nothing I can't handle."

"That's not what I asked," I said, narrowing my eyes.

"She's been fine," Dee answered, but I knew she was lying.

Bethan had crossed the line and now Lila was thinking that Bethany was my mate. She couldn't have believed that right? Lila is my mate and Lila knows that.

Right?

Lila's POV

I'm not sure what time it was when I fell asleep. Rachel was up for most of the night; I could hear her tossing and turning in her bed while I lay in the cot, the nurse was kind enough to get me.

I didn't think I'd be able to sleep at all, but eventually, I found myself drifting off into a deep sleep and then I woke up the next morning with the faint sunlight peering through the window curtains on the far side of the room.

I sat up on the cot and looked around the room, groggily, for a moment before my eyes landed on the empty bed in front of me.

I gasped loudly as I scrambled to get to my feet.

Rachel wasn't in bed.

Just before the panic started to set in, she walked into the room. She looked like she's been crying for most of the night. She had her arms wrapped around her body, hugging herself tightly as tears fell from her red eyes.

Her hair was the most undone I have ever seen, and it wasn't often that she didn't wear makeup, but it seems she cried off all the makeup from yesterday.

My heart tugged painfully in my chest seeing her appearance and I wished there was more that I could do for her at that moment. But I knew there wasn't.

I felt so helpless.

"He's still stable... but they won't let me see him," she croaked, walking back to her bed.

"You should try to get some rest, Rachel," I told her, walking with her to her bed. "School has been canceled for the week, so you can get plenty of rest."

"I don't think I can..." she said, sliding into bed and under the covers. "It just hurts too much..."

"I know it does... but there's no use in stressing over things we can't control," I tell her, sitting down at her bedside. "Until we know for sure what's going to happen, try not to think too much about it."

"You shouldn't have to stay here any longer with me..." Rachel breathed sadly, pressing her knees to her chest. "You've been here all night."

"It's not like I have much of anything to do right now," I told her.

But just as I said those words, I remembered I start my job tonight and we were supposed to have the committee meeting today. Then again, the school was canceled for the week, so that would automatically cancel the meeting as well.

I decided to grab my phone anyways and sent a group message to the other members, just to let them know that the meeting was officially cancelled.

"I'll be right back. I need to call Cassidy-Ann," I say as I leave the room.

I brought Cassidy's number up on my phone screen and waited with patience for her to answer.

"Hello, this is Cassidy-Ann," she said cheerfully into the phone.

"Hi, Cassidy-Ann. This is Lila. How are you?"

"Oh, Lila! I was just thinking about you. The fire near your school was all over the news. I was a little worried because I heard a lot of the students at the academy were there and got injured. You weren't there too, were you?"

"I was..." I admitted.

"Oh, Goddess," Cassidy-Ann breathed. "I'm so sorry to hear that. Have you been injured? Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. A little banged up. I lied. And emotionally scarred. But I'm fine."

"I'm so sorry, sweetheart," she breathed, sadness lingering in her tone. "If there's anything I can do to help you. Please let me know."

"Actually, I know I haven't even started yet... but I was wondering if I could take a few days off to regather my thoughts and recover from the accident..."

"Take the rest of the week off. You can start next Monday. Does that sound okay?"

"Are you sure?" I asked, surprised.

"Of course..." she breathed. "You've been through a lot. Please... take time off."

"Thank you so much: I really appreciate that."

Anytime, Lila. I'm really excited to have you on board. I'll see you soon. she said kindly before

hanging up the phone.

I couldn't help the small smile that formed on my lips as I shoved my phone into my pocket. It'll be nice to be able to recover for the rest of the week. Just as I turned to head back into Rachel's hospital room, I heard my name from a short distance.

"Lila!"

I turned to see Becca rushing toward me with worry in her eyes.

"How are you? How's Rachel? I know you stayed here all night. Is she okay?"

"She's doing the best she can," I told her. "I feel worried about leaving her by herself. She won't leave until she knows Ryan is okay. I told her I would stay with her."

Becca frowned and stared around my face.

"Did you sleep? You look exhausted."

I thought I slept; one moment I was lying on the cot and the next I was waking up to the sun through the window curtains. But I was feeling an overwhelming sense of exhaustion. So, maybe I didn't sleep as well as I thought.

"Maybe I am a little bit." I admitted with a small smile.

"Then, you should go and rest. I can stay here. Take a few days to recover. You were in the fire for much longer than me and I'm sure you've been through a lot of emotional trauma trying to save those you could."

"I couldn't possibly..." I said, shaking my head.

"I'll stay with Rachel," Becca assured me. "I already spent a while in the hospital. What's a little longer? I honestly don't mind. Get some rest. Clear your mind... I'll let you know if anything happens."

I wasn't sure I wanted to return to campus though, but maybe going to Elysium and seeing my family might help. It would be nice to get away from Enzo as well. After our last real talk, I wasn't sure I would be able to face him. Not right now.

He didn't even bother answering my question yesterday and my heart ached.

Becca was right. I needed to clear my mind.

I thanked her repeatedly and then went to say goodbye to Rachel.

I wasn't going to tell Enzo that I was leaving Hígalá; it's not like he would care anyways.

I went back to my dorm and packed some belongings before piling it all in my car and driving down to Elysium.

I didn't even tell my family that I was returning but as soon as I got into the Nova packhouse, I was being attacked with hugs from my mother who didn't seem to want to let me go.

"We heard about the fire," she breathed. "We thought something might have happened."

"Is your phone off?" My dad asked, narrowing his eyes at me.

It was this morning when I called Cassidy-Ann. I grabbed my phone to look at it and saw that it has died.

I sighed.

"I'm sorry," I breathed, shoving my phone back into my pocket.

"We saw the news this morning and instantly panicked. Were you at the fire, Lila?" My mother asked, worry clear on her face.

I didn't want to lie to her, so I nodded.

She hugged me even tighter.

"What were you doing at a house party on a school night?" My father asked firmly.

"It doesn't matter. What matters is that our little girl is safe," my mother told him just as firmly.

He fell silent, not bothering to argue. I knew he was relieved too as he hugged me tightly.

I finished explaining to them most of the story, including how Alpha Enzo helped get me out of the fire and to the hospital. After I finished the story, my father, who remained silent for most of it, finally spoke.

"That does it..." my father said, keeping his eyes on mine. "I'm inviting Enzo over for a few days to thank him."