

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 57

Chapter 57 – Asher

Another usual night of me working late. So much additional work to do with Caleb on Daddy duties while Eden was on bed rest. Though listening to his tales of his mate being restricted to bed, she was far from an ideal patient, I definitely think I had it easier with additional work! Poor Caleb sounded knackered and ready to pull his hair out. I think it is safe to say both Caleb and Eden were ready for this little bundle of joy to arrive, and soon!

Sitting at my desk in my office, I knew I would be there for a few more hours, so I had wanted a coffee, though I had run out of coffee in my office. So, a much needed wander to the kitchen had been needed. Stretch my legs too. However, one person I did not expect to see was Bailey wandering the corridors too... (well no, that is a lie, I would not expect to see anybody because nobody was in the packhouse at this hour, but that is beside the point). I had expected her to be tucked up safely in her room by now. But, her room had minimal facilities, like many of the packhouse rooms, so perhaps she needed a drink?

“Bailey?” I called out to her, and saw her visibly jump a little at my words, making me smile. So much for being aware of everything around you as a werewolf. Seems this one was off in another world. It was a good job it was only me. It was only as she turned to look at me, and I got a little closer that something caught the light of the corridor lighting. Tears. I was sure of it. Had she been crying? Had someone upset her? “Have you been crying?” I found myself asking, though I know in truth it was nothing to do with me, and I doubted she would want to tell me either.

“Erm...” her voice faltered a little as her gaze moved away from mine, suddenly looking down to the floor.

“Should I take that as a yes, but mind your own business, Asher?” I asked, and she suddenly looked up at me. Her big brown eyes looked in pain.

“You don’t want to know. It is pathetic.” She said with a shrug. “I was just going to grab a drink, I am sorry for being out of my room.”

I found myself frowning. “Bailey, you are not in a prison, if your need to be out of your room, it allowed, you know? Yes, I have lived alone in the packhouse for quite some time, but that does not mean I expect you to stay in your room the moment you arrive here.”

I have heard the things said about me in the pack. The nasty rumors. Comparing me to a monster living in a castle. All alone in the packhouse because nobody else is safe to live with me. No, in truth, I live here because I could no longer face living in the Beta

home I had begun to share with my mate. If that meant living alone in the large packhouse, then so be it. It would be the way it was. I preferred to be alone anyway.

Bailey simply shrugged as we stood awkwardly in the corridor now. "Come on, let us go and get you a drink. I need another coffee. I ran out in my office."

Bailey nodded and followed me as I began to walk along the corridor. As I glanced across at her, I could see tears still fresh within her eyes. Even Zion was whimpering at the sight of her like this... and that made my heart clench at the sight too...

"Bailey, I know we said some things were difficult to talk about, so I apologize for asking, but I don't like to see people cry. What has happened? Is something wrong at your pack?" I asked.

She looked over at me with a small smile. "Aww, there is a little heart in there somewhere, isn't there Beta?" she teased, and I smiled, but before I could respond she shrugged and continued. "Not a clue what is going on in the pack actually, still awaiting an update. All hell breaking loose I would imagine." Then her eyes widened like she realized she had said too much. "Forget I said that."

I raised my brows at her, desperate for her to tell me what the hell was going on. All these little pieces of information were not giving me anything and I needed to know more. I wanted to know what risk this girl brought to our pack.

"Please?" she looked at me almost pleadingly. Before, I found myself nodding as we walked into the kitchen.

"Thank you." she said, placing her hand upon my arm, the contact making me jump. "As for why I was crying, the guy I was kind of seeing, well, he just found his fated mate. Pathetic, I know."

I raised my brows again. So she had been seeing someone? That was always dangerous. Feelings become involved and when you are a werewolf, you know there are fated mates, and once they come into the picture nothing else matters. The feelings that were once there become almost invisible to you, because the draw to your fated mate is everything. It is why we are advised not to date. The pain can be too much.

"I'm sorry, that can't be nice to hear." I admitted, knowing how hard it can be, having seen my friend go through the same a number of years ago before he had met his own fated mate. He was all for taking the girl as his chosen... until her fated mate came into the picture, and suddenly it was like he was barely visible to her. Nigh on broke his heart.

"It was one of the reasons I turned down his offer to be his chosen mate. When he offered me a way out of pack." She said, gazing distractedly out of the window. I don't think she realized just how much she was saying. This guy had thought enough of her

to offer to be her chosen mate. He wanted her to be his. That meant a lot. Yet she had said no... did that have more to do with the control her pack seemed to hold over her?

“He must have thought highly of you to offer you that chance, Bailey. He will be hurting as much as you.” I reassured her, but she looked at me confused.

“He definitely did not sound like he was hurting. He sounded happy.” She said with a sad smile, but I nodded.

“Of course, it will be a mixture of emotions right now. His instinct would be all for his fated mate. We are built to want them. Crave them. Desire them. We wait for them...” my voice falters a little at that as I instantly think of Isla, and I see Bailey looking up to me, concern within her big brown eyes. “You know what, I will give you the space you need Bailey. But trust me, he is likely hurting too.” I said as I rushed from the kitchen, needing to be alone. The thoughts of Isla suddenly took over my mind. I do not need Bailey witnessing me falling apart...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 58

Chapter 58 – Miles

I have no clue what day it actually is now. I do the things in pack. expected of me the best I can, avoiding most people as much as possible. But I escaped as soon as I could to have a drink. Quite simply, drinking has become a normal part of my routine, and I did not know what I would do without it now. But, the thing with being a werewolf was alcohol had little effect in small amounts. So, I had to drink larger amounts. And the more I drank, and my body adjusted to it, the more I had to drink to gain the same effect. This pack felt like nothing but a constant pressure upon my life I did not want.

Yet the power that came with it was too good to walk away from. That was the only thing stopping me from handing over my title to Ellis. He would likely make a better Alpha than me. He was more sensible. More kind and caring. More logical. And, of course, now he had the perfect f**g fated mate too. Me, on the other hand, had none of those things. And never would either.

I am sure Jordan walked away from me the other night. I can't quite remember, but I have a memory of it, so I believe it happened, though it may have been a dream... who knows? The drink makes it hard to tell sometimes the difference between reality and imaginary... One thing I do know, is he ignored my calls too. He was picking that new w**e in his life over me. Was that how he thought things would be? I didn't like that. Jordan was my closest friend. My closest ally. Had been since we were small. He was going to be my Beta. We have always been together. So, why was it all of a sudden I was second best to some second-rate bimbo that had appeared in his life?

He surely realized without me, he had no title? No claim to the Beta role... He needed me more than he needed some cheap. woman! It wasn't like he and I had ever

struggled to pick up women when going out together, so why could he not just be content with that? Be a decent friend to me?

My f**g Dad had not listened to me when I had told him that Uncle Donovan had manipulated him with the whole Bailey situation. I explained the whole sorry mess. Telling him in detail why she needed to be here, obviously not the real reason, as he could never know she had ever been fated to me. That would be the worst possible outcome. My Dad had always taken my opinion into consideration before, but this time, he simply laughed in my face! Laughed in my f**g face and told me to get over it. That Uncle Donovan had consulted him and it was fine. So, I needed to find some other way to bring her back...

"Miles?" My Dad yelled as he walked into the house, while I tried to nap on the sofa.

"Hmm." I grumbled, already sick of him, having managed to avoid him as much as possible over the last few days. Getting sick of lectures about my drinking and attitude. Since when was he f**g g***d? I was a grown man. Was I not capable of making my own choices? If I want to drink, that should be my choice...

"Sit up." He ordered.

"Think I am good." I muttered, staying where I was, laid out, with my eyes shut, no intention of moving for him just to please him. I am sure the lecture he no doubt wanted to give me could wait for another time. It was no doubt a repeat of the same one he seemed to have on replay. About responsibility... behavior... Alpha role... expectations... boring... boring... boring.

"I suggest you move before I move you." My Dad ordered again, and this time I sat myself up and looked at him. He looked. f**g furious. What the hell had got into him lately? Mum suddenly decided to shut up shop and stop giving it up to him, and he had turned into a sex-starved moody b**d? That was not my issue, and did not need to be taken out on me...

I rolled my eyes at him. "What is wrong?" And just as I spoke, my Mum walked in, her eyes falling to my Dad and then to me.

"We doing this now?" she asked my Dad, making me all the more cautious. What the hell were they were talking about? Whatever it was they had evidently spoken about previously.

"I think it is time." Dad said, looking at mum with a nod, motioning for her to sit herself down in the armchair where she always sits, especially for all her favorite shows.

"Anyone going to tell me what the f**k is going on?" I snapped, suddenly feeling angry at the fact that it felt like my family were keeping things from me.

“Yes, if you actually give us a moment. We are concerned about your behavior lately, Miles. Some information we learned has made us even more concerned.” Dad began, and instantly my mind was whirring into gear, wondering what information they had learned and from whom. I would kill whoever had given them information about me that put my reputation into doubt.

“So, we are not permitting you to become Alpha. You need to seek treatment. Then we might consider it. Also, you need to find a mate. Obviously, it will now be a chosen one, won’t it?”

Seeing as you rejected the mate fated to you by the moon goddess, breaking one of the rules given to you as an Alpha.” My Dad barked out once more, but I don’t care for him right now. It is his words that get to me. They hit me like a spear through my chest. Someone told him I rejected Bailey...

“Who the f**k told you that?!” I roared, standing from my seat.

My Dad stood to meet me. “You want to fight me Miles? When ninety-five percent of the time you are inebriated, right now? I wouldn’t advise it. Even when you are fully sober, I am still stronger. I can see your brain ticking. You are in doubt now. Wondering who betrayed you, right? You want to know who told me? Your pack. People who were concerned for the safety of their pack. Because it seems their upcoming Alpha has let his power go to his head. And trust me, as an Alpha, that is the worst thing he can do. So it is about time he reins his neck in, and sorts himself out, or he will not be becoming Alpha after all. I thought I had taught you better than that. But, I am telling you something, Miles. I will not tolerate this s**t. I will not put my pack at risk because of you. Never!”

My hands trembled in anger. He dared to threaten me with taking my title away? Something was born to inherit? Something I have lived toward earning my whole f**g life?! Some f**ker within my pack had betrayed me in speaking up... But I know my Dad is right. I cannot take him. He is stronger, and my head does not feel fully with it at the best of times. My wolf has barely been with it for days. And I swear that is because Bailey has been gone. That was why she needed to be back. Why did they not see that?!

“This is not right. You want me married off and getting anger management?” I demanded, because that was the only logical treatment I could imagine they meant. I knew my anger had grown out of control and was something my parents were so frequently mentioning...

“Pretty much.” My Dad said. “Or you will not be the next Alpha, got it?”

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 59

Chapter 59-Asher

My heart would not stop racing the moment I left Bailey. The thought of Isla was fresh within my mind. It tore at my very core. All my efforts at pushing thoughts of Isla back were failing so miserably. I did not know what to do. All I had known was that I needed to get away from Bailey before she saw me fall apart. She was new to the pack... I was to be her Beta, and I was expected to be strong and composed. Her father was a Beta, she knew what was expected of a Beta and I did not need her to see any weakness in me.

There would be no hope of sleep finding me tonight. No.

Perhaps it was more a case of there was no way I wanted sleep to find me tonight. I knew that dreams of Isla would be too overpowering. Too painful. All from a conversation about finding your fated mate. Maybe avoiding the new girl was a better idea.

I returned to my office without the coffee I needed so badly and continued with the work that I needed to do. Processing all the files that Caleb had given me to do on his behalf. Never mind them being glad when that new baby arrived, I would be too, so that my additional duties would be gone. I would have that extra time to be out running, allowing Zion his extra freedom he so frequently craves to escape the day-to-day stresses and to take his pain out on some unsuspecting rogues...

Hour after hour passed as I sat focused on the work in front of me. Determined not to allow myself to fall asleep. Determined not to allow the thoughts of Isla take over my mind. Despite that, her name was not far from my thoughts. And the persistent pain within my chest reminded me of why I was here. Why I could not go to sleep. I could not witness the pain of losing her all over again.

Suddenly, the office door opened and I looked up, irritated that whoever it was had not bothered to knock. One of my major bug bears. This was my office. Would it hurt them to knock?

However, Caleb walked in, looking bright and breezy. Something I felt so far from it was unreal...

"Morning Ash." He greeted me with a smile, then as he looked at me, he frowned. "***it bro, you look like you haven't slept, are you okay?!"

Hmmm... I wonder... little did my friend know I hadn't slept, but he also didn't need to know that. I didn't need him to have anything else to worry about on top of his wife being in the hospital. I know he worried about me and my m**I state sometimes, and I don't need to be an extra cause of concern for him right now. That was the last thing he needed right now.

"I am fine. A lot of work is all." I said with a shrug. "Been up early."

“Early? It is 7 now, what time you get up?” Caleb questions, a suspicious look upon his face. F**k... did he know?

“Not sure. I was awake early, so I thought I was best getting a head start.” I lied.

“You sure about that? Because I am pretty sure they are the clothes I saw you in yesterday.” Caleb says with a frown. “You haven’t been to bed again, have you, Asher?” This time he sounded angry.

“Caleb I a fine. Give it a rest.” I snapped.

“No. This is not okay, Ash. Things are difficult enough as they are right now. With Eden laid up, I don’t need you burning yourself out. You know you need to be careful. What is wrong? I thought things were okay? Are you struggling again?” Caleb’s face was full of concern and I hated myself for adding more pressure and worries to the shoulders of my friend. He does not need this right now and I know it

“Caleb, I said I was fine, so will you just take my f**g word for it for a change?!” I said bluntly. “You know ever since I lost Isla my sleep has been knackered. It was a bad night is all, so I decided to make use of the fact I couldn’t sleep and do some work, okay? I do it fairly often. It is of no major issue, so stop making it one. It definitely isn’t something you need to be concerned about.”

“It isn’t healthy, Asher.” He snapped.

“Well I ain’t dead yet Caleb.” I snarled.

“Should I ask your Dad to take over your duties for a little while, so you can take a break?” Caleb suggested, and instantly Zion was rippling beneath the surface, anger pulsating through my body. How dare he imply I am not capable of doing my Beta role because I struggle with the loss of my mate: Because I struggle with sleep. Yet the cheeky f**k**r was quite happy to offload all the mediocre tasks he couldn’t be bothered to do himself...

“Are you for real?!” I found myself roaring, knowing then Zion was involved now too. This was not going to end well if Caleb got angry.

Caleb raised his brows at me, “Really?” he snarled. “Do I not have the right to be concerned for my friend and if I think your aren’t able to do your job, then too f**g right I am for real, Asher.”

I pushed my chair back angrily, so I was standing. Zion was so close to shifting now, but I knew the moment he did that Thor, Caleb’s wolf would be shifting too, and all hell would break loose. My office would be destroyed and the two of us would be seriously injured. Like the last time we fought... Caleb was needed right now... he did not have

time to recover from a full-on fight... as much as I wanted to kick his a**, I fought hard to push Zion back.

“Why am I not able to do my job, Caleb? Have I not been doing everything expected of me and more?” I said a little more calmly this time, so he could see I was not as angry, I needed him to see my anger was under control...

“But this not sleeping and being on edge all the time isn’t normal, Ash. Can you not see that? Did you see the pack doctor like I asked? Or the therapist?” Caleb asked softly. I know he was desperate for me to seek grief counseling after the loss of my mate. Why he thought that would help me I don’t know. Sitting in a room with some randomer discussing how much it hurt to lose my mate, and analyzing all the things that came with it... no that was not for me... I would rather stab myself in my f**g eyes with a needle. It was not going to help me. Not in the slightest.

“Sleeping tablets were the treatment option from the doctor.” I told him. “And I am not relying on medication.” Besides, it isn’t that I can’t sleep, I added silently within my mind, knowing I cannot share this with my friend... It is just that my sleep is plagued with visions of my mate. Losing her. Reliving the pain as she leaves me. Waking me in floods of tears... or sweating, desperate to try to save her... yet can’t... having to relive her loss all over again... all on repeat...

“Therapy could work though, and you know it could, Asher.” Caleb began, but I gave him a dark look.

“Not going over this again. Not happening. Was there something you came in here for? If not, then I have work to do, you know, the work you should be doing, but I am doing for you. because I am a good Beta?” I snapped, knowing I am being a d**k, but he had irritated me that much I couldn’t help myself.

Caleb sighs, dropping himself on the sofa. “Eden wanted me to find out how the induction went is all.”

“Well, the new girl is still alive if that is what she needs to know. I didn’t eat her or lose her.” I smiled sarcastically at my friend.

Caleb chuckled. “I don’t think she thought you would. But, I may tell her you did just to see her reaction...” I see him thinking, so I can only imagine where his mind has gone.

“On your head be it, if you do.” I warned him, as Eden was grumpy at the best of times in a morning, even more so during her pregnancy.

“Seriously though, did the induction go okay? Bailey know all she needs about pack? You show her around all the pack? Please tell me you were nice to her?”

I rolled my eyes. Did they think I was incapable of being nice? I think I was nice... wasn't I? I even gave her some sympathy... or tried... oh I don't f**g know. I tried, that was the best she was going to get. It was the best I could do.

"Yes. It went fine. She had a full tour of the pack. Full induction. Seemed happy enough. Starts Monday." I explained, and Caleb nods.

"Eden is glad to have her here, she says she should be good for the school. New teacher, with new ideas. She seemed nice too, right?" Caleb looked at me, as if he waited for an answer.

What the hell did he expect me to say? She was a she-wolf I didn't even know. Sure, she seemed okay... can't say I even knew her, other than she seemed to have one hell of a messed- up past...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 60

Chapter 60 – Bailey

I strolled through the pack enjoying the late afternoon sunshine, wasting the last of my days before my start at school. I could not wait now. I was so excited about starting my new role. I was getting good at finding my way around the pack now too, with Akira's assistance, albeit, but I was getting there slowly. I had decided to escape my room for a few hours and walk around the whole pack, while most people were likely enjoying a lazy Sunday with their families.

My mind had been on home the last few days, but I had barely heard from home. When I did reach out, my Dad just kept telling me things were in hand and not to worry about anything. Which, I cannot lie, kind of made me worry all the more. This made me feel like he was likely hiding things from me. Were things happening, and he didn't want me to know? I had blocked Miles' s mobile number, so even if he wanted to get hold of me there would be no possibility, or at least not from his own phone.

Sunday back home was definitely a family day. A day for a big meal together. Or possibly a BBQ with friends and family. And here I had neither. The closest I had to a friend was Luna Eden, and she was still in the hospital. The only other person I had spoken to was the Beta. I had a few funny looks in the dining hall from pack members, likely wondering who the strange girl was, but nobody actually spoke to me, and I had yet to find the courage to speak to them...

I could not lie, I was feeling lonely. And sitting alone in my room only enhanced that feeling. It was not nice. I thought I felt lonely at home, despite being surrounded by family, but this was equally as bad, because here nobody knew I was here. And I don't think anyone cared. But, I was determined not to feel sorry for myself and had been determined to go out and keep myself busy. Which was how I found myself out and wandering the whole of the pack. Needing to keep myself moving. Exploring every inch

of the pack. Get to know my home. So, while I may not know the people here, I could still say I knew the pack...

I had become a little braver and had even decided to wander through the forests too. Despite the persistent pushing from Akira for her to shift and go for a run, I pushed her back, not wanting her to take over. I wanted to explore the pack myself. Allow myself to get to know where I would be living now. Though it now meant Akira was in a mood and had retreated to the nether reaches of my mind to sulk. Leaving me alone to enjoy my walk in total silence. The forests were beautiful, and as well taken care of as the pack was. Alpha Caleb evidently took great care of his pack, and that to me showed what a great Alpha he was.

As I wandered through the shade of the trees, enjoying the sight of the smaller animals I saw, and the slight warmth of the sun breaking through the branches above me, I heard footsteps behind me and my heart began to race. 'Akira?' I begged, desperately needing my wolf ready to defend me in case this was a loose rogue... someone here that should not be. I didn't even know my way back to pack in a hurry if I needed to... nor did anyone know I was here... s**t... I didn't think this through...

+increased my speed as I moved back in what I thought was the direction of the pack, desperately in need of getting away from whoever else could be in the forest. Why did I think it a good idea to come for a walk here? Bravery was not brave after all, even less so when my b**dy wolf had gone awol after being in a mood with me...

My palms were becoming sweaty as I moved faster, almost to a run now, just as my foot got caught in a root in the undergrowth, and I tripped, going flying, the floor coming to meet my face far too quickly, before I could even stop myself. And as I fell, I heard the footsteps coming even closer.

"Who is there?" a deep male voice demanded, angrily.

My head felt fuzzy, while my heart raced. Surely a rogue wouldn't demand you identify yourself, would they? Either way, my mouth did not seem capable of working right now. I was struggling to breathe, let alone speak, as I was so panicked. Suddenly, two feet, heavily clad in big boots were in front of me...

"Who are you?" the voice demanded once more, as my eyes rose up from the heavy military boots the man had on his feet all the way up his strong body, to his big blue eyes. His sandy blond hair slicked back off his face into a small bun, despite his hair also being s**d undercut. The strong, chiseled features looking down at me with curiosity, a small smile playing upon his lip. "Are you going to answer me?"

"I...erm..." I stuttered, still struggling with my words. I would say going from how he was dressed he could be a guard... maybe a warrior... definitely not a rogue.

Suddenly, a hand was placed in front of me, as if to offer me assistance in getting up. "Come on, let's get you up."

took his hand, surprised by the strong grip of his hand, as he helped me up. I felt his eyes upon me as I now stood in front of him, in my navy yoga pants and matching cropped top, and trainers. My long dark hair pulled back into a ponytail. I likely looked hot and sweaty and a total mess. Now with added features of twigs and leaves for added effect... not a look any woman would want when encountering a man, but I did not expect to be seeing anyone whilst I was out walking.

"So, for the third time. Who are you?" he smiled, he didn't seem quite so intimidating when he smiled like that. His big blue eyes almost t**d. "And then I may even move onto the question of why you are up here, if you can manage that."

I scowled at him, not appreciating his patronism. "I am not **d."

"Did I say you were?" he smiled again. "Though in my defense, all I have seen of you so far is that you fall over your own feet and until this point, lacked the ability to talk, so it didn't look great."

I pouted in annoyance. He was a cheeky f***ker this one, and I don't even know who he was!

"Are you going to give me an answer?" he asked again.

"I am the new teacher, I was going for a walk around pack, and wasn't aware I wasn't allowed to!"

"Didn't say you weren't allowed to, did I? No need to get your panties in a twist over me sweetheart." He winked, with a deep chuckle, making me look at him with a raise of my eyebrows. This guy seemed awfully confident.

"Oh, believe me, you had no effect whatsoever on my panties." I said c**ly, only making him chuckle more.

"Hmmm, there may be time for that yet." He winked again. "Now, do you know your way back, that is the question?"

"Erm..." I faltered, desperately not wanting to admit I likely wasn't sure of my way back, not with Akira gone awol, off in her little temper tantrum somewhere. But knowing if I didn't admit it, I could be wandering around the forest and even pack for some time yet...

The guy next to me grinned. "I will take that as a no. Come on, my shift is almost done. I will show you how to get back. Always nice to help a damsel in distress."

I give him a dark glare, but again he only chuckles. This guy seems to find everything funny. “Jeez, do you not have a sense of humor hidden in them curves there?” he questions as his eyes drift over my body, making me shiver...

“For me to use my sense of humor, first would you not have to be funny?” I said with a smirk, and he smiled.

“Ooooh b**hy.” He wiggled his brows at me. “You might want to remember that without me, you will be lost.”

I sighed, I honestly don’t know which would be worse right now...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 61

Chapter 61 – Bailey

I had no choice but to accept the help of the most irritating man ever, and we were walking through the forest together. He stomped heavily through the trees, evidently knowing where he was going. Which I could not lie, was definitely a good thing, because without Akira here with me, I had no clue where I was going! Of all the times for her to go off in a huff, now was definitely not an ideal time...

“Were you on patrol?” I asked. I only spoke because I was hating the awkward silence between us, but at the same time I so desperately not wanting to talk to him either. “Will you get in trouble for leaving?”

“Yes I was, but nah I shouldn’t think so. Found some loner wandering in the forest, so I am bringing her back to pack for interrogation. Don’t think they can argue with me on that one.” He winked at me.

“Interrogation?” I rolled my eyes.

“Hmm, well, your name could be a start?” he grinned.

“Oh.” I felt my cheeks heating at his joke, he had clearly been teasing me, and that had worked. He was such a d**k. “Bailey.” “Well, Bailey, nice to meet you. I am Marc.” He offered me his hand, but I chose to ignore it, not willing to shake his hand after he had done nothing since meeting me but tease me, and going off his response, he had found great pleasure in it too!

He looked at me a little uncomfortable before slipping his hand into his pocket and muttering, “Sorry.”

I felt bad about how guilty he looked, and realized I had likely offended him now. Dammit, I was being grumpy, and I knew I was...” No, it is fine, I am sorry. Just me being grumpy I guess.” I admitted with a sigh...

“You missing home?” he asked and I shrugged,

“Worried about home, more like, but nobody is telling me much.” I said without really thinking, as I focused on not tripping over again. I think tripping over once in front of this guy is enough for today...

“Oh, that doesn’t sound good. S***t going down there, is it?” he questioned, though I didn’t note any judgment in his tone.

I shrugged, not sure if to give him any further information. “It is complicated.”

“That your way of telling me to mind my own business?” he chuckled, and I smiled. “You are brave heading out here on your own then if things are not great back home.”

“Thanks.” I smiled at him again, not even willing to tell him it was a case of needing to get away from there now.

“So, are you excited about the new job then? They have been looking for a new teacher for what seems like forever!” he told me with a smile. “My Mum works there.” he added, as if he felt the need to explain why he knew that.

“Really?” I looked at him in surprise, feeling suddenly bad for being horrible to the son of the woman who would soon be my colleague.

“Yep, good ol’ Mrs Sullivan.” He grinned. “Sure she will be happy to have you there.”

“We will see when I get there, I may be terrible!” I told him with a wry smile, and he gave me a shake of his head, as we crossed over the road from the forest heading toward the main part of the pack. I knew had Marc not helped me it would have taken me forever to find my way here, because I still had no clue how we had got here!

“I highly doubt that, or Alpha Caleb would not have taken you on, they have been pretty fussy. Trust me, I would know, I heard it all from my Mum!” he grinned at me, and I found myself smiling back.

“You are weird.” I told him with a roll of my eyes, and he chuckled.

“Got me sussed.” He suddenly h**d his, arm around my shoulder in what appeared to be a playful gesture, giving me a squeeze, completely taking me by surprise. “And you have known me about ten minutes!”

I looked up at him, curious at what he thought he was doing, when a deep voice from across the road suddenly disturbed us. “Get your hands off her.”

Instantly, Marc’s arm slipped from around my shoulder, and I saw fear cross his handsome features, telling me he knew that voice. He looked at me anxiously before

looking in the direction of the angry sounding voice, as I too looked up, only to be met by the angry stare of Asher. Why the hell was he being like that?

been helping her find her way back to pack.”

“She has only just arrived Marc, I am sure she does not need your womanizing ways interfering with her life.” Asher snapped, and I saw Marc’s face flush, looking guilty. But, despite the fact he may be a ladies’ man, my anger raced that Beta Asher was being so rude towards him, not to mention interfering in who I was talking to... What is it to do with Beta Asher if I choose to talk to him?

“Would that not be my decision, Beta?” I questioned and both their eyes darted to me, a look of surprise on Marc’s face, and one of anger on Asher’s face.

A dark scowl appeared upon Asher’s face as he looked to Marc. He looked like he was ready to kill someone...

“You have been here a matter of days, and you have already found yourself a replacement for the guy you hoped to be your chosen mate that found his fated, I see?” he looked at me as he spoke icily, and his words hit me hard...

I stood in shock at his words while Marc looked at me awkwardly, my whole body was trembling, so desperate to come back with a good argument, but, I needed to get away. I could not believe this nasty f**r could throw such an evil comment at me when he knew how much I had been struggling with the situation with Harley. His kind words after had made me think there was a nice guy inside his tough exterior after all. Ha... Evidently, he wasn’t the nice guy I was starting to think he was.

I didn’t want to be there a moment longer, because I could feel tears pr*g in my eyes, so as fast as I could, I rushed away from the two of them. To hear Marc explaining that he thought the Beta was out of order and that he had simply been helping me find my way back to pack. But I am past caring. I would be staying out of Beta Asher’s way.

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 62

Chapter 62 – Asher

I saw the disgust in Bailey’s eyes at my initial comment, but the disgust soon turned to pain at my sly dig. I don’t even know where it came from... I was awaiting a sarcastic reaction from her like previously before. She seemed good at them, but then I saw the tears building in her eyes and she quickly walked away with no further words.

Marc, one of our pack’s senior warriors, and definitely one of the more popular ones with the ladies, looked at me with disdain. “Was there any need for that?” he snapped, taking me by surprise. “I was simply helping the poor girl back to pack, Beta. She was

lost in the forest. And, going from the look on her face, she looked like she wanted to cry.”

I looked down at my feet momentarily, angry he felt he had any right to talk to me like that. “Well, how was. I to know that?” I snarled.

“What difference would it make to you anyway?” he asked, and I paused. He was right... what difference did it make to me? Absolutely none. If she wanted to get involved with one of our pack’s most eligible bachelors, that would be her look out. I was trying to protect her was all... it had took me by surprise seeing him with his arm around her and thought he was trying it on with her... I was defending her honor the same way I would my sisters if I saw him doing that to one of them...

“I thought you were hitting on her and I was defending her. Warning you off. Giving the poor girl a chance. Same way I would my sisters...” my voice faltered as I saw the way Marc was looking at me. He had his brows raised and he was shaking his head.

“You looked like you wanted to kill me, Beta Asher.” He muttered. “And the way you spoke to her was out of order. If she has lost a mate, be it because he found his fated mate or been rejected or whatever, she did not need it thrown in her face like that.” And suddenly I feel confused. I knew I was being spiteful when I spoke. But I had never intended to hurt her. Yet, I did not need telling my mistakes by a warrior either...

“Thank you for your time Marc.” I said bluntly, moving away from him, because the way I feel right now, and the fact Zion is pushing forward, his presence undulating beneath my skin, means I am so unbelievably close to going for this guy. Likely punching him right on the nose. And, as much pleasure as I may gain from doing that, I don’t think it would prove to Caleb that I was in the right state of mind to continue in my role as Beta. Nor would it help me in proving to Bailey I regretted my behavior... And I don’t think Marc’s Mum would forgive me.

“There is no harm in having mixed feelings for her, you know Beta?” Marc’s voice was speaking once more, but it was suddenly a lot softer, attempting to reassure me, I believe. “Nobody would think badly of you for having feelings for another woman, you know? It is only natural. It has been a long time. since you lost Isla. I know it still hurts. We all still miss her too. But, being alone forever doesn’t have to be the way you live your life.”

looked across at the brother of my lost mate, and I hated him all the more. How dare he imply I had feelings for the new girl. I was simply protecting her from his womanizing ways. He was a asman and always had been. Ever since Isla’s Mum had moved here once her husband had died, to be closer to where Isla had been. To make a fresh start after the loss. Bringing her warrior son with her. Who had worked his way up the ranks to senior warrior he had become quite the hit with the ladies...

“You are f** clueless.” I muttered under my breath. “I thought you were hitting on her.”

“And if I was?” he questioned.

I thought about it and realized it would be none of my business. I simply shrugged. “Thought she ought to be warned.”

He chuckled. “Cheers, bro.” he nudged me with his elbow. “But incidentally, as cute as she may be, I genuinely found her in the forest. She was running away from me. I think I scared the poor little thing, she tripped up. I didn’t know who she was because I didn’t recognize her. When she introduced herself, I realized she likely didn’t know her way back, especially in the heightened state of panic she seemed to be in. My shift was near done, so I offered to walk her back. That was it. Being a gentleman, was all.”

I shook my head at him, surprised he thought she was cute... “Ever the hero, eh Marc?”

“Always. Women love it.” He grinned. “But I do think you owe her an apology, Asher.”

I noticed he was back to calling me by my name and not using my title now, which meant he felt more relaxed, and didn’t see this as being formal...

“I am not good at dealing with people Marc, you know that.” I told him. “Got lumbered with her induction because Alpha and Luna are dealing with pregnancy stuff.”

“I hope you didn’t say it to her quite like that. I can see why she wouldn’t think too highly of you if that was the way you have spoken to her.”

“Thanks again Marc.” I rolled my eyes, as I reached the packhouse.

“No worries. I got to go sign off for the day. But seriously, go. apologize to her. Try to be nicer. And rein in that temper. I don’t think that would kill you... it may kill someone else if you don’t.” he looks at me knowingly. The poor guy who had once been my brother-in-law had been at the end of my temper many a time, yet still acted like a friend. And, despite everything, he had still been there for me once Isla had gone...

I walked through the doors of the packhouse, deciding then I would go and find Bailey. But in making that decision, I was shocked at the churning within my stomach, the nerves at having to go and talk to Bailey. I was the pack Beta, I had to talk to pack members all the time...

‘Well you did f**k up.’ Zion helpfully piped up.

‘Do not start, or I will shut you up again!’ I warned him.

And my delightfully helpful wolf simply chuckled in response, going to curl up in the pit of my mind. Not caring in the slightest that he had irritated me. If anything, I am sure he goes out of his way to do so...

walked through the busy corridors of the pack to the stairway, knowing I was going to have to try hard to allow this new girl to forgive me or else Eden would be on my case forever, and she already found so many excuses as it was. I planned to visit them later, and no doubt she would want to know how her newest pet project was getting on. It would not go down well if told her I had already found a way to upset her and make her cry... I mean that should at least wait a few weeks...right?

'Or you could just stop being a jacka*.'* Zion threw in, making me roll my eyes, knowing, despite the fact he was chilling with the pits of my mind, he was still more than aware of my thoughts.

Ignoring my wolf, I ran up the steps, dashing across the landing to reach the door of Bailey's room. But instead of knocking, I stood there awkwardly looking at the door. Looking down, I noticed my palms were sweaty. Why was I anxious about havin to apologize to some new girl? Yes... I was out of order, I know that, but she was rude to me when all I was trying to do was protect her... I was grumpy, as always, because I hadn't slept... she would understand that, right? F**k this. I don't even know what I would say. I am sure she would get over it.

And, with that, I quickly turned and walked away from her door. She would just have to remain upset with me. I am sure she would rather cry in peace anyway without having to discuss it a with me...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 63

Chapter 63 – Bailey

I had spent the rest of the day alone in my room. The incident with the Beta caused me to feel the need to curl up in bed. I wanted to be alone. I had been struggling with the thought of Harley finding his fated mate. I know it was crazy. It truly felt like I had suffered a major loss... yet he was never mine to lose. Maybe I just allowed myself to get a little too close... and nothing had really happened between us... but I knew feelings were there. They were developing. The promise of a chosen. matebond had meant everything to me. Knowing someone saw me as enough...

And then for Beta Asher to so coldly throw what felt like my loss back in my face when he had seen how much it was hurting me had been difficult. I had wanted to speak to my Mum, but she wasn't answering my calls, her messages in response to my calls told me things were a little hectic in the pack... hmm, yeah, I can only imagine if my Dad and Jordan had gone in there all guns blazing.

But, again, not one of them would update with me any news. When I messaged them to see how things were going, all I got was "All going ok." Or "A work in progress." Or "Don't worry." I mean, come on! Don't worry?! How was a girl meant to not worry when nobody would tell her anything?! Do they not realize how a mind works?!

I have already arranged everything for starting my new job tomorrow. Two or three times over. So, I knew that I was well- prepared. Tomorrow, all my hard work, and dedication (not to mention going against the d**k of a fated mate I was given) to gain my degree came to fruition as I began my first teaching job. I just hoped the kids liked me! I had already had a soak in the bath to relax, but, despite that, and the late hour, I was struggling to settle down.

I decided to go for a walk around the packhouse. See if I could find the library and find a book I could read, as s**y, I had left most of my good books at home. That may help me fall asleep easier, as reading was my go-to thing of a nighttime before bed. I walked slowly down the empty, dimly lit corridors. of the packhouse, finding it quite eerie while it was empty. I tried hard to remember where the library was from when I had my tour, while Akira decided it would be funny to make ghost noises at me in an attempt to scare me.

'Stop. Akira. It is not funny!' I warned her.

'It is every time you jump!' she giggled. 'You sp**k to easily!'

I swear I have the most irritating wolf! Maybe wandering around a dimly lit packhouse I am unfamiliar with was not the greatest idea in the world...

My heart was pounding in my chest as I turned down one of the adjoining corridors, to where I believed the library was. Thankfully, as I pushed the third door I tried open, I found the library, my idea of heaven in a room. Shelves upon shelves of books line the walls. I was not a girl that needed expensive gifts, no... just a new book and I was happy...

I quickly turned the larger light on, and walked into the room, in awe at the many shelves of books. I could spend hours here! I began to look along the shelves, Akira soon losing interest and curling up in the back of my mind, likely for a nap. Reading was definitely my thing and not hers..

slid the ladder which was attached to the shelves to allow access to the higher shelves on the wall further along, so I could climb up to see what was on the higher shelves. I was beginning to wish I had come to explore the library earlier in my spare days...

As I stood at the top of the ladder I could see some good books, and I leaned a little further to be able to reach one, but as I did, the ladder shuddered a little, causing my foot to slip. As my foot slipped, my whole body began to tumble downward in one big jumbled mess. Time seemed to slow as I slipped through the air with no way of stopping myself, as my arms splayed around in panic, knowing what was to come. As I came down with an awfully big thud, as the floor came rushing to meet me.

Thankfully, Akira had been partially alert and had helped me land in such a way that I had landed on my butt rather than my neck or anywhere else that would cause serious

injury, because falling from that high up could have caused some serious injury. But still the pain radiating up my back was not nice...

I sat myself up, rubbing my back. 'Want to do that again?' Akira giggled.

'Piss off.' I grumbled, not appreciating the fact my weird wolf would find it funny I had fallen. She should be trying to help me heal! 'That hurt.'

'Aren't you supposed to land on your feet?' she was still giggling.

'Pretty sure that is a cat. Now shut up, you are not funny. My back is killing.' I complain, as I rub where my back hurts.

'Be glad I helped, or else you'd likely have had a sore head

Instead. Akira said smugly. 'Diss, I hate my wolf sometimes.'

Suddenly, the library door opened, making me jump, and my eyes darted toward it in shock. Who would that be at this time of night?

Beta Asher rushed in, looking concerned. "Oh it is you!" he said, bluntly. Before he appeared to be taking in that I was on the floor, surrounded by a number of books. "Are you okay?"

"Yep. All good." I muttered.

'Is he just dissing?' Akira joined in for good measure now. Just what I needed. 'Surely he can see you are hurt?'

I decided to ignore her. Not needing her input right now.

He suddenly walked over to me. "Did you fall, Bailey? I heard a loud bang." I saw him looking at the ladder, then down to me.

I raised my brows at him and gave him a sarcastic half smile, as if to tell him to work it out himself. Surely he wasn't that dissing, was she?

"Why are you in here at this time of night? And for that matter, why are you climbing a ladder with socks on?" he said in the most patronizing tone ever, leaning down to try to help me up, offering me his hand, which I ignored. Yes, I knew it hadn't been the smartest idea in the world attempting to climb the ladder in the slipper socks I had on my feet, but there were books up there... books I wanted to see... books that I may want to read... and I didn't have shoes with me, as I had decided to leave my room in my PJs and slipper socks, so I made do with what I had. I may be regretting it now...

Akira says suddenly, and I have to ty

Though, I have to say her idea is not a bad one...

"I am fine. You can go now." I dismissed him.

"I don't think you are. You have just fallen. How far up the ladder were you?" He asked questions, literally pushing his hand into mine to help me up.

I saw no option but to accept his assistance, and take his help to stand up, feeling a little unsteady on my feet, almost falling over. "Woah." Beta Asher instantly hooked his arm around my waist. "Right, come and sit down on the sofa." He helped me walk to one of the many sofas within the library.

He softly helped me sit down, before sitting down next to me, and I could now feel his eyes looking at me. I felt uncomfortable under his gaze, yet I slowly raised my eyes to meet his. "I am fine." I told him with a slow shake of my head.

"It looked like it." He smiled, a tight and forced smile. "But, seriously, how far up the ladder were you?"

"The top."

"Shit, Bailey. Maybe I should get you checked at the hospital." he mumbled.

"I didn't hit my head. Stop stressing. I am still alive. You don't get rid of me that easily." I glared at him, and he was smirking.

"Well, if you had died like that, at least Eden couldn't have blamed that one on me." He said with a sarcastic smile.

hot."

"he questioned now, and I

ch only drew my attention to :hed into two fists. "I am he asked softly.

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 64

Chapter 64 – Asher

I had been doing my usual nightly patrol of the packhouse when there had been one hell of a clatter and thud from one of the rooms down the corridor, causing me to go and investigate. There should be nobody in the rooms, so I was on the

defensive. But the moment I approached the room I could smell Bailey's smell. What on earth was she doing up and down here at this time of the night?

“Never mind that you b**d. Is she okay? What was the bang?” Zion added bluntly, and I realized he likely had a point, so I quickly opened the door.

As I glanced around the room, my eyes instantly found her, sitting on the floor. Dressed in her pajamas, and her hair a mane of big brown curls, so different to the tamed straightened hair I had seen her with since she had arrived. As her eyes met mine, she did not seem pleased to see me. And her attitude proved much the same.

“Oh it is you!” I said to her, so she realized I had been wondering who the hell had been wandering around the packhouse this f**g late at night, disturbing what I was doing. Though as I looked at her, she looked in discomfort and was surrounded by a number of books, which looked like she had dropped them. “Are you okay?” I added, wondering if she had hurt herself.

“Yep. All good.” she muttered. Of course, she was. She wouldn’t admit it if she wasn’t, would she?

I quickly walked over to where she sat, needing to check she was okay. If she had fallen, she could have hurt herself. “Did you fall, Bailey? I heard a loud bang.” I asked before looking up at the nearby ladder, and back down to her sitting on the floor, her face grimacing in pain. Had she been on the ladder? Surely she wasn’t that silly?

Then she simply raised her perfectly shaped brows at me and gave me a sarcastic, barely there smile. What the hell was I supposed to decipher from that? wasn’t a f**g mind reader! I wanted to know if she had hurt herself, not if she was annoyed at me... G**d d*it s*e was infuriating!

“Why are you in here at this time of night?” I asked her, completely confused as to why she isn’t tucked up in bed ready for starting her new job tomorrow. “And for that matter, why are you climbing a ladder with socks on?” I added, desperately wanting an answer to why she would be so irresponsible as to try to climb a ladder in socks. Wasn’t she supposed to be clever? Common sense would tell you attempting to climb a ladder in socks would be a bad idea, wouldn’t it? I offered Bailey my hand to help her up, but her being stubborn seemed to ignore me. Eurgh...

“I am fine. You can go now.” Bailey told me coldly, with a dirty look. Wow. I am trying to help her, and I get a dirty look. And to be fair, she doesn’t look fine. She looked in pain and far from fine...

“I don’t think you are. You have just fallen. How far up the ladder were you?” I asked again, this time not giving her an option, I pushed my hand into hers, to ensure she had help in getting up.

Her hand clenched around mine, though I had a feeling it was more because she felt she had no choice with my literally

and she pelted herself up. Yet, the

but a little, and she stumbled

went to steady her, not wanting her to fall

and I wrapped my arm around her waist to steady

myself. The scent of c**n**t from her Biding thy senses as I was that close to her. "Right, come and sit down on the sofa" I walked her to one of the sofas, and with shaky legs she sat down, and I joined her.

Sitting alongside one another, feeling more than a little uncomfortable, I looked at her, trying to see if she had hurt herself, also a little intrigued by how different she looked with her natural hair. Why she would spend ages taming her curls I didn't know, not when the curls were quite beautiful...

Bailey's eyes moved to meet mine. "I am fine." She dismissed me with a slow shake of her head.

"It looked like it." I said with an uncomfortable smile. "But, seriously, how far up the ladder were you?"

"The top."

"Shit, Bailey Maybe I should get you checked at the hospital." I found myself mumbling, genuinely worried about her now. That was quite a distance to fall.

"I didn't hit my head. Stop stressing. I am still alive. You don't get rid of me that easily." She said to me, with quite the dirty look upon her face, yet I cannot help but smirk at her. She is a sarcastic little thing when she wants to be.

"Well, if you had died like that at least Eden couldn't have

blamed that one on me." I couldn't help but say with a sarcastic smile.

Bailey is looking at me, but simply shakes her head, her curls bouncing as she does. "I guess not."

While I looked at her, I couldn't help but ask again. "Why are you down here this late?"

With a shrug, she answered bluntly. "I couldn't sleep."

Hearing those words makes me wonder if the incident earlier was to blame? I knew she was struggling with the issue with the guy finding his fated mate and I had been a bit harsh about it. all... I found myself clenching my fists in anxiety. I had likely been out of

order... she didn't deserve me being like that earlier... I can't help but wonder if her mind was struggling to settle because of my actions... I guess that would be understandable...

"I am guessing that could be my fault?" I asked quietly, and I saw her looking at me with raised brows.

"What would make you think that?" she says, leaning against the arm of the sofa, wincing slightly as she does, telling me she had hurt herself more than she had let on as she had fallen.

"Because I was out of order earlier, and I should not have said what I did." I said, the words painfully slow to come from my mouth, as I avoided her gaze. I hated admitting I was in the wrong, but in this instance, there was no denying it, I knew that.

"You found that hard, huh?" she tapped my foot gently with her foot, as if she was teasing.

My gaze met hers. But I found no criticism in those big brown. eyes of hers. Just warmth. Friendliness. "I am not good with. people, Bailey. I haven't been since I lost my mate." I said quietly, surprising myself at my honesty.

She nodded. "I think I can understand that. Losing your mate can be the hardest thing in the world. I don't think it would be unreasonable for it to make you feel like you hate the world."

Her words shock me. She didn't seem to be judging me, she seemed to be genuinely open to understanding how this had been for me. "It likely shouldn't have been when I had barely had chance for the bond to form..." I muttered quietly, something I barely mentioned to anyone, something that I struggled with constantly. Isla had barely been mine. Our matebond was barely established, not developed. But losing her felt like it had shredded my whole heart and soul apart. I probably wasn't suffering like someone who had lost their fated mate of decades. But I felt like I had my heart ripped out...

I felt Bailey's eyes upon me. "A matebond is a matebond. I don't think time can alter the feelings when your souls were tied together. Fated to be together. It is difficult to lose who was meant to be your other half." She says gently, before looking down at her hands. I can't help but wonder how she must feel then... if her fated mate did not want her and then the man she had chosen had now found his own fated, and taken the path fate planed for him, leaving her alone once more...

I looked across at her, and I saw her chewing her lower lip deep in thought, before she glanced at me. "I think I will go to my room again now." She said quietly, making me wonder if she too had been thinking about the same thing.

“Will you be okay?” I asked, worried about her, not only with the fact she had fallen, but now with how she must be feeling too.

“I always am.” She said with a quick nod, before quickly moving away from me, leaving me to watch her walk away...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 65

Chapter 65-Jordan

Life at home could not be more perfect. Waking up to the most beautiful of mates each and every day was sheer heaven. Wearing her mark upon my neck, showing the world that I was hers... and her wearing mine, to show the world she was mine... made for one another. I would happily spend every day in our new home. But, things within the pack were unsettled.

News had spread that Miles had been sent away. Sent to treatment for his anger as well as for additional training, for if he were to become Alpha. Though the official line for pack members is that he is gaining additional Alpha training. Wanting to be the best Alpha he can be... Ha.

I don't think there was a good Alpha in him anymore. I am not certain there ever was. It was only in recent weeks I had seen the truth. And the clearer it had become. How I had never seen it before, I honestly don't know. I think perhaps a small part of me was swept away by it all... in him... in his power... the aura of him... he certainly had that ability. So many of our pack idolized him.

Power had gone to his head. And it had changed him for the worse. Thankfully, my Uncle, our current Alpha, had listened to all we had to say, though I do think the fact his own son, Miles's brother, being there had helped massively. He had gone home, thought it all through, spoken about it all with his wife and come back to discuss it all with us. They had decided Miles needed to seek treatment. Saying his anger was out of control.

While I agree, to some degree, in my opinion, that has always been an issue. And, I am not sure if I could ever see that changing. I think the power of being an Alpha was what fed the anger and nastiness within him. But, they wanted him to gain this treatment and seek a mate.

Oddly, my Uncle had even asked my Dad if he thought Bailey would consider returning home to take Miles as her fated mate like fate had planned. Saying she was made for Miles. That they could be perfect to run the pack together.

Desperately trying to convince my Dad how wonderful it could be to have their children mated... My Mum had told me all hell had broken loose, and my Dad was ready to kill my Uncle when he suggested that.

So, needless to say, that idea was quickly scrapped, which was definitely for the better. And there would have been no way in hell that Bailey would have agreed to that anyway... I thought when Alpha Marshall had mentioned it in the office he would have realized it was a no-go. But, evidently not.

So, they had decided Miles would be seeking a chosen mate, and all I could say, was goddess help any woman mated to him. For he did not know how to think of anyone but himself.

And he did not do being faithful. I knew from the many times he had a girlfriend through the years, he would still go out and seek women to hook up with on the side. So, if my Aunt and Uncle truly thought finding a mate would settle him down, they were mistaken I think...

I had been summoned to the office by my Uncle, so I had left my mate at home, and was walking through the pack now. The early morning sunshine did nothing to brighten my mood. I was sure the pack members knew something was not right within the pack, but were too afraid to ask.

As I crossed the road, Ellis came into view. I knew he too was settling into life with his new 11.00 2 Vouchers mate, and he seemed happy, as I did. Strange how meeting your fated mate can have such an impact on you.

Yet, having met Gia and experiencing this myself, this puzzled me, as discovering Bailey was his mate had never changed Miles, not in the slightest...

“Hey Jordan!”

Ellis greeted me with a smile. “Hey.”

“You off to the packhouse?” he asked, and I nodded in agreement. “You?” He shook his head. “No, off to say bye to my Mum. Going to Alpha training.” He rolled his eyes, like he thought it was such an inconvenience, though in some ways I imagine it would be, because it would take him away from his new mate.

I raised my brows at him, this was new information. Did this mean they were now preparing for the likelihood Miles would not be a suitable Alpha after all? “Alpha training?” I asked, trying to sound nonchalant. He nodded.

“Think it is a precaution they want to take. They need to have a capable Alpha to take my Dad’s place, and right now, Miles is not it, and while I could to some degree, they want me to take the official training.” He said with a shrug, like it is nothing. But this is not nothing, this is huge.

This is the second son, potentially taking the title from the first son... the next in line... The heir... Miles would go batshit crazy if he learned of this... “So, you are going to be

the next Alpha?" I asked, once again 11.09 1 288 Vouchers trying to sound as if I was making everyday conversation, not asking such a huge question.

A question that could alter the future for him, my best friend and me... "Not a f@cking clue, but the fact Miles is being a jackass in treatment, it is looking more likely, I would guess." He shrugged again, like he wasn't bothered.

It was fine for him. For me, this could mean the difference between my future role as Beta. A role that I have trained for for years, to suddenly being nothing but a standard pack member... "His treatment isn't going to plan then, I guess?" I asked, though I have to say I am not surprised.

He was taken there nigh on kicking and screaming, so the fact he was fighting the treatment now he was there did not surprise me in the slightest.

Ellis shook his head. "Couldn't be further from going to plan. Fighting it with everything he has got. But, that is Miles, isn't it? He is there and that is what we need." I rolled my eyes. "No, what we need is him actually doing the treatment."

"He has always been this way J, you know that. I don't think there is any fixing him. Maybe calming him a little. Finding him the mate my Mum and Dad want, pop a few pups out, and he should be okay."

"Are you having a laugh?" I exclaimed in shock. "Pop a few pups out?! You would curse a child to having him as their Dad with the way he can be right now?"

Especially when he is likely to be cheating on his mate, as he has yet to find a girl he can stay faithful to." Ellis stood looking at me with his eyes wide, like he was not expecting my outburst, but I didn't care.

It sounded like he was as deluded as his parents if this was what he believed. "We need to give him some hope J." "No, Ellis, he needs help first.

Hope comes later." I said, walking away before I end up saying something I regret.

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 66

Chapter 66 – Asher

After what can only be considered very little sleep once again, I was awake. Though my lack of sleep had not been purely down to my recurrent thoughts of Isla. Reliving the pain of losing her. Last night my thoughts had been riddled with concerns about Bailey too. Something that had taken me by surprise, I have to say...

But, she had looked hurt when she walked away from me in the library. I still never got my answer as to why she was down there so late. Other than that, she couldn't sleep.

Hell, I know that feeling, but still, surely she wouldn't come wandering the corridors of somewhere she is still unfamiliar with. But, I suppose, common sense tells me the obvious answer would be to find a book, but I hate the thought of her sitting alone struggling with her thoughts because of something I had said in the heat of the moment. And, for some reason, I could not shake the thought that that was what she was likely doing.

Yes, I was a jacka** at the best of times, but I would like to think I was still a decent guy deep down. Sometimes, you have to dig pretty deep to find the decent guy, because he got hidden or lost in the s***t that was going on in the mess that was my mind, but I like to think he is still there or still capable of being there when I need him to be. And, I do not like the thought of a perfectly innocent woman hurting because of my words.

That is not how I was brought up, and that was not the sort of guy I wanted to be either. Nor did I want Bailey thinking that of me. She had been here a matter of days, and already her opinion of me was probably already scraping the barrel. Can't say I was doing well...

I still hadn't apologized to her properly last night either. It had been a half-a**d attempt at an apology, but she had rushed. out before I managed to finish, so I planned to find her at some point today and apologize properly. That was the right thing to do. No matter how difficult that might be for me.

"Wow. Personal growth.' Zion chuckled to himself as I got dressed, and my thoughts were running through my mind.

"Seriously man, do not start with me today.' I rolled my eyes, my bl**dy wolf was dead set on giving me a hard time! And I hadn't. even had my coffee yet...

"Well, the poor girl deserves an apology.' He told me, and I know. I done bad if my wolf, the animalistic side of me, was telling me right from wrong...

I walked out of my suite, and onto the landing, looking around to see if I could see Bailey, knowing that she, may well be around early too, heading out for her first day at her new job. I had even contemplated calling for her to go to breakfast together, but then reconsidered, thinking it would maybe look a little.

presumptuous, not to mention a little over-friendly. And, I don't think she considers us friends.

I noticed with slight disappointment, there was no sight of her, so instead of going to the dining hall for my coffee, I figured I would make my way to the office instead and grab a coffee there, before going to the hospital to see how Eden was doing. Hopefully that little one would decide it was cooked enough and hop right on out of its mama's belly, so his Daddy could get back to work, because all this extra work was beginning to take its toll on my poor brain. Not that would ever tell Caleb that, he didn't need the additional

stress. knew he was worried enough about Eden and the little one, without being made to feel guilty about piling the additional workload on me.

I reached my office quickly, doing my best to avoid any interaction with the many pack members beginning to arrive. The corridors beginning to become busier as more pack members made their way to the dining hall, and to various other areas of the packhouse that were used during the day. Such a stark difference to the eerie silence of the nighttime. Though, I have to say it was a peace I craved by the end of the day...

I softly closed my door behind me, moving straight to my coffee machine, glad that supplies had been topped up. As I began to make my coffee, my phone began to ring, and I answered.

“Hey Ash” Eden greeted me cheerfully.

“Good morning Eden.” I smiled. “How are you doing sweetheart?”

“Still fat. Still uncomfortable. Still pregnant. Thanks for asking.” She grumbled. “You?”

“Erm, would you hate me if I said not fat, not uncomfortable, not pregnant?” I teased.

I heard her almost hiss down the phone at me, only making me laugh, telling me my teasing had worked. She was always so easy to wind up, and had brought a lot of amusement to Caleb and me over the years. “Not uncomfortable?” she questioned. “Aren’t you uncomfortable in most situations that involve other people?” she said sarcastically, and I cannot help but smile, as she got me good on that one.

“Haha.” I responded. “Difference is Eden, I am on my own right. now, enjoying my morning coffee. So not uncomfortable in the slightest.”

*Asher Alcott! I will come over there, albeit I will have to waddle to get there and kick your a** Why are you not at the school?” Eden yelled down the phone at me. Was I supposed to be at the school?

“Huh?” I answered in confusion.

“Bailey begins her new job today, and you are sitting on your sorry behind in your office enjoying one of your luxury coffees, feeling far from uncomfortable.” Eden snarled down the phone at me, and at that moment I truly wish I hadn’t even bothered answering my phone to her... she gave me more of a hard time than my own mother!

“And why does the fact she starts her job mean I need to be at school?” I asked. “I know you like to think I am***d, but I am pretty sure I am past needing teaching.”

Eden made the hissing noise again, making me seriously wonder if she was not the werewolf she was meant to be, and perhaps a snake or a cat... because that hissing

sure sounded along those lines... "Because the decent thing for her new employers would be to be there to greet her."

"Didn't I do that when I stayed up until s**id o'clock to greet her and her far too happy Daddy?" I asked sarcastically, only to be answered with a snarl from Eden, which told me all I needed to know. It also told me where I would be spending my morning...

G***d d****t. Seemed I was heading to the school to pretend to be cheerful again, and welcome Bailey into her new job... sure she would be over the moon to see me!