

## Chapter 200

I woke to an empty house and a note. Jake and my dad had gone out a run and to show him around the pack grounds. I poured myself some coffee and was just about to sit down when there was a knock on the front door.

A sigh fell from my lips, but I stopped with my hand on the door handle. What if it was my gran? I already told her I had plans today with Alanna. I wasn't against seeing her just not now. Not when I've just woken up.

What was I doing? I was making this situation worse when I should be facing it head on. She was and always will be my gran. The guilt was eating me up at how I was dealing with this.

She may have hidden a lot of things, but she didn't deserve to be treated badly. She didn't raise me not to be kind and she did just that. She raised me. Freezing her out wasn't going to do anyone any good.

I unlocked the door and pulled it open. My gran was stood with a basket of baked good and two takeout coffee cups.

"Gran". I frowned. "Is everything okay?". It was still early morning so for her to be here this early raised some concern.

"Is this a bad time?". She asked.

"No of course not". I moved to the side so she could get past. The baked goods she was carrying made my stomach growl. They smelled delicious.

"I wanted to see you". She placed the basket on the table. "I wanted to see if you were free to do some shopping later?".

"I'm not sure". I had lunch with Alanna and then dinner with my dad. My day was pretty much already planned out.

Her face fell and my stomach dropped. I suppose I could rearrange something and make it work.

"I have lunch plans with Alanna, but we could go shopping first if you would like?". I asked.

"I'd like that and Maybe you could drop by the house later?".

I chewed the inside of my cheek. I knew she knew my dad was coming but was she aware that he was already here. As the back door opened, and voices reached my ears I winced.

She was about to find out.

"Jack". She frowned as he came into view. "I didn't realise you'd get here so soon".

I glanced at Jake and made face. There wasn't any bad blood between them so this should be fine. It's not like they were meeting for the first time, and they did like each other.

"I got here last night Ellen. I hope you don't mind that I'm here early".

"No, of course not". She smiled but it didn't quite reach her eyes, and she knew I noticed that. "Claire should be here around noon if you are both free?".

"I thought we were going shopping before I meet Alanna for lunch?". I asked.

"You're right". She smiled. "But I want you both over for dinner tomorrow night. I think we all need to spend some time together".

She wasn't wrong there. I glanced at my dad, but he was already looking at me. Wait were they waiting for me to answer?

"I'm free tomorrow". I shrugged.

"Then it's settled we'll meet at 8 sharp and Jake you are more than welcome to come along. Leah sweetheart mind and eat those treats in the basket. I must go but I'll see you all tomorrow night".

I'm quite sure I was stood with my mouth ajar. She was like a whirlwind.

"It's nice to see she hasn't changed". My dad laughed.

"Yeah". I frowned. "This should be interesting".

...

My dad had stepped out for a bit, something to do with back home. I was sat eating the cookies my gran brought over whilst chewing Jake's ear off.

"It feels like she's trying too hard". I sighed. "I mean I don't want to freeze her out or be rude but". I paused. It was a tricky situation to be in. I could never hate her but there were plenty of times I wished never to see her again.

I was sick of having the constant argument in my head. I was always debating with myself on how to handle the situation. Every time I said or

thought something horrible the guilt would eat me up.

I couldn't win. I could never cut her off either. My inner self would never allow that to happen. And then I go back to how good she was to me and how good my childhood was.

A groan fell from my lips. "I don't think I can deal with this anymore".

"Hey". He placed his hand on top of mine making me look at him. "Things are going good are they not?".

"I sound like a broken record, don't I?". I huffed. "I should just put everything behind me and move on. Try and fix my family and bring us all together".

A laugh fell from his lips. "You don't sound like a broken record babe it's a lot to process and take in. If you want to put everything behind you then I'll support whatever you decide".

"I feel like I can't breathe at times. I don't want to keep dwelling on the situation because I do want to try and salvage what family I have left. Maybe we can all reunite. I don't know". I shrugged.

"Do what you want to do. Do what feels right because I know deep down, you'd hateac yourself if you don't make things right".

I nodded. He was right. It would be a constant in my mind if I left things the way they are.

"You're right". I sighed. "I'm going to shower before meeting Alanna". I stood on my tiptoes and placed a kiss on his lips. "I love you".

"I love you too babe".

I showered, changed and was blow-drying my hair when my room door burst open.

"You're early". I frowned as she collapsed onto my bed.

"Only a little". She smiled. "Is that your dad's truck parked outside?".

I nodded.

"Family reunion?". She frowned.

"Something like that". I fixed my hair into a ponytail and put my dryer away.

"Where do you want to go for lunch?".

"Taco bell". She grinned.

She was obviously out her mood and feeling better. I slipped my arms into my jacket and pulled my sneakers on. "I see you're feeling better". I smiled.

"Had a few off days". She shrugged. "But yes, I feel better. Have you talked with your gran yet?".

"She dropped by this morning, and we were meant to go shopping before I met you, but she called and cancelled. Something else came up".

"Rude". She frowned. "You'd think she'd be doing everything to get back in your good books".

I shrugged. She wasn't exactly innd my badem books we just didn't talk as much anymore or see each other as we once did. But it was all about moving forward and it was okay that she cancelled.

"Have you seen Lacey or Lana recently?". I asked.

"They're coming to lunch with us". She grinned. "It was meant to be a surprise but". She shrugged. "I hate surprises".

"They are?".

"Yeah, don't look so surprised. We're all friends remember".

"I take it Lacey is over the morning sickness?". I hadn't seen her in months, but I took Jake's advice on that one and let her be.

"She's much better than she was". She nodded. "Now are you ready to go because I'm starving".

"I just don't want it to be awkward. I haven't seen Lacey in months and now with my gran back and her and Jack having to move back in with his parents. It was a shitty move and that's on me".

"No". She frowned. "They understand about the house, and no one blames you for it. Besidesen Jack prefers living back at home because of Lacey".

"Yeah, Jake mentioned that, but I still feel responsible for it".

"Is your gran planning to stay?". She asked.

I shrugged. "We're all meeting tomorrow night for dinner, my aunt Claire should be here today".

"Carter did say his mom was coming down but didn't say what for. So, it'll be like a family dinner?".

I nodded. "I think it's time this was all put behind us so we can finally move on. I think we all deserve that much".

"Do you think you'll finally be able to hear the truth?"

"I hope so". I chewed the inside of my cheek. "My dad being here means I can hear two sides of the story. Kinda, hoping they put it all together and it makes sense. Finding out my mom was a wolf, and George may be my grandfather-...".

"Eh what?". She frowned. "Your mom was a werewolf? And George-...What have I missed?"

"A mess". I laughed. "It's one big mess that seems to be growing increasingly into a bigger mess".

"Wow". She huffed.

"I feel bad for your brother". I sighed. "He's the one that's got to listen to me every day".

She made a face. "I'd be more worried if you didn't talk to him about it. Must be hard though. Everything unwinding in front of you, your gran being back and most of all your dad being part of your life".

"Ah see that's still early days. I haven't fully vetted him to see if that's what he wants to do. Be part of my life".

"That's your problem right there. You need to stop thinking the worst all the time. Good things are allowed to happen, and this is a good thing. Let it happen okay".

"Okay". I smiled. "And you're driving because as you know I don't have a car".

"Yeah, you need to fix that cause I hate driving". She threw her keys at me as we reached downstairs. "You can drive my car".

I rolled my eyes grabbing my purse on the way out. My dad and Jake were in the driveway their heads under the bonnet of his truck.

"All good?". I asked coming to a stop next to them.

"Yeah babe. You have your credit card?"

I nodded. The famous credit card that I barely use. But I did wonder why he mentioned it.

"For shopping". He frowned.

Ah, I forgot to tell him that was cancelled. Not that I would have bought anything with it. I always found it hard to spend money on myself when there was nothing I needed.

I was going off topic like always.

"She cancelled". I shrugged. "So, we're just going for lunch".

"Don't worry Jake I'll make sure she puts a dent in your card". Alanna smirked.

I rolled my eyes. "I won't be long and if I come back alone it's because I've killed her".