

Chapter 182

I missed Alanna. I missed the girl time and her ability to distract me enough to not think about what was happening in my life. I swear the girl never ran out of things to say.

She had only been gone a few days and yet it felt longer. I loved that she was home, and I loved that I had my friend back. She was the glue that held our girls together.

"So, when are you going to let me take you out for the night?". She grinned. "We can do dinner, go for cocktails. Just like old times".

That wasn't going to happen for a long time. I wasn't in the mood to go out for drinks. I still had a lot to process and get through. Going out for breakfast was hard enough when all I felt was guilt.

Inside I felt as though I should be bed bound and depressed and because I wasn't I was guilt-ridden.

"Soon". I smiled.

I didn't want to get into it with her because I still wasn't ready to open up and talk about it. I still wasn't sure I even knew where to begin. How do I talk about it? How can I express how I was feeling or what I was going through when I didn't know myself.

It was still hard for me to process that I was no longer carrying our baby. That our baby died because of me.

"Leah?".

"Huh?". I blinked.

"I asked if you had heard from Ryan?".

I shook my head. "He's off living the dream while we're stuck here". I smiled.

I did find it weird that she asked about Ryan considering she didn't like him. But I wasn't going to push her on it. Maybe she was just making conversation. I did however want to push her on the Lacey situation, but I didn't know how to bring it up.

"Would you really want to be anywhere but here?". She laughed.

"I could think of a few places". I grinned.

"I hear Jake's taking you to the cabin".

"If your mom's throwing a dinner tomorrow night, I doubt it will be today". I wasn't overly excited about going to the cabin anyway. I agreed because it was better than staying at home staring at the same four walls.

"I'm sure she won't mind if you skip it".

"Skip a Charlotte dinner?". I smiled. "I think not, besides the cabin will always be there and I'm really looking forward to seeing Carter".

Carter was always the one that soothed my soul. We didn't even need to talk. He just knew how to make me feel better. His presence alone always brought me comfort.

"He called me this morning and said he should be here around lunch time".

"So, are you going to tell me the real reason you've come home?". I asked.

I've known her long enough to know she wasn't telling me the full story. Something either happened or was going to happen. You can't spend a few days somewhere and know straight away it wasn't going to work.

"I did". She frowned. "It wasn't for us".

"And?".

"And what?". She huffed.

"Fine". I sighed. "Don't tell me".

"It's nothing I-...", She paused as the server placed some menus on the table.

"Sorry for the wait I'll give you a couple of minutes and I'll be back".

"No problem". I smiled.

"I wasn't aware of how popular Carter was". She spoke once the server had walked away.

"What?".

"With girls". She added.

"I'm confused". I frowned.

"Let's just say the girls there are worse than the girls here". She sighed.

"Did someone try something?".

She nodded. "We weren't even there a full day, and I was almost fighting".

"Shut up with who?".

"With the Alpha's daughter". She winced.

"No way what happened?".

"Why are you smiling it's not funny".

Was I?

"Sorry it's just for once the drama isn't Jake and I". I shrugged.

"Gee thanks. It was horrible, but I wasn't letting her disrespect me like that. I wasn't going to sit there and let her put her hands all over Carter. I couldn't care less if she was the Alpha's daughter".

"What did Carter do?".

A laugh fell from her lips as she ran a hand down her face. "Nothing because that idiot couldn't see what I could see. Carter doesn't know what flirting is". Rolling her eyes she picked up the menu and placed it back down again. "A girl could walk past naked, and Carter wouldn't notice".

"That's good, isn't it?". I wasn't sure what she was trying to say.

"Yes and no because he couldn't see what she was doing so I was the crazy one".

"Ah right". I nodded. "Been there".

"I would have knocked the bitch on her ass".

"So, what happened?".

"We had a fight. I told him I was coming home with or without him and I genuinely thought I was coming home alone until she tried to kiss him".

"The penny dropped?". I grinned.

"Oh, the penny hit the fucking floor. But". She paused. "I didn't realise they had dated before he found me. She thought they would have been mates".

"Why does this sound so familiar". I laughed.

"I couldn't have stayed there, and I don't know how you done it".

"With great difficulty. I thought about it though. When everything was going wrong, I thought about packing a bag and running".

"And now?".

"I have nowhere to run to". I grinned.

As the server returned, we ordered our food and fell into a comfortable silence. I did often wonder what my life would have been like if I did run.

Would he have come after me?

A sigh fell from my lips. What ifs were pointless. I was happy, this was my life now and I had to start making the most of it.

"You would have gone to Yale if you never came here. If you never moved here and met Jake, you'd be at Yale right now".

"Living my best life". I rolled my eyes. "Do you think we'd have still met like would he have found me?".

She shrugged. "You moved here because you were meant to move here. Your gran knew exactly what she was doing. As sad as that may sound it's true".

"I know". I agreed. "It's weird to even think about my gran now. Never did I think this was how everything would have turned out. It was like I met Jake, and she suddenly wasn't interested in me anymore".

"I'm sure she still cares about you".

"I haven't seen or heard from her in months. I'm sure I'm the furthest thing from her mind".

I hated the way our relationship ended but I was done wasting my time with her. I always thought my gran would have been in my life forever

and well now, now I couldn't see how we could ever fix our relationship.

We could never go back to the way we were.

"You could always reach out?" She spoke. "I'm sure she wouldn't be hard to find".

"I know where she is, and she knows I'm here. If she wanted to contact me then she would have. I'm not putting myself in that position again. Apparently, I don't matter to any of my family".

"Your dad?"

I nodded. "I was supposed to go and stay with him for a few days, get to know him and the other side of my family. The day I was going he messaged not even a phone call a simple message saying now wasn't the right time".

"You've got family Leah".

"I know I do but it would have been nice to know where I came from". I shrugged.

"Do you know what I think?"

"What?"

"Fuck the past because it doesn't matter. It's all about now the present. I've come to realise that life's too short to fuck around. We deserve to be happy; you deserve to be happy and if your dad and your gran don't want to be in your life then fuck them to".

A laugh fell from my lips. She sure had a way with words, but she was right. The past will always be the past I couldn't change it, it was my future I had to focus on. I had to figure out what lay ahead for me.

"Let's get drinks tonight". I grinned.