

## Chapter 202

Plans changed and I was okay with that. My dad was now going to patrol with Jake to see how he runs things and how it works. I was currently on the couch in my pjs eating pizza and watching criminal minds.

I wasn't expecting company so when there was a knock on the door, I was a little sceptical. It had just past 10 and Jake and my dad had not long left.

"Bear you home?"

Carter?

I went to open the door a little surprised that he was here at this time. Letting him past I closed the door behind him and followed him into the living room.

"Is everything okay?". I asked sitting back down on the couch.

He took a slice of pizza and followed suit. "Jake patrolling?"

I nodded. "He took my dad with him".

"Ah, what's it like having him here?"

I shrugged. "Weird but kind of nice at the same time. But I can't help but think something is going to happen".

"How come?". He frowned.

"Because when has anything good ever happened to me recently? I've been hit with the shit stick so many times I've lost count".

A laugh fell from his lips. "It hasn't been the best but look at things now. Life is good right?"

I nodded.

"You and Jake are good right?"

"Better than ever".

"Then stop thinking shit that hasn't even happened. Enjoy the good in your life and roll with it".

I rolled my eyes before smiling at him. "He wants me to visit so I can meet my other side of the family".

"Is that what you want?"

"Yeah, I think so I mean I think I have to in a way. I never in my life thought this would ever happen so for me to now have my dad here and for us to finally have a start at a relationship it's bittersweet".

"It's nice to see your happy bear". He grinned. "And it's been a while since I saw your smile".

"I smile". I frowned.

"Yeah, but really smile. It suits you".

I rolled my eyes. "How come you're here this late?". I asked.

"Just wanted to see you and ask how you're feeling about tomorrow?".

Ah, dinner with gran.

"Is your mom here?". I asked.

He nodded.

"Is she trying to get you to go back home?".

"She'll always try and get me to go back home but she knows it's not for me anymore. I tried it and it didn't work. I couldn't keep Alanna there when she wasn't comfortable".

"I get that". I nodded. "Is that why Uncle Zacs not here with her?".

"He's too busy with pack stuff". He shrugged. "We're okay though we're in a good place now they know I'm exactly where I need to be".

"And you want to be here?".

"Rank has never been a problem for me. My parents wanted me to go home and claim my beta title, but it just isn't for me. I'll always be a beta because it's in my blood, but I have no issues following orders".

"So, it doesn't bother you that it's not your title in this pack?".

He shook his head. "This pack is different. The way it's run, Jake, everything. I'm settled here and Alanna wants to be here".

"You're not just saying all of this because Alanna wants to be here, are you?". I would hate for him to be sacrificing it all. Betas are strong wolves, second in command to their Alphas. I would hate for him to be giving it all up if he didn't want to.

"Nah". He frowned. "And even if it was because of that I would do it without a doubt. Alanna is my mate I would never have her live

somewhere she isn't comfortable. She didn't feel welcome and if I'm being honest, she wasn't made to feel welcome either".

"Sounds awful". I frowned. "But I'm glad you're back. How are you feeling about dinner tomorrow?".

He shrugged. "I don't think I'll be the topic of choice, and I think I'm only invited because she wants us all there together".

I rolled my eyes. "This would have been so different if she had gone about it another way. She shouldn't have handled it the way she did. She up and left and now I feel she's trying to come back into my life".

"Maybe she has her reasons for acting the way she did and if she does want to come back into your life is that a bad thing?". He asked.

I would love nothing more than for her to be a constant in my life again, but I didn't know how to get back to the way we were before this all blew up in our faces.

"I'll never hate her Carter, but I don't know how to get back to where we were. So much has changed, and I want to fix it, but I don't know how".

"Small steps bear like dinner tomorrow".

"Yeah, you're right small steps".

It could only go up from here, right?

"How are you doing anyway?". He asked.

"I got into college so there's that".

"Yeah?". He grinned.

I nodded. "No more sitting around staring at the same four walls all day". I was excited about this. It was the start of something new and I was ready for it.

"How many days do you go there?".

"Monday through to Wednesday and then a half day on a Thursday so I'll be there the majority of the week".

"Good bear that's good. Let me guess you're majoring in English literature?".

A laugh fell from my lips. "I'm even thinking about doing a night class as well". On what yet I wasn't sure I just wanted to keep busy and secure a

degree or two.

I needed purpose and something to work towards and it's not like I had a job to go to. Apparently, I didn't need to work or make money.

A sigh fell from my lips. I knew Jake would want nothing more than for me to stay at home and do nothing but that wasn't in my nature. I wasn't ready to be a housewife just yet.

I was only 18. I had my whole life ahead of me to be a wife and a mom. This time now was for me, for us, to enjoy life and it being just me and him.

"Are you doing good?". I asked.

"Always bear". He smiled.

"I'm guessing you and Alanna sorted things out?". I wasn't sure if they were still a little rocky.

"She's twisted as shit, but I just do what I'm told and get on with it. We're fine though we'll always sort through whatever life throws at us".

"Twisted, never". I grinned.

A laugh fell from his lips as he grabbed another slice of pizza. "Did you ever think your life would turn out this way?".

"What? Finding out I was a werewolf, the mate to an Alpha, moving to Texas or my relationship with gran?".

"Well, when you put it like that". He grinned. "Life works in mysterious ways don't you think?".

"Everything happens for a reason". I spoke. "And no, I didn't think this would have been my life but I'm glad it is. I'm happy now, more than I've ever been".

"Do you think she did it all for you?". He asked.

"Gran?". I frowned.

He nodded.

I shrugged. "Honestly, I think she moved us out here for George and the rest just happened. I don't believe she knew I was Jake's mate I mean how could she?".

"Maybe she had a hunch?".

"Oh, come on". I rolled my eyes. "Don't get me wrong I don't believe her intentions were bad just the way she went about it".

"I get that". He nodded. "And I do think she realises now that she went about it all the wrong way. I think she needs forgiveness, for you to forgive her and for the both of you to move on".

She didn't need my forgiveness. She may have done some shitty things but apparently it was all for my benefit. Pushing me to move in with Jake, selling the house, skipping town and leaving nothing but a note. The more I think about it the shittier it sounds.

"Everything happens for a reason though, right?".

"You really believe that?". He asked.

"I do".

"Do you want to forgive her?".

"I want to move on and be done with this whole thing. I'm sick to death of it always playing in the back of my mind. And if I'm being really honest here whether she's in my life or not nothing is going to change. She'll go on with her life and I'll go on with mine".

"Wow, bear. That's very mature but don't you think she deserves to be in your life?".

"What you getting at Carter?".

"Don't you miss her being here?".

I did at the start. I cried for what felt like weeks and then it stopped. I picked myself up, dusted myself off and continued with life. I think I reacted the way I did because it had always just been the two of us but that was no longer the case.

I had Jake, I was supported by his family and as the weeks went by, I no longer felt the need to be hurt by what she did.

"Of course I miss her". I sighed. "But I learned to live and get by without her".

"I get that, but you can't be mad at me for wanting my family to be together again".

"I'm not mad Carter, I just wish it was all put behind us. I'm so done with talking about it".

"Say no more. I'm going to head home but I'll see you tomorrow".

"Are you sure you're, okay?". I asked getting to my feet so I could walk him out.

"Always bear I'll catch you later".

Okay then.

I made sure to lock the door after he left. Something was off with him and of course he didn't want to talk about it. The way he came at me with the whole gran situation was weird.

Carter was always easy going. He went with the flow, a people pleaser if you wish but something triggered him to involved himself in all of this. But like he said maybe he just wants his family together.

But I wasn't sure I fully believed that.

I moved the pizza box into the kitchen and grabbed a bottle of water before heading upstairs. Like always I switched on the tv before getting into bed. Closing my eyes I pulled the cover up and around my neck and fell asleep to the background noise coming from the tv.