

Chapter 187

Dinner was nice. It was good to have everyone together as a family. Charlotte didn't throw her dinners as often as she used to, so it was good to have everyone under the one roof.

I loved the chatter that filled the room. The laughter and the love of everyone here. Everyone was floating around chatting and drinking coffee.

Another tradition that came with the dinner. Coffee was necessary.

"Bear". Carter nodded. "Ready for your first patrol?"

"You didn't come for coffee". I frowned. "I invited you over and you didn't come. You didn't even respond to my text".

"You texted me?". He pulled out his phone. "Oh, yeah so you did. Sorry Leah I've been busy trying to get back into the swing of things".

"How is it being back home?"

He shrugged. "It is what it is. How are you doing?"

"I'm good". I smiled. "Doing my first patrol, looking into going to college and I'm going to be taking more responsibility within the pack".

"That's not what I meant". His voice lowered.

I knew exactly what he meant but like I told everyone else I wasn't ready to talk about it yet. I was doing okay with keeping it locked away. I would talk about it when I was ready to.

"I'm fine Carter I promise".

"We've only got each other out here Leah. You're the only family I have left so we have to look out for each other".

"I'm guessing your parents didn't take the news well that you were coming back here".

"Something like that".

"What happened Carter?"

"Everything is good, nothing for you to worry about. I'm here, I'm not going anywhere everything's fine". He kissed the top of my head. "Kick ass tonight".

Everything was not fine, but I wasn't going to pry because it was none of

my business. He knew I was here when he wanted to talk or vent.

I placed my cup of coffee on the side table and went in search of Jake. He had disappeared after dinner and had yet to show face again.

I was always in awe when I came here. Their house was mesmerizing, and I always found myself distracted with the decor. It didn't take me long to find him. He was in the office with his dad shouting about something.

Of course, as soon as I stuck my head inside, he fell silent.

"Ready to go?". He asked.

Oh yeah, I had interrupted something.

"First patrol tonight, Leah. How are you feeling about it?". Jacob asked.

"Good, excited".

"And Alanna is going with you?".

I nodded. "She's showing me the ropes".

A laugh fell from his lips. "I'm sure you'll do simply fine. Am I right in saying Rocco will be out there also?".

"He will?". I frowned turning my head towards Jake.

"Rocco is always night patrol. He'll be doing the outskirts while you and Alanna do the inside".

"By himself? Is that safe?".

"He prefers it that way". He smiled. "Now are you ready to go home and get ready for tonight?".

"Yes". I grinned.

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I napped for an hour and when I woke Jake had already packed a bag for me. Extra clothes, snacks the lot.

"I'll make you some coffee now and then I'll stick a flash in your backpack. If you need to pull out at any time you tell Rocco".

"I appreciate it, but I'll be fine". I was excited about this. It was an exciting time for me and for Jake to be on board with it made it even better. He had faith in me not only as a mate but also as a wolf.

"I never said you wouldn't be fine I just said if you need to pull out then you

tell Rocco".

I rolled my eyes. I guess I knew where he was coming from. This was my first time being out there and I guess it was kind of a big deal for him to let me do it. But he also had to trust that I was capable just like everyone else and I was good at taking care of myself.

I could do this.

"What time is it?". I asked.

"Almost 9. Are you hungry?".

I nodded. It was like he could read my mind.

"Go chill out for a bit in front of the tv and I'll make you something".

"Okay". I smiled.

I don't know what had come over him recently, but I liked it. I liked this newfound freedom. Not that he kept me locked up in the house, but it was nice to be able to do things without him being angry or disappointed all the time.

This new chilled out Jake was growing on me.

I wasn't really interested in watching the tv, but I turned it on for some background noise. I texted Alanna to see if she was coming over here first or if I was to meet her at the forest line.

I hadn't had much interest in my phone lately so when I noticed the text from my gran my stomach knotted. I could only see the first few words.

'We need to talk'

Shaking my head I turned my phone placing it by my side. I couldn't deal with that text right now. I had to focus on tonight. And yes, it was just a patrol of the forest but with being excited I was also nervous.

I didn't want to fail. I didn't want him to see me fail.

"Can I ask you something?". I asked as he handed me my sandwich and a bag of salted chips.

"Anything". He smiled.

"Do you think I'll do okay tonight?".

"Yeah, of course I do. I know what you're capable of Leah. You're badass". He winked.

"You really mean that?". I felt I needed his words of praise and that if he believed in me then I knew I would be fine.

"You got this babe you'll see". He kissed the top of my head as he got to his feet. "I'm going to double check your bag. Eat your sandwich and then get ready. I'll walk you to the forest line where Alanna and Rocco will meet you".

"I think we need to switch Rocco out. He's been on night patrol for as long as he's been here".

"He prefers the night patrol". He frowned.

"Does he or is he too afraid to say otherwise?".

"Rocco isn't afraid of anything Leah, but I suppose I could swap people and move them around".

"Maybe I'll love the night patrol". I grinned.

"Yeah, right". He smirked. "Now eat before you don't get the chance to".

We walked to the forest line hand in hand. It was always so peaceful here at night.

"How long does the patrol last?". I asked.

"Tomorrow morning but just let Rocco know if you want to finish early".

"Jake". I sighed.

How was that going to look to everyone else? I get to finish early because I was the mate of the Alpha. No, I was doing this, and I was staying until the shift was over.

"So, I'll see you at 6am then?". He grinned.

"Yes, yes you will".

8 hours. I could manage 8 hours.

"Ah". He laughed. "Would you look at that. It's just starting to rain".

"I'm not changing my mind". I grinned.

He pulled me to him his arms circling my waist resting his forehead against mine. "I love you, Leah".

"I love you to. I'll see you in the morning". Placing a kiss on his lips his arms slipped from my waist.

Alanna and Rocco were already here waiting.

"About time you showed up". She grinned. "Perks of being the Alphas mate".

"Hey". I frowned. "It's not even ten o'clock yet".

"I'm messing with you. You ready to go?". She asked.

I nodded.

We walked further into the forest, so we were deep in the middle.

"We start here?". I asked.

"We do". Alanna spoke. "Rocco starts from outside the perimeter. We always come back to this point".

"Okay". I nodded. "So, we can't all go together?".

She shook her head. "The full perimeter has to be patrolled. Rocco takes the outside and we take the inside".

"So, there's only ever two people patrolling?". That didn't seem safe.

"That's the way it's always been unless we're in danger or under threat".

"I see". Surely having more people patrolling at night would be safer? Not to mention a lot more ground would be covered faster.

"We take our time and pace it out. There's no rush we're out here for 8 hours".

"And what if something happens?".

"Then we alert my dad or Jake, and they send out Derek and his let's say crew".

"Okay".

"We'll be fine though we always are".

I didn't doubt that I just wanted to know what happened and how these things went and how to deal with it if it went sideways.

"We're patrolling the first few hours on foot tonight". Rocco spoke.

He had been silent the full walk into the forest.

"Foot?". Alanna made a face. "That makes no sense and-...". She paused.

"Right so we'll shift around 4?".

I knew this was because of me. I was already aware that we patrolled in wolf form. What other reasons could they have to patrol on foot other than for my benefit.

"We're only making sure the perimeter is safe and there are no signs of intruders".

"Does that happen often?". I asked Rocco.

"More than you think but it only ever turns out to be wild animals".

"It's not always wild animals Rocco". Alanna glared. "I mean you breached us".

Oh.

"Yeah, and now my family is safe". He glared back.

"I'm just saying it's not always wild animals".

"Alanna is right". He sighed. "People try it, but it doesn't ever come too much. Once they find out its private land they usually move on".

"Usually?". I frowned.

"Are you going to question everything?". He asked.

"Sorry I just want to know as much as I can. I don't mean to be annoying".

A sigh fell from his lips as he ran a hand through his hair. "No, I'm sorry it's just been a long couple of nights".

"Are you always night patrol?".

He nodded.

"Why don't you ask to change?".

"Hey". Alanna interrupted. "If he changes then that means we'll have to do it more often or more so me".

"And?". I made a face. She needed to learn how to hold her tongue. It wasn't fair that Rocco was having to do it all the time.

"I prefer it". He spoke. "But yeah, I could use a change".

"You've been on item since you joined us, haven't you?".

"I don't want you doing me any favours Leah. I don't care what I have to do. I go where the Alpha tells me".

"See he prefers it". Alanna spoke.

I swear she needed to think before she spoke.

"There's more than just us and Rocco Alanna. I'm sure Jake could put other people out here if he needed to".

"No favours Leah". Rocco spoke again.

I rolled my eyes. "No favours I promise".

"I'm shifting". Alanna spoke. "Leah you can patrol in here with Rocco on foot. I'll do the outskirts. I need to stretch my legs".

She shifted and was off before we could blink.

"I'm going to say that was my fault". I winced.

A laugh fell from his lips. "She just doesn't want to be landed with the shit end of the stick".

"And you think you have?". I frowned.

"I go where I'm told but I have been on nights since we were accepted into the pack. But it is what it is". He shrugged.

"You should talk to Jake".

"Yeah right". He snorted.

"What's that supposed to mean?".

"Nothing okay I'm happy where I am. I got a lot to be thankful for and I don't want to jeopardies that".

"Okay". I nodded. "How's Reign getting on?".

"She's good actually. Got herself a job in the mall and has taken a real interest in school again".

"Amazing". I grinned. "I'm glad she's doing good".

"How are you doing?".

"I'm okay". I shrugged. "Living the dream like always".

"So how come you're out here.en I always thought Lunas didn't do this type of thing".

"What patrolling?".

"Yeah". He grinned. "I'm surprised Jake agreed to it".

"Same". I laughed. "But nothing ever happens so he's got nothing to worry

about, right?".

"Right". He smiled. "Come on we better get a move on".

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We had been walking for around an hour. Rocco was showing me the trail they use and what spots to check and make sure they were secure. I had never been this deep into the forest before.

"How do you do this in wolf form? I mean what if something has been breached how do you fix it as a wolf?".

"Depends how big the breach is. Remember this area is patrolled all day. There's always someone out here".

"I guess you patrol in wolf form because it's safer?".

He shrugged. "Well, it's faster and it's not as cold".

"We're on foot because of me, right?".

"It's your first patrol. It's better to be on foot first and then shift later. Means you get a feel for it".

"Okay". I nodded.

I wasn't sure if that was the truth or an excuse, but I didn't say anything else on the matter. I had no issues patrolling on foot. It saved the hassle of trying to shift and not being able to.

"Did you bring coffee?". He asked.

"I did".

"Then let's go grab some and heat up a bit.

"Do we just patrol the same path all night?".

"Pretty much".

This was turning out to be easier than I thought. I don't know why Alanna complains about it so much.



I know how annoying it is to wait for a chapter to be posted. I'm trying my best to update faster. If you feel you don't want to continue reading because I'm not updating fast enough well that's your choice. I appreciate each and everyone of you for sticking with it. I do apologise for not being able to post daily. I don't have lots of free time to be able to write but I do what I can. The next update will be posted soon. Thank you :)



RV.Elliott

