

# Caged between the beta & alpha

## chapter 71

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I had just opened the kitchen window when the sound of a vicious growl ripped through the air , making my heart thunder , seeing the flock of birds erupt from the trees and the unease that seemed to swirl around me . It took me a split second to recognise the voice that was barely recognisable . Liam .

That was Liam ! I rushed out of the house , telling the guards to watch Azura and Monica as I raced in the direction of the commotion , faltering when the sound of Raven's scream pierced the air . No. Goddess no ! What has he done ?! " Elijah , it's Liam and Raven ! " I called through the link to Elijah . ' I'm on my way . ' His soothing voice came despite the worry that was consuming me . ' Raven ! Liam ?! '

Nothing . I was hitting a wall . Fuck ! The wind was rushing through my hair as I broke through the trees , the smell of blood seeping into my nose . The sheer blanket of something dark and evil that hung in the air made my blood run cold .

I took in the horrifying scene before me , Damon was holding Raven , who was bleeding profusely , her heart beating far too fast as she choked on the blood that was pouring out of her neck and mouth . She was grasping at her neck , blood running down her fingers , making my stomach churn sickeningly .

Worry and fear for her whirled around me , my heart beating fast . My eyes snapped to Liam , who was advancing on Damon as he was placing Raven down . That darkness ... It was him , it was coming from him .

His normal aura was completely gone ... Replaced by this horrible , sinister darkness ... " HOW COULD YOU ?! " Damon shouted , sounding angrier than I had ever heard him . He blocked Liam , who had just lunged at him , his canines out and anger clear on his face . Damon jumped to his feet , meeting him mid - strike .

It was clear both were ready to rip each other to pieces , I was about to intervene when Damon's next words made me freeze . " YOU MARKED HER ! " Reality came crashing down on me as the realisation settled in .. Her neck ... Her neck .... Fear washed over me like a bucket of ice cold knives , piercing into every inch of my body .

Marked . Fuck .... Memories from long ago flashed to the forefront of my mind , the pain with them making it hard to breathe . History cannot repeat itself . " No ... NO ! " I cried , staring at the blond male before me ... His blond hair was matted with blood ... So similar to his ...

I walked towards them , willing every fibre of my shaking body to move . Just as Elijah ran past me , a menacing growl ripped from his lips . In a flash , he was next to the two boys who were tearing into each other , ready to kill one another .

Elijah slammed Liam to the floor , pinning him down , only for Liam to flip them as both men growled with all they had . The surge of their Alpha power and that darkness enveloped the area like a blanket , their growls making it feel like the ground was vibrating at the intensity o f the sound . Raven's whimper made me come out of m y thoughts and I rushed closer , not even realising I was trembling excessively . She needs a doctor !

But before I could even reach her , Damon got there first , tears in his eyes as he scooped her up as if she was the most fragile thing on the planet . She was ... Fuck Liam had done this ... Guilt and anguish enveloped me as our eyes met for a second .

I had failed them ... Failed He turned , rushing from the scene , his only wish clear ... To save his mate ... Suddenly , I felt something snap inside of me and my mind seemed to become clear . This was not Zidane ... My eyes blazed as I spun around just as I felt a searing pain through the bond and turned to see Liam had ripped through Elijah's side , clearly winning this battle . No one hurts my mate . I growled menacingly , rushing over in a flash and ripping Liam off Elijah .

I pushed him to the ground , staring into those frightening black pits of the man before m e . This was not my son ... He had let his jealousy and anger fuel the darkness ... Let it take over him completely . " LIAM ! " I growled , striking him across the face , letting my claws dig into his face . He hissed , attacking back , but I didn't care . " Liam , what are you doing ?!

" I shouted as my back hit the ground , growling as 1 flipped us over , pinning him to the ground . Nothing but blood , pain and agony . It was all I could see , smell , and feel . My only thoughts were that I did not raise a monster ...

I did not raise a monster ... 1 did not raise a monster .... " Scarlett ! " Elijah's voice came , and I felt myself being pulled away . I gasped coming to , my heart was thundering as I stared at Liam who lay on the ground breathing heavily , his eyes now his usual cerulean blue . A bloody mess , I had wounded him badly .

I could see the wounds that I had made weren't healing ... They wouldn't , because of my ability to slow down the healing of any wound I inflict upon anyone ... " He's back ... Calm down . " Elijah murmured , rubbing my arms as he buried his face in my neck . " He marked her ! He marked her against her will ! " I screamed , pulling out of Elijah's hold . How dare he ?! Did he think this was ok ?! Yes , he was cursed , but ... He had let his own emotions fuel that darkness ...

He had let the curse take over ... Tears blurred my eyes and I didn't even realise I was crying until now , the pain ripping me to pieces . My son , my son had done this ... The pain o f the entire fucking situation hurt . Zidane's blood would forever run through my veins ... in the veins of my children ... H e was gone , but his shadow hadn't .

" F Elijah held my arms tightly , staring down into my eyes with sadness in his blue ones . " I know baby ... He made a mistake and- ' " MISTAKE ?! HE RUINED HER LIFE ! " I screamed . Was just marking someone a ' mistake ? ' It was so much more ... I still awoke with the nightmares of that man ... " What hap ... "

Liam whispered coughing up blood , rolling to his side as he tried to sit up . He was losing a lot blood . " Kitten ... Calm down , I know- " " Don't tell me to calm down ! " I shouted , hitting Elijah's chest .

History was repeating itself . History was Elijah's lips crashed against me , kissing me hard . I struggled for a bit , but he held me in place , one hand in my hair and the other around my waist , until I finally began to calm down . The sparks of the bond coursed through me , soothing the storm within me slightly . Just a little ...

" I'll handle this . " Elijah said quietly when I stopped struggling . I could see the pain in his eyes , as he let go of me and walked over to Liam , who was getting to his feet . I was shocked he still could , considering the injuries ,

but he was a strong Alpha . My son ... I had hurt my son ... he had committed an unforgivable crime ... but it didn't stop a mother from feeling that pain . The pain of his injuries , but more than that , the pain of his sins ... and the pain that he had no idea what he had just done ...

" You marked Raven without her consent . Elijah said , his voice ice cold , laced with sadness , regret and burning anger that he was doing his best to control . The look of horror and shock that crossed Liam's face made my stomach twist and my heartbreak .

He didn't know ... This was going to break him ... " What ? No ... No ... " He looked around , as if trying to see where he was , or what had happened . " Fuck ... No. No. No ! " He staggered back , staring at the blood on the ground , swallowing hard .

Blood that belonged to all five of us ... He must have caught sight of the scent , staring at the blood that belonged to Raven . Any colour he had left in him was gone , his ashen gaze turning to Elijah , who nodded gravely . " I know the curse has given birth to this darkness , that you have lost to it ... allowed your emotions to let it consume you ...

I am your father Liam , and I will help you . You are not alone , you will never be alone , but you have committed a heinous crime and for it , you will be punished . I love you and I will be there for you , but you need to pay for what you have done .

" I watched the anguish in Liam's eyes , watched his entire world come crashing down around him ... And it was at that moment that I realised what this curse had cost . Not only had Liam become unhinged .... he had committed a crime that was equal to rape in our community ...

One that Raven may one day forgive him for ... but one he himself never would ... His gaze flicked to me , looking over my body before his gaze snapped to his father's bloody body .... I watched my son crumble before me , that young boy who had nothing but love for others ... who would hide his own pain and give away everything he loved for others ....

My smiling , little Liam ... " I understand and I agree ... " He swallowed ; his breathing was ragged . " I Liam Westwood , renounce my claim as Alpha of the Blood Moon Pack to my father , Alpha Elijah Westwood , and am ready to pay for the crimes I have committed under the laws of this pack and the council .

" Liam said , falling to his knees as the surge of power shifted . I felt the power of becoming the Luna once more course through my veins . Neither of us was expecting this . My heart pounded as I realised that he was giving up , on himself and life ..

" Liam ... " Elijah said , shocked . " I have one request ... " Liam said , his chest heaving as he tried to breathe . He was losing too much blood ... My vision was blurred with tears , the urge to comfort him ... The pain he had caused both clashed against one another inside of me , but he still needed someone ...

Before I could even move , he tumbled sideways , losing consciousness . I rushed over , my heart pounding . Yes , I wanted him to pay for his crime , but he was still my son , cursed by the wretched gods for his ancestors ' crimes .

" He needs a doctor . " I said , my voice shaking . Elijah looked at me , his eyes pained before he sighed heavily . " His final request , he mind linked me it . " " 1 " What is it ?

" I asked , my heart thundering as I pressed my hands to the long gashes that I had made through his chest trying to stem the blood loss . " No one is to heal him , he made me take an oath upon you I won't break it . " Elijah

said , pain and sadness in his eyes . My heart squeezed in pain . He was punishing himself ... I pulled my shirt off and pressed it to the wounds . " Then at least get some bandages !

" I screamed . I stared down at my son , my heart pounding . The image of Raven's neck flashed to the forefront of my mind ... A brutal bite that had almost killed her . Was she ok ?

" And get someone to call Kiara , we need her ! " What have you done , Liam ? There's no going back ... I kept my hand firmly on his stomach and chest , but i my shirt was already drenched . I knew my son was deep down in there somewhere ... and I knew that he would never be able to forgive himself .

## Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 72

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Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 72 Two Lunas UNKNOWN POV I smiled , staring at the old , stained passport – sized photograph in my hand . The smell of disinfectant was strong in the air , nice and clean . " I did it . I have hurt them . She won't survive now ... I rocked back and forth , my grip on the photograph tight . " Everything has been destroyed ... I'll avenge you ... I'll make you proud ...

and I'll make him fall in love with me ... He will be mine ... all mine ... all mine ... " " My breathing became ragged as the excitement within me grew . " And as for her ... I'll make sure I add her t HE o my collection ... I was almost there ... Soon , soon he'll notice that I am the one he needs . Soon ! " Are you proud of me ? Are you watching me ? " I whispered heavily ; my breathing ragged as I stared at the picture , unblinking . " Yes , you are , you are ... You have to be proud ! I will get revenge for you .... For our family ... For everything ... But it's ok if I take him for myself ... right ? You won't be angry with me , will you ? " No ... No , you won't . Because I will make you happy too ... I stroked my finger down the photo , smiling . Oh ... yes ... He will be all mine ... Mine ... Mine ... I can taste it . That vengeance , that darkness in the air ... The fear ... Everyone is scared now ... Scared of who would be next ... But they won't know , they'll never know , because I will kill them when they least expect it ... But I had my next targets already decided They'll never see me coming ... No one ever does ... And now that the Alpha has committed a crime ... Oh , this pack will be destroyed , from the inside ! Yes , from the inside ! Now ... Who shall we kill next ? I hid the photograph away , sliding it between the gap between the wall and the skirting board , and stood t up . I had two options ; I didn't like either of them , and since Monica was kept far too safe , then I'll settle for either of these .... I smiled as I tapped my chin , him or her ? Which one ... Eenie Meenie miney " Wait ! Of course ... It has to be him ! Oh my ... him and then his mate ! Why didn't I do this sooner ! Oh my , please don't be angry at me . I will avenge you ... I will ... I will ! My eyes darted around my bedroom , I needed to clean it up once more ... I didn't want any clues to be left behind ... Grabbing the cloth and the disinfectant spray , I stared at the clean boards ... They were clean , but I couldn't help but see the non – existent bloodstains . It's always good to be safe ... Always .... I dropped to my knees , brushing my hair the floor . back as I began to hum softly , cleaning " Scrub , scrub , scrub ... " DAMON Watching the doctors shouting ... being told that Kiara was on her way .... The sound of Raven's heart rate picking up and dropping ... Zack and Taylor trying to hold me back ... Someone trying to check me .... I couldn't leave her ! But the doctors didn't want me there , I hated it ! I should have been protecting her ... I should have been fucking faster ... A blast of powerful magic and a rush of wind filled the hall , making every paper o n the wall move . All three of us raised our arms , shielding our faces from the whipping wind when two women appeared before me . My eyes widened in shock as I stared at them . Kia ? I looked at the other woman . Her head was pure white , her eyes blazing red , and something about her told me she was more than a human , involuntarily noticing her beauty . I frowned , snapping my gaze to Kiara who didn't even notice m e as she pushed open the hospital door rushing into the room . The woman before me blinked and her eyes changed to a startling blue , she looked ' normal ' again . I knew who this was , I had heard of her ; Delsanra , Rayhan's Mate , and the Luna of the Black Storm Pack . She gave me a small nod before running into the room . I got up , feeling relief flood me , Kiara could heal her . Raven will be ok ! I went to the door , seeing Kiara's purple glow already surrounding her and Raven's heartbeat becoming steady . " If we can take some skin , we can graft it before I heal her completely ... Otherwise , it's going to leave a mark . " Kiara's broken voice came . " I'll do that with magic , doctor what section ? " " Ah ... here ... " Doctor Smith said , pointing at a section of her leg . " Quick ! " Kiara said , her voice filled with urgency . Delsanra nodded , placing her hand above Raven's leg whispering a spell as the doctors and nurses all moved back , clearly uncomfortable with the magic being used . I wrinkled my nose , flinching as a square o f skin was removed from Raven's leg , leaving a horrible red patch behind and floating towards Raven's neck . " Perfect ! " Kiara said , moving her hand back as Delsanra placed the graft with her magic over Raven's neck . Kiara placed her hand on her neck , I saw both hers and Delsanra's auras

merge as they wrapped around Raven's neck . My heart was thundering as I walked over to them , not wanting to get in the way , but I needed to be close to her ... She needed someone ... " She's going to be ok ... " Kiara said , quietly looking at me . I nodded , unable to speak as I walked around on the other side . Delsanra finally stopped whispering her spell and nodded as Kiara too removed her hand .. All three of us , the doctors and nurses , stared at Raven's neck , and I felt relief flood me . " It's perfect . " Delsanra said , smiling with approval . " It's ... she's marked ? " Kiara said , shocked , her eyes going to me . I clenched my jaw , looking down at the mark . A crescent moon with a rose in front of it ... beautiful ... Yet the horror of how she got it would forever remain , a memory that would always be traumatic and painful . Marked by a monster ... There was no Liam at that moment , there had just been this his anger , hatred and jealousy ... " It's not yours . " Kiara said softly . I looked up at her my eyes flashing . " Do you think I would have ripped her fucking throat out ? " I said coldly , regretting it when her eyes widened at my tone . " Oh , I'm sorry ... I didn't realise ... That mark was ... She looked horrified , putting the pieces together , and I looked away . " Sorry , I didn't mean- " " It's ok ... I understand . " Kiara replied , smiling gently as she bent down and kissed Raven's forehead , sadness clear in her eyes " I'll give you two a moment . " She backed away , trying to control her emotions . Delsanra led her out and I stared down at Raven . Her beautiful face was pale ... Collapsing to my knees by the bed , I kissed her hand , unable to stop the tears . She could have fucking died ; she could have died ... My heart thumped when I felt the shift in power , a passing of power . What ... " I will get her cleaned up , " A nurse said to me , gently placing a hand on my shoulder , it took me a moment to recognise her . An old friend of moms ... " G o son , she'll feel better soon . You need to get checked too ... " No , I didn't . I was fine . I didn't argue though , for Raven , but it took my fucking all to let go of that hand . She had lost far too much in life , yet all she did was smile and pretend to be happy . I walked out of the room , the group fell silent , clearly having been discussing something . " Care to share ? " I said quietly . Kiara walked over to me , placing her hand on my chest as she healed my wounds . I frowned but said nothing , I didn't deserve to be healed ... " Alpha Elijah is the Alpha again . " Zack said quietly , " Liam stepped down himself . I frowned . So he had come to his fucking senses ... " Who called you ? " I asked Kiara as Zack placed his hand on my back , forcing me to sit down . I frowned at him , not missing the mark o n his neck . I raised an eyebrow but didn't question it , it had not been there last night . " Liana , Zack had told her to . " Kiara said , a flicker in her eyes made me wonder if there was something between them . But right now , the only thing that consumed my mind was what happened inside that room . " So , you're a witch ... " Taylor asked Delsanra . " That's pretty cool . " " Thanks ... Yes , I am . " She replied . " We were at Rayhan's pack , and well , when I got the call the two of us came quickly . " Kiara explained . " Ah . I see . " I said quietly . Thank the goddess she had gotten here on time . " Can anyone tell me why Liam did what he did ? " Kiara asked , her voice strained , I knew she was trying to remain calm . " I'm unable to talk to Mom and Dad as well . " " You're going to have to talk to your parents . " I said , it was up to them to tell her what they deemed fit . " Go , I'll keep him company . " Zack said quietly , as if I couldn't hear . " I'll take them . " Taylor said looking at him . They exchanged looks , and to my surprise Zack reached over , taking hold of his chin for a second before letting go . Remembering Zacks mark , I glanced at Taylor in surprise . Were they mates ? Kiara smiled slightly , although it didn't reach her eyes or do anything to hide her sadness before she turned to me . " She's going to be ok . " She said softly , placing a hand on my shoulder before Taylor led them away . I placed my head in my hands the moment they were gone . Zack sat down , patting my back , blowing out a breath . " Things are going to be ok . " " You don't recover from that ...

being fucking forcefully marked . " " I know ... Liam won't forgive himself either . " " I didn't reply . My heart felt heavy .... Yeah , he wouldn't and neither would I .

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## chapter 73

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The Bond Of Twins

KIARA

I didn't know what to say ... Dante's birth was the catalyst for Liam's darkness ? Goddess , I felt devastated for my brother . We had come to find Mom and Dad , but only Mom was there . Dad was now the Alpha of the pack again , Mom had filled u s in on everything :

The curse , the card , Liam , the killer , and the truth about Raven's past . Alejandro had called to ask if everything was ok and if he was needed , but I told him we were ok , right now there was nothing more we could do .

" How could you not tell me ! Raven lost her mom and she wasn't allowed to tell m e ? She ... How are we making a change if she's still being told to keep things on the low ? " I ran my fingers through my hair trying to stay calm , for Mom , I could tell she was distraught . Liam had marked Raven and that triggered Mom's own trauma of what her biological father had done to her ...

Raven ... Seeing the state she had been in ... It broke my heart , and worse , my brother had done it . Seeing her small figure just lying there ... It broke me , I wished I could take away more than her physical pain . As for the card that Liam pulled , I remembered it too ...

I just couldn't believe they didn't tell me anything , Raven , too . I felt like a bad friend for not picking up o n , it but she never shared anything with m e , ever . Her dad was abusive .... I remember how she used to joke about stuff often ...

' Dad would throw a slipper at me if I did that ... Dad is going to really kill me if I'm not home ... I really don't want to go home ' When she used to say it , I would put it down to her wanting to be a little rebellious ... I never realised there was more to it . In I stared at the ground , my mind spinning . I'm a bad friend , to Raven , to Damon , and an awful sister to Liam ....

" I'll try to see if I can find anything on the curse . Maybe I can try finding some answers . " Delsanra said , frowning slightly . I nodded . " Thanks . " I replied appreciatively before turning to Mom . " What about the killer ? " " Still uncaught , we have a few clues and have ruled out at least a third of the pack . " Mom replied . " Delsanra , is there anything that you can find out ? " I asked .

" Do you have anything that belongs to the killer ? " She said turning to Mom . Mom shook her head . " They leave nothing behind . " She said , her eyes looked

blank , I knew the entire situation with Raven and Liam was taking its toll upon her . " Then unless I probe every mind of everyone in this pack , I don't think I can . " Delsanra said regretfully .

" Yes , and similar to the Alpha command , we don't want that . There's already a lot of tension and doubt going through the pack . Now with Liam losing control , things will be even harder ...

People will feel even more worried , doubt and fear from the inside can cause more damage . " hair . Mom said running her hand through her hair . Yeah , we knew that ... I exchanged looks with Delsanra . " I understand . Maybe I can take a look at the bodies , see if there's anything I can do .

" Sure , how long are you two here for ? You've left the kids as well Kia . " Mom asked , now looking up . " The men know we might be a day . " I replied with a small smile . " I think they'll do perfectly well together , Rayhan and Dante get on like a house on fire .

" Delsanra added with a small smile .. I looked at her , slightly amused despite the situation . " Oh , they do indeed . " I replied . Dante , due to his abilities , could see Delsanra's true form and his infatuation with her was still there . " Where is Liam ? " I asked , now glancing at

Mom as Azura came into the room , climbing into Mom's lap . Mom hugged her tightly and I felt that Azura was that comfort and light Mom needed so often lately . As for Dad , how much more did he have to suffer ? " In the cells .

" Mom replied quietly . My eyes widened in shock , " But you said he's injured ! " I shot up . " He is ... but he marked her Kiara ... it's a crime . " Mom said quietly . " I could sense her anguish . Of course , she didn't want him there , but she had to be fair . I nodded ,

" I get that , but he is injured , isn't he ? " " Yes , and I hurt him .... " Delsanra looked shocked but said nothing , I simply stared at Mom . We knew roughly what happened , but I didn't know that Mom had hurt him .... I thought it was Damon ! I turned and ran from the room , my heart ringing in my ears as I rushed from the

house . The sun was setting , I heard someone shout for me to wait to be escorted but I didn't care . Liam . Didn't they get it ? I knew what kind of person Liam was .

He had always put others before him , I get that he had changed , but it was the darkness that made him do it ! I know it's still wrong , but leaving Liam alone at this time was not the right thing to do ! It would destroy him ! That would only push him further into darkness . Liam always loved with everything he had , gave willingly , and put himself last .

I often saw so many qualities of Uncle Rafi in him . But leaving him when he needed help , was the worst thing possible . Fine , he made Dad take an oath to not heal him , but I didn't answer to Dad ! I reached the entrance to the pack headquarters , slowing down and stared at the two guards . " I demand to see my brother . Open the doors . " " Yes Luna , we have to ask the Alpha- "

" Boys ... I'm the queen , I answer to no one but my king . Step . Aside . " I said icily , despite both men being in their late twenties at the least . My eyes flashed and I let my aura roll off .

They exchanged looks and stepped aside , unable to refuse my command and unlocking the entrance . I also knew they had probably mind linked Dad , but I didn't really care . No one could stop me from healing him ! I ran down the hall , my heart thudding loudly . The bond we had was not something small , even if we were miles apart .

Why didn't he tell me what he was going through ? Why hadn't I felt it ? Why was I such a horrible friend and sister ? I tried , I tried to do my best , but it was never enough .

My heart ached at that , as I rushed past some pack members walking around , heading towards the cells . " Open the door ! " I growled . One of the men thumbed in the passcode . I rushed past them and towards the cells , slowing down when I saw a bloody mess laying on one of the beds in a cell .

Liam . Dad stood outside , his eyes looked empty , like a man who had lost everything . I walked towards him and he looked at me . I could smell the blood from him .

My gaze dipping to his waist , I knew that , despite the leather jacket he wore , he was still supporting his own injuries . " " Kiara . " " Dad . " I whispered , wrapping my arms around him tightly , letting my healing flow through us . " Don't ... " He muttered , pulling away . He was punishing himself too ... " Open the door , I need to see him .

" I said . " You want to heal him , Kia , I took an oath . # Yeah , I'm not doing this ... Not now . I simply nodded . " I do want to heal him . " " " You can't . " Dad said firmly . I looked down at him , placing my hand on his waist , but he jerked away .

" No .. " So , you're really not letting yourself get healed because of your son .... My heart ached for my family . They didn't deserve this . " Ok , at least let me see him . I want to talk t o him or at least hold him if I can't heal him . " I whispered pleadingly , putting on the most innocent expression I could , making sure tears filled my eyes .

It wasn't hard , considering the amount of pain I was feeling . I may be mated and a mother now , but I will always be daddy's little girl . He looked at me , his eyes softening , and he stroked my hair . " Only to talk . " He said quietly , placing a soft kiss on my forehead . I nodded dejectedly , as if I was giving up , and Dad unlocked the door .

I entered the cell , my heart thumping as I rushed to Liam . His familiar scent and the blood were mixed together , reminding me of what had happened . He was awake but I wasn't sure if he was fully there . His usual cerulean eyes were washed out , his skin pale covered in a layer of sweat ... " Liam ? " I whispered , brushing his matted locks off his forehead .

" Liam ? " Genuine tears trickled down my cheeks as I felt the pain of seeing him in this condition . " Liam , can you hear me ? It's me , Kia . " I whispered , kissing his cheek .

His eyes fluttered slightly and I closed my eyes , pressing my forehead to his , my hand still on his cheek as I let my healing flow through me , feeling it spread through him and sensing his pain . " Kiara ! " Dad said .

My eyes blazed and I allowed my aura to flare around me , raising a barrier of pure power as he ran inside . Unable to penetrate the barrier , he called out to me , but I was not going to listen to him . He took an oath , I didn't . Liam took a deep , shuddering breath , his

eyes flying open as he shot up , backing away from me against the wall behind him . " It's ok Liam , I'm here . " I said softly , cupping his face as he looked around the cell , his heart pounding . I sat on the small bed next to him , pulling him into my arms . " Kia ? " He whispered hoarsely . " I'm here .

" I whimpered , trying to fight my tears that refused to stop falling . I heard Dad walk out and close the door behind him , walking off . I knew he was hurting , but as Alpha , he had to uphold his responsibilities too .

" W – what are you doing here ? Raven ... Fuck I messed up . Raven . She needs you ! " He said , struggling to escape me , but right now I was stronger . He had lost far too much blood . " I'm here for my best friend and my special friend . " I whispered , referring to what I used to call him as a child . " For my brother , who always took care of me . Why didn't you share what was going on , with me ? "

He moved back slowly , looking at me with eyes that were full of sorrow . " I marked her Kia ... I fucking marked her . " He said , his voice breaking , his eyes full of anguish and glittering with unshed undo that . " tears . " There's nothing that can fucking I know , Goddess I know ... I cupped his face , tears streaming down my cheeks .

" I know ... but we will get through this . " [ whispered . I didn't know how , but we would . " You shouldn't have healed me . I didn't deserve it . " " Are you giving up on life , Liam ? " I asked softly , my chest aching at the pain and turmoil that he was inflicted with . His eyes met mine , his heart thundering and I realised I had just hit the nail on the head . Goddess , he was ... " I'm not safe to be around .... You should go .

" He said quietly , his expression going blank . " No. I'm staying right here . " I said , my eyes flashing purple as I kicked my heels off and crossed my legs . An emotion – filled his eyes , but before I could make sense of it , it was gone . 11 " She must be devastated or super angry . " He whispered , looking at his hands .

I tensed ; did he not realise that Raven had almost died ? My heart thundered and he looked at it sharply . " What is it ? " " Nothing , she's ... I guess a little angry . " I said , not knowing what to say .

" You're lying . What are you hiding , Kia ? " He asked , panic filling his eyes . " I ... She's still unconscious . " I whispered . " Unconscious ... Why ? I ... The blood .... The ... " The realisation hit him and he looked at me , horrified .

" What did I do , Kia ? Why is she fucking unconscious ?! " " Because you bit her so brutally that she lost a lot of blood , I came to heal her . " I said quietly , knowing I couldn't keep it from him forever .

He needed to know . Although I couldn't bring myself to say he almost ripped her entire throat out , he still needed to know . A single tear escaped his eye as he slowly looked down , and , at that moment , I knew he would never forgive himself .

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### Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 74

#### Faith Lost TWO DAYS LATER – RAVEN

I had been discharged from the hospital the following day , thanks to Kia and Rayhan's Kitty . I still remember the look in Kiara's eyes ... The moment she told me that I should have told her what I was going through .

The tears ... The promises that we really won't hide anything any longer . Something I knew both of us would honour . I hated seeing her feel like a disappointment when it was my own doing that I hid it all from them ,

when I had so many chances to tell them . She had spent the night with Liam , I could smell his scent from her when she had come to see me in the morning . I wasn't able to ask her how he was , I didn't know what to think . She had spent the day with me , it frustrated me that because of me she was being torn like this , between me and him , but she had nothing but love and concern for me .

Her parting words still rang in my head , them , it still hurt . and despite the fact that I knew she meant ' I will always be here for you , hun , no matter what you decide , do or want . I will be by your side , ok ?

" Damon had brought me to his house , although I had no idea what we were , remembering exactly what we were going to do before Liam had arrived . I was just glad things were still good between us and I knew that would always remain .

Damon didn't leave my side ; only for short moments to shower , check up on his mother , or if he had to do something , but for the most part he stayed by my side . Aunty Red and Uncle El had visited me . I could see the pain in Aunty Red's eyes as she had stared at my mark ; the guilt and anguish that she was trying to hide , the beating of her heart , the way she hugged me tightly .

Her whispered apology that she didn't give me the chance to refute . She had asked if I wanted to go to theirs , but ... I refused . I couldn't go there . It hit me hard , knowing Liam had renounced his Alpha title , and that he was in the cells . I could feel the pain Liam was going through , through the bond . A bond that had become so strong that I felt restless .

I could feel his regret , his agony and his hopelessness . It hurt ... I was now on Damon's sofa , a blanket over me and a mug of hot chocolate in my hands . " Delsanra didn't find anything .

" Damon said as he sat down on the edge of the sofa . " She didn't ? " I said , sighing . Delsanra and Kia had left last night , only after Delsanra had tried to see if she could find anything , with her final words '

It seems even witches don't have the power to probe into the works of gods . ' She felt guilty she wasn't able to help but we assured her we were grateful for it . I wish I could get to know her more , but we had exchanged numbers to keep in touch . Kia had started a group chat with Raihana too , for the four of us called ' Queens ' , a title I don't think really fitted me . " No. " He said frowning slightly .

" You're angry at him . " I said softly . He clenched his jaw , staring at the coffee " What do you want , me to go give him a pat on the back ? " He said , now turning those blue eyes to me .

" I saw him rip your throat out , Raven . He was so fucking blinded by his anger . " I know ... I'm not blaming you , what Liam did wasn't right ... " I said , tracing my fingers over the mark on my neck , a mark that so suited the true Liam .

My heart clenched painfully at the memory , it hurt me too . The look of hatred as he bit into me was so painfully ... I know I could have died . I had never thought he'd be able to hurt me ...

" I know that this curse hasn't made things easier . Probably seeing us kiss triggered his anger and in turn , the darkness took over . " a " Will you forgive him ? " Damon asked quietly , his eyes flashing in anger . I looked up at him , before staring at my mug of hot chocolate . I was hurt , upset , angry , confused and broken in a way . But my inner mind was

clashing , a part of me wanted to scream and shout . Why was it that all my life everyone took my decisions for me ? I was choosing Liam , but what should have been a sweet moment of me telling him that I choose him has been taken from me by force . Then , a part of me wanted to comfort the broken man who until now remained in the cells , to tell him that it was ok .

But ... was it ? I loved him , so so much . Every time I think about him , I remember the young man he used to be ; the loving , caring , thoughtful Liam who always paid attention to me . Probably the only person who ever came close to knowing the truth about my life ... He used to ask me if everything was ok , if I'm happy and I always assured him I was fine .

The Liam without the darkness , I loved him too ... The way he remembered stuff , the way he did things , the attention to detail , my favourite colour , the cake .... Even when we became intimate , he always gave , still waiting . He was always waiting ... He never took advantage of us or pushed me further ... He was considerate

But I also couldn't just pretend this didn't happen . I wasn't something to be claimed , I had the right to make my own decision . What I didn't get was that Damon and I were willing to give up everything for him ... but then ... this ... " In time . I think I will ... " I replied softly . Time ... He didn't have much time ... My heart squeezed painfully .

" He doesn't deserve it . " He said icily . I reached out , taking his hand . He had always put Liam first , I knew witnessing that must have been hard for him , and right now I knew both men needed me . Why did I feel like we were just making the curse stronger ? Time was running out As for Damon , he had shown his love for me ;

the way his eyes filled with pain and love when I woke up in the hospital room , the way he whispered , " Thank the goddess you're ok , I love you ... The way his heart thundered in his chest as he held me against it . I wouldn't forget . " Have you talked to him ? Have you seen him ? He is probably regret- "

" Stop defending him , Raven ! For goddess's sake , you need to stop letting everyone take advantage of you . " He said frustrated , pulling his hand from my hold . My chest tightened painfully ; I wasn't doing that ... I just ... I wanted everything to be ok . " I'm not letting anyone take advantage of me . " I said quietly .

" I hope not . " He said quietly , standing up , he walked over to the window staring out . I looked down , no , this was an eye opener . Now with everything that had happened , would I still choose Liam ?

This was enough to show me my true feelings , I knew the three of us would never work together and I had given up on that a long time ago . The ringing of the doorbell pulled me out of my reverie , and Damon gave me an apologetic smile . " Sorry for getting irritated . " " It's ok , you're angry . Now go get the door ! "

" Going . " He replied with a small smile . The look in Damon's eyes when he had held me as I bled .... I still remembered it .... " Hey , beautiful girl . " Taylor's voice came , his scent filling my nose as he came over and pulled me tightly into his arms . " Taylor ... " I whispered , hugging him back . His scent had changed .

I looked up at him sharply , noticing him looking at my mark . His eyes were filled with sadness and I wished they weren't ... I really ... I didn't need sympathy ... I knew the rumours had crossed through the pack , but there wasn't much I could do about it . " Hey , Raven . " Zack's voice came just as he entered , holding a large bouquet of flowers , a teddy bear and a hamper .

Totally from Taylor . " These are from Tay . " He added , as if he did not want to be seen holding such pretty things . " Thanks , babe . " Taylor said , flashing him a smile , making me gasp . " Babe ?! You two are together !

" I squealed , jumping up onto the sofa and hugging him tightly . Thanks to the sofa , our height was a lot more level . Taylor chuckled . " We are . " He said softly ,

" Why didn't you tell me when you mind linked me yesterday ! " I shouted unhappily . " I ... You had just got out of the hospital ... " He said , I moved back wanting to see his mark . " Show me it . " The men exchanged looks and I rolled my eyes .

" Just because I was marked against my will , it does not mean I'm going to become a crying puddle every time I see a mark . " I said annoyed . " Besides ... My mark isn't dark or ugly , it's beautiful ... Like the real Liam that I know is in there . " " Silence fell in the room , I realised that no one in this room held any faith in Liam anymore ...

## Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 75

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For Me

RAVEN

A week had passed , and I finally decided to brave stepping outside . Everyone was being extra supportive , constantly keeping me company or mind linking me to ask how I'm feeling or what I'm up to but really , I just needed everyone to act normal .

I didn't want this pity . Kiara was the only one who really understood that , when she texted , it was just pictures of the twins or Dante , or talking about general things . I just wanted everything to return to normal , but could they ? My emotions were hot and cold , I went from happy to utterly defeated within moments of each other

. Sometimes I'd remember flashes of the cottage and him telling me he would wait for me , and then I'd see him ripping through my neck . I kept waking up at night , those bottomless pits of his eyes flashing in my mind , his canines out as he bit me .... My last thoughts were always the same in my nightmares . Liam won't hurt me . I now wrapped my arms around myself as

I walked through the pack grounds , just fresh air . wanting to think things through in the I had wanted to return to training but Damon had said it was better I didn't , I knew why : Everyone was talking . I'm going to have to face it

sooner or later . I didn't want to be cocooned up . Sighing , I tugged at the sleeve of my ribbed black shirt , which had three buttons at the top which I had left open .

I was wearing some ripped jeans with net tights under , paired with some black heeled boots . I looked at the small plushie in my hand . Sparks ... I wanted to go back to the graveyard but I hadn't been able to ... Right now , I just need someone to talk to . He was the only real family I had , I'm sure if he was here , he'd love me , right ? I heard snickering and looked up to see Owen smirking as he walked past me , smart enough not to push me . Guess he learned his lesson last time .

I ignored him and headed to the graveyard . It was a dull day today ... I pushed open the small gate and made my way over to Renji's grave . I sat down on my knees before it and looked down at it . Like always , it was well kept . " Hello Renji , I hope you're ok ... A lot's happened since the last time I came here .... I'm sorry it took me so long when I promised to meet you ...

But I wasn't allowed to come ... I'm sorry . I wonder if Mom is with you now or not ? " I asked softly , placing Sparks at the foot of the gravestone . " Look , Sparks is back ... He's s o happy to be here again .

" I smiled gently as a soft wind blew through my hair . " I was going to reject Damon . We were going to do it . I chose Liam ... but ... He marked me forcefully ... and I haven't seen him since ... " I whispered , feeling my eyes prickle . " I don't know what to feel . At times I feel numb , at others confused , upset , hurt ... I know what he did wasn't right , but I also know that Helios ' curse isn't something we can just ignore . I'm worried about him . He's in the cells , but I'm also ... scared ... " " 1 I covered my face as the tears began

flowing and I sobbed quietly . " I mention him and everyone gets angry . I s it wrong that I want to talk to him ? But I haven't mind linked him either ... I ... I'm scared ... I just I don't want him to shut me out .

" I whispered . I loved him so so much , I get that , but at the same time , I can't just forget what he did . The darkness in him was strong , but wasn't this the time to help him ? The fear of what might happen was still there , but I was stronger than that . Someone placed their hand on my shoulder and I gasped , jerking away as I stared up at Nina .

I had been so absorbed i n my thoughts that I hadn't even noticed her . " Are you ok ? " She asked with concern clear in her eyes . I nodded , wiping my tears quickly . " Yes , I am . " I said , sniffing . " You're a strong woman , Raven . It's all going to be ok . " She said , her eyes filled with confidence as she patted my back .

I hoped so . Right now , I don't know what to do " I'm going to go . Thank you . " I said softly . I stood up and she nodded . I glanced at Renji's grave , bidding him a silent farewell before I turned and left the graveyard .

I walked along slowly , trying to make sense of my emotions , remembering a conversation I had with Uncle El a few days ago when he had visited me at Damon's ... ( FLASHBACK ) " How do you feel ,

I mean , emotionally ? " He asked , shoving his hands into the pockets of his jeans as he stood in front of the fireplace . It was just the two of us , Damon was out , and although I wanted to return to the packhouse , it would mean I would have to face everyone . I looked down at my knees . How did I feel ? " Lost ... Sometimes I feel like I got this , I can do this ... How it's ok , I'm ok ... "

" It's not ok and it's alright to feel like that Raven . " He said quietly . " I think you need to stop trying to accept things , think deeply of what you want . " I stayed quiet and he continued . " Where's the confident Raven who was ready to own everything ? I want her back , I want her to consider her happiness above all .

This curse is not on you , if it's meant to be broken , it will be . We can do this but it doesn't mean you need to be sacrificed or influenced to make decisions because of it . I want you to decide what you want without any external factors weighing on your decision . Without you feeling guilty of this or that . Until then , I want you to focus on yourself and nothing more . No what if I do this or it's because of this . " nodded .

" I know , but we do know that the darkness of the curse played a factor . " " It did , but it's not an excuse . I love him and I am there for him , but you need to stop justifying it . Think only about your feelings . Also ... If Damon were to markS you , that mark could be removed . " him . My eyes widened in shock as I stared up at Remove the mark ...

. " I know that removing it won't undo the damage it has done mentally , but it can at least get it off you . " I looked down . Right now , I didn't know what I wanted . Although I knew that I would eventually come to terms with it

. I wasn't sure what I wanted , but I had already planned to let Damon go ... I wasn't going to use him to remove the mark . Right now , I felt like I didn't want anyone ... I didn't want a man , I didn't need one ... " I'll keep that in mind . " I said quietly . ( END OF FLASHBACK ) I stared at the sky . Live for me ... but to do that ... I needed to get rid of the baggage from my life ... all of it . ' Alpha . ' ' Raven ? ' Uncle El's reply came .

I want Dad's trial to be soon . I know it's been delayed , but let's not postpone it anymore . " ' Are you sure you're ready ? ' ' I want to put this all behind him , I need this . ' I said quietly .

' Very well , your father's will be tomorrow , and Liam's , we will set it for two days after Haru's . ' I knew Liam would eventually be trialed too ... But so soon ? ' Ok , ' I said , quietly cutting the link . I knew what I wanted to do before then , what I needed to do . Visit Liam .