

Chapter 204

It was as if nothing had ever changed. There was no elephant in the room, no awkwardness. Everyone was chatting and getting along. I was stuck in a conversation with my aunt Claire about college.

"That's amazing Leah and when do you start?". She asked.

I could feel my gran's eyes on me. She was listening to every word smiling and if I'm being honest, it made me kind of sad. There were loads I missed about her, and it still terrified me in case we couldn't rekindle the relationship we once had.

"In 3 weeks' time". I nodded. "I still have to pick up my schedule and other things, but I have plenty of time".

"That you do". She smiled. "I'm so excited for you".

"Thanks". I smiled. "I'm excited too". I couldn't wait to get back into a routine again and who knows maybe I'll pick up a job on campus. Turns out the gas station wasn't for me.

Even though I only did the one shift, or half a shift Jake never took me back and it was never talked about again.

"I'm glad you're going to college sweetheart". My gran spoke. "It's nice to see you're doing well".

"Me too". I nodded.

I had barely seen George, he was busy in the kitchen preparing everyone's food. He would show face for a few minutes, fill up wine glasses and then disappear again.

Oddly enough he couldn't seem to make eye contact with me.

"If you'll excuse me a minute". My gran spoke as she got to her feet.

We had been here 45 minutes, and I couldn't wait to eat. I didn't have a big lunch because I was keeping room for the steak.

"Are you okay?". Jake whispered his hand finding mine under the table.

I nodded. Alanna didn't come with Carter and when I asked where she

was, he shrugged and continued to drink the brown liquor in his glass. I wasn't keeping count, but I already knew he had a lot.

Jake being Jake told me it wasn't my business and to basically keep my mouth shut. He wasn't making a scene or causing bother, but I didn't miss the way auntie Claire was looking at him, the worry clear in her eyes.

Something was going on with Carter and I wasn't sure how long it was going to be before he cracked. I had never seen this side of him before, and it was worrying.

"I'm starving". Jake muttered.

I made a face. Always thinking about his stomach but he had a point I was hungry to. My gran was trying. She had set the table beautifully; everyone was on their best behaviour and the mood was light.

I did wonder if we were ever going to talk about the unspoken truth of my life. Well, parts of it and all the other things that happened. I wanted the nitty-gritty details of everything.

I wanted to finally know who I really was and of course the story of George being my grandfather.

That was still weird to think. Don't get me wrong George was lovely, and he treated my gran well, but I wanted to know why they didn't stay together. Why my gran went on to marry someone else and of course have more children.

If they were soul mates, how were they able to be separated for so long?

I had so many things I wanted to know and yet wasn't sure if anyone was going to scratch the seal. You know switch the topic onto what put this dinner in motion in the first place.

"So, Jake. How's things within the pack?" My Aunt Claire asked.

Talking about the pack was always friendly conversation and Jake liked to brag about our pack being one of the best and not to mention strongest.

"Good". He smiled. "We've got new drills we've been running and a few current ideas I want to bring to light at the monthly pack meeting. Is Zac coming down?". He asked.

"No". She shook her head. "We're having some issues with rogue wolfs finding shelter on our lands".

"Ah". He nodded. "We had that issue once before".

I bit the inside of my cheek to hold in my laugh. He may never admit it, but Rocco was an asset to our pack and one hell of a wolf.

"Can you share how you got rid of them?". She asked.

He scratched the back of hisnd head his cheeks turning a light shade of pink. "We didn't they became part ofem our pack".

"Wait, what?". She frowned. "What about the risks or the dangers?".

I tried my hardest not to roll my eyes. Rocco was never a risk. He just wanted to belong somewhere and for his family to be safe.

"We got lucky". He spoke. "And now he's one of the strongest among us".

"Our Alpha would never take that risk". She spoke. "Outsiders are a big no".

"That's cause he's a dick". Carter piped up. "He's always been a dick".en
Oh.

"Carter". She hissed. "Enough of that language around the dinner table".

He shrugged got to his feet and walked towards the back of the house.

"Leah is he okay?". She asked.

Now would be the perfect timing for dinner to be ready. I was afraid the mood was going to turn sour, and everyone was going to go home hungry and annoyed.

"I'll get him". Jake spoke.

What I did notice was how my dad sat quietly observing everything. He hadn't really said much throughout the time we had been here. He was polite, spoke when spoken to but other than that made no other conversation.

But why?

My eyes landed on his for a moment before I turned my attention to my

Aunt Claire.

"He doesn't seem himself right now but I'm sure he's fine". I wasn't sure if he was fine but for once I was taking Jake's advice and minding my business. As much as it kills me seeing him suffer, I wouldn't involve myself.

"He's a strong wolf". My dad added. "And I'm sure whatever it is will pass".

I wasn't sure if he and my aunt Claire got on. Hadn't seen them share more than a hello.

"Could you maybe talk to him Jack, see if you can see what's going on inside that head of his".

"I'll try". He smiled. "But he doesn't seem the sharing type".

Okay so maybe they do get on.

"I don't know what's going on with him lately. Ever since he came home and then decided to come back here, he's been different". She sighed. "His dad and I can't seem to shake the feeling that he's going to spiral".

"I hope everyone's hungry...Oh where is Jake and Carter?". My gran asked as she finally joined us again. George behind her carrying a large platter tray.

It was the laughter that answered that question when Jake and Carter returned to the dining room.

"Oh, there they are, now come sit and eat". She smiled.

Surely, I wasn't the only one confused. Did Jake manage to talk it out of him? A sigh fell from my lips as he took his seat beside me. I asked no questions because I knew he wouldn't tell me here.

"Haven't had the best few days so I apologise for my rudeness". Carter spoke as he took his seat.

"What's happened?". My gran frowned.

"Are you sure you're, okay?". Aunt Claire asked.

"I'm fine mom".

"Okay if everyone is okay let's dig in and I want to see clean plates". Gran

smiled.

She didn't need to worry about clean plates when she had several werewolves around her table.

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It was getting late, and I couldn't stop yawning. It had been a good night so far. The chat was light around the table and everyone seemed to be in a good mood.

I noticed my dad kept looking at his phone every few minutes. Was he looking at the time? Did he need to be somewhere else? I was curious but I would never ask.

"Right". My gran got to her feet. "Who wants some coffee, and we can move this into the sitting room".

"I have to go gran. I'm patrolling tonight but dinner was lovely". Carter matched her movements and placed a kiss on her cheek.

"Do you want me to put some leftovers into a dish for you?". She asked.

"Okay". He nodded.

"That's my queue too baby". Jake spoke.

"You're patrolling again tonight?". I frowned.

"Did I forget to mention that?". He scratched the back of his head.

"You did". I sighed. "But it's okay. Are you going as well?". I looked at my dad.

"Well, Jake and Carter are going to show me more of the strategy's they use on night patrol. We could go for coffee tomorrow before I head home?".

"Yeah". I nodded.

I felt a little disheartened. I wanted to move on from the past but that didn't mean I didn't want to know what went on. I was under the impression that we were going to talk about it all tonight.

I mean isn't that why he was here?

My gran summoned him and for what? For everything to be the same? For

me to still be left in the dark about my family. For all the secrets and lies to be unspoken about.

No one was going to rip the Band-Aid off so that left me no choice. I was going to bring the elephant into the room.

"So, who want's coffee?". My gran asked as she passed Carter his Tupperware tub full of food.

"I'd like to know why no one is talking about the reason we're all here tonight". I spoke.

I didn't want to be that person, but I had to be. No one was touching the subject.

"Because I'd really like to talk about that". I chewed the inside of my cheek. My heart was racing I swear it was going to burst out my chest.

"Mic drop". Carter laughed. "And I'm glad I really don't need to be here for this. I'll see you all tomorrow".

"No". My gran spoke. "If we're talking about this then I want everyone to be here and that includes you Carter so sit down".

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Next update will be soon :) My little girl is sick and I've not had the time to write. She's on the mend now though :)



RV.Elliott

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