

Chapter 97

After days of being stuck in a cage, Liam was finally sane enough to be released from confinement. He hid the internal turmoil, rocking his mind pretty well. He needed to because that was the only way he could find Nicole.

His determination didn't do anything to erase the anguish, anger, and heartbreak he felt. He fought against the overwhelming rage, desperately seeking clarity amidst the chaos that consumed him.

His mind felt like it was engulfed in flames, the torment of not knowing where his mate Nicole was, tearing him apart. As he entered the council meeting, he tried to compose himself, unwilling to succumb completely to the anger that threatened to consume him.

Liam took his seat at the head of the table, his expression a mask of controlled turmoil. The council members, sensing the weight of his emotions, exchanged concerned glances, aware of the immense burden he carried.

As soon as the meeting began, Liam's eyes locked onto James, "Tell me what progress has been made in finding Nicole. I need to know that every resource has been exhausted."

James met his gaze with a heavy sigh. He gritted his teeth as he spoke. "Alpha, we have searched tirelessly, but Nicole has vanished without a trace. It's as if she vanished into thin air."

The words struck Liam like a physical blow, the anguish within him intensifying. His wolf, primal and furious, clawed at the edges of his consciousness, urging him to succumb to the all-consuming rage.

"Alpha, I understand your pain," Garrett spoke up suddenly, his voice calm yet tinged with sadness. "But losing control will not bring Nicole back. We must find a way to proceed, to honor her, and continue the fight."

Liam clenched his fists, fighting against the turbulent storm within him.

"Liam, I know the pain you're feeling. I've lost my mate too, and it's agonizing. But we need to keep a level head. We must find a way to bring Nicole back safely. Losing control won't help us in this situation." Garrett said softly.

Liam growled and banged the table. He didn't like Garrett that much, but it was true.

"You cannot let your anger consume you, Liam. Nicole wouldn't want that. She deserves better." James added.

The council members, witnessing their Alpha's struggle, began offering suggestions and potential courses of action as fear pooled out from them. They understood that Liam's world had been shattered.

His mate is missing, and his trust betrayed. They knew that without Nicole, their Alpha was unhinged, his every step fraught with pain and uncertainty. They also knew that their being in proximity to him meant that they were in danger.

"Alpha Liam, we can explore every avenue available to us. We can reach out to neighboring packs, employ trackers, and delve into the supernatural realms. We will leave no stone unturned in our quest to find Nicole." Gamma Connor said, trembling in his seat.

As the council members discussed possible ways to track Nicole's whereabouts, Liam's gaze remained fixed on the table, his mind racing with a mix of desperation and determination.

The mere thought of Nicole's absence unleashed a tempest of emotions within him, but he knew he had to channel that energy into finding her.

"We must do whatever it takes. Nicole is my mate, my love. I will not rest until she's returned to me, safe and unharmed." He growled.

"We should reach out to neighboring packs once again, seeking their assistance in locating Nicole. Our allies may have resources or information that could aid us." James supported Connor.

"We should also consider gathering all available information about Lillian. She betrayed us, and there's a possibility she may have left information that led to Nicole's disappearance. Her pack should be held under siege," a Council member suggested.

"Lillian," Liam growled.

She was the most corrupted and foul soul he had met. He was pissed off that she had died. He wanted to be the one to rip her heart out after everything she had done. And yet, he was still heartbroken, she was his only family alive, and he had loved her.

"About that, there are questions that we need to ask. If Nicole was the one who slit Lillian's throat, why'd she run away?" Connor asked with a raised brow.

Everyone exchanged a glance, and the tension in the air was palpable.

"I mean, rumors are circulating that she was supposed to leave—gain her freedom after the witch was vanquished. What if that was what she did -" Connor continued.

In a flash, Liam was at the other end of the table. He grabbed Connor by the collar, his eyes flashing from golden to black.

"She is my mate. My fucking mate," he roared, "She's your Luna, Connor."

"Sorry..." Connor apologized, his life flashing before his eyes.

The whole room was pin-drop silent. Liam had just confirmed that Nicole was indeed the Luna of the Dark Moon.

Liam let go of Connor, but he had already made a great dent. Liam's heart shattered to smithereens. He asked himself the same question. Did Nicole really run away?

James interjected with a crucial piece of information that sent a surge of hope through Liam's veins. "Alpha, we still have Asha in our custody. She may have valuable information regarding Lillian's involvement. We should start our investigations by questioning her."

Liam's eyes widened with anticipation, a glimmer of possibility emerging amidst the darkness of his anguish. "Asha? She's not dead? Bring her to me. We need to get to the bottom of this."

With a nod from James, Liam and Garrett made their way to the dungeons where Asha was held.

"Wait," Liam said suddenly, "Send out warriors to Lillian's Pack. Hold them under siege. They were the pack that kept attacking us. She cloaked them in dark magic so we couldn't decipher them. Capture their Alpha. I'm certain that he knows something."

James nodded, his eyes turning golden as he relayed his Alpha's instructions.

The air was heavy with tension as they approached the cell, their footsteps echoing through the dimly lit corridor.