

## Chapter 12: True colors

Penelope

"Penny?"

"Yeah..."

"Are you looking for someone, Nicholas, perhaps?" asks Marianne as I look around the restaurant.

It was the Alphas' last day here... and I was relieved, but uncomfortable at the same time. And I didn't know why, it was what I wanted most, wasn't it?

For them to leave, for Belle Springs to be the normal, ordinary town where nothing happened... away from the werewolves.

So... who was I waiting for? Maybe someone I hadn't seen in days.

No, no, no. I didn't miss him. Not at all.

"Nicholas is calling me all day and night... is started to get annoyed"

He is very interested in me after our last date. I don't know why. Maybe...it has to do with... Nate.

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"Surely he is crazy about you. As it must be... crazy about your curves," Marianne said firmly.

"I'm pretty sure is not the case..."

"Maybe another man is? You know... a hot one...?"

"I don't know what are you talking about..."

"Really...mmm" I see her wiping the tables contentedly and looking at me, acting weird.

"Ok... you are giving me the creeps. What's going on? Are you reading one of those... werewolf... novels again?" I ask.

"For your information... I read them all the time. I just read one about a girl who had multiple alphas... triplets... good God..." she says, and I am horrified. It's bad enough to have one, I don't want to imagine two or more.

"But... that's not what I wanted to tell you..." she says, and I thought she was up to something.

"Well... spit."

"It turns out that your admirer, hottie... you know... tall, muscular, dark hair and blue eyes... I'm describing you again because you always seem to forget... like happened a few minutes ago" she says, and I roll my eyes.

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I don't even want to know about him, but I didn't tell her about Nate. Honestly, I don't even know how to start.

"He went to see Jack to talk to him. He seems very pleased with the town and wants to help make it... a better place," she says, smiling.

"What? How?"

"You will be surprised! Hottie wants to attend meetings here with other CEO's, and they'll come several times a month, you know...be part of our community. What do you think? I think he is cute and kind! Or... he is so interested in you that wants to be here as much as possible" she explains, and I'm shocked.

"What do I think? That's terrible!" and she has a lost look on her face.

"Why? They want to help us!"

"These people... these men... they're bad... really bad," I say nervously.

"I'm sure Jack and the others won't let them do anything bad," she says, and I try to control myself. This is the worst possible news.

No, no, no. They... Nate, he hates humans. What the hell is

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he thinking?

"You know... I thought maybe... you were going to confess to me that you and the hottie had a thing..." she says, and I widen my eyes.

"What... why?"

"I don't know... there's something about the two of you in the same place that... it's like you're buzzing. And he looks at you like you're a piece of candy he wants to eat, lick and savor... completely and..." she says with gestures... too graphic.

What the heck is wrong with this girl?

"Stop it... I get it. But I assure you... I don't want anything to do with him. And he... even less. We are just mere poor villagers to him" I say nervously.

"If you say so..." she says and started to talk about her novels.

Damn, I have to call my dad, see if he has any more information about this. But... I have to admit that I want to go home and see Wolfie, too.

But I saw someone else waiting for me at the door of my house... someone I wasn't expecting.

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"Nicholas? What are you doing here?"

And from the first moment, I knew something was wrong. He looks disheveled and seems to have had a little more to drink than usual.

"Well, since you seemed to have forgotten about me, I came to see you," he says, and I look at him in confusion.

"I just..." I say.

"I've been calling you for days! Where were you?" he yells at me.

"I... I've been very busy at work..." I say.

"Yeah... working... sure..." he says annoyed. He seems dizzy and also angry. What happened?

"Yes, the restaurant and..."

"Or is that you were with that man?" he asks approaching.

"What man?"

"You know who! Tall, muscular, dark hair!" he yells.

Goddess... The last thing I needed! I don't want to think about Nate, but everyone mentions him.

"I don't... I have nothing to do with him..." I say.

"Really? Because I was told that somebody saw a man enter your house... even naked," he says, and I get offended.

"What do you mean? Who told you that?" I ask, offended.

"Is it true? Tell me the fucking truth!"

"I'm not with anyone else, and I don't know who could have made that up." I tell him, and he slowly approaches me with heavy steps. He grabs my arm and I start to not like it at all.

"I don't like the girls I date hanging out with other guys..."

"Girls... there are more?" What the hell?

"Well, is different for men..."

"No is not! I haven't date with anyone, and I thought you and I... we were..." I say and he shakes his head.

"Hey hey... we're not in that step, little one. We're not exclusive... I mean we haven't even... you know..." he says leaning into me.

"You mean we haven't slept together?" I ask with a lump in my throat, and he snorts.

"These are important things for any man Penelope, we

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have needs, you know that... and you resist so much, and I don't understand why..." he mentions, and I hear a growl in the distance.

"... is an important decision," I reply.

I can smell alcohol on his breath and I dislike this situation more and more.

"Why? You don't have to think about it so much... it's so easy, little one. Did you let him fuck you? Is that what happened?" he says, angry.

"What? No!"

"Oh...are you a virgin?" he says, and I try to get some distance.

"It's not your business..." I reply.

"Really? Ohhh baby...! I can teach you right now! I can do you the favor of taking this problem away from you," he mentions, and I tremble. I take a step back, and he comes after me as I see him stumble.

"What the hell...?" he says, picking up something he tripped over and realizing it was a boot.

Then he notices a pair of jeans right there. He picks them

all up, and it doesn't take a genius to figure out that they are... men's clothes.

"Weren't you with someone else?" he asks and his tone changes completely, he looks aggressive and angry.

He was a big man, and I had a strange urge to run into the woods and get away from him. My brothers were gone and I was all alone.

"These are my brothers' clothes.... "

"Really? And what are they doing out here?" and I can't explain the reason why I leave them there for them to wear when they are in their human form.

"I..."

"You're just a bitch like the rest of the women..." he says through his teeth, grabbing my wrist and squeezing hard.

"Let me go!" I scream at him, but he doesn't seem to care.

"Tell me, how long have you been cheating on me? Did you fuck with him? Tell me!" he yells.

"You just said you'd see other women, and we're not exclusive! You only care about what you want, don't you? You never cared about me, for you women are just

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things to collect and have," I say and he pushes me.

"And I thought you were an easy conquest... the chubby girl who can't attract anyone. A desperate woman... a fatty! But no, you turned out to be a pretentious whore," he says humiliating me and I feel such a rage... how could I have fallen into the hands of such a man?

"You are a bastard and a pig, and I hope no woman will ever be by with you again..." I say, and he laughs, he comes back to me staggering.

"I can have any woman I want. Although... I must admit, you looked great on our last date... if you had let me... I would have done so many things to you, and you would have finally known what it was like to be with a real man," he says, coming over to me.

"Even more so when that muscular, dark haired man kept seeing you... I even thought you might have something going with him, but...let's be honest...a man like him? No way! He couldn't notice a woman like you...fat, nasty bitch," he says, knowing he's hitting me where it hurts, pure low blows.

"Get out of my house...get out of here...!" I yell, pushing him away, and he laughs.

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"A fat woman who is lazy enough to diet or lose weight... you should be thankful I set my eyes on you... ugly whore!"

"Get out of here right now!" I shouted and pushed him again, and this time he fell backwards.

I was now possessed with rage and kept screaming as he seemed to realize that I had knocked him down, and he looked embarrassed.

"You're going to pay for this, you damn woman!" he says, and I snap defensively as I hear a loud growl.

And a wolf comes at Nicholas, clawed and open-mouthed in a mask of fury, I hear his desperate screams while I look in horror.