

## Beauty and The Beta Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Bailey

I rushed through the hospital doors, my heart racing, my mind full of worry for the man I had begun to grow some sort of affection for. My eyes settled on one of the pack doctors, and I smiled. politely, hoping they could help me. "Hi, is Harley here?" I asked.

"The warrior that was brought in?" he asked me, and I nodded, fearful he was about to tell me the worst. "Second floor, though I think he is still in the theater, but his parents are there."

"Is he okay?" I asked.

"I can't share any information, I am afraid, but I am sure if you speak with his parents they may be able to update you." the doctor nodded toward me, before walking further along the corridor. I assumed in doing so, he was telling me he was done talking to me. So, I turned around and made my way to the stairs and tried to gather some composure to talk to Harley's parents. I don't even think I know them. I mean, yes, we are all from the same pack, but it doesn't mean I pay to every family here. At social events, I did all I could to avoid people...

attention

"Bailey?" a shaky voice greeted me the moment I walked through the doors at the top of the

stairs.

I looked up to be greeted by a tall, dark-haired man, his features so similar to Harley's there was no denying he was his father. I smiled. "Hi."

"Thanks for coming sweetheart." A smaller, dark-haired woman spoke as she stood from her seat at the edge of the corridor. Her face looked understandably drained. I cannot imagine the emotions she must be experiencing right now with her son in there. There is still no word from the theater."

My heart dropped at her words. I hoped he would be out of surgery by now. Though, why his parents would have been out in the corridor if that was the case, I don't know... I just hoped that they might know even a little something. Know that he would be okay. The wait is killing me, so I can't begin to imagine what it must be doing to them.....

"What happened? Do they know? I didn't know there had been any rogue alerts." I said quietly.

Harley's Dad raised his brows towards his mate and nodded at me. "No, me either. That is what makes no sense to me. But, that is what the Alpha boys said when they found him in the forest whilst on a run."

The thudding of my heart must have been loud enough to hear, and I swear it became ten times louder at the mention of the Davenport sons. The sons of our Alpha. Was this him saying Miles and Ellis found him? Both of them? They worked together to attack him... I would not put attacking Harley past Miles. In fact, my suspicion had been that it was likely that that was what had happened. He had seemed irate earlier when we were all together, though I had assumed his had been more directed at me as usual. Perhaps I had misread it, and he was just as furious. With Harley or something else had occurred that I was unaware of. But, I thought better of Ellis. My mind once again drifted over the possibilities. No. I can't believe he would do that. Surely not.

anger

"Miles and Ellis found him?" I stuttered, my voice more than a little shaky.

"It was a good thing too, or else he could have died out there." Harley's Mum tells me, and I can see the relief on her face. Hmm, I wouldn't wonder if that was the plan....

"His injuries were so severe his wolf was struggling to heal him. Ellis rushed him here." Harley's Dad told me, and this was beginning to make a little more sense now. Was it that they had tried to teach Harley a lesson and Miles had taken it too far? Whatever it was, it seemed Ellis had been the reason he was still alive right now. Because I have no doubt in my mind that Miles would not have brought him here for help if it had been left to him.

I feel anger flowing through me, but try hard to look as calm as I can for the sake of Harley's parents. They do not need to know the things going through my mind. They do not need to question if the person they believe played a part in saving their son may in fact be the real reason he was in fact laid her to begin with. I have had a block on mindlinks to Miles all day, but I am so tempted to unblock him to demand answers about what he had done to my friend. Just as I am about to, a door to the left of where we were standing opens and a doctor in scrubs walks out, he looks to Harley's parents with a concerned expression and a sense of unease passes over me.

He is gone, isn't he? Harley has had his life snatched away from him all because he was friends with me... I feel tears prickling in my eyes, while I see the doctor move a little closer to Harley's parents. It feels like time has slowed down. Like it is moving in slow motion. A sense so horrendous I wish I could stop it. I feel sick. Why do things like this happen?

"I am pleased to say we have managed to control the bleeding both externally and internally. The next 24 hours will be critical. But I hope we have done enough." The doctor tells Harley's parents, and I see his Mum sobbing, throwing herself into the arms

of her mate, relief etched across both of their faces. I hated that I was the cause of their pain. I imagine they would not want me here if they knew their son had been injured because of me. Because, no matter how else I viewed this, Harley had been injured by Miles because of his connection to me. It had to be....

“Can we see him?” Harley’s Mum asked.

“Of course, we have taken him up to a room in the ICU.” The doctor tells them, and I smile at her.

“I will leave you to spend some time with him. I am glad he will be okay.” I said, at barely a whisper.

“Oh, no, Bailey, you must come and sit with him, he would be happier knowing you are there. too.” She tells me, reaching for my hand like she needs reassurance. I would feel bad if I didn’t go now. So I smile, and do the decent thing and follow the two of them into the room the doctor leads them to.

It feels as though my breath has been knocked from my body as I see Harley’s battered body laid within the hospital bed. His handsome face was now covered in bruises and deep cuts. Bandages adorn various parts of his body that could be seen above the blanket that lightly covered his body. He looked like he had been through a war. Not attacked by a rogue. I heard Harley’s Mum gasp as she burst into tears, and I too had to fight the tears that were threatening. He did not deserve this. He looked broken. He may be a warrior, but an unsuspected attack, and one I believe came from an Alpha, and he would stand no chance.

“Oh Harley!” his Mum was holding his hand, leaning over the bed, as she sobbed, softly stroking his hair back from his head. “What did they do to you baby?”

Harley’s Dad stood quietly observing. His face a mask of bravery. He, too, a warrior, was likely used to seeing severe injuries, but I doubt nothing prepares you for seeing your own son bruised. and broken, lying in a hospital bed close to death.

‘Bailey?’ my Dad suddenly mindlinked. ‘Where are you?’

‘At the hospital visiting Harley. He had been attacked. Why?’ I responded, feeling a little rude when Harley’s parents were clearly struggling to see their son this way.

Jordan just messaged while stopping for fuel. Telling me to talk to you urgently. I am in my office if you want to drop by?” he tells me. ‘Or do you want to leave it?’

I looked to Harley lying in the hospital bed. The damage that I know Miles had to have played a part in. And see his parents barely keeping it together. I knew what I had to do. ‘Ok.’ I responded.

“Erm, I am sorry, I am struggling right now.” I explained to Harley’s parents. “And I think it is important you both have some time alone with your boy. So, maybe it would be better for me to give you some space for a little bit. But, do you mind if I come back a little later? I still want to spend time with Harley. Make sure he is okay. Let him know I am here for him.”

“Of course sweetheart.” Harley’s Mum glanced up from next to his bed with a sad smile. “He would appreciate that.”

I nodded, and walked out of the room, knowing now I had something important to do. I just hope that Jordan was right, and that my Dad believed me. If not, I didn’t know what I was going to do. But, one way or another, Miles needed to be made to pay for all the wrongs he had done...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 28**

### Chapter 28 Asher

Office work was becoming repetitive for me today. But, I had already done the pack training and been out for a run, so I had delayed my paperwork for as long as I think I possibly could. Poor Eden was suffering terribly now with the later stages of pregnancy, so Caleb was having to tend to her a little more than we would have expected at this stage. So, additional duties have fallen to me. Not that I minded particularly much as it kept my mind busy. And, I have to admit, I found it somewhat amusing watching Eden give her mate holy hell for the slightest thing, because it seemed him making her pregnant meant he was somehow to blame now for every little thing that inconvenienced her, or simply irritated her. And watching Caleb trying to steer his way around the ticking timebomb that was his mate and wife was like a comedy show in itself...

But additional paperwork was such a drag. After so long, numbers began to blend into one another. And I am sure they began to move about the page too. And as for having to read, words began to switch and not make any sense, or they simply stopped sinking into my mind. It was usually at that point I knew I was done for and that no work was happening. Coffee was the only thing fueling me. But even that was beginning to fail me.

I stood away from my desk and walked to the coffee machine at the opposite side of my office, and glanced toward the window as I did. The sun was shining gloriously outside, telling me how lovely it would be to let Zion out for another run. I bet he would love that. A run through the trees, his fur with the breeze blowing through it as his feet pounded on the forest floor. Instead, I am holed up in my office slowly losing my mind.... though I guess to lose my mind, I would have to be sane to start with...

I sort myself a fresh coffee, and a strong one at that, before moving back toward my desk, just as my phone begins to ring. Hmm, who would be calling my office phone?

Anyone in the pack would mindlink, right? And anyone else wanting me would call my mobile...

\*Answer it and find out you thick f\*\*ker... Zion chuckles, evidently thinking he is highly amusing. Mmm, a top class comedian my wolf.

I reach across the desk quickly before the call is cut off. "Hello?"

"Is that Autumn Valley Pack?" a voice at the other end of the line says, making me wonder who the hell is calling us. Surely they had to know it was, or they wouldn't have called, would they?

"Yes, Beta Asher of Autumn Valley Pack talking, can I help you?" I answered, doing my best to bite back my sarcasm and state the obvious, and remain polite.

"Good. This is Alpha Miles of the Lotus Shadow Pack. Thanks for taking my call. Hope you are well." He greeted me, more cheerfully this time. Alpha Miles? I was almost certain their Alpha was called Marshall... I know my mind was not at its best of late, but I am pretty sure I had not missed the death of one of the regions' Alphas...

"Is there something I can help you with Alpha?" I asked, suddenly suspicious as to why this guy was calling. My mind is racing, until I remember that it is Alpha Marshall, but the upcoming Alpha is called Miles. So I assume this could be the upcoming Alpha I am talking to. Trying to play the big boy here, is he? Definitely all the more suspicious now.

"Oh, it is nothing of concern, Beta Asher. I am just helping my father with some paperwork. I am sure you know what it is like being snowed under with too much work. But, he asked me to thank you for interviewing our Beta's daughter for a teacher's position in your pack recently, and from what I understand, offering her the role too. Miss West is a wonderful teacher, as I am sure you saw, and a well respected member of our community." The voice at the other end of the phone says to me. Making me wonder why he had called to thank us for giving this girl an interview. Did she not thank us herself?

"That was arranged between her father and our former Alpha, I believe. Nothing to do with me." I said curtly

already not liking the fact the young upcoming Alpha was trying to act like he was all important.

"Well, we wanted to know from one pack to another, that it was appreciated. Always good to maintain pack relations." He says with what I can only wonder is a fakeness to his tone. Something about this boy I do not like. I don't know what it is. "And while the offer of employment is appreciated, especially by Bailey, as she had yet to have any offer of employment, we apologize but have to decline on the offer, I am afraid."

I found myself frowning at his words. Nothing like insulting the poor girl. Everything I heard from both Caleb and especially Eden, she had given a good interview. And she was well qualified. Eden loved the ideas she had and was excited at the prospect of bringing her into the pack for the benefits she could bring to the children here. Yet this fool was making her sound like she was barely capable of teaching and nobody would look at her for the role. But, what intrigued me was they were refusing the job offer?

“Miss West does not want to work at our school?” I questioned, becoming more suspicious of this character by the second. Something does not seem right about him. Even Zion is unsettled. If she did not want the role, then why even come for the interview to begin with? Why waste our time?

“Bai... Miss West, has... erm... been allocated a position in our own pack. So she is now unavailable for a position in the pack of any other Alpha.” He says, but this time I am certain there is some anger in his tone. Did this man not like the idea of one of his pack working for another Alpha? Was he the sort of Alpha that was controlling of his pack members? If so, that could spell trouble for the future when he comes into power...

“Well, wish Miss West all our best. And thank you for letting us know. Though I have to say I am a little surprised that Miss West herself has not informed us. That in itself is somewhat rude.” I said bluntly.

I hear a stutter at the end of the phone. Unsure if it was a laugh or a cough, possibly even a combination of the two. “I am sure you are a Beta, are you not? Yet you appear to be questioning an Alpha?” he says, and suddenly Zion is rippling beneath my skin. Not liking the tone this imbecile seemed to be taking with me. Upcoming Alpha or not. My wolf was ready to push forward. I do all I can to push back the threatening growl.

“Hmm. An Alpha? Is that so? Because if I am not mistaken, you are an upcoming Alpha, are you not Mr Davenport? I do believe it is your father that is still running your pack. Therefore, you are not the Alpha just yet, so do not be getting ahead of yourself.” I say coldly, not caring if I am stepping out of line. Let the smart a\*s come and start something if he so wishes. I think I could. enjoy a good fight. I am sure I could give the little f\*\*ker a good a\*s whooping. It sounded like he had been short of a few of those growing up considering the attitude seeping from him.

“Erm.. Well... I... No. That still makes me an Alpha.” He stutters awkwardly. Evidently not happy to have been called out for his previous mistake of introducing himself by calling himself the Alpha. And now talking down to me. Unfortunately for this spoiled little brat, I was past caring about pleasing people, especially ones that irritated me. So, I was more than happy to stand up to him.

“Not just yet.” I said with a smirk. “Was that all?”

“If this is how you run your pack, then I can tell you, my pack member will most definitely not be coming to work for you.” he says bluntly as he hangs up, like he thinks

his words are going to affect me. Instead, I find them amusing. This guy sounds like a little boy who has grown up with the world at his feet. Everything having been handed to him, and he acts like the world owes him a living. The type of guy I cannot stand. f\*\*king heaven help us all when he becomes Alpha!

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 29**

### Chapter 29 Bailey

I stepped through the doors of the packhouse. Harley had not left my mind since I left the hospital, but I knew I must focus my mind, ready to speak to my Dad. I walked down the empty corridors my stomach already churning at the conversation I knew lay ahead. I turned down the corridor to my left which leads to where the offices are. Strangely, despite the time of day, there are very few people within the packhouse.

Just as I am walking down the corridor, my phone rings, and I quickly take it out of my pocket. "Hello?" I answer quickly, not recognizing the number and suddenly panicking, thinking it could be something to do with Harley, despite the fact that, logically, I know anyone linked to Harley is within pack and would mindlink me if they needed to contact me

"Bailey?" the voice greeted me, and I realized immediately it sounded an awful lot like Luna Eden

"Yes" I replied, beginning to wonder if it was in fact the Luna calling for a response on the job role. I thought they may have have given me a little longer to think about the job offer if I am honest.

"Hi chick, it is Eden. How are you doing?" she greeted me enthusiastically.

"I have been better." I admitted without even thinking.

"Oh, is everything okay?" she asks, suddenly sounding curious. "Anything I can help with?"

I realized my mistake instantly, and gave my head a quick shake, as I sat myself on one of the window seats. "No, sorry, ignore me, just having a bad day."

"Are you sure?" Luna Eden urges, like she is wanting me to confide in her, but I have no plan to be doing that. Especially not to someone out of our own pack.

"Yeah, just a friend of mine isn't well." I said, hoping that would be enough to stop her asking more questions and making this conversation awkward.

"Ah okay. Was that the reason you decided against taking our job offer?"

My nose wrinkles at her words as I scowl. Wait, I hadn't declined their offer yet. So why did she think I had decided against their job offer? "Sorry?" I question, a little puzzled by the implications. This made no sense. How had they come to that conclusion?

"Beta Asher received a phone call, telling him you had to decline the offer." She tells me, and within that moment I needed to hear no more. Miles. Of course. Who else was it going to be? He had already made the decision for me before I could tell them any differently. He planned to keep me here as his prisoner for as long as he could. When he had told me I belonged to the pack, he meant it

The thing was, no matter how much I wanted the role of teacher away from here, and as nice as their pack was and the things we had discussed sounding truly wonderful, I knew I would never be allowed to go. So, I am going to have to agree that what they had been told was correct, which makes me seem extremely unprofessional for not calling them myself

"Oh, I apologize, I did not realize anyone was making a phone call on my behalf. I would have preferred to do that myself." I explained to her. "But, yes, I suppose that is one of the reasons I made the decision to stay where I am for the time being. My life is a little complicated, to say the least,

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Chapter 29 Bailey

unfortunately, Lama."

+ Pratis

"Oh? Are you sure you don't need help with something Bailey? I may not be in your pack, but from one woman to another, I would not like to think you are struggling." She says, sounding a little concerned now. "And I like to think we got on well when we met

I smiled at her words. Yes, I suppose we did get on quite well. "Thank you, Luna, I appreciate your kind words. I loved your pack, I truly did, and I would have loved to accept your offer if I am honest, and I had hoped I could. But, things are not as simple as I hoped." Is all the information I gave her. Though deep down I had already known I could not go. Miles would never allow me. Which is why Harley and I came up with our own plan, but even that would be in doubt now...

I heard her sigh. "See, you make me worry more about you now. Is it your mate? That would be a reason to stay, that I understand."

I laugh despite myself. I know I shouldn't have done, but I was unable to hold back the almost sarcastic laugh that slipped from my lips. "My mate doesn't want me." I said and then realized what I had just said.

I heard a gasp at the other end of the phone. "He rejected you sweet girl?" Luna Eden sounded almost heart broken for me. She was sweet bless her.

"I am sorry I should not have said that. And it does not matter now. Things can't be changed, I just have to deal with the aftermath, so to speak, I suppose." I explained and knew I needed to tread very carefully now, because my plan of not giving too much away was very close to being completely f\*\*ke\*\*d, if not already having been messed up beyond repair.

"Bailey, look, I don't know what is going on with you, and I can only assume you feel you can't share it with me, but I will say if I can help, let me know. The job offer still stands. Even if we find another teacher, I would still find a job for you in our school. You are a brilliant teacher, and we would be lucky to have you. Your pack should see that. All you need is somebody to see your potential, and it is a shame nobody has before. But, please, whatever is happening there, don't let it destroy you. Get help. Even if that is me." Luna Eden says, and I feel my hands shaking at her words. Help? Hmm, that would be a no. Especially from another pack, though the job offer, I may keep them in mind for if I was ever able to free myself of this hellhole...

"Thank you." I whispered, but then I noticed my Dad stepping from his office, his head turning from side to side looking up and down the corridor angrily Likely looking for me. "I am sorry Luna, I will have to go. But thank you again." I told her.

"Anytime, and remember where I am. And where that job is if you need it?" She tells me with a chuckle.

"Bailey?" my Dad called, pacing down the corridor toward me, looking a little puzzled at why I was sitting on the window seat rather than in his office.

"Hey Dad, sorry Luna Eden called me. Apparently, they had a phone call to let them know I would not be accepting their offer of a job." I told him and I saw his face tighten in anger.

"What?!" he snapped.

I nodded. "Yeah. Miles called, I believe. And there begins the start of a very long and complicated story, which is what Jordan wanted me to talk to you about. So, maybe we should head to your office and sort

en coffee and cookies ton if you have them Dad" heran already dranding avery moment of thie e T

saw my Dad's eyes narrow at the mention of the future Alpha of our pack...

## Beauty and The Beta Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Bailey

I watched my Dad as his fist flew toward the wall of hollice as he raged in anger. I had literally just told him a portion of the things that had happened. The main thing being that Miles had rejected me "Dad, please calm down!" I begged him, knowing I could not risk my Uncle, the Alpha, hearing and coming in. I did not want all of this to get out, not yemyways

We needed to decide what should be done. We needed to decide what was the safest thing to do. I think the safer thing for Harley, as hard as it is for me to adjur, is for him to stay away from me, I hate that he got hurt because of me, but the more I think about it, the more I know that that is what happened. Once I had finished speaking to my Dad, and before went back to the hospital to see how Harley was,

I planned to mindlink Miles to demand answers.

"Bailey, he rejected his mate!" my Dad snapped. "Tha is not allowed for an Alpha He hurt you, Bailey, My little girl!" he growls angrily, and again the irony is me that he sounds suddenly protective when, for so long, he had been completely oblivious to the persistent jibes and bullying I had endured due to my studying. My geekiness. Basically for not fitting the way that was expected of me. I was the Beta's daughter. I should have been beautiful Sporty Popul. Much like my sister, Morgan, I guess, So, I suppose, one out of two daughters being a stereotypical Heta daughter was something I suppose, My Dad hadn't completely tailed.

He had just failed me, in that he had never been awal of the fact I was suffering so much. Just as my Mum had been ignorant of it too. Sometimes I couldn't help but wonder if they knew and chose to ignore it because it was easier than having to deal with it.

"I know he did, Dad, but it is done now. And in truth, would not want him for a mate. He is nasty to me. He has done nothing but bully me for years!" I told him, and my Dad spun around to look at me, his face full of anger once more. Hmm. I don't think y plan of calming him down was going so well right now...

"Bullying you?" he snarled.

'F\*\* it' Akira snarls within my mind. He needs to kilow

I feel her rippling close to the surface. This whole situation is truly pushing her to the edge of her limits right now. Pushing harder so she was so close to shifting without crossing that limit. "They all did!" my voice snaps without me even planning to speak, but its tone is rougher, telling me Akira is in control right now. "I was the source of

ridicule for years, Jordan, Morgan. Miles. Ellis. Half of the school. All because I like to study. Because I didn't like to party."

My Dad's face fell at my words. "Oh." He murmured.

Akira seems to simmer back a little now, like she feels she has got what she needed off her chest and she was happy for me to deal with the consequence. "Pad, that is unimportant now. What is important is this stuff with Miles. He rejected me but he won't let me leave. I believe he hurt Harley too."

My Dad's face contorted somewhere between a confused expression and an angry one. "The warrior guy?" he looked at me with his brows raised in question, and I nodded.

Dad shook his head, like he wouldn't quite believe my words. "Surely not. He is going to be the Alpha one day, Bailey. Why would he be s\*\*d enough to attack one of his own warriors?"

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Wed, Jul

Chapter 30 Bailey

+5 Pearls

"Because Harley and I have been seeing one another a little. And Harley discovered we were fated mates." And as I added those final few words a look of realization crossed my Dad's face.

"Is he okay?" he demanded, and I could only shrug, tears filling my eyes. "Didn't you say you were at the hospital with him?"

"I don't know if he is okay. When I came here they were still waiting for him to wake up. He was in theater. They said they thought it was a rogue attack. Ellis took him to the hospital. He said he and Miles found him in the forest. So badly injured, his wolf was struggling to heal him." I explained all that I knew, and I saw my Dad chewing his lower lip, deep in thought.

"I suppose a rogue attack could be logical, Bai." He smiled sadly, and just as I was about to argue with him, he continued. "But we would have had some form of intruder warning if they had crossed the border and there was none. I would have known about it. It makes no sense. It is too coincidental. He learns of the fated mates and then suddenly he is attacked and conveniently found by Miles and Ellis. But I thought Ellis would have known better."

"That is the part I can't work out." I told him.

“Hmm. Maybe he caught him?” My Dad suggested. “Why else would he bring the boy to the hospital? Because I can guarantee Miles would have left him to bleed out in the forest.”

And, deep down, I think my Dad could be right.

“Bailey, you need to get out of here. You are not safe. No, he was never right for you. I have no clue what happened with that boy. But the moon goddess made an almighty fail with her mate bond between the two of you. He would be better fated to a lump of s\*\*t. About the same intelligence wise, about as much heart and soul as a lump of s\*\*t, so a perfect match, right?” he drops his head to his hands in frustration.

“What will happen Dad?” I question suddenly, unsure what would happen now Miles was at risk of knowing everything that could be revealed now. Especially if Jordan had been in touch with him. “He would be angry I had told anyone.”

“We need to have you leave the pack. So, I think we should contact Autumn Valley Pack and ask if that role is available after all.” He tells me.

“But...” I begin.

He shakes his head, a firm look of determination upon his face. “No buts, Bailey. This needs to be done. I will deal with the mess here. And I mean deal with it. All of it. I will make sure that boy pays. For everything.”

My eyes widened at my Dad’s words. “What about Harley?”

“I think it may be best for him to relocate for a while too, once he is better. I will ensure the pack compensate him for his trouble.” He says calmly, like he was already forming a plan within his mind. Though my Dad was an excellen Beta, he was experienced at forming plans and skilled at putting the plans and their details into action.

“Can I see him before I leave?” I ask, and my Dad smiles.

move on, Bailey. His attachment to you has put his life in danger. And in the coming weeks, the situation in the pack could be a little hazardous, to say the least. I will speak with his parents, I think, to see about him being removed to another pack for treatment so he is not accessible to Miles.” My Dad is already licking through a notebook upon his desk, like he is planning ahead. “And you call Autumn Valley, ask about that job, or do you want me to? I can explain the predicament if needs be?” he says with a concerned smile.

“I will call Luna Eden.” I quickly told him, knowing she would have no issue with that. And definitely not wanting my Dad telling everyone my business. Making me into a s\*\*b story! “When should I ask to move?”

“As soon as possible. Tomorrow if you can. The sooner you are away from here the better. But we will wait until nighttime and leave. He is usually out between 11 and 4, drinking I assume, so we have a perfect time slot to make your escape unnoticed.” My Dad tells me with a smile, just as there was a knock at the door.

We both turned around in shock, as the door opened uninvited. “Ah, I thought I saw you guys walking in here.” Ellis said, quickly coming in and closing the door behind him as my heart rate rocketed. “I think we need to talk.”

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 31**

### Chapter 31 Ellis

I had been looking for this girl all day. She was like hunting for f\*\*g gold. I thought I had found her when I got told by the doctors she had arrived at the hospital, but by the time I had got away from Miles and reached the hospital, Harley’s parents told me she had left. Telling them she needed some time because she was struggling.

Struggling with what exactly I am not sure. I am sure as hell that his parents were struggling a whole lot more. Their son mauled by my older brother to within an inch of his life... not that they knew that part of the story... oh no. I was under strict orders to depict a tale of a rogue attack. Us having been on a run together and finding him. In truth, Miles would not tell me what he was doing there, likely running off his temper like he so often did. His temper was beyond control at the best of times. But, I had been out for my usual training run, and had caught the scent of blood.

It wasn’t a small amount either, making me concerned, because neither me nor my wolf could dismiss that as injured prey and continue on with our run like we truly wanted to. Integrity won over and made us go and investigate to find my brother’s wolf, Jet, ripping into the warrior guy. A guy I now know is called Harley. The moment I yelled his name, he oddly retreated like he didn’t expect to be caught in what he was doing, and he ran off for the trees.

The blood... was everywhere... his injuries were h\*\*d\*\*s... worse than I have ever seen before... though I have never been in war myself... his clothes were torn, deep wounds littered his body... bites across his body... I was terrified Miles had already killed him... but I had to help. So, I scooped him up in my arms, my wolf pushing forward to lend me his strength, and we ran toward the hospital. Linking forward to allow them to prepare for his arrival.

I could see smaller wounds were closing, but the larger ones I think were simply too much for his wolf to heal with the amount of blood he was losing. This guy was close to death. Of that there was no doubt. But, what I didn’t understand was why my brother would attack one of our own pack. He was meant to reign that temper in. Our Dad had told him he could attack rogues if he felt the need to take his temper out on anything larger than small prey... had he mistaken him for a rogue? Yet he had so clearly been in

human form, attacked unawares before he had a chance to shift and defend himself. This all looked intentional to me. That is what worried me.

'Leave him to die. Miles's voice had suddenly come through the mindlink. He did not sound in the slightest bit shaken by what had just happened. In fact, he sounded calm. Collected. Cold.

'Miles. No. He needs help. His wolf is not healing him. You have injured him badly. Why?' I asked as I continued the dash toward the hospital, glad of the additional support of my wolf.

'Why?' Miles roared through the link. 'He deserved to die. You had no right in interfering.'

Interfering? How was I interfering? Was I not doing the decent thing and saving the warrior's life? No man deserved to die at the hands of their Alpha for no reason. And, if I discover there was a logical reason for him to be punished, then he can be punished in an appropriate way when he is healed. If he can be healed... of course. Because the amount of blood that seemed to be leaking over me, was worryingly large.

'He needed help. He is dying. I am taking him to the hospital. I told him bluntly.

'Well, you tell them it was a rogue attack. Do you hear me?' he was not with me, the attem

power over me, being the next in line. He was trying make me do what he wanted. Trying to make me lie on his behalf. He knew he had done wrong.

You want me to lie?' asked as I got closer to the hospital.

'He deserved it. That is what I will say. I will explain when you hand him over?

So, s\*\*dly, I had done as he asked, I handed him over and the doctors did what they could. He was in a bad way. And when I returned later to the hospital look for Bailey, Harley's parents were both so grateful to me for saving his life. Yet, in truth, I could not feel like a hero, not when I knew the truth. Not when I knew my brother was to blame.

Miles had been waiting for me outside the hospital after had dropped Harley off, anger written on his face. He looked like he wanted to tear me limb from mb.

"Why?!" he snapped, the moment I came close, and imply shook my head.

"There is a guy in there literally knocking on death's door because of you. And you say he deserved it. I want to know why. Because he had to have done something serious to deserve that I mindlinked him, not wanting to risk any of the pack members wandering by overhearing our conversation.

Miles gave me a dirty look. 'He questioned me.

I felt like my heart s\*\*d a beat. He had to be joking, right? He questioned him? And that is what he did to him? How is he ever going to rule as Alpha if this is how he reacts to things? 'He questioned you? And that was all?' I linked in disbelief.

'He has been with Bailey. And he implied I was lying about there being no matebond. He knew of our matebond. Knew I rejected her. He needed to go. His eyes look like pits of fire right now, as he stares at me. He seemed to think everything he did was more than reasonable. But, his words sunk in, he said he rejected her. That was different to what he had originally told me. He said she had rejected him. He had lied? My mind whirled with possibilities. He wasn't focused on his words here, so chances are he was saying the things that first came to mind, making them more likely to be the truth. He had blamed Bailey back then to take the heat off him.

'You almost killed him because of Bailey?' I asked. I was surprised when I learned she had been his fated mate. I was shocked then that she had rejected him, but I am even more shocked now that Miles had rejected his own fated mate. Having met my fated mate, Hazel, I know the draw to them is something so strong once your wolf is there that it would be difficult to fight. How he had been able to torture her the way he had. Keeping her hanging on for a year, and seeing her around pack and not wanting her desperately made no sense to me. He had laughed with me so many times, telling me tales. of the things he had done to get to her, like he gained some sort of sick pleasure from hurting her through the matebond. Now, when I think back to the tales he told, there were so many signs that it was him that had done the rejection....

But, a small part of me wondered if he did like the connection they shared, and that was why he kept her around. He could not fight the decision my Dad had made to allow her to go to university, and I am glad for her, because I had heard how hard she had worked to gain that place. But, Miles had pushed for her to come back to our pack, despite Bailey begging to be given permission to work away from the pack. Dad was going to allow it, but Miles intervened saying he would be taking over soon so he should be making that choice, and he thought she would be of benefit to the pack, so no permission was given. Now, I wonder if that was so she was close to him.

Had he hurt the warrior because he was close to Bailey? Or simply because he had somehow discovered their matebond, and he feared that it could get out? Either way, neither one was a reasonable motive for hurting someone, let alone putting them on the edge of death.

'He argued back with me. I did not want him being a risk. I did not like how he was. Miles snarled, his head turning to look at me. "Did you tell them it was a Rogue attack?" he asked, and I began to regret my decision to do as he asked, but I nodded,

"I told them we were out for a run, and we found him Said you had gone to check the woods, see if you could see anything. Make it seem more believable." I explained,

hating myself even more, for the lies I had helped my brother create. I did not like the man he was becoming. And in truth, I think I feared for the pack under his control.

It was at that point I realized I needed to go and speak to Bailey, which was where my hunt for her had come in. I had misjudged her, because, of the things Miles had said. And, I owe her an apology. But, not only that, I needed to talk about this with her. I needed her opinion on it. I cannot hide this for my brother, even if it means putting my own life at risk, our pack deserves better than this. He is a danger to himself and to the others around us. But, I know I cannot do this alone.

Miles harassed me non-stop about keeping my mouth shut. Threatening me with so many things. Including ejecting me from the pack the moment he became Alpha, so I was made a rogue if I so much as breathed a word of this. Though he also tried to use the fact I had lied about Harley's injuries at the hospital as it already implicated me, so I would be seen as part of the problem, not the solution. I felt a little trapped, but I knew I had to do something. But, I knew I would have to watch my back, because I did not think my brother would think twice about harming me.

The moment he had left me, I was onto my hunt for Bailey, her mindlink blocked. Though if my brother was giving her s\*\*t I could not blame her. And she was likely in pieces, having been told her boyfriend was severely wounded. Which was why I had decided upon trying the hospital first, thinking she would be by his side.

After dashing from the hospital once I realized she wasn't there and after spending a little time with Harley's parents, I decided to make my way to the packhouse in the hope of seeing her Dad, our pack Beta. He may be of some help. I had tried his mindlink, but it was blocked for some bizarre reason, so I could only try his office. And it was only as I reached the corridor and I saw Bailey being led into his office that I knew I had struck gold...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 32**

### Chapter 32 Bailey

I eyed Ellis suspiciously. Why was he here? Turning up unannounced, and just walking in the way he had had irritated me. Yet, his appearance made no sense. Why would he need to talk? He had evidently been involved somehow with how Harley had ended up in the hospital. From the things I heard while sitting with his parents, it had been Ellis telling the doctors of the rogue attack. But, at the same time, had it not been for Ellis, Harley would not have got to the hospital, and he would have bled out in the forest somewhere. That is the part that confuses me.

"Sit down then son." My Dad says, acting perfectly normally with Ellis, a boy he considers his nephew. His best friend's son. A boy he has seen grow up from the day he was born. The same as Miles. The benefit of being best friends with the Alpha, I suppose.

“Thanks Uncle Donovan.” Ellis drops himself onto one of the chairs. “I am guessing I have disturbed you?” he looks between the two of us, a little uncomfortably, clearly aware of the fact he had caught us in the middle of a private conversation.

“Well, we were talking yeah.” My Dad says with a smile.

“Hmm, I have a feeling I may know what about.” Ellis says. “Which is why I am here. Well, I was here to talk with Bailey really. But I think talking to you both may help.”

I looked at him confused. He had been looking for me? And he wanted us to help?

“What do you want?” I snapped, unable to forgive him for the way he had been with me since the day in the garden.

“Bailey, give the boy a break!” My Dad says with a small chuckle. “Let him at least try and talk before you jump down his throat!”

“It is fine, Uncle, I likely deserve it. I owe you an apology, I think, Bailey. I learned a few things today.” Ellis says, looking at me, and he looks decidedly green around the gills. Making me wonder what he is talking about.

“You owe me an apology?” I chuckled, that was not what I was expecting from him. Our Alpha sons were not accustomed to admitting they were wrong, nor to apologizing.

“You didn’t reject my brother, did you?” he says, and simply shake my head. How had he learned that? Perhaps if he had used the few brain cells in that pretty little head of his when he disturbed me and his brother in the garden he may have been able to work out that his brother was lying when he said it was me that had rejected him...

“I should have known really, with the things he was saying and doing. But, I am sorry, the way I spoke to you was wrong. You deserved better. And after what I have witnessed today, I have seen what my brother is capable of, so I can only imagine the things he has been putting you through.” Ellis speaks with a tone of unease. Okay, maybe I have been a little harsh on Ellis, as he seems to be being genuine right now, and he seems to be worried about how he had treated me. But, right now, that was the least of my concerns, something else he had said caught my attention a little more...

“It wasn’t a rogue attack was it?” I demanded, knowing I was right. My gut had told me all along the moment I had heard Harley was hurt that it had been Miles.

Ellis looks to me and slowly shakes his head. “I hate that I lied to cover for him. I was out for my run, and found him attacking Harley. I shouted at him, and he stopped, before running off. The injuries to the warriors were so bad, I knew I had to help him, so took him to the hospital. Miles told me to leave him to die, but I could not do that. So he ordered me to tell them it was a rogue attack, saying the guy deserved what he got, and he would explain why once I had left him at the hospital. I elaborated on the rogue lie.

Only when I learned why he had done it was I shocked. Disgusted, my brother would sink

that low.”

I could see my Dad’s face taugth with concern, while Ellis’s hands were trembling. “I messed up.” He whispered.

“No son, you didn’t. My Dad tells him. “You saved that boy’s life. You stood up and did the right thing. You didn’t know what the reason was when Miles asked you to lie, so you took the word of your brother and the upcoming Alpha, so many others would do the same. And when you discovered the truth, you have chosen to speak out. That boy should be okay. I spoke to the hospital. He is in and out of consciousness now. That is because of you. But, we need to speak to your Dad, Ellis.”

I chew at my lips anxiously. This was such a mess. All because of the matebond between me and Miles... though, I think even without that, Miles was dangerous...

“Should I get him?” Ellis asked.

“No!” My Dad urged, taking us both by surprise. “We will wait it out. Are you up for that?”

Ellis looks at my Dad, confused. Though, I think I was equally confused. “You want to let Miles think he has got away with it?”

Dad nods. “We need to get the warrior away from the pack to his mother’s former pack for treatment and recovery, somewhere he will be safe. Speaking out now will bring awareness to the fact we know of his involvement, and likely bring attention to what we are doing.”

Ellis nods as if in agreement. “That makes sense.”

I sat in an awkward silence, before Ellis looked to me, “Bailey, I know you won’t consider it genuine, but I am sorry. I know better than anyone how s\*\*y it can be being the sibling that gets overlooked because you were born second. I know as kids we were b\*\*ds to you for being a bit different. You didn’t deserve that. Nobody does. I think some of it was frustration that you didn’t have to try to do well in school when all of us struggled. But, you didn’t deserve that. I got to say, I respect what you have done though, ignoring all the c\*\*p people gave you, and pushing harder and getting your degree. Miles was more than likely the fool for rejecting you.”

My Dad sat nodding his head, while I simply shrugged. “Well, it doesn’t matter now, does it? He called the school I had an interview at and told them I was declining their offer of a job.” I told Ellis.

His eyes widened in shock. “Seriously?”

I nodded. Not wanting him to know of my plan to leave. I was terrified somehow that he knew that it would be leaked to Miles and everything would go wrong. I assumed that was why my Dad hadn't mentioned that part of our plan too. I still wanted my chance to escape...

"So you have your degree, but he will not permit you to work?" he questions, and I nod. "I think he still considers you as his."

"It doesn't matter, Ellis. What matters is that he is dealt with now for what he did to Harley. What reasons did he give? What scares me is that he could hurt others." I told him, and I saw Ellis look down at his hands anxiously.

"Just said he had questioned him, so perhaps he felt his rank was being doubted. Plus, he mentioned him being with you, so maybe jealousy. And, of course, the fact he knew about your matebond. And that he didn't believe him when he said there was no mate bond."

It sounded to me like Harley had stood up to Miles for me, and in doing so had found himself the victim of an attack. Miles had gone from a slight threat, to a serious danger now. Hopefully with the help of Ellis we could do something to change that...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 33**

### Chapter 33 Bailey

My Dad decided to walk back to the house with me, terrified for my safety after what had happened to Harley earlier, but I had yet to visit Harley at the hospital, so I had to inform my Dad the moment I was stone visiting him. So, I walked through the doors of the ICU department, to be greeted by Harley's parents, embraced in one another's arms outside the room where I was sure I had left them earlier with Harley: Why were they outside his room? Why were they not in there with their son? My head began to pound, as did my heart.

My mind spun with the many possibilities. My Dad said he had spoken to the hospital... that everything was okay even that Harley was in and out of consciousness.... so why did this look like something had gone wrong? My heart clenched at the thought of losing Harley...

I didn't know if I should leave them in private. Maybe I should not be here right now... but as I was about to turn and walk away, Harley's Dad looked up and caught sight of me. "Ah Bailey, you came back?"

"I said I would." I told him, with a sad smile. "Is everything okay?"

My heart felt like it was racing out of my chest right now as I waited for his answer, but thankfully he nodded. "The doctor is just checking him over. You know, Harley has been asking for you."

I could not help but smile at his words. "Has he?"

"The moment we said you had been here, he was asking when you would be back." His Mum said with a chuckle.

"I am sorry, my Dad needed to see me." I felt I had to explain.

"Ah yes he did mindlink us, and we feel the things he is suggesting may be for the best. Harley too. He said you and he had spoken of going there anyway. We did not realize you, and he were so serious." His Dad said with raised brows, making me blush.

"Erm." I stuttered a little. "I would not go with him. Not now. Harley needs to do what is better for him to keep him safe, I assume my Dad explained everything?"

Harley's Dad nodded. "We know not to say a word. We will be headed there with him. Steffie has spoken to her former pack, they are arranging things, so we will be going as soon as get the green light. But, when Harley told us you, and he had planned to go there before this, I had assumed you might

come too."

I slowly shook my head. Truly shocked at the speed this plan was now taking shape. Though my Dad had said it needed to happen quickly. And, I have to say, I agree. The sooner things happen, the safer everyone will be. "I am going to speak to Harley. He means so much to me, and has been the sweetest guy to me lately, but, he has a fated mate out there, and he deserves to find her. He needs to put his safety first too. And that is not being with me. Even if that means hurting myself.

Oh, sweet girl" His Dad shook his head. "You seemed to have been dealt a c\*\*y hand."

"That is one way to look at it." I said to him.

"Can always ask for a re-deal, right Bailey?" Harley's Mum, who I now assume is

a smile. "You are a smart girl. You seem to know what you want from life. So, you go out and get it"

I nodded, maybe she is right, I do not need to accept the hand I was dealt. Me moving is the right thing. While we wait for the doctor to finish doing their checks on Harley, I take my phone from my pocket and message Luna Eden.

Hi.

This is Bailey, I am sorry to have messed you around going back and forth like a yo-yo, I appreciated everything we spoke about on the phone, and I can't begin to tell you how things are for me right now, but I have had a chance to consider all that you said, and I don't think I can turn down the opportunity to come and work for you, so please would you consider me for the role of teacher that you offered me, and allow me a place within your pack whilst working there due to the distance from my own pack, as we had previously discussed?

Thank you.

Bailey.

The corridor of the hospital was quiet, with the unnatural light that made it so uncomfortable to sit and wait. But soon enough, the doctor came out and smiled towards Harley's Mum and Dad. "All done."

His parents wasted no time in rushing back into the room, and I reluctantly followed behind, nervous about facing him considering the state he was in when I had seen him earlier, and now knowing the things he had gone through due to Ellis explaining what he had seen. Knowing that everything he had suffered was because of his connection to me. Because of the doomed matebond between Miles and me.

I heard Steffie chuckle as I walked through the door. "Could you make it more obvious you were not bothered about us being here, Harley? Literally straining to look around us to see Bailey..." she says, and I feel myself blushing.

It seems he had been more open with his parents about me than I had with mine about him. I had barely spoken about him with anyone. I didn't want to embarrass him if anyone knew he was linked to me. I was far from the most popular person in the pack, and I didn't know if it would be a source of humiliation for him to be seen with me... evidently, I could not have been further from the truth,

"Bailey." Harley's voice was h\*\*e, like he was struggling to speak, understandably so, I wouldn't wonder. As his eyes settled on me the moment I went into the room.

I smiled at him. "Hey you."

"Maybe we should give these two some privacy." Harley's Dad said, taking the hand of his mate, and leading her from the room, making Harley blush a little this time, while I perched myself on the seat next to his bed.

"I am so sorry for all of this, Harley." I told him, reaching for his hand. "I hate that this is because of

He frowns. I can see instantly that some of the wounds are a little less severe than they were when I was here earlier telling me his wolf was trying hard to help him. Though the

motion of frowning causes him to wince as it must disturb the wounds upon his face.  
“Bai, this is not you. This is him. All him”

“But, it is because you are with me... well, connected to me.” I told him, and again he shook his head.

“You know I am headed to my Mum’s pack?” he questions, and I nodded.

“My Dad suggested it as a way of keeping you safe.” I told him. “And I think he is likely right. I don’t know what he might do next, Harley.”

“I likely made it worse disagreeing with him. But, you spoke with your Dad?” he asked, sounding shocked. “That has to be good, right?”

“Dad, Jordan, Ellis.”

He nods. “I think Ellis helped me.”

I smile. “Yeah, he did. He saved your life. Found Miles attacking you, stopped it and carried you to the hospital. Though he did say it was a rogue attack because that was what Miles told him to say, he then discovered the truth about it all and came to me and my Dad.” I explained and Harley shook his head.

“I am done here, Bai. I won’t be coming back. I can’t serve under him.” he tells me, and I don’t think I can blame him. He will be a dangerous and ruthless Alpha. It scares me. I just hope that Luna Eden will be willing to give me the opportunity to get away too. If not, I will be moving to the human world to apply for work. One way or another, I will not be staying here while he is here, and most definitely not while he is in charge.

“That was why my Dad said about your Mum’s pack. Keep you safe there, especially while you heal.” I told him, feeling relieved that he agreed to go and do just that. Glad that he had seen it the exact same way I had.

“So, why not go together. Live that dream we had together? It can be possible. Make those plans a reality.” I can see the excitement in his eyes, and I feel my heart aching at what I am about to do.

“Harley, I don’t think we should. You are safer on your own. Being with me is what got you into this mess.” I tightened my grip upon his hand and I saw him bite his lip, as if in deep thought.

“This is it? You have done with me now?” his voice falters.

“I think the world of you, Harley. But you are better without me. You have a fated mate out there, so it was always going to be complicated taking me as a chosen mate, right?” tried.

“A chosen matebond is stronger, because it is one your heart and soul decides upon Bailey. But if that wasn’t enough for you, then I don’t know what it is I can offer.” He slides his hand out of mine.

And I felt tears stinging in my eyes as they began to drip. “No, Harley, don’t do that. I am trying to do the right thing for you here. Trying to keep you safe. I wanted everything you offered me. I truly did. But, you know deep down in your heart that being with me is putting you at risk. At least right now it is. So, we can’t do that”

“You wanted all that?” he stutters.

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 34**

### Chapter 34 Bailey

After giving Harley a hug, and fighting tears, I walked from the hospital to find my Dad waiting for me just as he had promised. Leaning against the walls of the pack hospital, taking the moment to enjoy a chance to relax, basking in the late afternoon sunshine. He must have heard me approaching as his head turned to look at me the moment I moved down the steps, and I watched as his eyes darted across mine, taking in my tear-filled eyes, and his face filled with concern, “Is he okay?”

I assume he had jumped to the conclusion he had passed away or something along those lines with me battling tears. I simply nodded. Not feeling up to elaborating on everything I had just discussed with Harley. It had been difficult enough the first time. I did not need to go over it again with my Dad, because he would want to analyze it too, and I most definitely did not have the energy for that.

“We going home?” I asked.

“Well, I am walking my little girl home, yes, but I do have to head back to the office. I have a few things I need to see to, before I am done for the day.” He says with a smile. I find myself smiling back at him. I am glad he wants to walk me home, and appreciate him looking out for me. I do not, however, appreciate him referring to me as a little girl...

“Little girl? A little less of that Dad. I am an adult now, do you not think I have grown past being called your little girl?” I asked him, and he chuckled to himself, like he found himself so amusing. Though my Dad had always had a habit of laughing at his own jokes.

“Always my little girl, it doesn’t matter how old you are, Bailey. Something Ellis said bothered me though. Does being the second sibling really cause you to feel like you weren’t important?” his face had gone from smiling to looking downhearted now, which tells me he never thought of it that way. Obviously, in my mind, he hadn’t been a bad parent, and neither had my Mum. They had ensured we all had everything we needed. But, their priority did tend to fall to Jordan, with him being the Beta heir, and, of course,

with Morgan, with her being their youngest. Not to mention she had a habit of being quite demanding. So, I think it was sort of a natural thing that I sort of got lost somewhere in the middle. I didn't mind, I was always quite happy to sit and keep myself occupied with my books...

"I think it is quite common, Dad. Honestly, you don't need to worry. You made sure I had what I needed. You made sure we all did." I said, not liking seeing my own Dad battling with his guilt here, I had enough to deal with right now. It was easier like this. It wasn't like they had neglected me.

"No, Bailey, don't lie to me. Is it true you were bullied?" he questions, and I suddenly feel unable to meet his gaze. He wants answers, and a part of me wonders if this is before I leave, so he can deal with it all in his mind, and process it all, before addressing everything, the same as Jordan, I guess. But, the bullying was never my parents' fault. Yes, they would lightly tease me for forever having my head in a book, and I guess my brother and sister picked up on that and copied, but the serious bullying was in school. Around pack...

As we walked along the paths of the pack, the roads and paths were both quiet, so the two of us just enjoyed one another's company. I slowly nodded, not sure how best to approach the subject. "It was since school, Dad. Just because I studied more. Did well in school. You know what kids can be like. You know that, Mum was forever telling me I made it worse for myself."

"Your Mum knew?" he asks, sounding more than a little surprised, making me wonder if he lived in his own little world sometimes. So busy with his own commitments to his work? Or did he just block out his own failings? I was sure I had gone to both my parents over the years about the struggles I had faced. Yes, more so my Mum, because she was the one at home more frequently. But, that was purely because my Dad had a lot of responsibilities in his role as Beta and was in the office a lot. It was no fault of his own, it was a part of his job, and we had accepted that. So, much of the parental responsibilities fell to Mum. But, could he really have been so naïve about all of this?

"Yeah, but she told me I had to try harder to fit in Dad, Why do you think I avoided the events so much? It was what made Miles not want me as his mate, I think. The fact I was not the stereotypical Alpha mate. I would have been an embarrassment." I told him, and my Dad growled, telling me his wolf was lingering, and getting angry at what I was telling him. Werewolves were protective of their family. Notoriously so, especially fathers with their daughters... though, I can't lie, I had wondered at times if my Dad had been bothered about me... but it seems his wolf did not like hearing all of this.

"Well, he was a fool then. If he couldn't see what he had, then it was his loss."

"Thanks Dad. But it is irrelevant now. And the one guy I thought I could have something with I have had to let go to make sure he is safe." I whispered.

“Ah. I understand the tears now. You told him it couldn’t work?” he wrapped his arm around my shoulder, pulling me close to him, softly kissing me upon my head. A father trying to comfort his daughter. Something I needed all those years ago at that birthday party. When Miles told me to keep everything secret, when all this mess had begun...

“Time is a healer, sweetheart. He has a mate out there, and if he found her, that would have torn him in two. He will always crave his fated, despite choosing you. Some say a chosen matebond is stronger because your heart chooses it, but a fated mate bond is so difficult to fight. You crave it with every inch of your being. No matter what he may say. It is our instinct, Bailey. He would struggle. I don’t doubt that boy thinks the world of you, but when it comes to meeting his fated mate he would not know what to do.” My Dad gently stroked my hair back from my face as he spoke, something he hadn’t done since I was a little girl, when he used to read me bedtime stories. I used to love it as I found it so reassuring, So soothing.

I nodded, knowing he was right, that was the thing I had failed to see when Harley had offered me the chance to be his chosen mate. Neither one of us had thought of his fated mate out there. She was waiting for him somewhere. And they both deserved the happiness that being with a fated mate should bring.

We neared our house and my Dad still had his arm around me. I don’t know if it was for his own comfort or for me. Maybe a little of both. But he seemed reluctant to let go. Yet, as we wandered up the path to our home, the door of the house next door opened, and the one person neither of us wanted to see stepped out. Miles... And his eyes settled instantly on me, a dark, evil stare building..

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 35**

### Chapter 35 Bailey

I felt my Dad’s hand settle in the center of my back as if to guide me to the house, though I can now also feel the presence of his wolf suddenly. Not to mention his anger rising at the abrupt arrival of Miles. He did not want to be seeing him right now. Not after everything he had just learned. This was not going to be pleasant....

“Hi Uncle!” Miles greeted my Dad with such a fakeness, and my Dad raised his brows at me, before looking across toward Miles. Who seemed to believe everything was normal between them, though his fakeness truly got under my skin, especially after everything today. He was acting like he had done nothing wrong...

“Good afternoon Miles. You look awfully run down. Have you had a busy day or something?” he asked, and I could sense the sarcasm in his tone, but I didn’t know if Miles had. “You should start taking better care of that wolf of yours, so he can take better care of you. It is all a little give and take, you know? I am sure your Dad has taught you this. But, truly, you look shocking.”

I bit my lip to hold back the smile that was threatening. My Dad had a way with words, but Miles seemed to not have noticed the little digs my Dad was having at him. And he simply smiled at my Dad, like it was normal day-to-day conversation with his Uncle.

“Oh, just the usual things. You know what it is like, Dad, keeping me busy. Training to be Alpha and all.” Miles said cheerfully, and my Dad chuckled, though to me, it sounded forced.

“Hmm. I am sure. But, our pack only deserves the best as their Alpha, so you need to understand why your Dad does what he does. Training to the best of your ability is vital, Miles. And then pushing yourself that little bit further to refine your skills. Being the best of the best. That is what our pack needs as their Alpha. Don’t you think?” My Dad said, the meaning hidden within his words, which Miles would likely be completely oblivious to, but I knew what he was trying to imply. He didn’t believe Miles was suitable to be our Alpha. He didn’t believe he deserved his title.

“Should you not be in the office at this time of day, Uncle Donovan?” Miles asked, glancing at me with that same dark stare as the moment he had noticed me, before then looking at my Dad with the same darkness. The darkness that seemed to reside within him now. He was not the same happy and cheerful boy he had grown up as. He was nasty. Ruthless. Vile. Not a man most people would want to be around.

My Dad raised his gaze to look toward Miles. “Oh, excuse me, being dictated to by a child! You aren’t the Alpha yet, Miles, so you don’t have the right to be questioning me where I should and shouldn’t be, and for that matter your Dad doesn’t even get away with that. I do my job. Thank you very much. I saw my daughter while she was in the packhouse, so I said I would walk back to the house with her, as it is not often we spend time together. I wasn’t aware there was a crime in that.”

My Dad did not like to be spoken down to, nor did he appreciate being insulted, and would always come back with an argument. Miles, however, clearly did not expect the comeback, which I have to say, was some what amusing...

Miles scowled deeply at my Dad standing up to him. While I was struggling to hold back the smirk that was teasing at my lips.

“I am not a child. And I am sure there is still work to be done.” Miles told him.

“Well, as I said, my work is always completed by the end of the day, and as you are not Alpha yet, that is not even any of your concern. So, little boy, wind your neck in.” My Dad snapped angrily this time. telling me he was becoming impatient with what was becoming close to a reprimanding from Miles.

Miles stormed off, giving us both a dirty look as he walked away, causing my Dad to laugh loudly as he did. And when I say loudly, I mean without a doubt loud enough for Miles to hear while he threw his tantrum and walked away. Though, I had a feeling, that

was exactly what my Dad intended to happen. He wanted Miles to know he was laughing at his petulance. He wasn't happy with the fact Miles had spoken down to him. "That is it little one, run away, like the little boy you are." Dad muttered as he unlocked the front door for me.

I shook my head at my Dad. "Anyone would think you enjoyed that." I said, and he simply grinned.

"Considering the things I have heard today, my view on that sc\*\*m has changed considerably. He has treated my family badly, and I shall make sure now that he pays. One way or another. And, I believe your brother is equally determined." Dad tells me.

"Dad, Jordan has his Beta role to protect. He can't risk that."

"First we deal with the things that boy has done. He seems to think that, because he has been spoiled all of his life, he is above punishment. Always thought your Aunt babied him too much. Your Uncle let him get away with too much, and neither one of them would hear a bad thing said about him. Believing that as upcoming Alpha he did nothing wrong and should not suffer any punishment. Well, that lack of punishment is becoming more than evident now, because he acts like the world owes him a living. He walks around here like he owns it already, well not if I have anything to do with it." My Dad says and the determination within his voice takes me by surprise.

"You are a Beta Dad, you don't have the power to stop him becoming Alpha." I whispered.

"No, I may not, Bailey, but with his brother's assistance, once you are gone, we will go to his father. If he does not listen, I go to the werewolf council. They have to listen. That boy broke rules, and many of them. He is a danger to himself and others. He is not fit to rule. I will not allow him to take over this pack. Even if I kill myself in the process, I will make sure he does not become the Alpha of our pack." My Dad says, his voice calm and collected, like there is no doubt within his mind about his plan, and the thing is, I think he may be right. He would have a fight upon his hands, but he had every right to fight... I just had to hope it would not cost me my father's life...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 36**

### Chapter 36 Bailey

My Dad had left me in my room, with strict orders to begin to pack my things, and also to chuse up my peration within the Autumn Valley Pack Which had reminded me I had yer to check if Lea Eden hat responded to my cather message I had been so distracted with everything else that had been going on, that the message had completely slipped my mind.

I dropped to my bed as I pulled my phone from my pocket, only to find a short message from Earr Eden, a simple message of two words – Call me!

I could not help but chuckle at her message, but I laid back onto my bed, and did exactly as she had asked, because, as my Dad had pointed out, my position within their pack was not yet secured, needed somewhere to go to get away from Miles and the mess he seemed to be creating around me all because of the f\*\*d up mate bond we had been given between us.

“Hello you! I wondered when you would call!” Luna Eden greeted me, like a long-lost friend. “Nothing like keeping a girl on edge is there!”

“I am so sorry, things have been so hectic here.” I told her honestly.

“So I gathered from your message. Are you going to confess all to your new Luna then?” she teased. making me smile, but I wonder just how much I should be sharing with her. If she knew everything would she consider me too much of a complication for their pack to allow a job and a home?

“I have had some issues with my fated mate. Let me say that, he rejected me, so, I was told I should remain here, but now, I have been told it is for the best and for my own safety, that I look to move away, so if the role is still available, I would love to come and work for you.” I say quickly, not wanting to say too much, but needing to give some information at the least to explain my quick turn around in my decision.

“Oh bless you, though I do think you did say some of that already. But, if you don’t feel able to tell me just yet, that is fine, I understand. But, like I told you, we were so impressed with your resume.” Luna Eden tells me, making me hopefully she was going to agree to what I needed her to,

“I haven’t even worked anywhere yet other than the work placements I did during my degree.”

“I understand that, but the fresh ideas you have intrigued me, and I think they would be good for our pack school. And, if you need to get away from your pack, then it is even better for you. We are a few hours away. We can offer you a home, and a job. A nice pack, a peaceful one at that, where your former mate is not.” She said with a chuckle, obviously amusing herself.

“You honestly would have me come and work for you?” I said, my relief so immense I felt almost breathless. I could get away from here! Away from Miles and the constant fear of him being close.

“Without a doubt, Bailey! When were you thinking?”

“Would tomorrow be okay?” I asked without even needing to contemplate it. The sooner I left this place the better. And the sooner was gone, the sooner my Dad and Ellis could do what they needed to do. I knew that Harley was leaving tomorrow too. Leaving for his fresh start. I should leave for mine 100. Two fresh starts apart from one another. Not what I had expected a few days ago. But something I would come to accept, I am sure.

Balance

1 Cous

1 Pearly

12:16 Wed, Jul 31

Chapter 36 Bailey

+5 Pearls

“Wow, tomorrow?” Luna Eden sounded a little taken back at my request, making me realize that it was rather fast. Did I ask for too much? Were they expecting a few weeks’ time?

“I am sorry, is that too soon? I could just do with getting away...” I began.

“Aww sweetheart, no. If you need to get away, then tomorrow is perfect. We will get you sooner. You will just have to stay in the packhouse until I have arranged you a house, if that is okay?” she tells me, and I am happy to agree to anything right now that means I am leaving here. I had honestly expected a room within the packhouse anyway. Not a home of my own!

“A room in packhouse is perfect, thank you so much!” I said, tears filling my eyes.

“Well, Bailey, welcome to Autumn Valley Pack, and we will see you tomorrow. Let me know when you are setting off. I realize, with it being such short notice, it could be late, so whenever you arrive it will be good. We can get everything sorted. Okay?” Luna Eden sounds so genuinely pleased to have me coming to the pack that I feel enthusiastic about it too, I am scared about the change, but excited now

100.

“Thank you so much.” I say as she hangs up the phone, knowing my focus now needs to be getting my things packed.

It was only as I was packing that my phone rang again, making me wonder if Luna Eden had forgotten to tell me something. It was only when I looked down that I saw Harley’s number and my heart began to race. What did he want? Had we not said all we needed

to earlier? That had been hard enough... I wondered why he was calling and not mindinking? But I answered anyway.

"Hello?"

"Hey Bai." His voice greets me sounding a little emotional.

"Are you okay?" I asked, feeling suddenly uncomfortable.

"I just wanted to hear your voice. Mindlink still a little weak. Everything is underway for tomorrow now. Mum and Dad are packing things up at home. You will keep in touch, won't you? I know we may not be together now, but we can still be friends, right?" he asks, and I can hear the emotions in his tone once again. He is finding this all as hard as me. Which only makes me feel worse about it all. But, as much as it isn't what I want, I know it is what we both need...

"Of course, that is all I would want, Harley" I can feel tears building in my eyes again at the thought of not seeing him properly. Things between him and I had barely gone beyond the occasional kiss. And he was always incredibly sweet. But, him offering to take me as his chosen mate seemed to indicate a deeper level of feeling there. It had meant so much to me. Given me hope and I don't think he knew just how much that meant to me.

"We might not be in the same places after tomorrow, Bai, but I am still there if you need me. If you need me, you only have to yell, right? Call. I will do what I can to help. I know we can't be together right now, but there is nothing to say, maybe down the line when things have calmed down, it isn't something we can't look at rightYou can't say there isn't chemistry there. A connection..."his voice falters, and I close my eyes trying to stop the tears that are trying to fall.

"Harley, you have a fated mate out there. If she comes, the feeling will be overwhelming for you. You

"But Bai bow How can that be when I already had the most wonderful girl in the world when I had

neone else can't be that and I am already missing out, because I am having to let you go." He says with a sigh

I find myself sighing too. His words were too much. "Harley, it will be different. I promise. If she comes, promise me you will give her a chance. She will be worth every bit of pain we have felt

"Do you not want me, is that it?" he whispers.

“I want nothing more than you. Harley, but I don’t want you at risk because of me. And I don’t want you taking sacrifices because of me. This is for the best, I know it is. But, you will always be the first to

have a place within my heart. Know that okay? And we will forever be friends I told him  
ng away the tear that had slipped down my cheek

“Always” He whispers as the call cuts out