

Chapter 136

We didn't go for a walk. We got in his truck and took off down the street.

"Are you hungry?". He asked.

"Not really".

"Can I take you for coffee then?".

"I guess". My stomach was in knots. Carter wasn't being Carter. Something was off.

"Starbucks?".

A sigh fell from my lips. "Is it gran?". I asked.

I hadn't heard from her since Saturday and I thought maybe she had reached out to him. Carter and I were always so close when we were growing up.

That was until he turned into a wolf.

"Is what gran?".

"Why are you taking me for coffee?".

"A catch up bear. Want to make sure you're doing okay".

"You're a real bad liar". I crossed my arms over my chest, diverting my gaze. He was hidingac something.

A laugh fell from his lips. "I do need to talk to you but there's no rush. I thought getting you out and about for some fresh air would be good".

During my heat?

I went with it, and didn't ask anymore questions. We went through the drive-thru but instead of heading back home he pulled into a parking space and cut the engine.

"How has it been?".

"Do you really want to hear about my heat?". I took a sip of my iced coffee. "Because I'd much rather not talk about it and especially not with you".

"Not your heat bear. I heard about everything that happened. Jake can be a right asshole at times".

I couldn't argue with that but I wanted to know how he knew. Another thing that pissed me off was everyone always knew our business. Nothing was ever sacred. If Jake and I were arguing everyone knew about it.

"Did he tell you?".

"Alanna did".

I sighed. "Of course, she did. Do you know sometimes I feel like I'm in a relationship with his whole family".

"Have you told them to back off?".

"No".

"Maybe start there".

"Just like that?". I grinned.

He shrugged. "It's the only way they'll stop. Jake is like a ticking time bomb. They're probably scared you up and leave".

"I've been tempted a few times".

"I don't blame you".

"It's not all flowers and rainbows. It's hard at times especially when he struggles to control his temper".

"Man up".

I almost choked on my coffee. Did he just tell me to man up?

"You're just as powerful as him. Having you with him makes him stronger. Next time he fucks up do something about it".

"Like what?".

"I'm sure you'll think of something".

"Are you going to tell me what's going on?". I asked.

"My dad wants me to go home".

My stomach knotted. I knew this was coming. He refused the first time but I knew it was only a matter of time before his Beta status kicked in.

"You have to take up your role, don't you?".

"Something like that". He shrugged.

"And Alanna?".

"She's not happy about leaving her family but she's on board with it".

They were leaving.

I would have no family here if Carter leaves.

"So, you've already made up your mind".

I would never beg him to stay. He had a duty to his pack and sadly his pack wasn't this one. He was second in command, a fighter, a leader and he wasn't getting that here.

Here he was just a wolf.

"I can't leave until I know you're happy and settled. I know you've had a rough time but I need to know you'll be okay".

"I'm always okay".

"But are you happy?".

"I'm happy".

"Bear".

"You're right it has been tough. The shit I had to put up with and deal with over the last 6 months hasn't been the best but I done it. I know this is where I'm supposed to be. Jake and I have a

long way to go before we're perfect but I'm happy with where we're at right now".

"Promise me something?"

"What?"

"Next time he fucks up you lay his ass out".

A laugh fell from my lips as he started the engine. "I swear".

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It hadn't sunk in that Carter and Alanna were leaving. Not for another month right enough but still it was big news.

I would have no one to vent too anymore. Alanna was my first friend here and yes; I was sad that she was leaving.

"Babe, you ready?". He walked into our bedroom suited and booted.

He sure was handsome.

"You scrub up nice". I teased.

We had been summoned for dinner at yet another fancy restaurant. His parent's idea of course. They wanted to celebrate our bond seeing as the party Charlotte threw was a dud.

"I'm a lucky guy". He smirked. "You're beautiful baby".

Uncomfortable was what I was. Although I was in love with the dress that I had on. A gift from his mom. She insisted I wear it tonight so I did.

"I hate fancy places".

"It's one little dinner, we can skip out early".

"It's a dinner for us. We can't leave early". I grabbed my purse and put my phone inside. "Besides your mom would kill us both".

"I have something for you".

The butterflies erupted in my stomach as he slipped his arm around my waist. Our bond was strong. The feelings we held for each other were deeper, they meant more somehow.

Everything felt different but a good different.

"I feel it too". He whispered against my neck.

"It's different". My voice barely a whisper I could feel how fast my heart was beating. If he stayed this close, we weren't making it to dinner.

"Better". He kissed my neck his hands sliding up and down my sides.

We couldn't.

"Jake"...

A sigh fell from his lips, his hands resting on my hips. "I can't help that I want you all the fucking time".

I wanted him too but tonight was important. I wasn't big on the idea but we couldn't not go. I wouldn't disappoint his mom like that.

"I want you too". My eyes connected with his. "But we have to go or we'll be late".

"Then let's be late". He smirked.

"Later". I smiled.

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My mouth fell open as we stepped outside.

A stretched limo.

"Wow". I hadn't been in a limo before.

"She's pulled out the big guns for tonight". He took my hand in his and lead me down the driveway.

"Is this all because we completed our bond?". I knew it was important but a stretched limo?

"How about we just enjoy it?".

He was right. I deserved this. The shit he put me through, the shit I had to go through. Never mind a limo I deserved a medal for putting up with his ass.

"Okay".

She had sent a limo just for us.

I felt weird.

This type of car screamed attention and that wasn't me. I tried to sit back and enjoy it but I couldn't seem to relax. I felt a little uneasy.

"Leah".

"Hm?".

"It's just a car baby".

"I know".

"You don't like being in here, do you?".

"Not used to things like this".

"Would you rather I took you in my truck?".

A laugh fell from my lips. "Could you imagine your moms face. Fancy things aren't me".

"So, should I return this?". He produced a blue box.

A tiffany box.

My mouth became dry.

Of course, the first thing that popped into my head was an engagement ring.

Was I ready for that?

"Jake I...".

"Before you start overthinking and freaking out it's a promise ring".

My body relaxed.

I could handle a promise ring. I hadn't had a promise ring since Tommy. But this was different, I knew this ring meant everything and one day it would turn into an engagement ring.

He opened the box.

It was beautiful. Rose gold with round crystals or diamonds. I couldn't tell the difference but it looked expensive and probably too expensive for my finger.

"It's beautiful". I was in awe.

"Put it on".

"It looks expensive and I...".

"It's yours to wear, put it on".

That was me told.

I didn't argue or try and come up with any more excuses not to wear it. He bought it for me, chose it for me. I took it from the box but hesitated. What finger was I to put it on?

"Right ring finger".

"Right". Of course, I mean it wasn't an engagement ring.

Did I want it to be an engagement ring?

"Your left ring finger will bare nothing but your wedding ring princess".

Right because one day I will become his wife.

I lay my head against his shoulder placing a kiss on his cheek.

"One day". I whispered.