

Chapter 194

I wanted to soak in the tub order Chinese food and not get up from the couch. Today had been all over the place. Jake had been quiet since we got on the road, I wasn't sure how he was taking all of this.

I couldn't blame him if he was angry. If someone took him from me, I'd be furious.

"Do you think we could order Chinese food when we get home?". I asked.

"Sure babe". He nodded.

"Are you okay?".

"Just thinking Leah".

"About?". I pressed.

"They took you so easily, right from under my nose".

His voice was barely a whisper, but I heard every word. He had to know the truth; I wouldn't let him think he couldn't protect me. Our land, our territory was safe. They managed to take me because they planned it all out.

They went for the weakest amongst us all.

Lana.

The non werewolf.

"There must be changes made. More patrols, more bodies around our territory. I can't let what happened today happen again. They managed to get into our territory, and no one even knew about it".

I noticed how tight he was holding the steering wheel. The shifting in his breathing. Yeah, the more he talked about it the angrier he was becoming.

"They took my fucking mate". He growled his hand thumping off the steering wheel. "That doesn't say much about me does it".

"What happened wasn't your fault". I spoke. "If anything, I shouldn't have gone alone".

"Doesn't matter". He shook his head. "You're my mate I'm meant to protect you, and I failed. Our lands are meant to be safe and secure, and they clearly aren't".

"They are". I frowned. "There are people patrolling throughout the day

every day. Our territory is safe Jake".

"It needs to be better Leah. What if it was someone else that took you? I can't believe I let this fucking happen".

"Calm down please".

"You're the most important person to me Leah. If I lose you, I lose me. I can't just be okay with what happened".

"I know". I whispered taking a hold of his hand in mine.

The conversation died silence filling the truck. I lay my head against his shoulder not letting go of his hand until we reached home. I jerked awake blinking open my eyes as the truck came to a stop.

"What time is it?". A yawn escaped my mouth as I let go of his hand and rubbed at my eyes.

"Just gone 6". He unclipped his seatbelt but made no move to get out.

"Are you okay?". I asked.

"How can you be this calm about what happened?". He asked.

"I don't know". I shrugged. "Maybe because I knew I wasn't in any danger".

"But you could have been".

"But I wasn't". I frowned. "And I'm here with you now perfectly safe. Can we go inside?".

"I need to go for a run and set up new patrolling posts. I'll try and not be long".

Yeah, he was pissed all right, but I was going to let him do whatever he needed to get it out his head. Today could have been much worse but it wasn't and yes maybe I shouldn't be as calm about the whole situation but how else was I to react?

I had already been through the freak out phase this morning. What was the point in stressing out over nothing. Yes, it could have been someone else that took me, but it wasn't it was my dad.

A sigh fell from my lips as I headed inside. It wouldn't surprise me if he stayed out all night. I kicked off my shoes and headed straight upstairs. Doing this I never noticed the car pull into the driveway.

It wasn't until I had stripped out of my clothes that I heard the knock on

the front door. Quickly throwing on some fresh pjs I made my way downstairs just as there was another knock.

"Who is it?". I asked.

"It's Lana".

I hesitated my hand on the doorknob. I don't think tonight was the right time to talk. She wasn't to blame; she wasn't at fault, but she still helped them take me.

"Leah?". She called.

"F...I'm not suitable is everything okay?". I asked.

"Please open the door. I need to explain".

I opened the door a sigh falling from my lips as I stepped to the side letting her come inside. Closing the door, I followed behind her into the living room.

"Did you just get back?". She asked.

I nodded.

"I had no idea it was your dad Leah and of course I'm glad it was him and not someone else. I'm sorry okay but they took Pete and-...". A sob fell from her lips.

This wasn't her fault. She couldn't have done anything to stop them from taking me and they took Pete. If it was me, I would have done the same thing for Jake.

"It's okay Lana".

"It's not". She shook her head. "I should have done something and now Pete isn't talking to me because I let them take you. We're a mess everything is a mess". She cried.

"Would you like some tea?". I asked.

She nodded. "Pete thinks Jake will banish him. He said I should never have led them to you regardless of what they did to him".

"They wouldn't have hurt him". I fixed two cups adding half a sugar into mine. "They knew you'd have done anything to make sure he stayed safe".

"Doesn't matter". She whispered. "I did the worst thing and now he won't talk to me".

"Jake doesn't know that you were involved". I spoke.

"He will". She sniffled. "Pete won't be able to keep that from him. He's already thinking the worst".

"Everything will be fine. Jake with stew for a few days but he'll come around". I passed her a mug of tea and headed into the living room.

"I really am sorry Leah. I should have done something instead of doing nothing. I should have fought or told someone".

"I would have done the same if I was in your position, but it's done with now so let's move on. Is Pete with Jake now?". I asked.

Sheac nodded. "Jake was going on about putting more people on patrol. I wouldn't be surprised if they're out there all night".

"Then you stay here with me. We can order food watch movies maybe even have some wine". I smiled.

"I'd like that". I smiled. "Feels like forever since we hung out together".

"Life gets busy". I shrugged. "Now do you fancy Chinese or pizza?".

"Chinese". She grinned. "I've been craving egg rolls".

"Better watch you're not pregnant". I laughed. "I'll order food you pick something to watch".

"I'm really glad I've got you in my life Leah. Ind don't deserve a friend like you".

"We'll always be friends and I'll always be here. Pete will come around and everything will be fine".

"I don't know". She shrugged. "He was really angry more so because I let them take you".

I rolled my eyes. "You didn't have a choice and they're werewolves. You made the right decision".

"How are you so cool about what happened?". She asked.

I shrugged. "I'm safe they didn't hurt me and now I'm back home. What's the point in being pissed off about it?".

"Weren't you scared?".

"At first yeah". I nodded. "But there was no need for me to be scared when I found out it was my dad. They might have gone about this the wrong way,

butem I know they would never hurt me".

"Are you going to go back there?". She asked.

"I want to know my family, Lana. I've only ever had my gran and it's not as if she's part of my life anymore".

"I still find it strange how she distanced herself. She was so protective of you when we were younger. Do you know I can't remember the last time I saw her".

"Yeah". I nodded. "We're going to meet for coffee once a week and take it from there".

"Think you'll ever get back to the way things were?".

Deep down I knew it would never be the same, but I had to at least try, right? She was still my gran, and she played a big part in my life. But would I be able to get past all the secrets and lies?

I mean what else is she keeping from me?

"I hope so". I smiled. "Now pick something to watch I'll order the food".

I brought the blankets downstairs and threw the cushions from the couch on the floor. We were currently watching friends sharing a bottle of wine that was in the fridge.

"Do you think Jake will be home?". She asked.

I shrugged. "At least I'll know where he is if he doesn't".

"True". She nodded. "Have you received your acceptance letter for college yet?".

I shook my head. "Still waiting".

"I applied too". She grinned. "I thought we could go through it together".

"You did? What are you going to study?". I asked.

"Business". She smiled. "I want to open my own little boutique in town".

"Yeah?". I grinned. "I love it".

"Let's hope I get in".

"Let's hope we both get in". I laughed.

"It'll be justen like when we were back in Florida. Living our best life's. I'll be forever grateful that I'm here with you Leah. Let's face it I don't have

anyone else. My mom doesn't give a shit about me and if it wasn't for you and your gran, I don't know what would have happened".

"Everything happens for a reason. We were always going to end up here. As silly as it sounds, we're both exactly where we need to be".

"You're right but something tells me Pete isn't going to be so forgiving after what I did".

"He'll come around besides he can't stay mad at you forever".

...

I was tidying up downstairs when he arrived home. Lana was already tucked up in bed in the spare room. She was an emotional rollercoaster tonight. We talked for hours, we laughed, we cried.

Reminiscing about our childhood and how much our lives had changed.

Folding away the blankets I could feel him staring. I had no idea what mood he was in or if him being out there had helped.

Usually, a run does the trick.

"Looks like you've had a busy night?". He held up the wine bottle before disposing of it into the trash.

"Not really". I shrugged. "Lana came over, we had a catch up".

"She still here?". He asked.

I nodded. "She's in the spare room".

"I see". He spoke.

"I didn't expect you home". I carried the wine glasses to the sink. I would wash them in the morning along with the dinner dishes. "I'm going to bed".

"Wait, wait a minute". He grabbed hold of my arm and pulled me to him.

"I'm sorry if I can't just be okay with what happened but you have to understand I have to keep you safe".

"And I am safe". I tilted my head so I could look up at him. "And yes, it could have been worse, but it wasn't. I'll always be okay, I'll always be safe, and you know I can handle my own".

"It's not about handling your own Leah but I'm not going to keep going on about it because you obviously don't have an issue with what happened. I'm heading back out I only came back to check on you". He kissed the top

of my head and then he was gone.

I locked the door as soon as he left.

I didn't know what he wanted me to say or how I was to act. The main thing was that I was okay and safe, and I was. I don't know why he felt the need to keep going on about it.

Or maybe I should be more worried because of how easily they took me. But I wasn't because maybe I just didn't care.

A sigh fell from my lips as I turned the lights off and headed upstairs.

Commented [Ma1]: