

Chapter 191

When I woke, I was drowsy. My head hurt and my mouth was dry. Sitting up I blinked a few times before realisation kicked in. I had been taken; someone had grabbed me in the woods.

Lana, she was there. She did this, she helped them take me.

I jumped from the bed looking around myself. I wasn't tied up; my hands weren't bound. I didn't understand what was going on. I ran my fingers over my arm, I remember the pain I felt.

Was I drugged?

I glanced around the room some more my eyes landing on a photo that was sitting on the bedside drawers. I swallowed the lump in my throat. It was a picture of my mom.

Where the hell was I?

I jumped when there was a knock on the door before a girl around my age maybe younger poked her head inside".

"Hi". She smiled.

"Hi". I frowned.

"Don't look so scared Leah we're not going to hurt you". As she walked further into the room I took a few steps back.

I didn't know this girl therefore my guard was up. They took me, they took me from my home, my family. They took me from Jake.

Oh god Jake. He would be going out of his mind. Worried sick because I wasn't home. He didn't even know I had gone for a run.

"Are you hungry?". She asked.

"Where am I?". I asked.

"In the pack house".

The pack house? Whose pack house?

"Who are you?".

"I'm Grace your cousin".

My cousin?

My heart was hammering in my chest. I had more cousins? It was one thing after another, and it just kept coming.

"Why was I kidnapped?". I asked.

A laugh fell from her lips. "You weren't kidnapped Leah. Your dad didn't think you'd have come on your own, so we improvised. Sorry if we scared you".

"You placed a sack over my head and drugged me". I frowned. "What would you call it?".

"Fair enough". She sighed. "But we mean no harm".

"And Pete what did you do to Pete?". Lana was pulled into this. They forced her to help.

"He's fine". She shrugged. "Lana did her part".

"I have to go home. Jake will be wondering where I am". This was my father's doing. He did this because he thought I wouldn't come here? I planned to visit, and he shut me down, cut contact and I haven't heard from him since.

"Do you want some lunch?". She asked.

"If you mean no harm you'll let me, go home". I spoke.

"Okay". She nodded. "But you have to go out the way you came in. We're a little paranoid about letting people know our location".

What?

I made a face. "You're kidding right?".

"Course". She winked. "If you want to leave then you're free to do so but if you want to get to know your family then stay a little longer. You're safe here I promise".

Family? I didn't have any family. My mom was dead, my dad abandoned me and well the only family I had left got rid of me too.

Jake was my family, and I'd like to get back to him.

"No, I'd like to leave please". If this was his attempt at a family reunion it sucked. How he thought I would be okay with this is beyond me.

"Fair enough". She shrugged. "I'll have someone drive you home".

"No, I can walk".

"It's a 2-hour drive". She spoke.

2 hours? How long had I been unconscious? And what was it they drugged me with? As if she sensed my panic, she took a step closer to me.

"We're not here to hurt you or do anything to you. We're family and I would really like it if you stayed".

She was crazy if she thought I was staying here just because she asked. This whole situation was mad. I mean my dad could have reached out, sent a message, a phone call. He didn't need to kidnap me and take me against my will.

"This is crazy". I whispered.

"Would you have come here if he asked?". She asked.

"He cut me off. I was willing to visit, and he put it off so that's on him but this, this is crazy. He took an Alpha's mate, kidnapped an Alpha's mate. Do you really think there isn't going to be consequences?".

"We're not worried about Jake". She shrugged. "Now please come down and have some lunch. Grans super excited to meet you".

Hold the bus, what?

They were here?

"They're here?". I frowned.

"Everyone's here". She smiled. "We've waited so long to finally meet you".

"And my dad is he here?". I asked.

She nodded. "He thought it best that I come and speak to you first. He did say you were your mother's daughter after all".

I didn't get what she meant by that but shrugged it off. I couldn't go down there and meet them all. I wasn't ready for that. Yes, I had waited a lifetime to meet the other side of my family, but this wasn't the way.

I wouldn't be forced into it. And when the time came, I wanted Jake to be here with me. He was my comfort, my safe space. I didn't want to do this alone. I didn't want to be put into a situation I felt I couldn't get out of.

They may be my family by blood, but I didn't know them, and I was so far out of my comfort zone right now.

"I need to speak with him". I spoke.

"Sure". She smiled. "Do you want to come with me?"

I shook my head no. "I'll wait here".

"Okay but I'm going to bring you back some lunch. You must be starving".
As she closed the door behind her I took a seat on the edge of the bed.

Jake must be going out of his mind wondering where I am or if someone has taken me. If I'm in trouble or worse hurt. I didn't like the feeling that rose in the pit of my stomach.

I hated being away from him. But maybe, just maybe if I concentrate on him and our bond, he'll be able to feel me and know I'm okay. It worked before, right? I had to let him know I was okay and that I was safe.

I wouldn't like to think he was taking this well. To him I either ran off or I had been taken. It didn't take much for Jake to lose control so I can only imagine what he's going through right now.

The knock on the door had me on my feet. Was he waiting for me to let him in? When the door opened, I swallowed the lump in my throat. He was holding a plate which I assumed was something to eat for me.

"Eat please". As he walked further into the room I backed away. I watched as he placed the sandwich on the bed. "I hope turkey is okay".

My mind was blown. I couldn't think of what I wanted to say. He went about this all the wrong way.

"When can I go home?". I asked.

"Ah, being away from Jake isn't sitting well with your wolf I take it?".

I nodded. I was anxious, but I had good reason to be. It wasn't just because I was away from Jake. They kidnapped me.

"You're free to leave at any time Leah". He spoke.

"Why am I here?". I asked.

"I think it's time we sorted through a few things. You have a whole other family that you don't know and before you say anything yes, it's my fault but maybe it's time we bring everyone together".

I stopped myself from saying anything by chewing the inside of my cheek. Why now? They had already missed most of my life. We were strangers, he was a stranger.

"Why do you have a picture of my mom in here?". I nodded towards the photo.

He smiled. "Because she's the love of my life. What a woman she was, and you are like her in every way".

How could he know that?

My stomach growled and I felt the heat spread across my cheeks. I hadn't eaten anything yet and I was starting to feel a little sick because of it.

"Eat the sandwich please".

So, I did. I took a seat on the edge of the bed and began to eat the sandwich. We had met before, had conversations before but I felt weird. This whole situation was weird.

"Why didn't you just call me?". I asked. "And why did you involve my friends?".

"Can I sit?". He asked.

I nodded.

"I may not be in your life Leah but don't think for a second that I haven't been watching over you".

"You can't seriously think how you've went about this is okay. You took me from my home and brought me to god knows where. I want to call Jake". I got to my feet sandwich forgotten about. "I want to go home".em

"Okay". He nodded. "Just calm down you're safe here".

It wasn't about being safe. I couldn't wrap my head around this. They wanted to get to know me, wanted me to be in their lives. Fine, maybe we could work towards that, but it would be on my terms.

"Come downstairs and use the phone". He spoke. "When you call Jake tell him we mean no harm".

I think it was too late for that.

I followed him down the stairs and into the sitting room. No one was around which was odd because I thought everyone wanted to meet me?

"I sent them away; told them you weren't ready". He spoke. "You can use the phone I'll give you some privacy".

"Why now?". I asked.

"It wasn't supposed to be like this". He took a seat in one of the armchairs while I still stood by the door. "We were meant to raise you, your mom and me. The night I lost her is the night I lost myself".

I swallowed the lump that appeared in my throat. Still to this day I struggled to talk about my mom.

"I wasn't fit to look after a baby heck I could barely look after myself. I tried, I tried to be a good dad, but I couldn't do it. So, I made the decision to let you go with your gran. To this day my mom still hasn't forgiven me".

"So, you let me go and never looked back".

"No". He frowned. "I spiraled out of control, lost everything, cut off all contact with everyone but never did I forget about you. By the time I sorted myself out it was too late".

"It was never too late, but just so you know I had a great childhood, I had a good life. My gran raised me right. She made me into the strong independent woman I am today".

"I have no doubts". He smiled. "She's one hell of a woman".

We had our differences, but I would never bad mouth her. She may have made a few mistakes along the way, but she did right by me growing up. She was the only one I had.

"I have to call home". I spoke. "Jake will be worried".

"Right". He got to his feet. "I'm sorry Leah I should have gone about this a different way. If you want nothing to do with me, with us then I'll respect your decision".

I felt the lump appear in my throat. I wanted to know him, I wanted to get to know my family, but it was going to take time especially after this. As soon as the door closed, I grabbed the phone dialing Jake's number.

He was not going to believe this.