

# MICHELLE

I stared at my phone in disbelief.

Canceled.

Aiden Norwood had canceled *Real Mates*.

Tears sprang to my eyes.

*How could this happen?*

**Michelle**

is there any chance that it will come back

**Monica**

not that i know of

**Michelle**

but it can't just end like that!

**Monica**

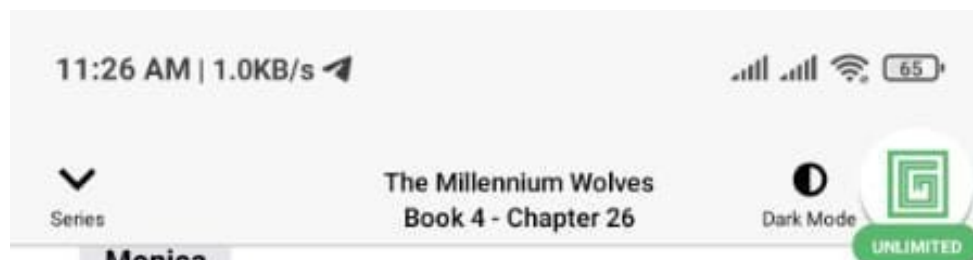
sry but that's just the way it is

**Monica**

i'm very busy, michelle

**Michelle**

but did they say WHY!!!??



Monica

...

Monica

wait. You didnt know?

Michelle

no about what?

Monica

it was sienna

Monica

she didn't want to be involved any longer

Monica

so aiden pulled the plug.

I flung the phone across my bed, then stood up and walked slowly and deliberately into the bathroom.

I stared at my reflection. My eyes were bright with unshed tears.

*Sienna. She couldn't let me have this.*

*She couldn't hold her shit together for a few fucking weeks.*





Series

The Millennium Wolves  
Book 4 - Chapter 26

Dark Mode



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Any good feelings my friend and I had recently shared evaporated, leaving me shaky and furious.

*She doesn't deserve to be the Alpha's mate.*

*And me? What about me?*

No one gave a fuck about me.

I was nothing.

With a ragged cry, I put my fist through the glass.

## SIENNA

I went to the Posey Hotel, where Charlotte and Daniel were staying.

Or, at least, where Charlotte was staying. Daniel Norwood was still out of the country on business.

Aiden's mother was sitting at a table in the corner, smiling amiably at none other than Monica Birch.

I glanced around. No cameras. And I didn't see Michelle anywhere.

Something was off. Unease prickled up my spine, but I straightened my shoulders, trying to hide my hesitation



hesitation.

Whatever these two had planned, it wasn't going to work.

"Sienna, how kind of you to make time to join us," Charlotte drawled as I approached.

"We were beginning to think you'd be a no-show," Monica added.

I glared at her. "Let's get this over with. What do you want?"

Monica gave a little gasp of surprise. "Wow, Sienna, why so hostile?"

"I already told Charlotte when she called: I'm done," I said. "I'm out of the show. You and Michelle can keep it going, I don't care, but I am finished with *Real Mates*."

Monica's eyes narrowed. "*Real Mates* has been cancelled. On the authority of the Alpha. Didn't Aiden tell you?"

My jaw dropped. I hadn't seen Aiden since that morning; I hadn't heard a word about the show being pulled off the air.

"Clearly, my son doesn't share everything with you, does he?" Charlotte said smoothly.



I looked at her. Her eyelid was twitching, and her face looked drawn and tense.

On the outside, she looked like a woman reveling in victory.

But I got the feeling that everything wasn't exactly as it seemed.

I stared her down. "If the show is canceled, then why am I here?"

Charlotte's lips curled into a smile. "Because of something else Aiden might not have told you about: some of the... intricacies of pack law."

"What, does it say somewhere that I have to roll over and pledge submission to my mother-in-law?" I asked sarcastically.

Monica watched both of us, looking positively gleeful. I wondered if she was filming this, even now, on some kind of hidden camera.

But Charlotte's eyes were colder. "No. But it does say that the Alpha's mate is required to be able to provide him with children."

Silence rang out after her words.

My heart stopped dead in my chest.



“It’s been what, three haze seasons you’ve spent with my son? Last fall, this spring, and this fall. And yet, no pregnancy.”

“That’s none of your goddamn business,” I said. My whole body felt rigid, like I’d been turned to stone.

“Actually, it’s the business of the entire East Coast Pack,” Monica chimed in. “They have a right to know if the mate of their Alpha is capable of providing an heir.”

“After all, it is her most sacred duty,” Charlotte added.

She sniffed with her usual snobbish disdain, but at the same time, I saw her eyes dart nervously to Monica.

Their words had a practiced sound to them, and I was now certain that this was being filmed.

I’d walked right into an ambush.

*But am I the only one?*

*Why does Charlotte look so uneasy? I’ve never seen her the slightest bit shaken.*

“And it is written in pack law that if an Alpha’s



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Chapters

“And it is written in pack law that if an Alpha’s mate is unable to bear children for any reason, she must be put aside.”



My pulse thudded in my ears. “That’s impossible. A mating bond can’t be broken.”

Charlotte gave a short laugh. “No one is talking about breaking the mating bond, you silly child.”

“You can always stay on as his mistress,” Monica explained. “While someone more...”

“Suitable, is found for the position as his true mate,” Charlotte finished smoothly.

Monica glared at her, and I saw Charlotte visibly cringe.

Now I was sure of it. Charlotte might want to see me gone, but this wasn’t her idea.

That didn’t change the fact that her words could mean the end of my relationship with Aiden.

*They have nothing solid to go on.*

*Three hazes with no pregnancy is suspicious, but it isn’t proof of anything.*

I forced myself to breathe. To remain calm.



“Do you know whose job it is to uphold pack law in situations such as these?” Charlotte asked, folding her hands on the table.

“I’m sure you’re going to tell me,” I snapped at her.

“The Alpha of the Millennium,” she responded smoothly. “And do you know who is arriving in Mahiganote tomorrow?”

Without waiting for me to respond, she provided the answer herself: “Raphael Fernandez.”

I stared at her.



*When did all of this happen? And why hasn't Aiden told me about it?*

“That’s why Aiden canceled *Real Mates*. But I think we have a much more exciting story right here,” Monica said, giving me a shark-like smile.

“And I do think the One True Alpha will be very interested in what I have to tell him.”

With Monica filming the whole time—broadcasting to an audience of millions.

I wondered if she’d been planning this from the beginning.



And had somehow wrapped Charlotte up in it.

No wonder she had been so adamant that I call my mother-in-law.

She must have planned this from the start.



It didn't matter. They still had no solid evidence.

I stood up from the table. "I'm not going to be intimidated by you. Either of you. Pack law has no business in my bedroom. And you have no business in my life."

I turned to go, but Monica gave a pointed cough and reached into her handbag to retrieve a manila file.

"I think you might want to reconsider that."

## MONICA

It was almost too easy, in the end.

Sienna stood motionless while Charlotte's gaze dropped to her feet.

They were all bark and no bite—especially the senior of the two. All it took was a well-timed meeting with Charlotte Norwood to remind her that it was in her best interest to continue cooperating.



cooperating.

I'd initially confronted her weeks ago.

She'd sat across from me in the small café, gazing in blank horror at the statements I'd laid in front of her.

"How did you find these?" she'd asked.

"Oh, I have my ways," I'd replied.



A respectable journalist never gave away her sources.

Especially when that source was a freelance hacker I paid months ago to dig up dirt on Charlotte and Daniel Norwood.

Turns out, the Alpha's mommy had been using her ECP credit card for things that weren't exactly business related.

Unless it was really necessary to spend \$400,000 on couture clothes every year.

I'd known when I saw those numbers that Charlotte Norwood was my ticket. And once I'd let her know that I would expose her crimes to the world, she was more than happy to help.

I barely had to twist her arm. I think it had

something to do with the fact that my plan ended up with Sienna being cast aside.

And Aiden Norwood getting a new mate.

“After this, I get the copy of my bank files, correct?” she’d pressed, defeated but willing to play the part.

“Of course. I’m a woman of my word,” I’d lied.

And as I stood there holding the envelope out toward Sienna, I watched as she and Charlotte struggled to hide the fear in their eyes.

*I have them.*



## AIDEN

The late afternoon sun was beginning to fade into dusk when Felix buzzed me.

“Alpha Etienne Tremblay to see you, sir,” he said.

“Send him in.”

Tremblay had a long face with droopy blue eyes and graying hair. His expensive suit was stretched tight over his considerable paunch.

“Aiden, a pleasure to see you,” he said, stepping

forward and extending his hand.

I shook it. “Welcome to Mahiganote.”

“It’s a pleasure to be here! It’s warm compared to Ottawa. When I left, it was well below zero.”

“I imagine it’s a welcome change.”

“Yes. Weather like that, you have to be wary of frostbite.”

I wondered what he wanted.



*Why has he come to my office now, when he could have settled in to his hotel and waited to see me along with Raphael tomorrow?*

Etienne was walking in a little circle around my office, looking at the paintings—all Sienna’s—on my walls.

I sighed. “But I doubt you came all the way here for the climate, Etienne.”

He stopped, turned to look at me. “No, I didn’t. I’m here because—as I informed the One True Alpha—I’m deeply concerned about this reality show business.”

“The show is canceled. This whole situation has already been dealt with. Don’t you think you

overreacted a bit, getting Raphael involved?”

Etienne’s thin nostrils flared. “Your mate is dragging the name of the Alpha through the mud, and you need to get a leash on her!”



Anger flared in my veins. I rose from my seat. Standing, I was much taller than Etienne, and his eyes widened in surprise.

I cocked my head, staring him down. “I’m going to give you one chance to take that back.”

Etienne smirked and met my furious glare. “Of course, Alpha Norwood. I’m sure your mate is... perfectly suited to her positions. No impediments whatsoever.”

His odd choice of words made the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

“I had an interesting conversation with a young woman by the name of Monica Birch. You know her, I believe?”

I said nothing, my jaw clenched tightly.

“She gave me some... interesting information yesterday. It was part of the reason I informed Raphael of the trouble in your pack.”

“Is that so?”

Lucine nodded. "I think it's quite fortuitous, the Alpha of the Millennium showing up now. He might be needed."

"And why is that?" My voice was low and dangerous.



If Etienne had a lick of sense in him, he would already have turned and run.

But instead, he had the audacity to grin at me. "See you tomorrow, Aiden."

I watched him go, a sense of uneasiness building in my chest.

He and Monica Birch...

They had to be up to something.

*But what?*

## SIENNA

I hovered between the chair I'd pushed out and the table.

I could tell Monica was waiting for me to ask what was in the file.

We stared at one another. My mouth stayed shut.



Finally she said, “This is a medical file, Sienna.”

A wave of dizziness passed through me.

“What medical file?” I said.



Monica smirked. “Yours, of course.”

*Mine?*

“Where did you get that? How could you even—”

It took me a moment before I realized exactly what she was implying...

Hanh’s examination.

The proof that I might be infertile.

She knew the truth.

And so did Charlotte.

Next Chapter

