

# Beauty and The Beta Chapter 17

## Chapter 17 Bailey

I got myself ready to leave the house, dressed smartly in a pair of high-waisted, wide-legged, black trousers. With a simple white tank top. My long dark hair I chose to tame, so the curls were manageable, and I clipped the sides back from my face. I slipped on a pair of simple black heels to finish my outfit, along with simple but stylish make-up too. I needed to make a good impression. I needed a job. There had still been no responses despite all the applications I had sent out.

“You ready to go Bai?” My Dad called up the stairs, and I smiled. He was not wasting the opportunity to go and see his friend, former Alpha Isaak, again. After we had called the pack and requested an appointment to discuss the role of teacher in the pack, my Dad had messaged Alpha Isaak to let him know, and instantly he was invited to come along too. Personally, I think it was just my Dad’s way of coming along to keep an eye on me. Ever the protective father..

I have since learned the two of them had played football together in the inter-pack football squads many moons ago. Back when my Dad considered himself quite the footballer. Back when he could actually run around without feeling like he would collapse and have a heart attack. No, I shouldn’t be mean, my Dad was still in quite good shape for a guy his age. That came with being a Beta of the pack, I guess. He had no choice but to keep training and had to stay at peak fitness.

I picked up my bag from my bed with my qualifications as well as examples of some of my teaching styles I preferred. “Coming!” I called, slipping out of my bedroom. Only to be greeted by my older brother leaning on the doorframe of his bedroom door, with a dirty look upon his face. “I’d say good luck, but...” he paused. “Nope, I don’t want to. You will f\*\*k it up, like you do everything else.” He says with a nasty laugh.

I rolled my eyes at him, sticking my middle finger up at him, before turning my back on him. before walking down the stairs to meet my Dad. “Come on Princess, let us get you to this meeting.” He smiles, as we move toward the door, and for once I am actually glad to spend time with my Dad, because he doesn’t seem to be on my case.

‘Good luck Bailey. I suddenly received a mindlink from Harley. I felt a warm feeling rush through me. I was touched that he had even remembered my interview. The two of us had been for ice creams as planned the other afternoon, and had found plenty to laugh about as we caught up. He seemed quite an easy-going guy, and really friendly. He seemed quite interested in the fact I had done my degree and asked lots of questions about it.

We had seen each other a couple of times since, casually around pack. And chatted via text and call too. He had been really enthusiastic for me when I told him of my potential

job interview, knowing how desperate I was to find work. Though I don't know if he realized how far away this pack was...

'Thank you, Harley!' I replied. 'And thank you for remembering. I am just leaving now.'

"Aww, just in time then. I just woke up, so I am glad I caught you. You will smash it, sweet cheeks. He tells me and I hold back a little giggle, he keeps coming up with funny names to call me, knowing they will make me laugh. But my Dad being with me means it is not a good idea to be laughing, as I do not need to be explaining this to him...."

"Thank you. I am with my Dad now, so I will speak to you later.! I told him, knowing it wouldn't be long until my Dad were to notice my glazed eyes to signal I was mindlinking, and then he would be asking questions. Plus, I would soon lose the ability once we left the pack as we would be too far away from him for the link to work.

'Okay Bai, see you soon. Drinks on me if you get the job!' Harley tells me cheerfully before cutting the link.

I sit in the passenger seat of the car as my Dad is driving through the quiet roads of pack. Few people would be about at this time of day. We were setting off quite early as the meeting was scheduled for mid-morning, and we still had to get there yet. I was nervous, but I was excited too. I had been working toward this since I went away to study. This is everything I am wanting. I hope they like me and see the potential in me. I am a good teacher, I know I am...

I feel my mindlink crackling like someone is trying to get hold of me and I wonder if Harley is trying to reach me again, but suddenly a voice I did not want to hear comes through loud and clear, I especially did not want to be hearing his voice today of all days. Miles. 'Where the f\*\*k do you think you are going?'

I chose to try and ignore him, knowing we were coming toward the pack gates soon, so hopefully the pack link would be lost and he wouldn't be able to continue mindlinking me. I go to put my block up, but as I do, he forces through again. 'Don't f\*\*king ignore me Bailey. You were told you would stay within the pack. That you belonged to our pack. Yet you chose to apply for work away from the pack all the same? Go to your interview, or it will reflect badly on our pack, and you will not make us look bad. You cause us enough issues as it is. But you will not take that job. Do you hear me? Or I will find ways to make you regret it.'

A cold chill spread across my body at his words. Why would anyone threaten something like that? As my Dad pulled the car out of the pack gates onto the road ready to drive to Autumn Valley Pack, I was beginning to doubt my decision now. Miles is not going to allow this. It seemed my brother had gone running to his friend after all and done exactly as I feared he would. And if they offered me the job I had so desperately wanted, Miles would make me regret it, and knowing him, I could only imagine what that could mean.

## Beauty and The Beta Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Asher

The silence within the office was palpable. Awkward. I tried to keep myself occupied with some of the paperwork that lay upon my desk, but I found myself persistently checking the time. This appointment was due anytime now, and I truly did not want to be dealing with some randomer from out of pack.

Yes, it had been my choice to bring her here to interview her, but I am certain that the interview did not need three of us. The coffee in the mug upon my desk had not done what I needed in waking me up, nor making me feel better. Being polite and friendly was most certainly not within my rhetoric today because of the amount of sleep I had managed...

"Does she have much experience?" Caleb suddenly interrupted the deafening silence.

I turn to look at my friend and shrug. "This is all your Dad's suggestion," I said, slightly too snappily, and I saw both Caleb and Eden glance at one another. That knowing look upon their faces. The look I tire of. One of sympathy. Pity. Concern. Like I was such a worry for them. Yet, strangely, I was still more than capable of being the Beta of the pack. Completing my role and many of the tasks of Caleb's too, if I am not mistaken, to lessen his responsibilities to allow him the time to spend with his young son, and his heavily pregnant wife. But they seem to forget that when they have these moments of great concern...

"I think she is newly qualified from what your Dad said." Eden adds, with a small smile. "Are you sure you are okay, Asher?" her voice seeps concern and care, which only further irritates me. Why do they have to treat me like I am damaged? Like I am a fragile piece of glassware or a ticking timebomb....

I looked toward her, raising my brows as I met her beautiful blue eyes. "Yes, Eden. I am fine. Think we covered this already. I am just tired." I dismissed her. "Though if this girl is not here soon, her meeting will be canceled, we have better things to do than sit around and wait all day for her."

Eden glanced at her husband and mate once more, before smiling a tight and uncomfortable smile. The sort of smile that was becoming more frequent around me. "She isn't due for another ten minutes, Ash."

Another ten minutes? So why are we all sitting here already? Ten minutes... And that is before we even have to start the interview? My brain will be ready to evaporate into nothingness by the time I am done today! Either that or simply explode. My limit for dealing with others was going to be have been far exceeded. To think I used to be one of the pack's more sociable members would likely not be believed now.....

'SECURITY ALERT! Rogues detected on the southern border!' a mindlink suddenly came through from one of the pack warriors running border patrol, and I stood from my desk. There was no way I would be staying within the office now. I had other places I was needed.

"I will do and deal with that." I told Caleb and Eden, knowing they too would have heard the security alert. An opportunity to deal with rogues is always a welcome prospect. Rogues are who took my mate. Snatched the life from her beautiful body. So now I take great pleasure in watching the life being snatched from them. Seeing the life drain from their pores. The fear and

"Ash, we have the meeting set up any minute." Caleb chooses to inform me.

I looked at him, a look of displeasure on my face. "Yeah, and it does not take three of us to interview for a teacher. Whereas when a rogue or multiple rogue

infiltrate our borders, you, I or both have always gone to help deal with it. That should not change just because some random she-wolf is here to visit. She is not of that much importance."

I turned away and walked toward the door. Not willing to stand around and debate this any further. I needed to get outside to the border. Help the warriors that would already be on their way. I would not have rogues putting our pack in danger again...

"Keep me updated." Caleb says with a sigh, knowing that it is not worth arguing with me.

"Will do. And make sure this she-wolf is capable of doing the role we need. And is not going to be a risk to the pack." I said, knowing I am telling Caleb things he already knows, but he has been irritating me this morning, so I shall irritate him too. I give him a dark glance, before opening the door, nearly walking into the pretty young she-wolf standing outside the office door, alongside one of our pack omegas who I assume has escorted her here.

Her eyes went wide as I almost walked into her, and likely because she heard half the things I had just said. Oh well, I am sure she would get over it. Not like she would see much of me even if she did join the pack to become a teacher here. And, besides, she needs to learn if she is part of our pack she needs to follow the rules and not put us at risk in anyway.

"Sorry Beta." The young omega by her side acknowledged me, obviously reading the expression. upon my face as being far from impressed.

I simply nod, not in the mood for pleasantries now. My mind was already focusing on the rogues that had crossed onto our lands. The rogues that need to be handed their punishment. I did not need to be wasting my time with some frail little she-wolf here for

an interview. I had some rogues to destroy. I moved away as fast as I could, my eyes focused upon the corridor ahead of me. My wolf, Zion, rippling beneath my skin, desperate to be let out. He, too, enjoyed bringing these rogues to their retribution. And that beat chatting with some random she-wolf any day of the week...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 19**

Chapter 19 Bailey

Well, the interview went well, despite the awkward start of nearly being plowed over by the Beta escaping the room like he had a rocket up his a\*s. I could see his friendly demeanor had improved massively since the party. He was clearly a joy to work with. Radiating sunshine that one.

However, Alpha Caleb and Luna Eden, who had done the interview, both seemed lovely, and Luna Eden, bless her, looked ready to pop in the latter stages of pregnancy. Though she did seem to be glowing with it too. I never understood how that worked when I had heard people describe pregnant women in that way, but to see Luna Eden she generally looked to be shimmering with happiness and health. The affectionate smiles down to her swollen belly as she stroked it told me she likely already adored the little one growing there.

I was proud considering this was my first official interview. We had practiced ones many times during our studies, but they were not the same as the tutors always guided us. This

had been nerve-racking, but the Alpha and Luna were so calming and friendly. Both so enthusiastic about their pack, and the young children within their school. I could see that the future of the pups meant a lot to them, as it should, and that hit even harder that I would not be able to work for them. But, I was happy to be able to say that I had been able to answer all of their questions in what I felt was a professional way. And they both seemed happy with all my answers too.

It was a shame really that it was all going to go to waste. "Would you like to stay for a coffee and some cake in the gardens with me?" Luna Eden offered, with a friendly smile as she led me from the office. "An excuse for cake is always good." She told me with a wink, and I couldn't help but laugh. How could I refuse that offer?

"I guess I could do that. And, to be fair, I have likely lost my Dad for a while anyway, he came with me to see Alpha Isaak." I told her, with a small shrug.

"Oh, I will set you up a bed, because once he starts talking you could be here forever!" she grins, and again I find myself smiling at her friendly disposition.

"I am not going to complain about coffee, I love coffee." I tell her and she nods. "And like you said, an excuse for cake is always good."

“See, you are perfect! Agreeing that coffee and cake are needed instead of telling me I don’t really need them. Though I am not supposed to have as much now. Coffee I mean.” She tells me, stroking her belly as we walk along the packhouse corridor. “Apparently not good for the little one. I followed all the guidelines with my first, and he still came out as daft as a brush. So, I do wonder if it truly makes a difference.”

I smile. Obviously, I have never had children, and now my fated mate has rejected me, it is highly likely I never will. But, having trained to work with children, I do know that no matter how you try, they were all characters in their own rights, and I thought it was truly wonderful. They had the ability to brighten your day with the simplest of words. “I imagine he is adorable.” I said to her as we entered the kitchen.

“Well, if you will accept the role of teacher in our pack, you would have the pleasure of teaching him in a couple of years. I bet you will soon change your mind!” Luna Eden says with a chuckle, as she walked to the coffee machine.

I held back the frown that was threatening upon my face. I would love to take the role here, I truly would. The pack is beautiful. And the way they described the school and the teaching role sounded so lovely, it would have been ideal for me. But, I know I need to seriously consider the things that Miles has said to me. I don’t know the things he may do. He has threatened the removal of my degree before. I am not entirely sure how he could go about it, but if anyone could do it, it would be an Alpha. And without that, all my hard work would be gone. Everything I had dreamed of, snatched away. Years of hard work and dedication, taken from me. All because Miles is holding a grudge over a decision fate appeared to have made. Did he think it was a choice. I was happy about either?

“Are you okay Bailey? You look awfully deep in thought there.” Luna Eden’s voice interrupted my thoughts, her beautiful blue eyes focused on me with a look of concern. “I am only joking, Matty isn’t that bad, please don’t let what I said about him put you off the role of teacher here.”

I don’t want her thinking badly of me, so I just smiled. “Oh, not at all. Sorry, just me, daydreaming.”

“Of working here, I hope.” She says with a wink, moving toward the refrigerator to remove some cakes. “Because me and Alpha Caleb had said we think you would be perfect for the position if you would like to come and work for us.”

I let out a guilty chuckle. She truly seemed determined to convince me to take the job here. And I wished I could accept, but Miles’s threat is laying heavy on my mind. I know how nasty he can be. I don’t think it is worth the risk. “It is something I will be giving some serious thought to.” I lie. Because I know that, in truth, my decision had already been made for me the moment Miles had mindlinked me as we left the pack. He would not allow me to work elsewhere, or for another Alpha. Especially if that meant living off our pack. He may have rejected me, but he still considered me his. And because there

was nobody else who knew of this other than Ellis, there was nobody I could turn to for help nor advice. Miles knew I was stuck. He knew he could do as he pleased. And he seemed to be loving every moment.

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 20**

### Chapter 20 Bailey

After a lovely hour sitting in the beautiful gardens with Luna Eden, enjoying the most delicious of cake and coffee, my Dad had come to find me, and see if I was ready to come home. He seemed excited to hear that Luna Eden was keen to have me come and work for her. So, when he told her she would be hearing from us very soon, I did not have the heart to disagree. Because, yes, they likely would be hearing from me, but it may not be in the way they were expecting.

My Dad had tried talking to me on the way home, wanting to know all the details of the interview, but in all honesty, I had lost all interest in conversation. I felt deflated. My mood low. I had been building up to this moment since the day I began my degree. Excited about the day I would gain a job offer. And now the seemingly impossible had happened, I was likely going to have to turn them down. All because of an over-bearing and controlling Alpha and ex-mate who seemed to think he still had some say in what I did with my life.

As a mate who had rejected me, he didn't have a say. But as my upcoming Alpha, sadly, he would always have control and that is what he was using against me. Because that meant he could threaten me with a whole host of things, which is what worried me. Miles had changed from the guy he used to be. As his coming of age had approached, his attitude had grown. And since his wolf had arrived, he had become more and more egotistical. Narcissistic and self-centered.

As I hadn't felt like chatting, my Dad had given up, and we drove the journey in comfortable. silence. I watched the scenery fly past the window of the car, losing my thoughts as we went. Wondering how to approach this whole mess, I found myself in. I know my Dad said he would deal with the Alpha when it came to me leaving for work, but I wasn't expecting Miles to become so heavily involved. And my Dad had no clue he had been my fated mate. And if he did, I am certain he would not be so willing to allow me to leave the pack so freely then. I had nobody to

turn to.

"Am I okay to drop you outside the packhouse Bailey and you walk home? As I need to go to the office." Dad asked as we came through the pack gates, the guard signaling to my Dad as he opened the gates.

I guess a walk wasn't going to do me any harm. A little fresh air may even do me some good. "Yeah sure, that is fine." I agree with a nod.

“Are you sure everything is okay sweetheart? You have been awfully quiet since we left Autumn Valley. Did the interview not go as well as you wanted?” My Dad asked as we approached the parking area outside the packhouse.

I smiled a sad smile at him. Ever the concerned Dad, thinking he was being so observant, yet he had no clue as to the things I have had to tolerate from my own pack members over the years that him and so many others have missed. “It went fine, Dad. I just need to decide what to do

now.”

“What do you mean, decide what to do? You want a job. They are offering you one. A bit of a no-brainer, Bailey.” He says with a roll of his eyes, like he despaired at how my mind worked sometimes.

“It is quite a distance away Dad. And we don’t know yet what Alpha will say” I pointed out

“Like I told you, leave your Uncle to me.”

“It isn’t just him, Miles apparently told Jordan that I shouldn’t be working for another pack. That I belong to this one. So I think he may be reluctant to all

it.” I stretch the truth a little, so I don’t have to admit everything to my Dad.

“Well, King Lazy a\*s can get off his high horse, because he ain’t the Alpha yet. And he should see the good in interacting with other packs in this way. Don’t let the jumped-up jerk get to you. I know you probably find that difficult when you are in love with him, but, he is not worth it, Bailey.” Dad said with a shrug.

I looked at my Dad with a frown. I am what now? I don’t f\*\*king think so! “I think you have me confused with someone else there Dad, because I am most definitely not in love with that knob. I would rather eat my own eyeballs than be with someone like him.”

Dad chuckled to himself. “I know he is intolerable at times, but that seems a little extreme all the same. We just assumed you were, that is what he has always told us.”

My eyes widened at my Dad’s words. Miles has been telling our families that I was in love with him?! Either he was deluded or he saw some strange benefit to lying about something so ridiculous. But, what bothers me, is that one, they believed it. And two, if he would lie about something so ridiculous, what else would he be willing to lie about?

“Well, I can reassure you, Dad. That there is no hope in hell that I would ever be in love with that thing. We have more chance of the moon goddess coming for tea than we have of me falling in love with him.” I say with a roll of my eyes. “But, I doubt he will make this easy for me, he is more involved with pack decisions now in preparation for



taking over as Alpha. So he will do his best to make my life difficult, as he always has since being a teenager.

“I apologize, Bailey. But, I will do my best for you.” Dad says as he steps from the car. “I had best get to the office, your Uncle has already been pestering your Mum about where I was. Anyone would think he couldn’t manage the pack on his own.” He says with a grin.

I smile and step from the car myself, but go to walk the other direction toward our family home. Planning to hide out there. “See you later Dad!” I called as I walked away, looking down to my phone. To be greeted by lots of messages from Harley saying he hoped today went well and that he was looking forward to seeing me. He was sweet bless him.

I was just about to mindlink him to let him know how it went when a heavy hand gripped hold of my shoulder. “So, you are back then? Decided not to run away?” Miles’s voice was harsh. Angry.

I turned to look at him. “I had no intention of running away, Miles, and you know I didn’t. My Dad took me.”

“Hmm. Still went without permission.” He hissed, his eyes almost squinting in anger. Causing me to roll my eyes in irritation. This guy is now in his twenties but still acts like a petulant teenager. Being demanding and spoiled.

“I am going home now, Miles, so if you don’t mind.” I said, moving away from him.

dismissed you. And I am sure I told you it was Alpha Miles.” He snar

“And I think I told you, I would call you that when you gain your title, which is not yet.” I snapped. I know I am only going to anger him further, but I have had just about enough of his attitude towards me.

“You will regret this.” He hisses, as he lowers his face toward mine, his breath smelling of stale. cigarettes. I hadn’t even realized Miles had begun smoking. But, that is none of my concern. “You chose to go for a job off pack, when you were told to come home after studying because you belonged here.”

I rolled my eyes again. “Miles, I am not doing this. Why do you need me here? You made it perfectly clear you did not want me as your fated mate. You rejected me. So, why keep me here? Why do you feel the need to have me here? Does it make you feel in control? Because I will not have that. I will go to your father and explain it all. The rejection, everything.”

Miles’s eyes flash darker, telling me his wolf is lingering now. His hand holding me is shaking now. I have definitely caused him to be angry... “You will not go to my f\*\*king

Dad!" he roared. "I would lose everything then. They would either make me take you as my f\*\*king mate, and why would I want you for a mate? Or he would take away my title for rejecting the fated mate I was given!"

"Bailey?" I heard Harley's voice nearby, and both Miles and I turned to look at him. Eyes wide. The look upon his face was one of shock. There is no denying he had heard everything. Thought talking about something like this out in the open, and when so angry too, was never going to be the best of ideas...

"Harley..." I began.

"He is your fated mate?" he stutters, his tone a mixture of shock and hurt.

"No." Miles interrupted. "She wanted me to be. Though she has always been in love with me. Clung to me, like so many of the other girls. But, this time she was telling me of about the fated. matebond. She was adamant about it, but I wasn't feeling the bond." he lies, and I see a disgusted look pass over Harley's face. Like, his whole opinion of me had changed in an instant. He believed the words Miles was telling him? The pain in my heart at that realization was immense. Everyone would always believe him over me. "So, I rejected her to make sure, just in case." Miles says with a shrug.

Harley shakes his head in disbelief. The look he gives me is one of confusion. Disgust. Gone is the friendly, flirty looks that gave me butterflies. No, this is a look that tells me he finds me repulsive. All because of some twisted lie from Miles... Then, he turns and simply walks away without another word.

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 21**

### Chapter 21 Miles

Today was not going well. Hearing my former fated mate had disobeyed what she had been. ordered by going to another pack for an interview infuriates me. Her brother needs to get her under better control. Well, both her brother and her father. But, this is what happens when a she- wolf is allowed too much freedom, too much access to education. She learns too much. She thinks she is above all others. Well, not in my pack she wasn't, nor would she ever be.

I would not permit her to work for another Alpha. That girl would forever belong to this pack. So she knew her place. I may have rejected her, but she was the mate the moon goddess had blessed me with, and I did not know if her going somewhere else would make me weaker. When she was away at university, I did not feel the same. I felt less strong. Though, at that time, I had not rejected her and my wolf pined for her, the pathetic f\*\*ker.

He would whimper and whine for his mate. Beg for me to bring her home. Why he would want that pathetic excuse for a she-wolf I do not know. Even when she came home

having undertaken. something of a makeover. Less of a wallflower, more of a show-stopper at first glance, but underneath it all she was still Bailey West. The pack geek that did nothing but irritate the f\*\*k out of me.

But I had told nobody of our predicament. Why would I share that she was my mate? She was an embarrassment. Forever a laughing-stock of our pack. So I had nobody to gain advice from. And all the books I had scanned through within the pack library had not brought me the answers I needed about whether her presence or lack of it, within the pack, rejected or not would make me weaker. I was going to be the next Alpha. I could not risk being weak. I needed to be the strongest I could be. Or I would be the laughing-stock of the region. Of all the other Alphas.

So, I told her she must stay here. Because with nobody to turn to for advice to learn if her being absent would make me weaker, I had no other option. When my brother discovered the truth, I hoped he might provide some enlightenment, but he was as much use as a chocolate teapot. And spent more time laughing at the mess I was in. He knew as little as me. So I was no better off. So, as much as I despise the st\*pid b\*tch, she had to stay. I could make her suffer. Make her feel the pain as I found conquests to enjoy...

While she slowly went crazy through rejection and her lack of purpose with no role within our pack and no potential for a job outside of the pack. I would make her suffer for ever thinking she was better than me.

I glanced at the warrior as he walked away. Before darkly looking at Bailey. "See what you have done now? Another f\*\*king person knows about this sh it?" I snapped.

She widens her big brown eyes at me almost innocently. "I think it was you that was yelling.

Miles."

I growled in anger. I don't understand her. Out of all the people in pack she seemed to be the only one who thought it acceptable to answer me back with disregard for my rank. She infuriated. me. Though since she returned from her studies she was a lot more pleasant to look at than she ever had been before. Not that it was relevant.

"Do not go there Bailey, you stu pid b\*tch. And I will say again, that job you went for the interview for is not happening. You belong here. This is your pack. I will be your Alpha soon enough. You will answer to me and no other." I dictate, because I know that I need her here to ensure my strength. She was my fated mate. Or had been until I rejected her. The fated mate brings strength to their significant other's wolf. I would not risk that. Not for anything. She would have to suffer.

"So you keep saying." She rolled her eyes, and I felt anger rippling under my skin. I needed to get away from her, before I knocked her flying. I have been taught not to hit a

woman. But this one, well, she pushed those boundaries, and certainly tested my control. Besides, I needed to speak to that warrior, Harley, I think Bailey called him.

I shook my head at her and walked away. 'Harley? Are you free to talk?' I mindlink as I move away from the psy cho b\*tch.

I truly did not need this today. My head was battered as it was. Seeing your best friend find his fated mate was not the easiest thing in the world. I don't think it would ever have bothered me if I had not been through what I had with Bailey. If I had been blessed with the fated mate I deserved, then seeing your friend meet his fated would be a good thing. But instead it filled me with rage. Rage and envy.

Especially when she was a stunner. A she-wolf to be proud of. Like a f\*\*king beauty queen. Curves in all the right places. A seriously amazing personality too. How is it that Jordan has fate bless him like that, yet I get lumbered with his f\*\*king sister? Something seemed to be wrong somewhere, it truly did.

But seeing Jordan meet this new mate of his, Gia, when she was visiting with some training warriors, was like something out of a f\*\*king romance chick-flick. Quite sickening. And Jordan now was all puppy-dog-eyed over her. And it just made me realize how much I have missed out on by being fated to Bailey. It makes me hate her even more.

"Sure Alpha, what is up?" Harley responded.

I think he likely knew what was wrong. He had overheard a private conversation that was not for the ears of the pack. But, if he wanted to go down that path, then we would do that. 'I just wanted to discuss what you overheard.' I told him via our link, as I had lost sight of him while arguing with Bailey.

"That Bailey was your fated mate?" he replies, and I feel my temper rippling. Did he not believe the things I told him? I saw the way he looked at her. He didn't look impressed with her. Though I had not realized he and her were that close. Jordan had mentioned there was a warrior sniffing around, not that I cared, of course. But, he looked hurt by my revelations, so I assumed he had taken what I said at face value and believed me.

'She believed she was. I never felt that connection. I repeat my lie from earlier.

'I don't think you can have one-sided bonds, Alpha.' Harley argues, taking me by surprise. This is some random warrior, and he is questioning my view on something? How f\*\*king dare he!

'Are you saying I am lying?' I snarled through the link, feeling my wolf, Jet beginning to push forward. Desperate to go and punish this f\*\*ker. I was his Alpha! Or would be soon enough...

“Well you seem to be saying Bailey is lying. He came back.

The blood numbing through my body feels like it is racing right now. My head hurts. Myiaur clenched so tight. ‘Bailey lies a lot. I am surprised you haven’t worked that out if you spend so much time with her. I counteract. Giving him something to think about. I imagine he won’t think so highly of her if he believes that. ‘Now, where are you?’”

‘At my training session. He says, knowing damn well I can hardly go, and confront him in front of a crowd of warriors and the pack Gamma. ‘And then I am going to see your father.’”

His words register in my mind. Why the f\*\*k did he plan to talk to my father? If he thought for one second he was going to expose any of this shit then he had another trick coming. I would kill him before that happened...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 22**

### Chapter 22 Bailey

I strolled through the rest of the pack while trying not to think of Miles. He was nothing if not persistent. I could think of no reason why he kept me here, other than the fact he gained some sick pleasure from seeing me suffer. And, the way he has changed in recent years, I would not be surprised if he had turned into some sort of masochist.

I hated that things between Harley and I were likely now ruined. The way he had looked at me had hurt. He had believed the words coming from his upcoming Alpha. But, then who wouldn’t? He was the next Alpha. Most, if not all, would believe him. Why would they doubt him? He was the golden child of the pack. Ha. Little did they know the only thing golden about him was the reflection of his glowing satanic eyes.

I knew I had been naïve to think there could be anything between Harley and I. Harley had a fated mate out there. He would have believed I did too. Obviously I knew better. But, I have been enjoying our time together. He made me feel good. And perhaps, stupidly, a tiny part of me had considered that if things continued then a chosen mate bond one day could be something to contemplate, couldn’t it? A chosen mate bond is sometimes thought to be stronger than a fated one, because it is one that is chosen. Your heart and soul pick it. The connection is already there before the bond is created.

Not that it would even matter, we had barely been seeing one another. We have been on a few dates. And he had taken the word of Miles over me anyway. My eyes drifted to the warrior training field as I walked past toward my home. I could see them working hard under the rays of the sunshine. Some in human form, some shifted into their wolf form. Rather than me in this heat, that is for sure.

“Bailey!” I heard Harley’s voice, as I continued walking, and turned around, to find him jogging across the field, and he suddenly leans on the wall separating the field and the path.

I was so unsure of what to say, so I simply smiled in greeting. He looked a little sweaty after training, and no doubt the run from the training field. He was wearing training shorts and his chest was bare, revealing his toned chest and upper arms. I did my best to avert my gaze from his body, which I have to say was quite difficult when there was quite a lot to admire! You can definitely see why he was a warrior...

“Having fun there, Bai?” Harley’s voice was light and playful, which took me by surprise considering the way he had walked away from me earlier.

I met his gaze with a frown. “Hmm?”

“I am sorry about earlier. Not that it likely means much. But, why didn’t you tell me?” he questions, and I can sense irritation in his voice, despite the fact he is trying hard to stay calm.

“He told me nobody could know.” I whispered, avoiding his gaze.

“How long have you known?” Harley tilts his head to look at me curiously, and I can see his mind working overtime. “Bailey, you and he have known each other forever. Was this since he first shifted?”

Miles had sworn me to secrecy. Never to say a word to anybody. Yet, here I was being confronted

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+5 Pearls

by someone who had worked it all out because of Miles yelling at me. Would that be considered. my fault? I don’t know what to do. I just looked at Harley, my eyes meeting his, as I chewed my lip nervously.

“I will take that as a yes.” Harley says with a sigh. “All that time and you have not said a word? He has dated since then too. Not to mention all the times he slept around. You have had to suffer the pain of him cheating?”

I shrugged. My own family had barely noticed. I became good at hiding it. Feigning injuries. Or illness. Anything to cover up what was truly happening. Anything to stop the truth being revealed. Because I was terrified of what Miles would be capable of if the truth was revealed. The first time it happened I was terrified, and genuinely thought I was dying. Until I realized what it was. I didn’t even have my wolf at that point either. I

cried myself to sleep. But I lied to my Mum, and said I wasn't feeling too good, put my TV on loud to cover up my cries of pain, until I dropped off in so bs of pain.

"It was only a year." I whispered. "He decided to reject me then."

"A year of making you suffer though, Bailey." Harley growled. "And he still treats you like sh it. He has done for as long as I can remember."

"It is better not to get involved, Harley." I whispered. "He could make your life hell."

"Not if I go to his Dad, he won't."

My heart felt like it fell through the floor at those words. No. That cannot happen. Uncle Marshall cannot know. Nobody else can know now. No. Miles would go on a f\*\*king rampage!

"Harley, no!" I begged. "Please, do not do that!"

Harley simply frowns. "He needs to be made to pay for what he has done, Bailey."

"I am fine with it. It doesn't matter. Don't get yourself involved, or he could come after you. There is no reason for you to be doing that to yourself over this." I told him, looking at him with

fear.

"I care for you, isn't that reason enough?" Harley reached for my hand, and I could feel butterflies in my belly, though they are far from pleasant when added to the heavy churning of nerves that is already residing there. "Miles is a f\*\*king idiot for not seeing how lucky he is for being blessed with

you as a fated mate. Why the f\*\*k would he reject you?!"

"It doesn't matter. I am not Luna material. Not the sort of woman he or most guys want. I get that. Having your head stuck in a book isn't appealing. But, please, Harley, do not get yourself involved." I removed my hand from his. Suddenly aware of many of the warriors on the training field watching us in curiosity.

"Trust me, you are the type of woman most guys would be proud to call theirs. And having your head in a book is irrelevant, Bai, maybe it is to Miles because your intelligence intimidates him, because he is as thick as two short planks. But, a decent guy would see your intelligence, again, as something to be proud of. I think it is f\*\*king awesome you got your degree. And if Miles was any proper sort of man he would too." Harley says with a smile, and I feel my heart fluttering. Why couldn't the moon goddess have blessed me with someone like Harley for a mate? He

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“Difference is Harley, he is the Alpha. And he had made his choice. So, we have to go with that. So, please do not make this harder than it is.” I begged him and he rolled his eyes.

“Fine, but you should know I don’t agree with it, Bailey. It is for you, I am keeping quiet, not him. At least tell me your interview went well?”

I sighed. “It went really well.”

“That’s my girl!” Harley grinned proudly at me. “I knew you would smash it. So, when do start?”

I slowly shook my head. “I can’t.”

His face changed in an instant. “This is him again, isn’t it?”

I avoided his gaze as I spoke. “It isn’t that simple, Harley.”

“You are a f\*\*king fool, Bailey.” He says, before turning away to walk to the training field.

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Again, intensely aware of the many warriors glancing in our direction, I did not want to call his name to try to get him to come back. So, I went for mindlink instead. ‘Harley! Please. Try to understand. He scares me.’

‘Well why do you think I am saying his Dad needs to know?’ he responds, but he doesn’t turn back, he continues to walk toward his training session, so I assume our talk was over.

‘He has told me if I do anything he will make me regret it. Making me lose my degree was one threat. The other threats have been he would find ways to make me regret my decisions. I dare not think what he could do. Harley, you all see him as the wonderful upcoming Alpha. I have seen him as a lot worse, trust me. I can’t tell you it all. Please take my word. I tried to find a way to stay away after my degree, but he wouldn’t allow it. And now it seems he won’t allow this job either. He said I belong to the pack.’ I blurt through the link, not sure why I was telling Harley everything. Because I know if someone else knew, then he could do something. He could well confront Miles and I would be in serious trouble.

‘Sh it Bai. You need to get away.’

‘I know, but every time I try, he blocks it. My only way out would be a mate, but as you know, that won’t happen because he was my mate. I told him.’



“What if I took you as a chosen mate?” he suggests, and my heart feels like it is going to burst from my chest. Butterflies flutter through my tummy while goosebumps spread over my skin. Did he really just suggest that?

“You don’t need to do that.” I tell him, though the idea sounds amazing.

“I am being serious. I think you are awesome. I think we make a f\*\*king amazing couple. I could request a move to my Mum’s pack to be a warrior there, and you could come with me. Get your away from him. My heart soars at his suggestion. That would be truly amazing. I had the

sikilim of catting aUME

‘You would do all of that for me?’ I can barely link, and even my wolf, Akira, is almost purring at the man she had begun to become fond of.

‘Well, it would kind of benefit me too. He teases. ‘I would get to call the most beautiful geeky girl alive my mate. What do you say?’

‘I say, I think you are amazing!’

‘I will call around to yours once I am done with training, and we can discuss it all properly. But I can’t wait to make all of that official baby doll!’ he links playfully, making me giggle.

‘Me either!’

‘Right, I best get back to training, or I am going to get an a\*s-who oping. Start thinking of all the things you want as a couple beautiful, because I plan to make sure you are forever walking around with the biggest smile on your face!’ Harley tells me before cutting the link, leaving me walking the remainder of the way home with the biggest smile on my face. Could the sweetest guy in pack have found me a solution? And, I think he would likely support me in working too! He was truly the best....

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 23**

Chapter 23 Bailey

I approached the house with a content feeling in my chest. Harley could be my savior. Yes, I was disappointed about this teaching role, but perhaps I could look for one closer to his Mum’s former pack he planned to move us to. Wow. A chosen mate. A handsome warrior too. One that actually liked the fact I had gained my degree.

Taking him as a chosen mate is okay, isn’t it?’ I asked Akira.

'Fated mate not want us. He reject us. This mate does want us. Akira almost purrs as she replies. I think it is safe to say she was just as content. I had felt her becoming fond of Harley as we spent time together. She had always previously been against building close bonds with other male wolves in the hope Miles would want us back, but once he rejected us, it had hurt her massively. The pain it caused her nearly tore her down. But, we have got there in the end. Hopefully, Harley can be the thing that fixes us. A savior in so many ways.

'A fresh start Akira!' I told her excitedly.

"If he lets us go, of course. She snarls, like she expects a fall-out.

"We just don't tell him until the last moment. I told her. If Harley had marked me, I could go with him and there would be nothing Miles could do about it. Because a mate goes with her mate, and that was the procedure. I don't think even the Alpha would argue with that. And would he really want me around if I had been marked and mated by another?

I pushed open the front door to the house and relished the peace that enveloped me. Not to mention the cool. Everyone loves the sunshine when it arrives, but I have to say I am more a cooler weather person. Glad to be in and out of the scorching sunshine. I dropped my keys on top of the drawers by the door before moving through to the kitchen in hopes of making myself a coffee. Only as I am sorting the coffee machine do I hear movement behind me, causing n me to quickly turn around. I hadn't realized there was anybody home.

Jordan, my older brother, was leaning on the doorway of the kitchen watching me with a dark expression. Of all the people it could be, it had to be him. "Hear you been causing issues." He says coldly.

I rolled my eyes. "Jordan please, can we leave this? It has been a long day so far, and it isn't even over yet."

"Trust me, I have places I would rather be, and people I would rather be with. But no, I want to ask you this. Besides, you found time to chat to the warrior boy though?" he questions, and I can't help but wonder how the hell he knew I had been speaking to Harley. I can only assume Miles had told him of the confrontation when I was walking back earlier. It seemed these two were connected by a speed dial when it came to exchanging even the slightest piece of gossip or information.

"Harley and I are friends. Of course, I will speak to him if I see him." I argued, feeling the need to defend myself, like I so often did with my brother, who seemed to see negatives in everything I

did.

“Don’t think your fated mate would appreciate it thinking you are whoring yourself out to some.

random warrior.” My brother said with a sneer. “Who would have thought that of the class nerd?”

I rolled my eyes. I have had just about enough of this now. My brother has turned into a top tier knobhead. All through spending too much time with Miles. When the pair of them became Alpha and Beta, this pack stood no hope. I was glad Harley had given me the opportunity to get away.

“I am whoring myself out to nobody. You should have better respect for your sister.” I hiss. “Though the way he seems to have you trained up to do his bullying and dirty work, I’d say it is you that is whoring yourself out to Miles.” I snarled, not caring now that my words are below the belt. My brother seems to think it is acceptable for him to speak as he chooses to me, so I will return the favor to him.

The look of fury upon Jordan’s face is a picture. “What did you just say?” he demanded.

“Sorry did I use words that were too big for you?” I asked sarcastically, going to move past him, having lost the desire for my coffee and just wanting to get away from my brother.

But instead, he puts his arm up to block my path. “I don’t believe I was done with you yet.”

I raised my eyes to meet his. Dark brown eyes. Full of anger. All aimed at me, his younger sister. So much for looking out for your family. No. This delightful brother of mine is too dedicated to his best friend and upcoming Alpha. Yet he doesn’t even know the stuff he had done!

“Jordan, I haven’t done anything, okay? I went for an interview, which you chose to run to Miles about. He went crazy about it and has been making threats about since.” I said angrily. “There, that is the shit you are implying. Though I imagine Miles the muppet said it was something a whole lot worse to make me look like I was in the wrong.”

“Don’t try to get clever. It doesn’t suit you.”

“Well, it sure as hell doesn’t suit you big bro. Because you believe whatever bullshit hit your numskull of a friend tells you.” I said with a shake of my head, beginning to wonder why my brother was even here at this time of day. He should be out working. I had assumed I would be safe coming home now. He was always out at this time.

“When is it going to hit home that Miles and I are going to be your next Alpha and Beta? You need to start learning to show us respect. I owe him my loyalty. So, yeah, you

come way down. that line, I am afraid. You betrayed your pack today by going behind their back.” He snarled, lowering his face almost next to mine, his eyes glowering at me.

“f\*\*king hell Jordan, it was a job interview. I wasn’t planning nuclear war! Maybe you want to ask yourself why that big, bad friend of yours is so desperate to keep me here in his pack.” I said, leaning back against the kitchen counter, my arms crossed aggressively, finally having given up with trying to hide the truth. If Jordan knows, he f\*\*king knows. Miles would have to deal with it. Because then, perhaps Jordan may have a little understanding.

Jordan’s head tilts momentarily as he considers my words. “What the f\*\*k does that mean?” he demands.

I shrug. “Well, other pack members are permitted to work out of the pack, some even work away. Yet Miles will not my brows at my

brother and allow that for me, will he? Ever questioned why?” I raised

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“Miles always said you had a thing for him. I told him he was off his f\*\*king head. But he is right, isn’t he? You want him. Is that why he lets you stay, because he feels bad for you?” Jordan’s face grimaces in horror. I imagine mine would pretty much reflect his, because the thought of that to me is truly horrific.

I laughed sarcastically. “No. Try because fate played a cruel game.” And with that I saw an opportunity to leave the kitchen as Jordan was away from the door. And I snuck out of the room and ran up the stairs to my room.

“What the f\*\*k are you talking about?!” Jordan now mindlinks.

I chose to ignore him, letting him think over my words. I was sure at some point he would work it out.

I lay on my bed, needing some time to chill out. I will find some time to message the Alpha or Luna of Autumn Valley Pack tomorrow I think. Thank them for their offer, but to let them know it just wasn’t the right time for me. Their pack was truly beautiful. But, I had other priorities. I just hoped Harley could fix the things he said he would. Because I truly loved the prospect of him and I building a future together far from here...

‘I had stuff to deal with today, Bailey, and now my brain is f\*\*king fried. Tell me you are not saying Miles is your f\*\*king fated mate?’ Jordan suddenly mindlinks, and from the tone alone he is far from impressed. Oh dear, I wonder how Miles will cope with that now...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 24**

## Chapter 24 Jordan

+5 Pearls

I hear my sister footsteps pounding up the stairs. Evidently she does not want to talk. And quite honestly, I have not got the energy to chase her. I wasn't expecting to see her home. I was here to gather some things together so I could travel over to my fated mate's pack, spend some time with her while she gathered her things together to come and move here with me. My fated mate. Seriously, meeting her for the first time today was like the ground had slipped out from under me. Like time had stopped.

You hear tales of what meeting your fated mate was meant to be like, but meeting Gia was everything they described and more. Her eyes sparkled like precious gems, and damn, I thought my

heart would beat right out of my chest! Don't even get me started on the sparks from her touch...

My wolf, Rory, was going crazy the moment we caught her scent. He was ready to scoop her up and take her home. Mark her and mate her there and then! We had been waiting for our fated mate for what seemed like eternity. And now to have her here felt truly amazing. I wanted to have her home with me as soon as I could, so I had suggested that she return with her family to her pack, gather her things, and I would come and stay with her for a few days in her pack. Allow us to get to know one another, and then return to her new home, my pack, as mates.

That was why I had been home in the middle of the day. Or else I wouldn't have been home when Miles had been mindlinking, shouting his mouth off, for the goddess knows how many times today alone, about my sister. She seemed to be a constant source of irritation for him, which meant she became a constant source of irritation for me.

Bailey had never been normal. She wasn't like the rest of the girls in school. She forever had her head in a book, or was always studying. It was humiliating having a younger sister that knew more than you. Not to mention embarrassing that she didn't take much pride in her appearance like so many of the she-wolves within our pack. She was just not normal. I mean, she was never ugly, she had gained our Mum's curls, and big brown eyes. She would always be considered pretty. Even with those ridiculous glasses she used to wear. But, she wasn't bothered about the recent fashion trends like most of the girls, which drew attention to her. Making her a source of amusement for many, and a source of embarrassment for me. I hated that she was my sister.

Once we reached our mid-teens, Miles seemed to start hating her. Forever complaining about her. Picking on her. It became almost fun to torment her. She never cried, so it wasn't like it was bullying. She was tougher than she looked, Bailey. I mean, in her late teens, soon after I shifted, I had heard her suffering badly with nightmares. She was

screaming at night, but never once did she speak to anyone about them or go to anyone for help.

So, I think she was just more resilient than most. Able to take whatever was thrown at her. I don't think it ever really bothered her. If it had, she would surely just have stopped the reading and tried harder to fit in, and she never had.

Her attitude had grown since she came back from university. More confident. More clever too, no doubt. I was proud of her, of course I was, not that I would ever tell her that. She has caused so much drama over the years. And continues to do so even now. All this sh it over her finding a job, made no sense to me. If she wanted a job outside of the pack, when at present we had no role in our pack for her, then I didn't really see the issue, but Miles said she asked not to leave the pack, yet she said Miles would not allow her to leave. It made no sense. Why would she apply for jobs if

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Chapter 24. Jordan

she didn't want them?

+5 Pearls

Miles had told me so many times Bailey had a crush on him. Even that she had made a move on him at his birthday party when he had first shifted, when she followed him outside. I couldn't imagine Bailey wanting someone like Miles. But, then the tension between the two of them it all added up, so I believed him. But then, her almost laughing at it when I suggested it, made me question it all.

And now she is saying fate played a cruel game. Fate? What the f\*\*K is she meaning? She is right though, if what she is saying is the truth and Miles has been stopping her working out of the pack, then there has to be some reason as to why. It made no sense. My brain was fried! He hated her. I was sure of it. So why would you keep someone you hated so close to you? Unless you didn't actually hate them... did Miles actually like my sister? Eww...

Fate playing a cruel game? What cruel game would fate play with two people that seemingly hate one another? Then a realization hit me.

'Tell me you are not saying Miles is your f\*\*King fated mate?' I mindlink my sister quickly, my hands trembling in shock. That can't be true, can it?

I am met by silence. Is she choosing to ignore me? 'Bailey. I swear you will answer me, or I ask Miles. I tried again, knowing she likely would not want me speaking to him about this.

I hear soft footsteps on the stairs again, and I step from the lounge where I had been sitting, and my gaze meets her tear-stained eyes. "I'm right, aren't I?" I question.

She shakes her head. What? So why the f\*\*K is she crying? Did she want him as a mate? Had he been right all along, and she had been in love with him?

"He rejected me. So, no, I am not his mate anymore." She whispers, her voice barely audible, and I feel a pulse of anger through my body. He may be my best friend, but this is still my sister. Rejection is one of the cruelest things you can do to a werewolf.

"When?" I demanded.

"The year after he first shifted." She says with so little feeling like she had become accustomed to all of this now.

"Why did we not know?"

"He did not want anyone to know. And that hasn't changed. I just get sick of being made to look like I am in the wrong." She says, sitting herself down on the bottom step of the stairway.

"Bailey, he is the Alpha, he should not have rejected his fated mate, that isn't what they expect of him." I tell her, knowing what the pack traditions are here, and she nods. She knows all this, but she has clearly had no say in any of this either.

"Is that why he won't let you leave?" I question, unsure why that would affect anything. He had rejected her. She should be free to go out and live her life now. He made the choice to kick her to the curb.

"I don't know. He wan't rius me an ancwer

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Chapter 24 Jordan

+5 Pearls

"Did you get this new job?"

She nods, "But he told me not to take it."

I shook my head in irritation. What gives him the right to keep her here like a f\*\*King prisoner? No wonder she has held so much resentment toward him over the years. I just thought she was being a moody teenager. And after that, a hormonal woman. But this fool had turned down his fated mate. The woman the moon goddess had selected

for him. Hurting her in the process an unbelievable amount. I can only imagine the pain she had been through.

Knowing now, having experienced it myself, the draw to my mate, I can't imagine ever rejecting her. Or the pain of not being with her. So the thought that Miles has done that to my own sister infuriates me. Not only that, all the nights we would go out to bars and clubs. He would pick up women. Sleep with them. Plus, he had dated multiple women over the years. She must have felt the pains of him cheating....

Another sudden thought hit me. The nightmares. The screams. They weren't nightmares at all. They were Bailey in agony at Miles cheating while he and her were still mates. Before he had rejected her. No wonder she had never come to any of us. How could we have been so blind? Mum and Dad sleep like the dead, so I doubt they would have heard her. But how had I not known something was wrong?

"Bailey, why didn't you tell us?" I dropped down to my knees in front of her.

"Think about it Jordan. Who were you going to believe? He told Harley today, who happened to overhear an argument that I had imagined the matebond. That it wasn't even there!" she says to me in exasperation. "I have been nothing but an inconvenience."

I feel like crap hearing this. I have failed my sister here, and I know I have. Though never in my wildest imagination would I have thought my sister would be fated to my best friend. It seemed like such an unlikely pairing. But, no matter what, she had felt unable to come to us for help, and that meant she felt trapped by the whole situation.

"Look Bai, I am sorry. I f\*\*Ked up. Let me make it up to you? I met my mate today, so I am going to visit her pack for a few days, and then I will be home. We will speak properly about all of this then, yeah? But please speak to Dad, he needs to know."

"You met your mate?" her gaze meets mine, a soft smile on her face, and I can see she hasn't got the energy for any of this anymore.

I nod. "Yeah. She was visiting with some warriors. Her name is Gia, she will love you, I am sure!"

"That was why you were home? You were getting sorted to go?" she asks, like she suddenly knew why I was at home, and I nodded in agreement. "Well, get your things together and get to your mate! You don't want to keep a girl waiting. Especially not your mate. This sh\*t with me isn't going to be going anywhere, it has been here for years, it will still be here when you get home."

I smiled, pulling her to me in a big hug. "I am sorry Bailey. I wish I had known." and those words. are ones I have never meant more in my life. Because I cannot believe how my best friend has treated my sister.



## Beauty and The Beta Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Bailey

I was taken aback by my brother. That was not how he normally acted. Could his meeting his mate have changed him? As happy as I am for him that he has met his fated mate, his sympathy and kind thoughts all feel a little too late. He had been acting like I was some sort of social pariah for years. Like I was something to avoid, like the plague, all because I preferred to read rather than hang out by the football field cheering for them. All because I preferred something different.

I never intended to embarrass my brother, or my family by being the way I was. I just wanted to do well in life. I wasn't aware that it was such a crime, yet the way my brother and sister had spoken over the years, you would think it was first degree murder I had committed. But, I guess I should be grateful now he was showing some remorse. Maybe it was a sign he was growing up? The worrying thing was, what would happen when he confronted Miles? Because that was bound to happen. And, I doubted that it would go down well when Miles discovered that I had shared this with yet another person. Especially one so close to him. One that he held in high-regard. He would hate to lose the respect of my brother. My brother was meant to be the next Beta.

Jordan, can you not say anything to Miles about this please?' I mindlink him before he leaves the pack. He had only just set off, so he still had to be on the packlands by now.

'I will need to speak with him at some point about it all. And Dad. Likely his Dad too. He broke the rules, Bai. Not to mention treating you terribly. He replies.

"That may be the case, but as I see it, it is in the past now. I tried hard to dismiss it, so focused on the future that Harley had promised me. I don't want that to be put at risk. The things Harley had spoken of had given me a chance of an escape from Miles. From this pack. From everything I had struggled with for years. Harley respected me for who I was. I could be me around him, and he liked me for that. I could not put that on the line!

'It will never be in the past. It needs facing up to. Jordan's tone through the link was terse.

"I just want to be able to move on. Have a future. He won't let me have that.' I explained.

"Well, maybe you should take that job without telling him. Leave without telling him. Let Dad deal with the aftermath." Jordan suggests, and I am shocked that he would even suggest it, he is telling me to go against the orders of the upcoming Alpha. Everything he had previously been telling me not to do. Something had definitely changed in my brother. This was so strange...

“That is disobeying a direct order, Jord” I link, my hands trembling, and the thought of what could even happen.

‘Yeah, but I, as future Beta, am giving you an order. And I imagine when you tell Dad all of this he will tell you the same. They are orders to follow. He broke the rules, Bai. You need to do what is right for you for a change. I hate that you were hurting for so long and never said a word. Don’t think of anyone else now. Think of you. Right? You worked hard for that degree. Everything you dreamed of, so go do the job you worked your a\*s off for. Don’t let him ruin that.’ I can hear Jordan’s determination through the link, and I find myself smiling.

“I will think about it’

\*No, not thinking. Doing. Talk to Dad, please. I will call when I arrive at Gia’s pack to make sure

you do. Okay? I am not letting this go now, Bai. I failed you before. I won’t do it again. You haven’t got a mate to have your back, so you need us to have your back instead, more than ever now. We haven’t had it properly so far, and we should have. Time we made up for it.’ Jordan links.

I take in all the things he says, and I wonder if he is right. Maybe I do need to put myself first. Could I actually do that?

“Tell your mate I said hi.’ I told him, with a smile. ‘And tell her good luck, she will need it with you for a mate.

I hear him laugh through the link. ‘I sure will sis, and I will speak soon. Do not let him bring you down. He obviously never deserved you in the first place.

The link cuts out, telling me he is either out of the area now or he is ending the link. I guess I should go and find my Dad and start to explain this mess to him. I put my sneakers back on when I receive a mindlink.

‘Bailey?’ a voice I do not recognize comes through the link, completely confusing me. Who would be mindlinking me?

‘Hello?’ I responded, a little uncertainly.

“This is Ruth, Harley’s Mum. I am sorry to link, but I have heard a lot about you lately, and know you and Harley have spent some time together. So I thought I should let you know he is in the pack hospital. He has been attacked. He has some serious injuries and is currently in surgery. My heart feels like it is shattering at the link as the words she tells me sink in.

'What happened?!' I almost sobbed through the link, though I have a sinking feeling I may already

know.

"We don't know, they believe it could be a rogue attack. He was found in the forest, so lucky to be found as he was losing so much blood..." Harley's Mum links, her voice trembling even through the mindlink, as I run down the stairs of my house, ready to head to the hospital. All thoughts of speaking to my Dad were put to the back of my mind. I need to go and see Harley. See if he will be okay. For if my thoughts were right, he was likely not meant to survive...

AAAAAAAAAAAA

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 26**

Chapter 26 Miles

+5 Pearls

My mind had been distracted all of the day. After seeing Bailey, I had gone to the gym, and took my anger out on the punch bags. But, it had not done what I had needed, not like it usually did. My wolf, Jet, enraged at the sense of distrust from one of his own pack needed to be allowed out. He needed the freedom of space and time to run. He enjoyed the thrill of hunting and taking his anger out on some innocent small prey. Making them suffer because of his wrath.

And today was worse than normal. This warrior boy had truly gotten under both of our skin. I was the next leader. Yet that fool was questioning me and my words. He was questioning the things I was saying. Bailey was a nobody. She had always been, yet some small-time warrior was taking her word over the words of his next Alpha? The moment I had left the gym I had headed for the treeline, and stripped myself of my clothes. Placing them into some broken bark, ready to retrieve them when my anger had subsided enough. Though I doubted small prey would be enough today. The thing I wanted to destroy most was the face of that pretty boy warrior...

But, I knew that I had to control that violent streak within me. As the upcoming Alpha, I could not be seen to be hurting my own pack members; or at least not without a decent reason. I may just have to find myself conveniently paired with him in the next pack training session. Warrior or not, he and his wolf would stand no chance against me and my Alpha Wolf. And, I would enjoy every second of destroying the irritating little f\*\*ker; and thankfully, nobody would question it. Perfect!

The resentment swelled through every pore of my body and every part of my wolf's being too, as my bones snapped and twisted. Cracking and dislocating through the now swift and smooth shifting process of turning into my aggressive wolf form. And oh, today

was he aggressive! The connection we shared was boiling with rage. It was bad enough that Harley thought he could answer me back, but to think he could go to my father, bring my whole reign into question, was something else entirely. He would live to regret that threat. I would make sure of it.

Jet's feet pounded the floor of the forest at a speed so swift, as the breeze caught his gray fur while he dodged between trees and undergrowth. His eyes darted back and forth, searching for the sight of any prey he could punish. Anything to take his anger out on.

I allowed myself to fall back within his mind to give him the freedom he was craving to run and hunt. I sadly would find no freedom from the many thoughts weighing down my mind. Bailey had been a burden upon my life and mind since the moment I had realized what she was to me. I have since had to witness my own younger brother and now my best friend, meet their fated mates and see their joy. Both blessed with fated mates worthy of the men they were. Yet I was given some pathetic excuse of a she-wolf.

Seeing both Ellis and now Jordan with their mates only made me hate Bailey more. I had been brought up as the upcoming Alpha. Always given the things I wanted in life. That was how my parents had been. Some would call that spoiled, but to my parents, it was just preparation for what would happen when I became Alpha. As Alpha, I would have all the things I wanted. I would be at the top of the pack and nobody would argue with me. I would be denied nothing. So, I was used to having everything I wanted, and I wanted the most beautiful of mates. One to show off. One to be proud of and one that my friends would look at and be jealous of.

So when the time came Lexnected the moon goddess to deliver Lexnected a perfect fated mate

Balance:

1 Coins

BO +

1 Pearls

Chapter 26 Miles

+5 Pearls.

sent me that f\*\*k-up. Bailey the f\*\*king-know-it-all. Well, she didn't know that day that she would have the hardest kick to the gut when she was told I was her mate and that I would never want her, did she? Ha, no. She clearly isn't all that smart. Her face was a f\*\*king picture that day. And I made her wait too. Wait for the rejection. Knowing it was

coming, but never sure when. Always knowing she was never good enough. And, I certainly made sure she suffered....

'When the f\*\*k were you going to tell me?' I suddenly got a mindlink from Jordan, completely taking me by surprise. Was he not meant to be heading to his mates' pack for a few days? I am sure we had given him permission to take time away.

"What are you talking about bro?" I responded, wondering if he mindlinked the wrong person.

'You. Rejecting my sister. His words are cold and hold some venom, even through the link, but regardless of that, I want to know how the hell my best friend suddenly seems to know about this now too. Had that f\*\*king warrior gone mouthing off?

"What?" I question, hoping to be able to avoid the subject. 'Where did you hear that?'

'Do not bull sh it me, Miles. Bailey told me everything you sick f\*\*k. You hurt her. Not to mention you broke pack rules. He snarls at me through the link, only making me even more angry, and I can hear Jet snarling too, though I think that may be at the small rabbit he is now pouncing on...

So, it was Bailey shooting her mouth off again? Seemed the little b\*tch had decided that this was no longer our secret? Well, she would live to regret that decision. I would ensure of that. I would not have this put at my feet. Oh no. This would all be her fault.

Since when do you care if your sister is hurt?' I asked him, with a nasty laugh. Jordan had always. been one of the first to pick on his sister alongside me. Had always had fun teasing her. Though she made it easy being such a nerd.

"There are limits, Miles. And you know it. He snaps, and I begin to question if my friend is going to be as trustworthy as I thought he was.

'You want to watch who you are talking to like that, Jordan. You need to remember, breaking the rules or not, without me as Alpha, you would lose your place as Beta. So, before you go running to Daddy, or go running to my Dad, think of the consequences for you too. Is protecting Bailey really worth losing everything you have trained for? She is not worth that. She is worthless.' I snarled, not liking to threaten my friend, but knowing I had no other option, he needed bringing into line.

Are you threatening me?' he demanded.

'Were you not going to your mates' pack?' I asked, ignoring his question.

'I am heading out of pack now, but could not leave without confronting you. Not after this.

'Well, I suggest you run along, take some time with your mate, and take some time to think if your sister is really worth losing everything over. Because without me as Alpha, you will not be a Beta. So that means a nobody in the pack, Jordan. Think carefully. And with that I cut the link, blocking him from contacting me further. If he contacts my father, then I will make him nav.

Balance:

1 Coins.

45 +0

1 Pearls

Chapter 26 Miles:

time he has had to run. 'Time up for today. I slowed him as he slows his pace slightly.

I sense his disappointment through our bond, but he does as he is told and turns back toward where we began, so I can gather my clothes. Jordan not happy. He tells me.

my wolf,

'I know. He will see sense. He wants his title more than he cares for her. I reassured knowing my friend. He has worked hard to prepare to gain the title of Beta that his father currently holds. Hell, he was still trying to prove to his Dad he was worthy of the title. He would not be willing to give that up without a fight. Especially not for something as pathetic as Bailey.

Jet suddenly slowed, sticking his nose in the air, like he smelt something good. Then he let out a small growl. Deep but angry. "Warrior boy... he was soon off running toward the edge of the tree line...