

Chapter 172

I turned around. I made it as far as the gas station on the edge of town before I realised going to the cabin on my own without telling anyone was more hassle than what it's worth.

It was late and I was exhausted, but tonight kept playing over and over in my head. Charlotte kicked us out, Jake hadn't returned home, and I was itching to know what his dad meant.

Why was he keeping me in the dark instead of teaching me to become a strong wolf?

A sigh fell from my lips as I turned my attention back to the road. I loved how peaceful it was at this time. No traffic, no noise just silence. Turning into our street I once again drove by Jake's parents' house.

The light was still on.

I drove round the block one more time before pulling into their driveway. Turning off the engine I unbuckled my seatbelt but didn't get out. I sat for what felt like hours before deciding this was a bad idea.

I didn't want to cause anymore hiccups between him and his family. I didn't want him to think I went behind his back.

As I clipped my seatbelt back into place the porch light came on and the front door opened.

His mom appeared.

Shit.

It's not like I could drive off now. As she reached my car, I rolled down my window.

"It's late Leah is everything okay?".

"He hasn't come home".

"Come inside and I'llac make some tea".

"I should go home". I chewed the inside of my cheek. Me being here was only going to make this whole situation worse. "It's late and I'm tired".

"Come inside you can stay the night".

"It's better if I go home". I gave her a small smile. "But can I come by tomorrow?"

"I'd feel better if you stay here. Jake isn't home and I don't want you in that big house all on your own".

"I'll be fine I'm just going to go to bed".

"How about we go for breakfast tomorrow?". She suggested.

"Yeah". I smiled. "I'd like that and about tonight I'm sorry".

"Forget about it honey. I only kicked you out because I didn't want Jake and his dad shifting in the house. The mess and the clear up is brutal. You go on home, and I'll see you in the morning".

"Good night, Charlotte".

He still wasn't home but at this point I expected as much. I locked all the doors before heading upstairs and getting ready for bed.

I was fast asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

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I never once woke through the night. I didn't feel him come to bed; I never heard a thing. So, when I woke in the morning, and he was wrapped around me I fought with myself not to snuggle closer and fall back asleep.

I was annoyed at him. Pissed off that he left me alone all night. But it was still early, and I didn't want to get up yet so instead of getting out the bed I manoeuvred myself away from him by rolling onto my side.

"Babe". He whispered.

I chose to ignore him. Hopefully, he'll think I'm still sleeping and leave me be. Now wasn't the time for a conversation not when I only went to bed a few hours ago.

I wanted to sleep. I wanted to sleep until I didn't feel tired anymore. I was sick of always being exhausted.

"Leah". He lightly shoved my arm with his hand.

Again, I ignored him and again he shoved my arm.

"Stop". I groaned.

"We need to talk Leah".

"You want to talk?". I sat up switching the bedside light on so I could see his face. "I waited all night to talk, and you want to do it now?".

"I should have come home earlier". He spoke.

"Yeah, you should have because now I don't feel like talking". I pushed the covers off and got out of bed. "I'm going to sleep in the spare room. Do not follow me". I slammed the door shut behind me.

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I didnt check the caller ID before I answered. My phone had been vibrating for the last 10 minutes.

"Hello?". I was still half asleep.

"You really not going to come say goodbye to your favourite cousin?".

Shit.

I jumped out of bed pulling my phone away from my ear so I could check the time. It was almost noon. Why did I go back to sleep? How could I have forgotten they were leaving today and more importantly why didn't Jake wake me.

"I'm sorry I overslept. Please don't leave without seeing me". I felt the lump appear in the back of my throat. This was real. He was leaving, going back home, leaving me here.

He chuckled. "Everyone's meeting at 1. You've got an hour to get your ass over here".

"Over where?". I asked.

"Your old house dummy".

"Hey". I frowned. "Less of the dummy".

"I'll see you soon". And then he hung up.

I wasn't sure if Jake was here, but I had an hour and first things first. I needed coffee. As I expected he wasn't home. I went about making some coffee and a late breakfast.

I was in two minds whether to call him or not, but I did it anyway. I put

it on speaker while I buttered cream cheese onto my bagel.

"Are you calling for an argument?"

I frowned. I didn't like his tone. He sounded pissed off and if anything, I should be the one with an attitude today not him.

"Leah I'm busy here. Are you okay?"

"Busy doing what? Where are you?". I knew he wasn't alone I could hear muffled voices.

"Securing the territory. Some fences came down last night".

"Okay". I wasn't sure what else to say. Another thing he'll probably keep me in the dark about.

"We'll talk later I promise but I have to go". He hung up.

What was it with people hanging up on me today?

I sat at the table eating my bagel and drinking my coffee when there was a knock on the front door before Alanna appeared. She looked like she'd been crying. Her eyes all red and puffy.

"Are you okay?". I frowned.

"Just sad". She whispered.

She was making a huge sacrifice. I don't blame her for being sad that she was leaving. This was her home and had been for many years.

"Having second thoughts?"

She shook her head. "No just sad to be leaving. I've lived here all my life; this is my home and I'm going to miss it".

"It'll always be your home Alanna".

"I'm terrified I'll hate it". She poured herself some coffee before sitting opposite me. "I have this fear that no one will like me and that I'll not fit in".

"Moving to a new placeem is scary. I was terrified and look at me now". I smiled. "Shacked up with the Alpha carrying his child".

"Did you have a fight?". She asked.

"Not yet".

"What happened?"

"It's not what happened it's what doesn't happen. He never tells me anything and then last night at your parents. Your mom kicked us out".

"No". She gasped. "My mom?"

"I don't feel connected to my wolf. I can count on one hand how many times I've shifted. I don't get why he won't teach me".

"The dreaded shift". She spoke.

"The what?"

"For you to feel truly connected to your wolf you have to shift and let her take control. Then it's all about how you handle the shift, the communication and of course gaining back control".

Why was I only learning about this now?

"And how do I do that?"

"You shift and let her take control".

"Well, I know that, but will I know if she's taken control?"

"You'll know. It's hard to explain but you'll know".

"Why doesn't he tell me anything?". I asked.

"Honestly I think he's scared".

"Scared of what?"

"In case you can't gain back control. You should talk to him. Make him listen and make him see you need this to happen".

"But I do need this to happen. I'm a werewolf just like the rest of you and yet he treats me like I'm some fragile little doll that can't take care of myself. I'm sick of it. I'm sick of feeling left out, I'm sick of feeling like I don't belong. Sometimes I wish I was still back home".

I don't know where that came from, but I felt better for saying it.

"You need to talk to him and tell him how you feel. If you're not happy then tell him".

"It's not that". I sighed. "I just want to be able to know things and understand what's going on. I want to feel like I'm part of the pack. He's

all I have and yet sometimes I don't feel like I have him at all".

"Don't say that". She reached over placing her hand on top of mine.

"Your family".

I shrugged. "I'm going to get ready for your leaving party. I'll see you over there".

"With bells on". She grinned.

I decided to put everything to the back of my mind. I wasn't going to cause a scene and ruin Carter and Alanna's day. Today was their last day and I was going to send them off with the biggest smile on my face.

My drama could wait till later.