of my stomach. The front door opened and closed. He was here, I could feel him. Washing out my mug I felt the hair on the back of my neck

Alanna left and Charlotte wasn't back yet. Getting to my feet I grabbed my mug. I couldn't help the horrible feeling I had in the pit

stand. His hands gripped my waist, his front flush against my back. I tensed the mug slipping from my hands. He moved so quietly I could never hear when he approached. Nuzzling his nose in the

side of my neck he inhaled deeply. "Hey". His voice husky, lower than normal. But my god it did something to my insides.

"Hi". I whispered my breathing shaky.

arms slipped around my waist. "I was an ass but I'm trying. I'm trying so fucking hard to be better for you".

"I know". I got it, he wasn't used to me. He wasn't used to me answering for him or talking for him and that was okay. He was trying and that's all I could ask for.

It definitely felt different between us but not in a bad way. "I'm sorry about earlier babe". Placing open kisses on my neck his

"I don't want to fuck this up Leah". "You won't, we won't".

"You're fucking perfect". He whispered.

"Ah you're here. Your dad will be home in half an hour". His mom entered the kitchen and his arms fell from my waist. "An emergency pack meeting mom, really?". He moved away giving me the space to turn around.

"You're not Alpha just yet Jacob". She glanced at me before looking back at him. I always found it weird when she called him Jacob.

It was rare and never happened much. Only when she was pissed off or serious. "I still don't think a pack meeting was necessary. I could have just tossed her out and be done with it".

"That's your dad's decision not yours".

"She could have killed Leah". He clenched his teeth, his eyes falling into slits.

her out or I will when I become Alpha". "Jake". I placed my hand on his forearm.

"Sadly babe you don't get a say either but you will once you become Luna".

able to do that. I wonder if they all had that ability or just him because he's Alpha.

claws away".

"When will you become Alpha?". I asked.

"When my dad steps down".

"And I am enough for you right?".

and you see just what you mean to me".

A laugh fell from his lips. "It'll be magical I know that much".

"Hey". I placed my hands on his chest trying to calm him.

the minute I wake up to the minute I go to sleep.

"What does that mean?". I frowned.

"And tonight?". I whispered.

"She's not going to get away with it".

"Alanna". He growled.

"Is Carter patrolling?".

"In a good way?".

"Until he left?".

"And are you?".

"I don't disagree Jake but we have to do this right. Jessica will get her punishment however your dad sees fit".

I chewed the inside of my cheek as I glanced at Charlotte. I could feel the tension radiating from his body. He most definitely wasn't happy about this and I knew he was trying his hardest to keep it together.

"When you are Alpha and only when you are Alpha will you be able to make that decision. Now calm down and put your damn

"Regardless of the outcome I don't want her here and I don't want her near Leah. She's as good as dead to me so either he kicks

A dark chuckle fell from his lips yet the butterflies erupted in my stomach."Yes mother". And just like that his claws were gone. "I'm still your mom Jake so your Alpha male doesn't work on me". She grabbed her glass of wine and left the kitchen.

Glancing at his hands I swallowed the lump in my throat. Sure as shit his claws were extended. It freaked me out that he was

"And when will that be?". "When he knows I'm ready".

I frowned at that. Wasn't he ready now? "He always told me I had to find my mate first". He took my hand in his. "Told me I would be at my strongest with her by my side".

"We'll be okay wont we?". "Always babe".

"I'm always going to need you Leah. You were made for me". I smiled as he kissed my knuckles.

"We'll finally be connected". He kissed the top of my head. "We'll become one". "I'll be able to feel your emotions?".

I couldn't help the faint blush that scorched my cheeks. Never had anyone made me feel the way he does. He's on my mind from

"Baby". He wrapped his arms around my waist and pulled me flush against him. "You'll always be enough. I can't wait till we mate

"Don't worry about tonight Leah. Jessica knows the rules and she broke them regardless. No one touches my mate, no one". He hissed.

"She could have hurt the most important person to me and she's not getting away with it".

"Oh please, don't make me sick". Alanna laughed as she joined us in the kitchen.

"You two seem to be getting along really well". She grinned passing me a mug of tea.

"Yeah, I thought because we didn't mate the feelings would just go away".

"Doesn't work like that". She smiled. "Can I be honest with you?".

person you're destined to be with everything else falls into place".

"You're mated to an Alpha. It was never going to be an easy ride".

"Don't remind me". I rolled my eyes taking another sip of my tea.

"I'm kidding". She winked at me. "It's nice to finally see you two loved up".

She wasn't wrong. It was nice not to be at each other's throats for once.

"Yes he's with Jack. They're coming here when they're finished".

"Good answer". He smirked. "I won't be long".

"I didn't realise how much I needed him".

I gave her a nod as I sipped on my tea.

"Mine hasn't been that easy". I laughed.

"But things are good now right?".

"Yeah". I smiled. "For now".

"Meaning?". I frowned.

"We're both just as bad as each other".

"A perfect match". She winked.

"I'm not but I'll meet you there".

"Everything okay?". She asked.

"Sure thing. I'll see you soon".

freezing.

"Eat". She ordered.

ready to sit them.

"I'm not going".

"And what about Yale?".

The dreaded question.

"I can get my degree online".

"And you'll be living at home?".

Eh? What was she getting at asking that?

"You'll mate soon, you'll move out".

"I'm not moving out". I frowned.

"I'm thinking of selling the house".

"But I'm not mated yet".

"But I'm not going".

"Yes because Jake came back and-...".

"I see Lana has moved her stuff out. Did you know?".

"You will as soon as your mated. Jake won't have it any other way".

"George lives way out of town". I'd see her less than I do now.

"It's a thirty minute drive Leah it's not that far. We'll see each other on weekends".

"Where's all this coming from?". I didn't want to move out, I wasn't ready to.

"Okay honey. I have something to talk to you about".

"Okay I'll see you soon". I ended the call and glanced at Alanna.

"Yeah I'll be back. Can you let Jake know I went home to see my gran".

beat his ass".

the screen.

Finally.

"But she will if my dad keeps her around". His body tensed, his eyes shifting from brown to black.

"You're right babe". Resting his forehead against mine a sigh fell from my lips. "This is what's important". I brushed my nose against his.

"Calm down". I whispered running my hands up and down his arms. "Who cares what happens to her. She's not important".

"I'm going to catch up with them". He pulled me closer his grip on my waist tightening. "Stay with me tonight?". "Okay". I didn't think twice about it.

We were out the back sitting on the decking. The rain had stopped, the air mild and fresh. "We are". I smiled. "It feels different".

"Not everyone finds their mate Leah. I didn't think I was going to find Carter". "But you did".

"Yeah". She laughed. "But there is always that feeling inside. The longing feeling like something is missing. When you meet the

"Oh come on Leah. He isn't exactly the easiest to get along with and his temper". She made a face. "I'm surprised my dad didn't

"Made for each other". I rolled my eyes as my phone started vibrating in my pocket. Taking it out my grans name was flashing on

"It's nice to see you happy. My brother hasn't exactly made it easy for you". "Wasn't all his fault". Yes he was difficult at times but so was I.

"Maybe not but it mostly was. At least he's finally becoming the person he needs too".

"Hello".. "Hey sweetheart I'm 10 minutes out. I'm going to pick up takeout. Are you home?".

I didn't wait long before my gran got home. "Oh good you're here". She smiled as she walked into the kitchen placing the food on the counter. "Get some plates will you. I got Chinese".

I did as she asked pulling two plates from the cupboard. "Is George coming?". I asked.

I took a seat at the table and started eating. "Did you enjoy being away?". I asked.

"I did sweetheart. How's the hand, how's school. You finish up this week don't you?". She asked.

"Not tonight honey". She fixed the food onto the two plates while I went about sorting some drinks for us.

I felt like I hadn't seen her in ages even though it was just the other day. We rarely spent any time together anymore.

"My hands fine and yes I have the last of my exams this week". Even thinking about them turned my stomach. I wasn't sure I was

"It is". I had already decided I was staying and I wasn't going to change my mind again. My life was here and Jake was here.

"I have to go home". I glanced at the time. "Gran wants to have dinner and talk to me about something".

I jumped in my car and drove the short distance home. Parking in the driveway I cut my engine and went inside.

Kicking off my shoes I hung up my jacket and went into the living room. I switched on the lights and turned on the heating. It was

"You're coming back though right?". She walked me down the back path and out front to my car.

"Yes I don't want to leave". "Okay. As long as it's your decision".

"And that's your decision?". She finally sat down opposite me and started her dinner.

"I haven't seen Lana for a few days. Gran what's this all about?". I put my fork down.

"So what's your plans for after you graduate?". She asked.

"Wait what?". I felt the lump appear in the back of my throat. "That's what I wanted to talk to you about. You'll be moving out soon and George wants me to move in with him".

"You had made the decision to go to Yale so I had made the decision to move in with George. This house is to big just for me".

"That's not fair". I whispered. "You know I never asked for any of this and you were the one that wanted to move here".

"I'm not doing it out of badness sweetheart and besides the money I get from the house will go into your savings account".

"But I'm not ready to move out". It had always just been me and my gran. This was a big step and it was happening sooner than I

"Yes honey but you will be. As soon as you mate you'll feel ready".

ever thought. "I'm eighteen".

"How soon is this happening?".

"It goes on the market Friday".

I couldn't believe this and I couldn't sit here any longer. I scraped my chair back and got to my feet. "I'm staying with Jake tonight or do you want me to pack all of my stuff the now and take it with me". I regretted the words as soon as I said them. "Sorry".

"I get that it's scary sweetheart but this is the beginning of something good for you and you deserve every last bit of it. I want you to be happy so please just go and be happy".

"I don't want you to leave". "I'm not going far honey and we'll see each other all the time". I didn't believe that. I hardly seen her just now. "Okay well I'm going to pack a bag".

"You've hardly touched your dinner". "Not really hungry". The tears didn't fall until I was closing the door to my bedroom.