

Chapter 183

"I just don't think it's a good idea". He sat on the edge of our bed while I finished getting ready.

"It's dinner and drinks with my friends".

"I don't think you should go".

"Come with us". I slipped my arms into my leather jacket. "It can be like old times". I bent down and placed a kiss on his lips.

"I think you need more time. Your face is still swollen and I'm sure you're still in pain".

A sigh fell from my lips as I sat down beside him. "Yes, I'm still sore and yes I may not look my best, but I want to go out for a little while and have some fun".

Was that a crime?

The past few days had been tough. I just wanted to let my hair down a little and have a good time. Maybe forget about it for a few hours. What better way to do that than surrounded by my girlfriends.

"Okay". He took my hand in his and laced our fingers together. "But I'm driving you there and back".

"Okay". I smiled. "Thank you".

"I just want you to be happy Leah".

"I am happy".

"Are you though?".

"Yes".

"Do I make you happy? I sometimes don't think I'm good enough for you".

I don't know where all this was coming from. Our relationship wasn't always perfect but whose was? We fought, had disagreements but at the end of the day we didn't throw in the towel and quit on each other.

"You're enough Jake, you'll always be enough".

"Ever since you met me you've had nothing but misery".

"Hey". I frowned.

"It's true Leah. I've caused you nothing but pain".

"Hey". I whispered. "Where's all this coming from?".

He shrugged. "We haven't really had the best time of it have we?".

"We haven't but we're here and we're together and that's all that matters. It's you and me Jake, it'll always be you and me".

"I hate what's happened Leah".

"Me too". Leaning into him I lay my head against his arm. "It's all I've thought about the past two days. As much as I want to forget I can't".

"We don't have to forget Leah we just have to learn to heal".

I nodded. I always found it strange when he opened up like this. Don't get me wrong I loved that he did, but I guess I wasn't used to him showing his softer side. I knew he had it he just didn't show it very often.

"Do you want to come with us tonight?". I asked.

"No babe you go and have fun". He kissed the top of my head before we headed downstairs.

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I wasn't in the mood. I thought this was what I wanted but it wasn't. All I wanted was to go home curl up on the sofa with take out and be with Jake.

I was trying my hardest to engage but I kept spacing out.

"You good?". Alanna asked.

We found a little cocktail bar that also served food. The plan was to have a few in here and then head to the bar that Derke owned.

"I'm fine". I smiled.

Don't get me wrong it was nice in here. It gave off a relaxing vibe. The music wasn't too loud, the vibe was mellow, and the food was delicious.

"Are you not having a good time?".

Once again it was just the two of us. Lana was still sick, and Lacey was drowning in pregnancy sickness.

"I'm not really feeling it". I chewed the inside of my cheek. "I'm sorry".

"Do you want to go home?".

I shook my head.

"Are you sure?".

"Maybe a shot will help". I grinned.

"Coming right up". She winked.

I felt terrible. This was my idea, I dragged Alanna out and I was the one who wanted to go home. I couldn't shake this funk of a mood I was in. As much as I thought coming here was a good idea, it really wasn't.

Things had changed. It wasn't like old times. I couldn't slap a smile on my face and pretend to be having an enjoyable time. Don't get me wrong it's not that I wasn't enjoying Alanna's company I'd just prefer it if we weren't out.

Pizza and beers seemed more appealing.

"You'll never guess who's here". She grinned placing the shot glasses on the table.

"Who?". I took the shot not thinking twice. "Wow". I made a face as the liquid burned its way down my throat.

"Straight vodka". She winked. "Nothing but the best for my girl".

I rolled my eyes and smiled. "Who's here?".

"Oh, right. Mr. Gallagher and I think he's on a date". She smirked.

"I'm still convinced that he hated me".

"Yeah right". She huffed. "He wanted to bend you over his table and have his way with you".

"Hey". I frowned.

"I bet he still does". She laughed. "I think I'm going to say hello".

"Alanna wait, don't-...". A sigh fell from my lips as she slipped off the stool. What was the point in trying to stop her? She did what she

wanted regardless of the outcome.

I minded my business and continued to drink my cocktail. My mood was starting to lift a little. I was a bit more relaxed and starting to enjoy the night. The server stopped by the table placing two new drinks and shots down.

"From the guys in the corner". She smiled.

"Oh". I glanced in the direction of where they were sitting but dropped my gaze when I realised they were watching.

No one had bought me a drink before.

"Douchebag". She sighed sitting back down in her seat. "Oh, another shot". She downed it chasing it with her cocktail.

"Douchebag?". I frowned.

"Mr. Gallaghers an ass".

"Yup". I grinned.

"He told me if I didn't leave him alone, he'd report me for being in here". She huffed.

A laugh fell from my lips. "Is he on a date then?".

"His sister". She made a face. "Although she was really nice".

"Don't look but the guys in the corner bought us a round of drinks". I nodded towards the table.

"Where?". She spun around in her seat.

I swear I couldn't take her anywhere.

"Really?".

"What?". She smirked. "I can look".

I rolled my eyes. "Should we finish these and then head out?".

"Home or Dereks bar?".

"How far is the bar from here?". I asked.

"Outskirts of town but we can uber?".

"Okay". I nodded.

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I had never seen it so busy. I always thought it was a pack bar, but I was wrong. Everyone was welcome and tonight happened to be where everyone was at. As we made our way inside, we managed to find two seats at the bar.

"Are you two going to cause me any trouble tonight?". Derek asked.

I shook my head.

Alanna laughed. "When do we ever cause you trouble?".

"Not so much Leah but you". He shook his head. "Nightmare".

"Hey". She frowned. "Oh, there's Pete I'll be back".

"Two beers". I smiled.

"Coming right up. Jake knows you're here?".

"Why's it so busy?".

"Great service". He winked.

I rolled my eyes but sat in the seat and took hold of my beer. "And don't worry he knows I'm out".

"Does he know you're here?".

"I'm going to drink this beer, call him to come pick me up and then he's going to drive us home".

"And Alanna?". He asked.

"Well then she'll be your problem". I laughed.