

Chapter 181 – Beauty and The Beta

I paced around the room once Morgan and Marc had left. The room was deathly silent despite the occasional buzz from the machines in here. I had tried desperately to get some sleep in the chair next to Bailey's bed, but let's be honest, hospital chairs are most definitely not designed for taking a nap in. Zion was pacing too, but within my mind. As strange as it seems for me to say it, I was missing his snarkiness right now; and usually that drove me crazy. I would do anything for things to return to normal.

The doctors had switched shifts, and another doctor had come in to do a check on Bailey, though little had changed. He said her stats were stabilizing, which he felt was a good sign; so I could only hope that may mean her wolf could be helping her now. That was what we needed. If her wolf could help her heal, she stood a better chance at recovery.

Morgan had been on my case, much like Eden at potentially marking Bailey. But, I was still adamant on the point I would not do that without her permission. As much as I would love nothing more than to make Bailey my chosen mate, I could not be sure if she was feeling the same, or even if she did have similar feelings for me if she was in the same place as me right now. Things were complicated. She had been through a lot, and I wanted to respect that. I would not take her choice away.

'Ash, just to let you know, spoke to the rogues in the cells. I am sorry to say, they were not the ones that hurt her, I don't think. And it was not involving Miles Davenport either from the information they gave me. The rogues I spoke to did attempt to chase her and Morgan, but it seems it was because they were inexperienced, lacking females, being rogues. Marc being with Morgan, protecting her meant they went after Bailey then and continued to chase her.' Caleb mindlinked me, and my heart sank.

Marc would always instinctively protect his mate. I would expect nothing else, and I don't think anyone else would either. He had done nothing wrong. But, I could only assume as he did, the rogues had used that as an opportunity to separate Bailey from them. Easy hunting tactics. But it was not what I expected to hear; and if I am being honest, a small part of me is thinking it wasn't what we wanted to hear either. I had genuinely thought Miles would have been involved. It would have made so much sense. Given a purpose and reasonable explanation as to why my beautiful girl was laid so badly hurt in a hospital bed right now. But, instead, it seems this was nothing more than your standard rogues out on the hunt, after vulnerable she-wolves.

'But why hurt her?' I asked, knowing that it still didn't give an answer for attacking her. What terrified me is, if they wanted her for that, then they could have assaulted her. And that thought sickened me...

'Thankfully, Bailey must have thought she was closer to the pack than she was, she shifted to her human form, and was shouting for help.' Caleb began, and while that explained while she was in her human form, the thought of her doing that breaks my heart, knowing

that nobody would have heard her. That nobody came for her... ‘They panicked. Obviously not expecting her to yell. Terrified help might come. So they ran. But, they did say there was another rogue around as they left. All they could say was he is bad.’

My blood ran cold at his words. There had been another. And for rogues to consider him bad had to mean he was not good news. But, it still begs the question, why had he left Bailey? Could we have been right, and her former mate had enlisted rogues to help him, now we knew he did not have the support of his pack to assist in looking for Bailey? That could be the only way he would have help to find her before she got home. But again, why did he leave her if that was the case? He would want his payday if that was what had occurred. Maybe I was just being paranoid...

‘Why did he leave her?’ I asked, desperately in need of an answer.

‘That I can’t say, and the guys in the cells wouldn’t know either as they were already fleeing by then, likely to where our warriors caught them. Look, I have been called to the gates to speak to someone, fuck knows why at this time of night, and the guard won’t answer me now, but I’ll call in at the hospital before heading home, okay?’ Caleb linked, and I was puzzled why he’d be needed at the gates this late.

‘Thanks bro.’ I responded, moving back to the chair, and dropping myself into it. Just as I do, I look across to Bailey and I realize her eyes are no longer closed. Her big brown eyes are looking back at me. My girl is awake! My heart races within my chest as I quickly stand back up.

“Bailey!” I stuttered.

She smiled, with a slight wince of pain.

‘I have been trying to tell you for the last few minutes that Akira and I were talking!’ Zion suddenly interrupted as I sat myself on the edge of Bailey’s bed, careful not to catch her, desperately not wanting to hurt her, but desperate to be close to her as Zion continued. ‘But you and that friend of yours talk more than two teenage girls gossiping about your latest crush!’

‘Piss off.’ I responded, but secretly glad he was back to normal.

“You are awake!” I exclaimed, gently stroking Bailey’s face, knowing I was stating the obvious, and again, she attempted a smile, as I realized I needed to get help. “I should let the doctor know!”

I jumped up from where I was sitting, and rushed from the bed to the door. “Doctor!” I called, nearly falling over my own feet in my hurry, as I opened the door, almost smacking myself in the face with it as I did from trying to move so quickly. “Doctor! Doctor, she is awake!” I yelled down the corridor, and once I could see the doctor was walking in our

direction, I moved back toward Bailey in her bed. And she was smiling at me again, affection in those amazing eyes of hers.

“Could you not just have mindlinked him?” she asked, her voice a little hoarse, and I paused, feeling a little silly.

But, I grinned before shrugging. “Ah well, I fancied making a fuss.” I winked, making her giggle lightly. “Admittedly, I may have forgotten at that moment to mindlink, I was just so pleased to see you awake! My first thought was you.”

“Yeah?”

“Hell yeah! I have been so worried, Bailey. You have given us such a scare.” I whispered.

“Hmm, I heard.” She looked at me, her gaze intense, making my heart flutter as I wondered suddenly if she may have heard everything going on in here while we thought she was sleeping...

Chapter 182 – Beauty and The Beta

My head felt like a storm was spinning through it... my whole body ached, even parts I didn't know could ache! I felt like I had been run over by a herd of elephants. What the hell had happened to me? I pried my eyes open tenderly, realizing in shock as my eyes attempted to focus that I was in a hospital room. I had been at the wedding not long ago, hadn't I? My eyes drifted to Asher... oh, Asher...

He did not look too great. He was anxiously pacing the floor of the room, his back currently to me. Had he been here long? Had I been here long? What had even happened? My mind was filled with questions that I was so desperately trying to find answers to, which was pretty difficult when it felt like I had a band of drum players currently residing in my head. We were in the car, I think...

My mind was such a blur of information. Flickers of images... rogues... fighting... screaming... blackness. Snippets of conversations I think had happened... but then, they just didn't seem to fit with the wedding... doctors... Asher... could they have been while I was here in the hospital? Is that possible? Eden... Morgan... Asher... oh... definitely Asher. Had he told me he loved me? Were they dreams? Can you dream if you're out of it?

I tried to speak, desperate to let Asher know I was okay... well, maybe not quite okay. I felt like a doll right now that has been through a washing machine, but I am awake, that has to be good, right? I tried again, but my throat felt tight, and my mouth dry. Asher was moving toward the bed, but his gaze toward the floor, I think he could be mindlinking.

‘Zion knows. I told him.’ Akira told me tiredly, she sounds as shattered as me right now. If I had been hurt, she had to have been using all her energy to attempt to heal me. Yet she

still felt the need to tell Zion we were okay. Aww... seems the wolves were as close as we were. My heart warmed at the thought.

‘Thanks. I think he is mindlinking.’ I told her.

‘Yep. Zion said he is. He was trying to get his attention, but he is gossiping with the Alpha. He’d hate to interrupt their lovefest.’

I smirked at her description. She may be tired, but she was still her usual charming self, it seemed. I watched as Asher suddenly dropped into the chair next to the bed, and his eyes suddenly met mine. The shock within them was so adorable I could have hugged him if moving did not hurt like a bastard. His eyes were darting all over me, like he was checking if it was really me, though who else it would be I was unsure.

“Bailey!” he stuttered, like he was struggling to get his words out, and I couldn’t help but smile. But I think it came out more as a grimace of pain too, as I moved my leg too quickly under the sheet and it hurt. It seemed Akira’s healing had only done so much. I was still badly bruised right now...

“You are awake!” he said excitedly, reaching over to gently stroke my face, his touch making me sigh in contentment. I had missed him so much. I smiled up at him again, while he suddenly spoke again, causing me to jump slightly. “I should let the doctor know!”

I was not sure where that idea came from, but he obviously decided it was urgent as he rushed from the bed to the door. “Doctor!” he all but yelled, as I watched him almost tripping up over his own feet in his desperate attempt to make it to the door in a hurry. Not to mention then almost smacking himself in the face with the door as he opened the door, once again in a little too much of a rush. I had to hold back a giggle. He was the sweetest.

‘I think I’d like to see him do that again.’ Akira giggled, and I held back a smile at her teasing of Asher. He was just excited we were awake, right?

“Doctor! Doctor, she is awake!” Asher yelled down the corridor, I assumed to the doctor, but at the volume he was shouting I think the whole of the pack had likely been awoken by his announcement. I am sure the whole pack wanted to know I was awake; and even if they didn’t, Asher had clearly decided they were going to know anyway!

‘Wow. That was interesting. He is a weird one.’ Akira announced, before curling up within my mind to snooze, as Asher turned back towards the bed and began making his way to me. Please visit J o b n I b . c o m and search the book title to read the entire book for free. I once again couldn’t help but smile. He is so perfect, and while Akira may be right, he may be a little weird, and I had no clue what that had been all about, he was adorable.

“Could you not just have mindlinked him?” I suggested, realizing that all he had just done was probably not even necessary. My voice sounded so husky right now, and it hurt a little to speak. Asher faltered a little at my words, I assume, as he considered my words, before he grinned at me. The most heart-melting grin I think I have ever seen. Before he shrugged at me.

“Ah well, I fancied making a fuss.” He winked, and I found myself giggling, despite the fact it hurt. “Admittedly, I may have forgotten at that moment to mindlink, I was just so pleased to see you awake! My first thought was you.”

Oh my god, he was killing me...

‘Find me a sick bucket.’ Akira teased, evidently still choosing to pay attention despite the fact she was meant to be resting.

“Yeah?”

“Hell yeah! I have been so worried, Bailey. You have given us such a scare.” Asher whispered, and I could see the anxiousness upon his face. I hate the thought of him being worried about me. Though my mind flickers back to the conversation I thought I recalled. Had that been what it was? Him talking to me when he was worrying? Telling me how he felt?

I found myself looking up at him, my gaze penetrating, so unsure if what I was guessing could be right, as I tentatively said “Hmm, I heard.”

Asher’s eyes widened in shock, before they moved across my face like he was trying to read my feelings. Was he nervous? “You heard?” he mumbled, and I nodded slowly.

“I think so. I have snippets of things in my mind. Images... conversations... that don’t make sense, but you saying that makes me wonder if the conversations were from while I was unconscious.” I whispered, as it felt a little easier on my voice.

Asher nodded. “That would make sense. The nurse did say you may be able to hear us. What did you hear?” he asked, and from the expression upon his face he looked a little nervous.

“Was I not supposed to hear?” I asked, and his gaze met mine, and the way he was looking at me gave me butterflies.

“If it was the things I am thinking, then all of that has been held inside for too long... I wish I had told you before...” he began just as the door opened, and the doctor walked in, causing Asher to roll his eyes. “Wish I hadn’t called him now.” He said with an ironic smile. I knew exactly what he meant. There was nothing like bad timing...

“Ah, Miss West, it is so good to see you awake!” the doctor greeted me, as he made his way to my bed. “Am I okay to give you a quick check over?”

I nodded. Unsure why I would have refused him. They had so evidently been treating me so far, and I wanted to feel better, and for that I needed their help. I lay as he did what he needed to do, wincing each time he caught areas on my body which were badly bruised or had wounds still upon them that Akira had yet to heal. Making notes as he went along, he kept muttering to himself, making me worry something was wrong, and I kept glancing across at Asher, who looked so anxious right now.

The doctor did a fairly detailed examination before he smiled at me before doing the same to Asher. “Well, Miss West, I am glad to say you are looking like you will make a full recovery. The injuries do look to be healing on their own now after the treatment we gave, along with the assistance of your wolf, of course. You certainly gave us a scare, poor Beta Asher hasn’t left your side. Not even slept for a moment.” My heart tightened at his words. I don’t know why I was surprised at that. But the thought of Asher not leaving me and not even sleeping made me feel guilty.

He narrowed his eyes at the doctor, before I saw his face turn into a frown, and he was suddenly getting up and walking out of my room. Not a word, just storming from my room, leaving me suddenly alone and wondering what was going on.

Chapter 183 – Beauty and The Beta

I hadn’t wanted to break the news to Asher. He had desperately clung to the hope we would have answers from these rogues. I knew he had, but I knew he would need to know. He wanted the blame to fall at the feet of the upcoming Alpha of Lotus Shadow Pack. Of course he did. He was the one who had made Bailey’s life a living hell for too long. Far too long. He wanted to see him pay, and who can blame him?

But, that simply was not to be. Not unless the other rogue they spoke of was linked to him, but nothing so far implied that. It was merely a theory held by Asher and perhaps Marc. I needed this to remain professional for the sake of our pack’s reputation. But consider the feelings of my friend. Although, I think with the information Asher had provided me, there was still enough information to go to the Werewolf Council to report this sick individual before he harmed anyone else.

But, right now, Asher’s concern was Bailey, and her getting better. I could hear in his tone, even through the link, how disappointed he was at the news I had given him. I would call in and see him when I had done what I needed at the gates. I was still clueless as to why somebody was calling at the pack gates this late. I wanted to return home and snuggle up with my mate. Instead, I was driving through the pack to meet with this mystery guest.

I pulled up a little distance from the gate, stepping from my car, to hear angry shouting, causing me to rush to the small building we have where the guards tend to sit, the shouting getting louder as I got closer.

“Just fucking let me in!” a voice roared, causing my wolf to push forward. This sounded like somebody ready to try to infiltrate my pack. But why would they attempt to speak with me? Or try to come through the main gate? None of that made sense.

I turned the corner of the building to find our guard pinned up against the wall by a young looking guy, maybe in his early twenties. Glaring at him aggressively as he had him by the neck. Now I had my answer as to why the guard didn't respond to my mindlink, if he was having to deal with this stupid fucker.

“What the fuck do you think you are doing?” I roared, pushing my Alpha aura forward slightly, and the young guy, released the guard who slowly slid down the wall gasping for breath, looked at me with a sneer. Like my aura did not bother him in the slightest.

“Took your fucking time didn't you?” he snapped, and I raised my brows at him, while Thor was pushing further forward.

‘Let me at him. He is asking to be fucking eaten.’ He snarled, and as tempting as that sounded, right about now I needed to find out who he was and what he wanted.

“Excuse me? You are turning up at my pack gates in the middle of the night unannounced, demanding to see me, and then assaulting one of my guards, and then have the nerve to criticize me?” I snarled. “What do you want?”

“I am here for my mate.” he said bluntly, like it was the most obvious explanation in the world.

“Your mate?” I questioned, his attitude was already getting my back up. He was acting like he was something more than he was. Like he felt the world owed him a living. I hated fuckers like this.

“Yes. She is in your hospital, I believe.” He said, his dark eyes glaring into mine, and at that moment I realized exactly who this was. I should have realized sooner, but I think the lack of sleep was affecting my mind. This was him. The upcoming Alpha. Bailey's former fated. He had been brazen enough to come here for her? What a fucking fool. Did he think we would just hand her over to him?

I felt anger bubbling through me. This man was a fucking monster. He planned to take her back with him and likely forcibly mark her. No. I could not... would not allow that to happen.

‘Time to take him down.’ I told Thor, knowing he would be more than ready to show this young wannabe Alpha who was boss. It was about time he saw what a real Alpha was capable of; because it was obvious he had no clue what a real Alpha should be.

‘I think we let him in.’ Thor told me matter-of-factly, shocking me to the core.

‘Say what now?’ I demanded. ‘He will forcibly mark her. Not to mention taking her away. Breaking Asher’s heart. No T. No.’

‘Let him in. Inform his pack. And the Council. He will be held here until they come for him. He will not be taking the girl. But if he is here, we know where he is.’ he told me, and I see that my wolf may have a point. It is good to have that second view sometimes.

‘Good thinking.’

‘But, you also need to see what Bailey wants.’ He added, and my anger built again. He had to be kidding me! She surely would not go back with him?!

“You even there?” the fool in front of me asked, stepping closer to me, obviously having been waiting for an answer while I communicated with my wolf.

“Yes. I am here.” I scowled. “Were you not taught to respect others when you were growing up?”

“Why would I need to when I am of Alpha blood and the Alpha heir?” he laughed.

I rolled my eyes at his response. Seems everything I had heard of him was true. “Being of Alpha blood and being the heir means nothing. Respect is earned. And from what I have already seen of you, if you go around acting like that, you will have nobody respecting you. Your pack would fall easily if you were to become Alpha. Your father would be a fool to let you take his title. I hope for his sake he has another son.” I said coldly, knowing that would be a hit to the stupid little shit’s ego.

He growled deeply as he moved forward again, hair beginning to protrude from his arms, telling me he was close to shifting.

“Oh, do you really want to do that here?” I questioned, pushing the full force of my aura forward, making him step back slightly. I think he saw I was stronger than him now. “Your pack would not question why you were killed when you went to attack an Alpha in his own pack, little boy.”

His eyes flickered darker, likely his wolf, but he remained where he was, simply glowering at me, as I continued. “So, if you want to go and see this so-called mate of yours, I suggest you wind your neck in. Fucking behave yourself. You are in my pack now and I will not tolerate any shit. Nor will I think twice about killing you. I doubt you’d be missed. I know who you are saying is your mate. She was brought in earlier. Attacked by

rogues. She also works for us. Rejected by you, was she not?" I turned to him as I motioned for him to follow me to my car. I wanted him to know I knew of the circumstances surrounding their matebond.

He was still scowling as he shook his head. "She is my fated mate."

"Not when you rejected her." I climbed into the car and he followed suit.

"I changed my mind. Besides, even if I hadn't, I need her close. Your fated mate brings you strength. To be the strongest Alpha I can be, I need her there. To give me the strength and power that will produce the most powerful Alpha my pack has ever had." He said as I drove away. Surprised he was admitting all this to me, I was wondering if he hoped it meant I would take pity on him. Yet, his words echoed around my mind, not making any sense, causing me to laugh.

"She will bring you strength?" I asked, wondering if this fool had listened to any of the lessons you were given as a young wolf. He was evidently clueless. He needed sense not strength.

"Yes. Especially as an Alpha. Even when I didn't want her as a mate, I needed her in the pack. Why do you think I didn't want her working away? She was always going to stay in our pack. I planned to bring her home the moment I became Alpha. The strength her presence gives me because of the matebond, with us being fated mates would be what made me the strongest Alpha our pack had seen. Bailey is strong. She is of Beta blood. Plus, she is intelligent. So she was always going to be giving me extra strength. Imagine the two of us together?"

Despite the fact I was driving, I looked across at the fool incredulously. He sounded like he believed every word he just said. I don't think he was joking. I shook my head in disbelief. "Erm, did you do well in school?" I asked him, and instantly his face twisted into a frown.

"What has that got to do with anything?" He shrugged. "I did okay, got others to help me."

I held back a smirk. Explained a lot. "Well, I hate to disappoint you, perhaps you should have paid more attention, because you seemed to have missed quite a lot. Bailey won't give you any strength. When you rejected her, you broke that fated bond. You broke the mate bond, do you not realize that?!"

"What do you mean?" he snarled.

"Meaning there was nothing there anymore. Her presence would most certainly not bring you strength. And making her your mate now would be no different to being chosen mates. Plus, she would have to want it, otherwise it would be considered forcibly marking her. I think you have been seriously misunderstanding things. Bailey was never going to make you a stronger Alpha." I enjoyed every word I told him, especially as his face fell.

“That can’t be right.” He growled angrily.

“Well it is.” I told him with glee, as we pulled up outside the hospital. But he wasted no time as he was quickly storming out of the car in a desperate bid to go and find Bailey. I quickly needed to mindlink Asher to let him know so that he didn’t just storm into her room...

Chapter 184 – Beauty and The Beta

Bailey was awake. The most wonderful feeling in the world; and I was hoping things were looking up for us. I had been about to tell her how I felt for her... well, more confirm what I think she had likely heard me declare while she was unconscious... until the bloody doctor chose that moment to walk in. Jeez, nothing like great timing. We sure didn’t seem to have much luck when it came to time alone...

And then the doctor decided to announce to Bailey I had done nothing but sit by her side like a lost puppy. Unable to eat. Unable to sleep. I am sure Bailey did not need to know that, and the doctor definitely did not need to be sharing that. It truly did not paint me in the best of lights, I am sure. I was just about to defend myself when a mindlink suddenly came through. One I had not been expecting, and one I most certainly did not want to hear.

‘Ash. He is here. He is on a mission to get her back.’ Caleb’s voice was blunt and to the point, even in the link, but my blood ran cold as his words hit me. Miles had chosen to come to our pack in a bid to claim Bailey? I felt a frown take over my face as Caleb continued. ‘Got things under control right now. He might act like a big hard man, and a bully, but he is dumb as fuck. He was the one causing shit at the gate. Though he is now rushing through the hospital. Be alert.’

My face twisted in anger as I quickly stormed from the room, not even explaining where I was going. I didn’t have the time right now. No. I needed to go. I needed to go and stop this sick bastard before he got anywhere near Bailey. How fucking dare he turn up here thinking he can demand her back?! After everything he had done, too...

‘Marc, get your ass to the hospital.’ I mindlinked him quickly as I rushed down the corridor. ‘That sick fucker has arrived in hope to take Bailey home with him.’

I knew their home wasn’t too far away, and also I knew we could rely on my former brother-in-law for protecting Bailey. He had done all he could so far to protect her. He would come without a doubt...

‘Hmm?’ he responded, albeit sleepily. ‘No? He turned up here? On my way.’

Fury rushed through me, while Zion was raging in my mind, which was never a good thing... What was Caleb thinking in allowing him into our pack, let alone bringing him to

the hospital? He knew what that little shit was capable of. He knew that that sick fucker's ultimate mission was to take Bailey home with him; and I doubted he would stop until he had succeeded.

'Where is he Cal?' I asked, not seeing a sight of either of them, but a deep-seated hope that Caleb would be on his tail if he had rushed into the hospital. We did not need some jumped-up upcoming Alpha smashing our hospital up, putting out pack members at risk. I didn't want to believe that Caleb would have just allowed some self-entitled little bastard of an upcoming Alpha to storm our pack and crash our hospital. This little shit would be taken down, I had no doubt about that!

'Coming through the hospital now. You coming to meet us?' he asked.

'Too fucking right I am. Not a chance he is getting near Bailey.' I snapped.

'Where the hell else did he think we was going to be? With our feet up having a coffee?!' Zion snarled angrily in my mind, making me smirk. He was more than ready to go... ready to defend his girl. And so was I.

'I am allowing him the chance to talk to her before I detain him. Not that he knows that part yet. She needs to hear him out. Let him see this thing with them is done. Let him see she is moving on. Or, if she chooses, she returns with him.' Caleb said, and I felt anger becoming so out of control as Zion growled inside of my head. This was one of the few times he felt ready to turn upon his own Alpha. He was taking the man who had made her life a living hell for so long right to her door...

'Do not even go there.' I snarled, turning the corner, to walk straight into an angry-looking young guy. Currently, dressed quite formally, and Caleb, not far behind. I gave him a dark glare, as I shoved the little fuckwit in front of me, looking down at him angrily as I did. He looked like an arrogant little ass. Zion growled once more...

"So, thought you would turn up and claim what you think is yours, did you?" I growled. "Only she isn't yours anymore, is she? Hasn't been since the moment you decided she wasn't good enough for you. Not that you ever deserved her in the first place."

He stumbled back a little, clearly not expecting me to touch him, but soon steadying himself, as his eyes darkened before settling upon me. "And you are?" he sneered. This little shit so clearly thought he was something, I was more than ready to show him he wasn't...

"This is my Beta. And, you want to remember what I warned you outside, Miles. Or you will be detained, or killed. Remember that. This is my pack." Caleb growled, his Alpha aura pushed right out at full force, making me flinch in pain. He rarely used his full aura, and he shouldn't be doing that in the hospital either, but I assumed it was a sign of his power to this little knob. Putting him in his place. "You are here to say what you need to say to Bailey, allow her to make the decision she needs to make."

Miles turned to look at Caleb, still looking far too confident for my liking considering Caleb's aura and the fact he was on another Alpha's pack. "Well, perhaps you want to tell your little sidekick to wind his neck in. I am here for Bailey. Nothing more. And as for Bailey making the decision she needs to make, she knows what is best for her pack."

Zion pushed forward, so far forward and so fast he took me by surprise, as a deep growl emanated from my lips, as hair began to protrude from my arms. I battled with my wolf knowing that shifting in here would not be ideal... Zion could be brutal if he lost control, and while I had no issue with him losing control with this dick, losing control in the hospital was not the place for that to happen.

'Calm down.' Caleb ordered me through the mindlink. 'I know you are annoyed, and so am I. But this cannot get out of hand, and right now he is behaving. First let's put this thing with Bailey to bed. I have allowed him here so we can detain him until the council get here. So we know where he is. Logic, Ash. Logic. Do not make me use my aura on you too.'

I tried to calm my breathing. So angry at my friend and Alpha for thinking it was acceptable to let this man into our pack when he knew the threat he posed to the woman I loved. Yet he seemed to have some sort of plan. Did it make sense to me? Not right now, but Caleb's plans rarely failed...

The anger inside was harder to control when it came to the little fuckwit by Caleb's side, a small smirk upon his face, looking so smug and cocky. I was so desperate to want to rip this young upcoming alpha's head from his shoulders. He seemed to see no fault in anything he had done, recently nor in the past. He couldn't do, or else he would not have turned up here now for Bailey. But he would not be leaving here with her, of that I was sure. He would have to kill me to get to Bailey, that much I did know.

Chapter 185 – Beauty and The Beta

I lay in my bed, the doctor still talking to me, explaining the treatment they had given, but I was barely listening. My mind was on the fact Asher had stormed so angrily from my room. My eyes found themselves frequently drifting to the door in the hopes he would return. I couldn't help but wonder if he had been about to actually tell me he loved me before the doctor disturbed us. Not that it matters right now.

Right now it seemed he didn't want to be here. I felt numb. I don't know if that was from my injuries or from the pain I felt from what had just happened with Asher, and without the ability to mindlink him, I had no way of reaching out to him to check he was okay. "Are you okay, dear?" the doctor asked, interrupting my thoughts. "I am sure the Beta is fine. He is known for being a little tempestuous. Has been since he lost his mate. They do say losing a mate can destroy a man, and I think with Beta Asher it truly did. But, I wouldn't worry. Please visit J o b n I b . c o m and search the book title to read the entire book for free. He soon gets over things, and is back to his ever-charming self." The doctor was

smiling at me. Yeah, that sounded like the Asher I had first met. But not the Asher I had come to know. The Asher that had been opening up to me...

"I will be fine. I think I just want to rest." I lied. I just wanted him to go. Leave me alone. The doctor nodded in agreement, when suddenly we heard a commotion out in the hallways. The doctor's eyes narrowed in confusion, before his eyes met mine. He quickly stood and walked toward the door. "Let me go and see what is happening. There should not be that amount of noise in the hospital."

"You are not fit to see her!" I heard Asher's voice roar, and I had a sinking feeling I knew exactly who he was yelling at. I felt sick at the prospect...

But, the doctor, who had just reached the door of my room, turned to look at me with an awkward smile. "Well, I think we may have found the Beta." And with that he excused himself. Yes. We had found Asher. He had gone to deal with the worst possible scenario. Miles had arrived to take me home, and I could only imagine the arguments happening right now...

"I am her mate. Her upcoming Alpha. Who is more fit to see her if not me?" the voice of the one person I did not want to see again, who was loud and confident in standing up to Asher. This was definitely not going to end well.

"You are not her mate, you fucking fool. You rejected her. That means you are done. She isn't yours. You don't own her." Asher's voice was the angriest I had ever heard, and loud too, despite the fact I was listening through the walls of my room. I hated that the whole of the hospital were likely listening to their conversation right now. We'd be the pack's source of gossip for the next few weeks, no doubt...

"Well, she sure as hell is not yours, or this pack's." Miles growled.

"Enough!" I heard a third voice, one I am almost certain was Alpha Caleb. He sounded pissed off. Extremely pissed off. "This back and forth is getting you nowhere. Miles, you came here for a reason, so get it over with." He snapped.

My heart sank as I realized what his words meant. Alpha Caleb had allowed Miles into the pack. He had let him in to take me home. I had hoped he would offer me protection, but it seemed he was standing by the pack protocols here...

Suddenly, the door swung open, and Asher rushed in, his eyes darting to meet mine. "Are you okay?" he asked, and I nodded slowly, as he joined me, at the edge of the bed, taking my hand in his. "I'm sorry for rushing out. I heard he had arrived" he mumbled.

I smiled. I realized that now. He stroked his thumb over my palm softly, his eyes not leaving mine, before Miles pushed past Alpha Caleb to come storming into the room. "Oh, this looks fucking cozy." He snarled. "So this was why you were all up in my face, was it?"

I watched as Asher took a deep breath, his eye shifting between his and Zion's. I knew he was doing all he could right now to halt a full shift, as his grip tightened on my hand, as Miles continued. "You think she would lower herself to you when she had been fated to an Alpha?" he jeered, sounding so cocky.

"You are not an Alpha yet, Miles." I pointed out, and his eye rested on me. "Asher is by far more of a man than you could ever be."

Asher's eyes rested upon mine as he smiled, while a deep growl slipped from Miles, causing Caleb to fly across the room, pinning him to the wall. The fact he was able to do it so easily told me Miles was not expecting it. I had seen Miles fight, he was a more than capable fighter... "You were fucking warned to watch yourself you little shit. You are here to say what you need to say. Keep this up, and I will think nothing of letting my wolf out to play. He will quite enjoy playing with you, I am sure. Snapping you in half." Caleb took me by surprise at his aggressiveness. That was not the man I was used to. But that was the voice of an Alpha in charge.

Miles did not break eye contact with Caleb, telling me he did not feel particularly intimidated by him. But, the good thing was, he did not push any further.

The door quickly opened, disturbing the tense atmosphere that was building, and in rushed Marc with Morgan following behind. I could only assume Asher or Caleb had contacted them. But, I saw Miles smirk as his eyes rested upon Morgan. "Aww, did you hear I was here, and you rushed over to see if I had come to take you home too, Morgan?" he said spitefully, and a deep growl came from Marc, but Morgan pulled him back stepping forward as Miles continued. "Realized your fated mate can't live up to what you so desperately wanted before?"

"Take me home? I don't think so." Morgan said coldly, but confidently. "What I so desperately wanted? Get over yourself. I wanted you for all of about five minutes, Miles. It did not take me long to see sense. I would not touch you now. I might fucking catch something, because fuck knows where you have been. I know what a real man is now, and it most definitely is not you. Seems Bailey does too." And Morgan glanced toward where Asher was sitting, with a smirk. Wow. She was definitely more confident. I had never seen her stand up to Miles that way, and going off the look of shock upon his face, neither had he. I have to say I loved this side of my sister – she kicked ass!

Marc stood behind his mate, a big smile upon his face, looking prouder than ever. But Miles looked dismissively toward Morgan, like her words meant nothing, before he turned to me. "Seems to be an awful lot of people rushing to protect you, Bailey. You been telling lies again?" he said, raising his brows accusingly. "I suppose all of you don't know how good Bailey is at telling lies, do you? Making people believe things that didn't really happen. Like, me rejecting her, when in truth it was her rejecting me?" he looked at me with a smirk, but what bothered me more was the eyes of Caleb, Marc and Asher all fell on me with confusion and doubt. Surely they were not believing his fucking words after everything they knew?!