

Chap-3-Betrayed By A Friend. Celeste José: My soul seemed to have left my body when his icy grey eyes traveled to me a little frown began to cover his forehead. As he stopped right in front of me, I found the words caught in my throat. "Hello," was all I could utter out of my mouth. Alpha King Klaus staring at me didn't help my cause either. If he didn't look away, or said something, my mate would probably suspect something was wrong. So as I wished he moved a muscle, he did but only to make matters worse. In a very swift move, he raised his hand to place his finger under my chin and tossed my face to the side to examine my neck. Calix gulped in shock but didn't object. However, the look of horror on my face resonated with Calix's too. Klaus then dropped his finger to my neck to push my necklace aside and tap his finger on my collarbone. I hesitantly stepped back as I watched him smirk. I know what he pointed at. It was the fricking hickey he left on my collarbone. My skin got covered in goosebumps when Calix tilted his head to see what Klaus had pointed at. I kept my hand on the hickey but realization dawned on me at this point. Klaus had recognized me and he wasn't ashamed to talk about our encounter right before my husband. "Excuse me!" I promptly stepped back and hurried outside to catch my breath. I was aware that my behavior had surprised them, and some might even label me as impolite, but I desperately needed a break. 'This is the man we spent the night with,' I slapped my forehead as I began to contemplate the potential consequences of his revelation to my mate about our intimate encounter. 'Maybe he won't recognize us,' Estelle tried to reassure me, but it fell flat. 'Estelle! It happened just last night. He'd have to be either blind or incredibly dumb not to recognize me,' I exclaimed, stomping my foot on the ground and then remembering Mallory. "Oh no! I need to inform her to cancel the mission. If the Alpha King sees tomorrow's news, he'll publicly reveal that I was unfaithful to my mate," our entire plan of portraying me as a heartbroken Luna seemed to be falling apart. I grabbed my phone and attempted to call Walsh, but when he didn't pick up, I assumed he must already be in the mansion. My next best option was to contact Mallory and ask if she could locate Walsh. "Mallory! Remember the guy I spent the night with?" I whispered into the phone, struggling to hear her voice amidst the chaos in the news office. "Ah, why are we discussing it now?" she yelled to make herself heard over the noise. "Listen! Abort the mission!" I stated clearly, hoping she could understand me. "Mallory! I want you to abort the mission," I repeated, even as someone attempted to speak to her. "You want to do him on the boat?" she asked, causing my frustration to mount. "No! I don't want to do the Alpha King on the boat," I rolled my eyes and shouted into the phone, but the call abruptly disconnected. "Damn it!" I cursed and spun around hastily when I noticed Alpha King Klaus standing behind me, his dark grey tuxedo accentuating his piercing gaze. I nervously fiddled with my fingers and swallowed hard, feeling foolish as I stared back at him. The intensity of his gaze, framed by his thick eyebrows, was utterly captivating. "So, do you want me to do you on a boat?" he whispered, raising an eyebrow. "No!!!" I panicked, frantically waving my hands and vehemently shaking my head. "I, umm, do you happen to recall me?" I murmured, observing his lips curl into a sly smirk. And that's when I became certain that he did remember me. Curse you, Estelle! "Are you planning to reveal this to everyone?" I swallowed hard and cautiously inquired as he lit a cigarette. "What you do behind your mate's back is neither my concern nor my business," he exhaled a puff of smoke and tilted his head slightly. "It's not what it seems. Actually—" I still wasn't satisfied with his response. Why would he keep it from the Alpha? "I came out here to enjoy my cigarette. I have no interest in your marriage or your problems," the stern expression on his face instantly soured my mood. The fact that he had left me alone in the car with the doors unlocked wasn't enough; now he was subjecting me to his arrogant attitude. "Alright!" I swallowed even harder and replied. As I began to walk past him, I felt him shift slightly to block my path. He extended a card with his address and phone number. I took it in bewilderment. "Just in case you ever feel lonely again," he leaned in close to my ear and whispered, sending shivers down my spine. I hurriedly walked away from him, slipping the card he had given me into my purse. I was unsure of how to react in this situation. "A word?" Calix approached as I rejoined the event, pulling me away from the crowd. "What's going on?" I whispered, pulling my arm free when we were at a safe distance from the onlookers.

"Where were you last night?" he asked angrily, his eyes betraying the anger he had been concealing since he saw me this morning. "I was with Mallory," I fibbed, crossing my arms over my chest, and keeping an eye on Alpha King Klaus as he headed toward the elders. "Do you think I'm a fool? I felt that pain in my chest last night, and it only happens for a few reasons. When your mate is in danger, upset with you, or when your mate is being unfaithful," he almost raised his voice before glancing around and offering a fake smile to the pack members. "Why do you think you felt the pain?" I inquired, raising an eyebrow. "I've never given you a reason to be upset. You're an omega who would never venture into the wilderness where she's in danger," he paused, narrowing his eyes at me. "And you think I cheated on you?" I muttered under my breath. "I hope you didn't. Because, Celeste, there will be severe consequences if you do," he whispered, pulling closer to emphasize his point before he put on a pleasant facade and kissed my cheek in front of everyone. I wanted to scream and kick him where it hurt, but I had a better and more elaborate plan in store for him. Now that I knew Alpha King Klaus wouldn't expose our little secret, I was ready to drive over to Walsh to view the footage he had recovered. I had also excused myself from the dinner. The elders, Calix, and the Alpha King were supposed to finish their meal before heading back to their respective places. Me: I'm on my way! I texted Walsh, driving cautiously. Walsh: okay! I am so intoxicated. I furrowed my brow at his response, but since I was already close to his house, I didn't reply. How had he gone from conversing with me normally to getting drunk in just a few minutes? I exited the car and rang the doorbell, only to be greeted by a seemingly sober Walsh. "You said you were drunk," I complained, pushing past him to reach the living room and sit next to the laptop on the couch. I was anxiously waiting to view the video clips. "Never mind! I was just texting my friends to cancel some plans. Oh, I've gathered a lot of evidence," he rubbed his hands together and then settled beside me, positioning the laptop close to him. "Show me," I urged. "I don't think you want to see it. It's very degrading to you and—" Walsh paused when he noticed I was looking at a still shot from one of the videos on the screen. It was an extremely explicit image of Casey with Calix in my bed. "How long have they been doing this?" I averted my gaze and asked. "About ten months," Walsh replied, and a tear welled up in my eye. "Hey, I'm so sorry. Calix is an i****t for hurting someone as precious as you," Walsh pushed the laptop aside and turned to hold my hands. "Now I wish I had never introduced you to him," he continued. "It's just that life has always slapped me," I muttered, recalling my difficult childhood and teenage years. "You know, I would have taken better care of you if I had the chance," Walsh softly spoke, pulling my hands towards him and enveloping me in a warm embrace. However, his comment didn't sit well with me. "Well, you have a wonderful mate. She's a true gem. Don't ever break her heart," I tried to pull my hands free, but he held onto them tightly. "I'm talking about you, Celeste. Calix doesn't deserve you. You are so pure and gentle. I wish you had given me a chance," he said, and with those words, he suddenly cupped my face in his hands and kissed me passionately. I had never imagined his true intentions until I revealed my vulnerable side to him.