

## Chapter 181

I didn't want to get up. I could hear the shower running so I knew Jake was awake. I didn't get to sleep till late because my mind wouldn't shut off. I had all the time in the world to think.

No distractions. Nothing to focus on other than my thoughts. Everything running around in my head over and over again.

Could I have done something different? Was I to blame for the loss of our child?

I woke up sad, I already knew today wasn't going to be a good day. I didn't want to be sad, I wanted to push past this and move on, but I couldn't. I couldn't stop the guilt.

The constant reminder that I wasn't pregnant anymore.

"Morning baby. I made you coffee". He nodded towards my bedside drawer.

There he was. Wet from the shower, a towel hung around his waist. He only wanted to be there for me, to look after me and yet every fiber in my body wanted to push him away.

In my mind dealing with this on my own was the only way through. But I promised I wouldn't shut him out. I promised myself I'd lean on him whenever I needed to. I know deep down I needed him more than anything right now.

And yet I still wanted to do it alone because it was my trauma.

"Leah are you okay?".

"I feel sad". I spoke. "I want to push you away so bad and deal with this on my own but...".

"Hey". His voice soft he sat on the edge of the bed. "It's okay to feel sad, it's okay to cry, to be angry, to scream through the pain. But I won't sit back and let you go through this on your own".

I didn't want today to go like this. I wanted to wake up positive, be productive, go out for breakfast with my friends. I wanted today to be the start of something fresh. I would never forget but a line had to be

drawn so I could move on and yet I couldn't get myself out of bed.

I guess today wasn't that day.

"Why did it have to happen to me, to us?". I whispered.

"That's a question I don't have an answer to baby".

No one had an answer, things in life happen, cruel things that we have no control over. We just have to deal with it and move forward.

"I wish I could take all your pain and suffering away Leah". As he moved closer to me, he took both my hands in his. "I'm here, I'm always here, please don't shut me out through this".

I was never going to. As much as I wanted to I never would. This pain I felt was as much mine as it was his. Sometimes I forget that he has feelings just like I do. We all know Jake doesn't share his feelings but deep down they are there.

He just hides them better than I do.

"I'm just having a really tough time right now".

"Baby it's only been three days since-...".

"Don't say it". I whispered. "Please don't say it". I was trying my hardest not to cry. The lump was already forming in my throat, the tears filling in my eyes. I know I had a miscarriage; I know I was no longer pregnant, but I wasn't ready to hear those words yet.

"Okay, okay". Bringing my hands to his mouth he pressed his lips against my fingers. "Whatever you need, whatever you want just let me know".

...

I showered and changed into something other than pjs. I cried my heart out, broke down but surprisingly I felt better. So much so I wanted to go for breakfast with my friends.

I couldn't keep myself locked away in my room. What good would that do? Isolating myself wasn't going to make anything better. Deep down I knew bottling everything up wasn't the way to deal with this.

I applied some lip gloss to my lips and sprayed a little perfume over my neck. It wasn't a crime to want to look good or make myself feel better.

I slipped my arms into my leather jacket and grabbed my black boots from the closet before heading downstairs.

Jake didn't know I had changed my mind about going for breakfast. His frown clear he smiled once his eyes reached mine.

"I think I want to go for breakfast". I spoke.

"Do you want me to drive you?". He asked.

I nodded. "I can catch a ride back with Alanna".

"Or I can come pick you up and we can drive to the cabin for the night?".

If none of this happened that's where we would be right now. Enjoying the peace and quiet. Enjoying spending time together but right now I wasn't sure the peace and quiet would do me any good.

I didn't like the downtime because it gave me time to think. It left me alone with my thoughts and my thoughts now were full of guilt.

Anger was still to come. I just wasn't sure when that was going to happen. Or spending time just us was exactly what I needed. Time for us to heal together.

My head was scrambled, I was sick of having these arguments with myself. Instead of thinking about it so much I should just do it.

"Yeah". I smiled. "I'd like that, but can we maybe try and get me a new phone?".

"Your phones in the drawer by the nightstand in our room".

It was?

"I had to get a new screen fitted but it still works. You may need to charge it up though".

Why was he just telling me this now? I wasn't a person who was obsessed with my phone, but I still liked to have it with me.

"I just assumed it was broken". I shrugged.

I wasn't going to make a big deal out of him not telling me he had my phone.

"Where are you going for breakfast?".

"Not sure". I frowned. "We didn't really pick a place. Could I use your phone to call her?"

"Sure, do you want some tea?"

"Coffee please". I took the phone from him and dialed her number.

"You never call me unless I've done something wrong". She answered with.

Oh.

I stifled my laugh. "It's me". I spoke.

"Oh". She laughed. "Are we still going out to breakfast?"

"That's why I'm calling. Where are we going?"

"I really want fries with cheese and smothered in gravy".

"So, to the diner then?"

"Let's do it. Do you need me to pick you up?". She asked.

I looked at Jake, he shrugged. "Yes, pick me up and we can all go together. Do you know if Lana is up?"

"She texted me this morning. She's been up all night; thinks she has a sickness bug".

"And Lacey?". I chewed the inside of my cheek.

"She's going to give it a miss. This pregnancy is kicking her ass".

"Oh, okay". My eyes landed on Jake. "Well, I'm ready so just drop by whenever".

"Okay gal I'll see you soon".

"I told you". Handing him back his phone I took the mug of coffee and sat at the table. "She's avoiding me".

"Or her pregnancy really is kicking her ass. Lacey' a sweetheart Leah. She wouldn't avoid you".

"Oh, she's a sweetheart, is she?"

"Why are you getting so worked up over this?"

"I don't know". I sighed. "I just don't want her to think she can't come around us because she's pregnant".

"I'm sure that's not the case but if it's bothering you that much then why not call her?".

I shook my head. I didn't want to feel like I was imposing on her in case she really was avoiding us. I would wait it out and see.

"Or you could talk to Jack".

"Babe". He made a face.

"Fine". I sighed.

"Look, stop stressing over it". He placed a kiss on my forehead. "I'm going to go for a run and check in with my dad. Don't forget to lift your phone okay".

"Okay".

Jake was only gone five minutes before Alanna turned up. Tooting her horn like a crazy person letting me know she was outside. I grabbed my purse and keys and went to get my phone before heading outside to meet her.

"Oh, you smell nice". She grinned as I clipped my seatbelt into place.

"Thanks". I smiled.

"So, you know how my mom likes to throw family dinners?".

"Yeah". I frowned.

"Well, she wants to throw one tomorrow night because Carter and I came home".

"What did she say when you turned up?".

"She was frantic, thought I had left Carter". She rolled her eyes. "She yelled, gave me some advice. Didn't give me the chance to tell her Carter was coming back today until she gave me the whole mate chat".

"Yeah, that sounds about right". I grinned. "Speaking of Carter what time is he getting here?".

"Around lunchtime. He's already on the road".

"You two are okay though?".

"We're great". She smiled pulling into the parking lot of the diner. "We're more than great".

"Good".

"You and my brother are okay right?"

"We're good". I smiled walking across the parking lot. "We'll always be good".