

Chapter 184

So, one beer turned into two and two beers turned into a few shots. I had yet to call Jake. Time got away from me, and Alanna and I were having a fun time.

I wasn't ready to go home yet.

"I don't think I've seen it so busy in here. What's the occasion?". I asked Derek.

"It's always busy in here you just come on the wrong nights". He smiled.

"Ah". I grinned. "I'll need to drop by more often".

"I thought Jake was picking you up after your one beer?".

"As if". Alanna laughed. "Leah isn't a one beer type of girl".

I shrugged. "I haven't called him yet".

He shook his head and walked to the other end of the bar.

"It's still early but if you want to go home, I don't mind". Alanna spoke.

"No". I shook my head. "This was my idea and we're having a fun time. Jake won't mind".

"So, two more shots then?". She smirked.

"Yes". I grinned.

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"Leah". Alanna shoved my shoulder. "I've called Jake and he's on his way".

I was struggling to keep my eyes open. I wasn't drunk, more tired than anything, but I had more than I should have. I should have taken it easy with the shots and stuck to the one kind of drink.

Mixing wasn't the best idea.

A yawn fell from my lips as she held a glass of water in front of my face. "Drink this it'll help".

"I'm not drunk". But I took the water she was offering and sipped at it.

"I'm tired".

"You alright Leah?". Derek asked.

"Fine". I smiled. "Jake's on his way".

"You can sit through the back and wait if you want".

"Here's fine". I lay my arms on the bar before laying my head down.

"Tonight was fun Alanna".

"Yeah, and maybe next time Lana and Lacey will show face".

"Lacey's avoiding me, isn't she?".

She nodded.

"I knew it". I whispered.

"She's not doing it to be bad Leah, she's doing it out of respect for her Luna".

Oh, here we go.

"I thought we were friends".

"Don't do that". She made a face. "You are friends but see it from her point of view. She doesn't want to shove it in your face which is why she's steering clear".

"So, she's really going to avoid me for 9 months? What's she going to do when the baby comes? Avoid me completely? Unfriend me? Leave the pack?".

"Wow". Alanna frowned.

"I said what I said. I'm going to wait outside". I slipped off the barstool and headed for the door. Hopefully, I wouldn't be waiting long

"Leah wait a minute". She grabbed hold of my arm and I let her. "Lacey loves you like a sister, but this pregnancy is kicking her ass. Please see it from her point of view before you run off in a mood and overthink the worst".

Alanna wasn't one for keeping her mouth shut. It's one of the things I loved about her the most. She said what everyone else was thinking and everyone needed a friend like that.

"Just tell her she doesn't need to avoid me. I'd love to be there for her

through this. I'm going to wait outside for Jake".

She nodded her head over my shoulder. "He's just walked in".

"Does he look happy?".

She shrugged. "Does he ever?".

A laugh fell from my lips as I felt his hand on my waist. Turning in his embrace I smiled up at him.

"Hi".

"Hey baby". He bent down placing a kiss on my lips. "Good night?".

I nodded. "But I'm ready to go home".

"Give me a sec I need to talk to Derek".

"Is everything okay?".

"Nothing for you to worry about". He kissed the top of my head before by passing me and making his way to the end of the bar where Derek had a beer already waiting for him.

"Everything good?". Alanna asked.

"I think he's up to something". I took my seat at the bar and waited patiently for him to finish up.

"Because he's talking to Derek?". She frowned.

I nodded.

"Derek runs this side of town. They're probably just catching up as they don't see each other often. I wouldn't worry about it".

"I'm not worried about anything I just hate that he continues to keep me in the dark".

"Leah". She sighed. "Just because they're talking doesn't mean anything has happened. You need to chill out".

I couldn't because this was the way my brain worked. I couldn't just switch it off. I was already an anxious overthinker. I worried constantly. It was exhausting really.

"Is there more like Derek?". I asked.

"Yeah". She nodded.

"How come they're not pack?"

"They are pack they just prefer the normal life".

"Normal life?"

"They're only called for when they're needed".

"Oh, okay".

"Pack life isn't for everyone, and my dad has no issue with people that want to live a more normal life. They check in every so often but it's mandatory to attend a pack meeting once a month".

"Huh, pack meetings happen once a month?". I think I'd been to one the whole time I had been here.

"Yeah, at the end of every month".

"And it's mandatory?". I asked.

"It's not mandatory for you". He placed his hand on the lower of my back.

I hate when he does that. I hate when he sneaks in, and I don't ever notice. He probably heard that full conversation as well.

I wanted it to be mandatory for me because I wanted to know what goes on. I want to be involved in as much as I could. I didn't want to be cooped up in the house all the time staring at the same four walls.

I wasn't a housewife, and I wasn't about to become one.

"I want to come to the one at the end of this month". I turned in my seat so I could face him. "I have every right to be there just like everyone else".

"Okay". He smiled. "Ready to go?"

"Okay?". I made a face. "Really?"

A laugh fell from his lips as he moved closer. "Yes, really. I think it'll be good for you to be involved within the pack more".

"And I want to do patrol runs". I wanted to pull my weight like everyone else.

"Then how about you and Alanna do one tomorrow night?"

"Really?"

"I'm on night patrol already?". She sighed. "I've only been back one day".

"Yes". I grinned. "We'll do it".

"Speak for yourself". She huffed. "But yes, I'll do it".

"You don't have a choice". He smirked. "But you, you do". He moved in closer again his breath fanning over my face. "Are you ready to go home?"

I nodded.

The car ride home was quiet. I was trying to work out if he was being serious or if he said what he said to be nice and not cause a scene.

"You're frowning. What's wrong?". He reached over placing his hand on my thigh.

"Just thinking".

"About?". He asked.

"Can I really come to the pack meeting?"

He nodded.

"And the night patrol with Alanna?"

Again, he nodded.

"Why the sudden change of heart?"

A laugh fell from his lips as he squeezed my thigh gently. "Because I've been shielding you away from everything when I should have been pushing you towards it".

"I'm not sure I follow". I frowned.

"You're a strong wolf Leah and it's time everyone knew it. I should never have stopped you from doing anything. I haven't been the best for you recently but that all changes from today".

"So, I'll get to be involved more?"

"Yeah, baby and that means with everything. No more shutting you out or keeping you in the dark. You'll be by my side every step or the way

and with every decision that is made. The way it should have been from the start".

I felt the lump appear in the back of my throat. I have waited so long for him to say this and it's all I've ever wanted. For him to see that I could stand by his side as his Luna and run the pack equally.

"I love you". I whispered.