

Chapter 88

"Hey there, Nicole."

"Garrett!" Nicole gasped.

Garrett rolled his eyes, "You should have left when I asked you to." He emanated dark energy.

Nicole's heart sank as she realized the truth. Garrett, the one she had trusted and considered a friend, was the mastermind behind the attacks and the one who had orchestrated the chaos. It was a revelation that sent shockwaves through her being, shattering the remaining fragments of trust she had held onto.

As she stood in the midst of the enchanted forest, the air thick with magic, she confronted Garrett, her voice trembling with anger and disbelief. "Garrett, how could you? All this time, you were the one pulling the strings?"

Garrett's eyes glinted with a sinister gleam as he regarded Nicole, his voice laced with a twisted satisfaction. "Oh, Nicole, my dear, you underestimated me. I've always been ambitious and always yearned for power. It was only a matter of time before I took matters into my own hands."

Nicole's fists clenched at her sides, her gaze unwavering as she faced the betrayer before her. "But why, Garrett? Why would you betray your pack, your Alpha? What do you hope to gain from all this? You were friends!"

A sly smile crept across Garrett's face as he reveled in his newfound power. "Isn't it obvious? I wanted to be Alpha, to have the control and authority that I deserve. Liam was always blind to my potential, always favoring others over me. But no longer. With the chaos I've sown, I can rise to the top and take what is rightfully mine."

Nicole gasped. It wasn't making sense. She sensed that he was lying. In a quick movement, she leapt forward and smacked his face. Her claws dug into his face as she scratched him.

He screamed, his voice echoing different voices.

"Lies!" Nicole growled, "I may be stuck in this trap of a forest, Garrett, but remember your powers hold no water. I deserve the truth!"

"Stupid bitch," Garrett breathed, he was so different from the friend Nicole remembered.

Garrett's breath came in ragged gasps as he struggled to regain his composure. Blood trickled from a cut on his cheek, mirroring the anger that burned in his eyes. He fixed his gaze on Nicole, a bitter sneer twisting his lips.

"You see, Nicole," Garrett began, his voice laced with venomous resentment, "It all started years ago. I stumbled upon a powerful witch, a formidable force I couldn't resist. She held the very essence of magic within her and I craved that power. But I wasn't always like this. I only became bitter after I lost what was mine."

Nicole listened intently, her eyes narrowing as she tried to comprehend the depths of Garrett's betrayal. "You killed her, didn't you?" she asked, her voice barely concealing her disgust. "You killed the witch..."

A malicious grin played on Garrett's face as he confirmed her suspicions. "Yes, I took her life and absorbed her powers. I became the witch, a force to be reckoned with. It was then that I realized the potential I possessed, the ability to shape events and manipulate those around me."

Nicole's fists clenched at her sides, her voice trembling with a mix of anger and disbelief. "All for what? Why'd you do all this?"

Garrett laughed, "Lilian. I did it for Lilian."

Nicole narrowed her eyes. She didn't quite understand what was happening or what the connection was. "And what about Lilian? Why drag her into this? She had nothing to do with your thirst for power."

Garrett's eyes flashed with a blend of bitterness and longing, "She had everything to do with it. Lilian... She was supposed to be mine. We were destined to be mates, bound by the threads of fate.

But Liam's parents intervened, severing our connection to ensure his path to becoming Alpha. My mate didn't even know that we were mates up until this point!"

A wave of realization washed over Nicole as she connected the dots. The jealousy and resentment she had sensed from Garrett, the way he was angry whenever she was with Liam.

She had thought that he had started developing an attraction to her, but that wasn't the case. Now it all fell into place. Garrett's anger stemmed from the stolen opportunity to be with the one he loved. Things were still not adding up. What did Asha have to do with it? And Garrett had a mate, Lola. What was she to make of what he was saying?

Garrett continued ranting, "I searched for the perfect opportunity. But I was never stronger. So I killed a witch. Yes I did it. Despicable or not, it was a means to an end," he sneered.

"I crave power, Nicole. The power that was denied to me by Liam's parents. They severed my connection with Lilian, the one person I thought I would spend eternity with. And when Liam found you, it was the final straw. I was consumed by anger and a burning desire to tear him down, to take what he has and make him suffer."

Nicole's hands clenched into fists, her voice laced with a mix of anger and sadness. "So, was this all because of jealousy? Because you couldn't have what Liam had? You wanted to ruin both of us?"

Garrett's laughter filled the air, a chilling sound that sent shivers down Nicole's spine. "Oh, it goes deeper than mere jealousy, Nicole. It's about revenge, about proving that I am the one who should have been Alpha.

I wanted to strip Liam of everything he held dear, to crush him beneath the weight of his failures. And you, my dear, you were a pawn in this game. I tried to make you see the truth, to convince you to leave the pack, but you were blinded by your attraction to him."

"But why target Liam's mate?" Nicole demanded, her voice sharp with accusation. "Why involve me in your twisted game?"

Garrett's face contorted with anger and sadistic pleasure, "You were a weakness, Nicole. You stood in the way of my plans. I asked you to leave the pack, multiple times, but you never listened. So, I decided to ruin both of you, to strip away everything you hold dear."

Nicole's heart sank as she realized the extent of Garrett's manipulations. The games he had played, the lies he had spun—everything had been carefully orchestrated to tear her apart from within.

"What does Asha have to do with all this?" She asked "And you had a mate. Lola loved you!"

Garrett sneered. "My oh my, Nicole. Lola was the reason why I was able to become Beta. I used her. There was nothing more to it. And Asha? Asha wanted Liam so badly. She really thought she could be Luna. I approached her multiple times, but she only took interest when you joined the pack!"