

# Caged between the beta & alpha

## chapter 79

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### Redemption RAVEN

Two days had passed since the night of the rejection , I had spent it sitting next to Damon , refusing to leave him , because even if he was smiling , I knew he was hurting . We put a movie on , although I knew neither of us were watching it as we had soon fallen asleep on the sofa . I knew that it would take him time because he had held out hope .

Somewhere along the line , I had given up , knowing that it wouldn't work , but he had held on . I hope somewhere in the future we can look back and smile at this entire situation . Someday , one day . Today was the day of Liam's trial .

It terrified me to know that tonight he'll be punished . This was the future Alpha of the pack , and although right now it felt like there was no hope , I was confident he would get there one day . As for the curse , it was clear Liam himself had to do something to end it , but what ? Even I didn't know , all we knew was the answer lies within .

Moreover , the killer was still out there . The pack was still working on it , but since , Liam had been the one leading it , they were now set back . With him gone , they had to check over things he had already done , although from what Damon told me they were in contact with him to help where he could . He was even reviewing files in his cell .

He had told me that Liam had ordered them to do a thorough check on the tracker and stealth wolves who had the ability to hide their heartbeats . As for no scent , sprays to hide them could easily be made or retrieved from the pack supplies , which were also checked , but none seemed to be unaccounted for .

So either someone was making their own or getting them from somewhere else . Since I hadn't felt anyone creep up behind me the night my mom was killed , we felt that a tracker wolf would be higher up on the list of suspects with a chance of being the killer . I was in the hall now , seated at the front once again . Today I wore a high – neck top , not wanting all eyes on my mark .

Everyone was seated just as they had that day but this time the room was far more uneasy , and there were more pack members here than there had been on Dad's trial . The doors opened and Liam was brought in . His scent wafted into my nose and I closed my eyes , trying to control my emotions . I watched him walk

through the centre , unlike Dad who had two guards holding him , Liam led the way .

Despite him being stripped of rank , he was clearly still an Alpha . His eyes were trained ahead and he took the seat that was awaiting him . The guards cuffed him to the chair just as Dad had been , before stepping away . Uncle El stood up , his face emotionless , a frown furrowing his brow . I felt dreadful that indirectly because of mine and Liam's situation , they were going through this .

No , because of this stupid curse too . " As you all know , we are here today to hold Liam Westwood accountable for the crimes he has committed ... One that deserves capital punishment , for marking Raven Jacobs against her will and almost killing her in the process . " Uncle El's eyes flashed dark cobalt and my gaze shifted to " The room remained quiet , I knew everyone was unsure of what to make of it .

My heart was squeezing as I looked at him . He simply nodded slowly , his face emotionless despite his eyes clouded with emotions . What were we ?

" Liam , do you have anything to say ? " Uncle El asked . Aunty Red was frowning , the sadness in her eyes clear . Liam raised his eyes , staring ahead with those cerulean orbs of his , full of emotion . " I allowed my anger to get the better of me , and in the process ... committed a terrible crime . I don't deserve any leniency and I don't think any punishment can make up for what I did . " He said clearly . Uncle El nodded .

" I've thought long and hard ... Considering you are an Alpha ... you are meant to be an example to this pack . An Alpha is meant to be what he wants his people to be ; a role model for the youth of his pack . If the Alpha commits a crime , it is far worse , With this title comes great responsibility , one we must always uphold . As your Alpha , I sentence you to five hundred lashes with silver in public .

" My eyes flew open in shock . Five hundred ?! That was worse than Dad's ! And in public ? Why humiliate him ? I looked at Uncle El , not missing the way his fist trembled by his side , or the way Aunty Red gripped his arm .

This was hurting them too ... Yet they were doing the right thing for the pack ... A whisper of shock went through the room , and from the snippets I could hear , I knew people were shocked that the Alpha was subjecting his own son to something like this . But Alpha Elijah was always known for his fairness and equality .

" You will remain under house arrest at our home for the next six months . As for becoming Alpha ... If the title is meant to be yours , then it shall be , if and when the pack deems you are worthy of it . Raven ... Do you want to add anything ? " " Yes . " I said , standing up . For my happiness and what I felt was right " I don't like the punishment .

" I said . " It's befitting , " Liam said , now glancing at me . My heart skipped a beat and I shook my head . No , it wasn't . It wasn't just an external factor . Yes , marking someone against their will was bad , but was everyone forgetting the curse too ?

Yes , he got angry , but the darkness was still there . " Let him at least walk around the pack and carry on as usual . The killer is still out there and Liam is needed on that case . Yes , he doesn't need to have his Alpha title , but the pack needs him , rather than keeping him inside where he can't be of any use . " I said , looking at Uncle El . He frowned , pondering over my words .

" Very well , he will be allowed to take his place amongst the pack . However ... due to his ... temper , he will be on wolfsbane until it's under control . He will , however , reside in the Alpha home . " Uncle El continued , I knew he meant the curse . That was better , Liam needed support and I knew they said the Alpha's home , so he wouldn't be completely alone .

This was still better , but he needed more than just two people there for him . " If that- " " The lashes , I want the punishment lessened . " I said quietly , my heart thumping . I wasn't stupid , I wasn't going to let my emotions take over completely , but I didn't like this .

" I can't do that . " Uncle El said quietly . I'm bending the rules- " " I know what he did was wrong . I know that I could have died . I also know of every factor that contributed to it ; mistakes were made , and although it will take me time , I don't hate him .

I'm angry at what happened , hurt too , but as the one who it happened to I have a right to- " " I also have a right to this . This punishment won't take away what I did , but I'll feel a little better . " Liam said quietly . ' Liam , don't do this . ' I said through the link . ' I fucked up big time , Raven , I can't ever forgive myself . ' You want to know how you can make up for this ? " I asked , my heart pounding in rhythm with his as we stared at each other from five metres apart .

" There's nothing , that can change the past . ' ' I know , but if you want to do something for me , then do something that will actually make me happy . ' I said . I knew people could tell we were mind linking . ' Anything . ' He said quietly . ' Fight this curse , fix the bonds you have destroyed and let's make things right Liam . I love you , but by giving up and just accepting things , that's not the way to go .

I want to see the true Liam shine through , I believe only then can we get rid of this darkness . Let's do this together . ' Our eyes were locked , I wish he'd understand . His brows furrowed and I knew he was thinking about what I said . ' I understand and I will do all that , but ... for me ... let me have this punishment , bitesize .

' He said , his eyes full of pain as he looked back up at me . Goddess ... My heart clenched and I realised he needed this too . The people need to see this too . What I did was fucking messed up .

Not only did I mark you , I fucking ripped your throat out . ' I looked down before nodding and slowly sat down . " If that's decided ... Tonight at seven pm , Liam Westwood will get his lashings . " Uncle El said before dismissing the trial . I sighed heavily as everyone began leaving . Aunty Red came over to me , wrapping her arms around me tightly .

" He is a Westwood , he has the strength to take his punishment . " She said softly . I nodded , wrapping my arms around her tightly . I know , but it didn't mean I liked it . It wasn't only going to be hard for me , but for his family too . I watched him being taken away , staring at this back , my heart clenching in pain .

Seven o'clock couldn't have come sooner , my nerves were a mess . I was advised to not go see him receive his punishment but I wasn't able to avoid it . The bond wasn't completed because , as I was a werewolf as well , his mark alone didn't complete it .

I would need to mark him too to complete our bond . Which meant I wouldn't be able to feel the pain of his lashings , only his emotions and a sense of unease , but that was already happening . I was a restless mess with each passing moment . I entered the lower hall , which I hadn't really been in before , I knew Dad's lashing had occurred in the cells ...

" I looked around . It was like one of those illegal underground arena's , cold , gloomy and with that deep sense of foreboding . Damon was nodding at something Uncle El was saying , his gloved hand around a silver chain . Liam wasn't here yet . Uncle El patted his shoulder before giving me a nod and walking away .

Aunty Red wasn't here , but as Alpha , Uncle El had to be here . I walked over to Damon , knowing that this wasn't easy for him too . " Hey ... " I said . He looked up , surprised to see me before placing the whip down . I hugged him tightly and he hugged me back . " Hey , why did you come ? " He asked quietly . " Moral support ? I actually have no idea ... I just ... I need to be here . " I whispered . He frowned and nodded . " And how are you feeling ? " I looked around . It was so dark and dreary in here ... I noticed Robyn , Zack , Taylor and even Owen were here . That bastard ..

" Ok , I guess . " He replied quietly . No , he wasn't . " You got this . " I said , " Just don't think . " He nodded just as Liam's familiar scent hit my nose . I turned to see him being taken to the centre , my stomach twisting as they hooked his wrists to the chains that dangled from the ceiling . Chains that would keep him upright even when his body could no longer take it .

The sound of heels echoing on the stone floor made me turn and I saw Aunty Red enter . She looked around , her heart thudding as she broke into a quick run , rushing over to Liam who was already chained up . " Mom ? " He said , sounding surprised . I could only see his chiselled back towards me as his shirt had now been removed . " Liam .

" She said , cupping his face as she pressed her forehead to his . " I'm fine . This is nothing . " He said quietly . Everyone fell silent and I knew this was hard for Aunty Red ... She had been through so much and what happened had brought back her own traumatic experience .

They switched to mind link , Aunty Red nodded and placed a kiss on his forehead , although he had to bend his head for her to reach . She stepped back , taking a deep breath , and walked over to me . I smiled gently , as she came over and hugged me tightly . " I'd stay ... But I can't see this , I'm sorry .

" She whispered . I nodded , I understood . She turned and walked away , casting a final glance at Liam and Uncle El before she did . Damon walked forward , and any murmurs that occurred died down .

My heart was thumping with every step Damon took . His hand twisted around the whip , Uncle El sat down next to me . " Why are you here ? " " I ... I wanted to be ... " " People only come when they want the victim to be punished . You won't be able to do anything . " He said quietly , making my heart thud .

I dared not look at him . " I ... I wanted to ... just ... " I mumbled . I knew deep down I was scared of what was happening and I wanted to make sure things didn't go too far ... but ...

I looked at the man next to me , not Uncle El but the Alpha of this pack , an Alpha who needed to uphold the laws ... He didn't say anything . Holding out his hand , I looked down at it . Placing my own in his , he gave it a gentle squeeze as we looked ahead .

## **Caged between the beta & alpha chapter 80**

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### **A Punishment RAVEN**

Damon raised the whip , I flinched when it struck Liam's back . He didn't even move , another followed , each lash made my heart squeeze . For his mistake ... It's for his mistake ... I had to tell myself that , my heart thundering as each lash struck him , slicing through his skin and letting blood drip to the ground . Not once did he even flinch , despite his breathing becoming harder .

But each lash was biting into me , the pain of watching him face this ... Thirty ... " Raven ... " Uncle El said and I realised I was shaking . My heart was beating far too fast . " Step outside . " No . " I said as I saw Taylor coming over . No doubt Uncle El had mind linked him . " I'm staying . " I stared at Liam as Damon continued .

The emotionless mask on Damon's face was gone , pain and conflict on his face too as he frowned deeply continuing the punishment . " That's enough now . " I said suddenly , flinching as the silver cut into Liam's back that was a mess of lashes , torn skin and blood . " Raven . I told you , you can't change this . " Uncle El said softly .

" No I can , because he marked me , I have the right to . " I said standing up , I saw Damon glance towards us but he continued his dealing . Each lash felt like I was the one being cut open .

My heart was screaming in pain . The fear and anguish inside of me were messing me up . He made a terrifying mistake , and one that would take time to heal , but let him have the chance to redeem himself ! Not do something so painful like this ! " Take her outside . " Uncle El said quietly to Taylor and Zack , " Your emotions are clouding your judgement , Raven . " " 1 No , No ... I love him ...

Taylor wrapped his arm around my shoulders , leading me firmly towards the exit . No ! I stared at Liam's mutilated back , his shoulders heaving , his head hanging yet not once did a sound escape him . ' I'm fine , Raven . Please leave . ' His voice came through the link . No matter how much he tried to hide it ... I could hear it .

My eyes stung with tears as I shook my head at his back . How can I turn my back on him right now ? The darkness inside of him was feeding on all negative emotions ; fear , loneliness and regret were part of that . This was not the right way ! " Fifty . " Damon said , breathing hard as he lashed him again .

I couldn't breathe .... My heart was ringing in my ear ... The smell of blood ... I spun around in a flash , but Zack was ready . His arm was wrapped around my waist as I struggled against him . " Stop it ! " I cried out , my heart was breaking as if someone was ripping it apart inch by inch " Raven , come on . It's compulsory .

" Zack said quietly . " Please stop it ! If this is for marking me , I was going to let him mark me anyway ! " I sobbed , not caring for once that I was crying out in the open . Damon hesitated , turning to me . Our eyes met and I realised his eyes glistened with unshed tears . This was hurting him too . " That doesn't make the way he did things right .

" Zack said quietly . " I know ! And I won't forgive him easily , but brutally whipping him like this ?! I don't like it ! Two wrongs do not make a right ! " I shouted . " Alpha Elijah ! As the victim , I demand that you let him go ! " " That cannot be done . Take her away . " Uncle El said , his eyes flashing . " Liam ! "

' I'm fine love , please go . " " Let go of me ! " I shouted as Zack carried , me out of the hall and into the corridor . No . I will do what I feel is right ! Twisting i n his hold I rammed my elbow in his face . Sorry , Taylor . His grip loosened as he grunted in pain , I took the chance to knock him back and ran back inside .

" I SAID STOP IT ! " I cried out running onto the stage and wrapping my arms around Liam from behind , the strong sparks of the bond rushed through me as I tried to shield his back , but I didn't even cover half of it . " Please stop it , this is only hurting me more . " I whispered in the room that was now completely silent .

" This isn't easy for anyone . " Uncle El said softly . " But a punishment is- " " He's had over fifty lashes . Please stop ! " I shouted . The pain in my chest was growing , my eyes blazing as I stared at the Alpha . " Raven , I'm fine . " Liam said , his voice was hoarse despite trying to sound as normal as possible . " I'm not ok with this .

" I said slowly letting go of him , flinching at how deep the wounds on his back were . " Please ... I love him .... Please stop this ... " I joined my hands together in front of my face , unable to stop the tears that streamed down my cheeks as I looked at Uncle El . " Please ... I beg you ... This is causing me more pain than good .

" My voice broke as I stared up at our Alpha . He stood there ; the conflict clear on his face . " We make mistakes in life ... and some may be unforgivable , but this is between Liam and I and we will work on them ...

We also know he has no memory of what he did ... he wasn't just fuelled by rage alone . " I said quietly , the pain in my chest was overpowering everything . " Give him one chance to redeem himself ! If he messes up again , then you can punish him . Please . " My hands were shaking as I pressed my joint fingers to my lips , closing my eyes as sobs wracked my body .

I heard the clang of the whip hitting the floor , opening my eyes to see Damon had dropped it . He pulled me into his arms , stroking my back . " I agree with her Alpha .... I think it's enough . " He said quietly . Uncle El sighed heavily . " Alpha ... I'm with Raven and Damon ... Liam regrets his actions and he will prove his worth .

" Zack said , quietly wiping blood from his nose . A murmur of agreement passed through the people watching , and I hoped Liam saw that we were not giving up on him . We would defeat the darkness , together . LIAM " Let him down ! " Her voice made my heart clench , her words ringing in my head . I don't get how she could even consider forgiving me at a time when I couldn't forgive myself ... I had almost killed her ... I was unlocked and I staggered , holding my stance . I turned to look at her .

Tears streamed down her beautiful face as Damon embraced her . How many times would I make her cry ? Our eyes met and she pulled out of Damon's hold as she looked at me , stepping closer .

There were still bridges to build between us ... She should have let me receive my punishment ... " Get him cleaned up and then I expect him at my place after being given a dose of wolfsbane . " Dad said , his eyes meeting mine . I looked away , knowing I had disappointed him . I had never wanted to ever cause him pain , but I had ... I turned to Damon , I knew it hadn't been easy on him .

The first few lashes had held anger in them , but after that , each one had been hard for him too . Raven's words from earlier were still clear in my mind . Fix the bonds I had destroyed . For her and for me .

I had a lot of work to do , with myself , Raven , Damon , Mom ... My stomach twisted and I felt sick . I knew , what her father had done and unknowingly , I had done the same thing . I could only imagine what she was going through .

Everyone was leaving and I was led into a side room by Zack , who was supporting a bruised nose , I had a feeling it was courtesy of Raven .

" I'm sorry , Taylor . " Raven was saying as Damon pushed me down onto the bed . I glanced up at her as she pouted at Taylor , who looked as sad as Raven . " I won't hit him again . " Raven pleaded quietly , " Sorry Zack .

" I raised an eyebrow , glancing at Zack , who simply nodded . " It's fucking understandable , but don't fuck the nose up next time . " He said . " There won't be a next time ! " Raven promised , " Do you forgive me , Taylor ? " " Since it was for your mate ... " He said giving her a hug .

" If I wasn't in so much pain , I would have probably found their exchange a little amusing . There was a lot Raven did that was just cute ... a cuteness I didn't fucking deserve to even witness ... I didn't deserve having her in my life .

I looked at my Beta and Delta- not mine anymore ... but ... they were still here . ' Arms up . " . " Damon said , I held back the hiss of pain as he splashed something on my back . " That burns . " I muttered , making Raven turn to him . Her face became serious , she came over . Her scent enveloped my senses , and as much as I wish I could just wrap her up in my fucking arms forever ...

I no longer held hopes for that . I didn't deserve her ... " I'll do it . " She said , taking the bandage from Damon , who nodded . We were halfway done , her fingers often grazing my skin , sending off a rush of pleasure as she wrapped the bandage around me firmly when Damon swore , staring at Zack . " What is it ? " Raven asked , her heart thumping .

" There's been another death . " Damon said , frowning . " The body was discovered ten minutes ago . " " Fuck ... " I said . " Who is it ? " Raven asked with worry in her eyes . " One of the elder wolves , Arnold . " Zack muttered . The room fell silent as the five of us stared at one another . This needed to end .

" We have to do something ... Maybe we need to search everyone's houses , the teeth and eyeballs have got to be stored somewhere . " Raven said , reaching up and brushing my hair out of my eyes .

Our eyes met and my gaze dipped to her neck , my chest fucking squeezing as I looked at it ... half - hidden ... She moved away , a flash of pain in her eyes before she turned away . " I agree ... But isn't that what Liam kind of wanted ? How do we do that without making the pack restless ? " Zack asked .

We all fell into thought , how do we get the pack homes empty ? Taylor snapped his fingers . " We party ! " The rest of us frowned at the question , but Raven gasped as if understanding .

" A party for the entire pack ... So the homes are empty ? " She asked . Taylor nodded , a small smile on his lips . " Exactly , the Alpha can say it's just due to everything going on , a party for everyone would be good ... I mean , I'd say his birthday would be ideal , but we can't delay this until then . When everyone is at the party , those at the top of our list of suspects , well ... we search .



" He explained . " You're pretty smart . " Zack said , wrapping his arms around Taylor's neck , pulling him against him and kissing his forehead . I sure missed a lot .

" You two together ? " I asked . " Mates actually . " Zack said before looking away ... " I fucked up .. So , it took a little . 11 time . " We all mess up at times ... We just got to work on it .

" Taylor said , looking at Zack and then at me . I nodded . Yeah . " Well then , I think it's time we started planning this party . " Damon said , smacking his hands together . " Can I help search ? " I asked quietly . " Sure . " Damon said . " We can use whatever help we can get . " This killer had been on the loose for far too fucking long ... Moonlight Muse