

## Chapter 195

I wasn't arguing with him today. If he wanted to stay in a funk about what happened, then he would come out it the way he went into it because I wasn't talking about it anymore. I was over it.

I woke around 9 and the bed was empty and cold next to me. Of course, he didn't come home. Probably still patrolling this very minute.

I was in the kitchen drinking coffee. Lana had already left this morning leaving me a note to make me aware. I had already planned my day for today. I wasn't sitting about the house doing nothing.

It's all I ever did, and I was sick of it.

I had already showered and planned to visit the library in town. I also planned to stop by the college again to see if they could speed up the process on their decision.

I was sick of waiting to hear back from them too. I needed something to fill my time, and college was the perfect place. It also gave me a little bit of my life back. Some normality and maybe even a little bit of my social life back.

I never went out anymore, not like I used to, and I missed it. I missed the nightlife, the dancing, the music. Sometimes I felt like a housewife, and I was nowhere near ready for that.

Jake liked to keep me in a bubble but that wasn't me. He would be happy to have me at home all day every day, but I couldn't do it. I wasn't built to do nothing.

I finished off my coffee placing my empty mug in the sink. Slipping my arms into my jacket I grabbed the keys to the truck and my purse before leaving out the front door.

I stopped on the porch.

Jake and Pete seemed deep in conversation at the bottom of the driveway.

Like they weren't even there I made my way to the truck unlocked it and got in. I had yet to replace my car so Jake's truck would have to do.

He jumped in the passenger side leaving the door ajar so I couldn't just

drive off. Not that I would do that anyway.

"Leah?"

"Good morning to you too. I see you didn't come home last night". I put the keys in the ignition and turned on the engine.

"I had to put stuff into place. Where are you going?". He frowned.

"Into town. I want to visit the library and then drop by the college. I might even stop and have some breakfast on the way. Are you going to bed?". I asked.

"Yeah". He scratched the back of his head. "What's going on?"

"Nothing". I shrugged. "I just didn't want to sit in the house all day. I'm sick of staring at the same four walls".

"Do you have your phone with you?" He asked.

"I do". I nodded.

He knew better than to try and stop me. It wouldn't work because he knew I wouldn't listen. It would just cause an argument that could be avoided.

"Do you want to go out for dinner tonight?". I asked. "I still want to run a few ideas by you if that's okay?"

"Are you sure you're, okay?"

"I'm fine. Do you need me to bring you anything back?"

He shook his head. "Just text me when you get there so I know you're okay. I'll book somewhere for dinner". He reached over placing a kiss on my lips. "We'll talk when your back".

Talk about what?

"Okay".

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I stopped at the Starbucks drive-thru for coffee before setting off towards the college. I should have heard something back by now and the fact that I haven't worried me.

My grades are good enough to get in which makes me think Mr. Gallagher really has it in for me.

But why?

I turned down Yale because it was the right thing to do. I wouldn't be able to cope being that far from Jake and not just that my life was here. My friends and family were here.

I made the decision to go to Yale out of spite. I did it impulsively to hurt Jake. I applied when I was angry and if I'm honest I never thought I'd have gotten accepted.

I was good enough for community college and I wasn't taking no for an answer. I pulled into the parking lot and parked up. The semester didn't start for another month, so I had plenty of time to fight my case if the decision was no.

I think I sat outside for at least an hour. I couldn't bring myself to go inside. Maybe deep down I feared being rejected. If I didn't get in, I literally had nothing left.

I needed this.

The knock on my window caused me to jump. A classic move from Mr. Gallagher. I rolled my window down slightly.

"The semester hasn't started yet Miss Wilson. Why are you parked in my car park?". He asked.

"Because I need-...". I paused.

Wait. Did that mean I got in?

"Didn't you receive your acceptance letter? I assumed that's why you were here".

I couldn't hide my smile. "I got in?".

"You did". He smiled. "Majoring in English literature I'm hoping?".

I nodded.

"Excellent I'll see you in 4 weeks Miss Wilson now get out of my parking lot".

A laugh fell from my lips as I watched him walk back inside. So, maybe he wasn't all bad, but I still didn't like the feeling that appeared in my stomach when I was around him.

He made me nervous but that was something I didn't want to think about. I had just found out I had gotten into college. Today was a good day for me. I was driving down the highway on my way to the library when my

phone began ringing from inside my bag.

It was then I realised I didn't check in with Jake.

The ringing stopped before starting again. I would call him back once it was safe to do so. I was in a car accident once I wasn't putting myself in a situation where it could happen again.

I took the exit and once I was on a new strip of road, I pulled into the side coming to a stop. I tapped his name bringing the phone to my ear.

"I'm sorry I forgot to message you". I spoke.

"Are you okay?". He asked.

"I'm safe if that's what you mean".

"I'll always worry about you regardless of what's happened Leah but no that's not what I mean. Are you okay?". He asked again.

"Sorry I shouldn't have said that. I'm okay I'm just heading to the library. Have you been to sleep yet?".

"Can you skip the library and come straight home?".

And there it was. The dreaded feeling rose in the pit of my stomach.

"Why?". I frowned. "Is everything okay?".

"Everything's fine babe but we have guests".

Guests?

"We do?".

"Your gran and George are here, and it doesn't look like they are leaving anytime soon".

"What?".

"Skip the library and come home okay".

"Yeah, yes, I'm on my way now". I ended the call and took off towards home.

I wasn't sure if them being here was a good thing or a bad thing. But I guess I wouldn't find out until I got home and faced them head on. The library could wait for another day.

The day had started out so well. Now I was filled with dread because let's be serious, she couldn't just be here for a casual visit.

It wasn't long before I was pulling into our street and sure, as hell my grand car was parked behind Jake's truck. Parking outside the house I made sure to leave enough room for them to get out.

I had already decided they weren't staying. And then the guilt started to seep in. What if she was here because something was wrong? I couldn't exactly turn them away and if she really wanted, she could take her house back.

But then that would put Lacey and Jack on the street and Lacey couldn't be without a place to live not in her condition.

A sigh fell from my lips as I ran a hand down my face. What the hell was I doing? I always made the situation worse by making up scenarios in my head. It was a habit I couldn't seem to shake. I got out making sure to lock the truck and made my way up the driveway and inside.

I took a deep breath before making my way into the living room.

"Leah sweetheart". She got to her feet pulling me in for a hug. "Are you okay?".

"I'm fine". I frowned. "Is everything okay with you?". I mean we only had coffee together the other day and if she wanted to hear from me, she could have called.

"Your dad called me".

Ah, so she was here because she knew I knew.

"Yeah, I went to see him". She didn't need to know all the details.

"I've got a lot of explaining to do Leah, but you need to know I did my best. I wanted you to have the best childhood, I wanted you to have the best life. I tried sweetheart I really did".

My stomach dropped because I knew she tried her best no; she did her best for me growing up but so much had happened I wasn't sure what to believe anymore. She could apologize and explain herself a thousand times, but it wouldn't change anything.

"Would you like some tea?". I glanced at Jake. "I think I should make some tea". I walked into the kitchen.

"What's going on?". He asked.

"I can't do this right now. I need time to think before I get into it with her".

She had nothing left but to tell me the truth.

To lay everything on the table and finally tell me everything.

"You want me to get rid of them?"

"We can't just throw them out". I sighed.

"I could tell them to come back?". He suggested.

"No". I shook my head. "I don't know. What do we do?"

"Stay here I'll handle it".