

Read Novel In Between the Alpha's Chapter 21-25

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 21

Jake never let me live that kiss down. He gloated about it for almost a full week after and he brought it up again a month later when he asked me out and I said yes. According to him one of the main reasons I said yes is because he's a phenomenal kisser. I told him he was an okay kisser and he proceeded to show me otherwise.

Greg wasn't the biggest fan of me dating him because according to him someone was going to end up heartbroken and it was most likely going to be Jake because I won't be able to be the Beta female he wants me to be and there was also the looming possibility of us finding our mates or Jake finding out why I'm really here and on the run.

I actually tried to tell that to Jake (well not everything- just the part about me not being able to move to his pack with him our mates) but he promised that he was never going to try to put me into a box. He also said that we would end whatever we had when we found our mates.

I was packing up Mrs. Wiggin's bags when I felt his presence, I looked up and saw him watching me from the aisle and I couldn't help my smile.

"Ha; I remember when I was young and in love," Mrs. Wiggins said and I snapped my eyes back to her.

"I'm not- we're not in love." I quickly said but all she did was laugh in return.

"Remember when I tried to play matchmaker and you said he wasn't your type?" she asked, "An old lady is never wrong."

"You were right that time Mrs. Wiggins but not this time."

"Maybe," she shrugged, "But don't break his heart." She gave me a small wave and pushed her trolley away. Why does everyone suddenly think I'm going to break his heart? I am not a heartbreaker.

A small cough cleared me out of my thoughts and I saw Mr. Brenna's nephew. I don't know his name but I have seen him around town a few times and he's a bit on the cute side with his curly hair and chubby cheeks.

“Hi, I’m so sorry.” I said taking the things from him and ringing them up, “How’s your uncle doing? I haven’t seen him around in a while.”

“He’s good; he’s just taking a few days off to rest his back.” He said, “He almost popped it trying to change a bulb.”

“Well, could you tell him I hope feels better soon and I’m wishing him a very quick recovery?” I said, “It’s a bit weird going over to the store and not seeing him.”

“I’ll be sure to let him know.” He said with a smile, “I’ll see you around Charlie.”

“Bye.” He had barely left when I saw Jake standing in front of me, “Hi Jake.”

“Don’t Hi Jake me.”

“What crawled up your a-ss and died?” I asked with a small scoff, “Are you sure you’re not PMSing?”

“This isn’t funny Charlotte.” He growled and I shot him a confused look.

“First of all calm down we’re in public and we don’t want to cause a scene.”

“So now I’m causing a scene?”

“What has gotten into you?” I asked and I saw him roll his eyes but before he could reply Greg walked up to us.

“Is everything okay over here?” he asked and I replied yes at the same time Jake said no. “I think both of you should take this outside people are beginning to stare and ask questions. I can handle the counter for a while.”

“Thanks Greg.” I said as I ignored Jake and made my way outside through the back. As soon as the door shut behind us I whirled on him, “Are you crazy?”

“I’m the crazy one?” he asked, “Well I wasn’t the one flirting with that kid.” I was confused for a second before everything finally clicked in my head and I let out a bark of laughter. “This is not funny Charlotte.”

“Don’t ever call me Charlotte,” I said, “And you are just overreacting. I was being nice to him. It’s part of my job to be nice to customers.”

“Well I want you to be a little less nice to guys next time.”

“You can’t tell me to be mean to customers just because you’re insecure.”

“I can if they just want to fvck you.” He yelled, “Why else would they be nice to you?”

I went quiet for a full second before letting out a scoff, “Is that why you’re being nice to me?” I asked, “Because you want to fvck me?”

“That’s not what I meant.”

“Then what did you mean because it seems like I don’t understand.”

“I just don’t like it when you get too close to other men.”

“He is a customer Jake,” I said, “You can’t throw a fit because I’m doing my job.”

“Then quit your job,” he said, “You can come back to my pack with me.”

“We discussed this before I agreed to go out with you Jake,” I said simply, “I’m not going back to the werewolf world under any circumstances.”

“If you come with me then we can be together without any objections or setbacks.”

“What if we find our mates?”

“I don’t care about anyone else,” he said, “You’re the only mate that matters. I lo-“

“Do not finish that sentence,” I said quickly and he looked at me in confusion, “We talked about this Jake; this was not the plan.”

“Plans change; we can change our original plan.”

“I’m not doing this with you right now Jake,” I sighed, “I told you I wasn’t looking for anything serious. And if you’ve changed your mind then we should end this right now.”

“You’re right; I’m sorry, I was overstepping my boundaries.”

“Thank you.” I sighed, “Now can I expect that you won’t pull a stunt like this again?”

“I can’t promise that I won’t get jealous.” He confessed, “I don’t like it when people look at what’s mine.”

“Well that’s the problem isn’t it; I’m not yours Jake.”

He frowned and looked like he wanted to complain but chose to keep quiet instead, “Let’s go inside.”

I opened the door leading back into the store and what I saw made me run behind the door and hide.

“Are you okay?” Jake asked and I nodded, “Are you sure; you look like you’ve seen a ghost.” I tried to calm my breathing but forced out a nod, “What did you see?”

He tried to peep but I pulled him back, “Just stay here with me.” He looked like he wanted to protest but he nodded anyways.

After about five minutes I checked again and when I saw the coast was clear I turned to him, “Could you please get Greg for me?”

“Are you sure you’re okay?” he asked and I nodded, “If you’re not then I can help.”

“I’m fine; just get Greg please.”

He nodded and left, not up to a minute later Greg rushed in alone. “Are you okay?” he asked and I shook my head, “What’s wrong?”

“Those men you were talking to a few minutes ago,” I began, “Who were they?”

“I don’t know; I haven’t seen them around town before,” he said, “They were asking for directions to the nearest gas station. Why are you asking?”

“Those men are my soldiers from my father’s pack.”

In Between the Alpha’s Chapter 22

I didn't come out of the back until the end of the day and I was so on edge while we were driving home that I kept my head down through the entire ride and kept all my windows shut just in case.

"You need to get out of the house Charlie," Greg said as I sat across him in the living room, "You can't stay locked in here forever."

"What if they're here for me?" I asked, "If they see me then it's game over. I'm going to get punished for running away and I will be forced to marry your father. My life would be over and everything would be in vain."

"I think you can get your point across without calling him my father," he said giving me a pointed look.

"I'm sorry; I'm just on edge," I said with a sigh, "Look, I just can't go out right now until I'm sure they're all gone from the town."

"That could take months," he said, "And they may never fully leave; there is no guarantee that they won't come here again."

"Well do you have a better idea?"

"Actually I think I do," he said making me look at him, "You won't like it but I can guarantee that it's your best option right now."

"I don't like that tone," I said slowly, "But let's hear it; anything is better than going back."

"I think you should tell Jake—"

"No," I said not even letting him finish, "There is no way I can tell him, he's probably going to sell me out the minute he finds out."

"I knew you weren't going to listen to me," he said and I rolled my eyes.

"I would if you had said something that had even a remote chance of me not going back to that horrible place." I said, "He isn't going to help me."

"What makes you think he won't?" he asked but I shot him a look instead of replying, "Listen, you don't have a lot of options and honestly this is your best one."

“So you just want me to walk up to him and say hey, your girlfriend is actually a runaway fugitive who was promised to some deranged Alpha,” I said in a sarcastic tone, “Like that is going to end well.”

“He loves you,” I opened my mouth to protest but he cut me off, “I don’t want to hear whatever bullsh!t you’ve fed yourself but he loves you and he will keep you safe if you ask him to.” I still didn’t reply so he sighed and continued, “I know you’re skeptical about this but have I ever been wrong or given you bad advice?”

“No,” I muttered begrudgingly.

“Good, so I need you to trust me when I say you should tell him the truth.”

“Even if I wanted to tell him, I can’t leave the house,” I said, “What if I see one of them outside?”

“That isn’t a problem; he should be here in a few minutes.”

“Excuse me what?” I couldn’t help but yell.

“What were you expecting? You damn near gave the poor dude a heart attack. He was worried about you,” he shrugged, “I told him he could come see you today.”

“You knew I was going to agree to this absurd plan didn’t you?”

“I hoped you would,” he corrected, “But it’s a good thing you did, because let’s face it you would have done a sh!tty job of lying to him.”

I rolled my eyes at him and he rose to his feet, “Greg?” I called and he stopped, “What if you’re wrong this time?” I asked, “What if he doesn’t help me and he wants to send me back?”

“Then I promise to do everything in my power to make sure that you don’t have to go back to that monster.”

“Even fighting off a Beta?” I asked

“Even if it means I have to fight off a beta.”

“Thank you.”

I heard a knock on the door and Greg shot me a sympathetic look, "Are you sure you can do this on your own?"

"Yeah of course," I said with a small smile, "I told him you weren't a werewolf anyways so it just makes sense."

"I don't care what you told him," he said, "If you want me to be there just say the word."

"It's okay, I can do this."

"I'll be in my room if you need me."

I waited until he had disappeared before I opened the door. Jake rushed in and I quickly locked the door behind him.

"Are you okay?" he asked and I nodded, "Why did you take so long to answer the door?"

"I was talking to Greg."

"Where is he anyways?"

"He's giving us a bit of privacy." I said and he sighed and walked up to me.

"Are you okay?" he asked again and I nodded, "I'm not asking for a bullshit answer; you were fucking terrified yesterday and I couldn't do anything about it."

"Jake could you please calm down and take a seat?"

"Don't tell me to calm down," he yelled, "I'm worried about you and you aren't telling me a thing."

"I can't talk to you when you aren't being calm," I said, "I need you to calm down so I can talk to you."

He sighed and took a seat and I forced myself to sit still as well.

"You're not saying anything," he said and I shot him a bored look, "I'm sorry."

"I lied to you," I began and he shot me a confused look but didn't say anything, "Well technically I didn't lie but I wasn't totally honest about why I'm here." I

continued, "And the reason I panicked yesterday was because I saw someone from my past."

"What, so you're only telling me because you don't have a choice?"

"I always have a choice Jake, and I'm choosing to tell you so don't make me regret it." He pursed his lips but nodded anyways and I continued, "I'm the daughter of an Alpha and I ran away from my pack because I was being forced to marry someone I didn't want to." The expression on his face was unreadable and I continued before I lost my courage, "He was abusive and horrible and I just couldn't marry him so I ran away."

"Those people from yesterday," he began, "Where they from his pack?" I shook my head, "They were from your father's pack then?" I nodded and he sighed, "Did you marry him?"

"No, I ran away on my wedding day."

He seemed to think about it for a second before he nodded, "Okay."

"That's it?" I asked and he nodded, "You're not going to say anything else?"

"If you had married him then we would be having a totally different conversation right now but you didn't marry him so technically you're still a free woman." He said and I sighed, he wasn't going to take me back, "I wish you had told me earlier but I understand why you didn't."

"I thought you would take me back to him." I admitted and he frowned.

"I'm not a monster Charlie." He said as he ran his hands over his face, "But you're not safe here anymore."

"I don't have anywhere else to go."

"You can come back to my pack with me."

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 23

My first thought was to refuse but he shot me a look that made me go quiet instantly.

“I know you’re going to refuse,” he began, “But the only other option is leaving you here to chance and I can’t do that to you. I won’t leave you to the mercy of that bastard.”

“So what are you going to do?” I asked “Are you going to hide me away and lie to your Alpha about me? He will kill you when he finds out.”

“I don’t lie to Logan ever.” He said, “He’s a good guy and I know he won’t turn you down.”

“He might be a good guy but do you really think he’s going to risk a war with another pack because of a girl who isn’t even your mate?”

“I understand your doubts but I need you to trust me, can you do that?” he asked and I sighed and gave a quick nod, “I promise that everything will be fine.”

“Okay.”

“But there’s one more thing,” he started and from his tone I knew I was probably going to hate what he had to say next, “I’m supposed to go back today- like in a few hours and I wasn’t set to return for a week at least.”

“So if you’re going to help me then I have to leave today.” I said and he nodded.

“If that’s not possible then I can try to pull a few strings and come back as soon as possible-“

“No, she’ll be ready in an hour and a half,” Greg interrupted and when we both turned to him he just shrugged, “You were taking too long to come to a decision.”

“Does he?” Jake began but before I could reply he interrupted.

“Yes I do. But that is not the most important thing right now,” he said, “we need to get her out of here as soon as possible and I’ll make sure she’s ready in an hour and a half.”

Jake looked like he wanted to say more but he just nodded and turned to me, “I’ll be back in two hours.” Without another word he turned on his heels and walked out of the house.

“Well looks like we have to get packing.” Greg said.

“I’m sorry did you just say we?” I asked and he shot me a bored look.

“Aubrey put me in charge of you, I’m not just going to let you run off with some beta you barely know,” he said, “I just need to make sure that you’re settled and I’ll leave. Now stop asking questions and let’s get to packing.”

Surprisingly we finished packing in just under two hours and we were already at the bottom of the stairs when Jake arrived. It was a flurry of movements, everyone was tense and on their toes and I only started breathing properly when we drove out of town. After that all I had to think about was whether or not things would go as Jake hopes.

“Hey, relax,” Jake said as he glanced at me from the driver’s seat, “Everything will be fine I promise.”

All I could do was nod because I couldn’t form any words. Somehow I managed to fall asleep and by the time I woke up I could sense the difference in the air and the smells assaulted my nose. They were so strong that I could sense them despite my sense of smell not being back to normal- we were definitely on pack territory.

“Your potion is wearing off,” Jake said and I turned to him, “I can smell you again,” he clarified and I just shrugged in response, “You smell good Charlie.”

I muttered a quick thanks and looked out at the window as he parked his car in front of a massive castle like building. He led us into the building and if not for my nerves I would have probably babbled on and on about the beauty of the structure. I don’t know how long we walked but we were suddenly in front of a huge pair of oak doors.

“I already told him the basics about you,” Jake said, “And um just try not to worry about him; he’s not exactly the nicest person ever.”

‘Way to console my nervous heart’ I thought with a snort and before I knew it the doors opened. It was a pretty spacious room with two chairs at the far end of the room and an open space in the middle- almost like a throne room.

A man who I’m assuming is Logan was lounging on one of the chairs, his dark hair was almost as black as the night and his grey eyes held a piercing but bored gaze in them. In all honesty he is the hottest person I’ve ever seen in

my life but there is something familiar about him that I can't seem to put my finger on. Even his scent, as faint as it is, is a bit familiar.

His eyes landed on me and he sat a bit straighter in his chair, "Is this her?" he asked and holy cow his voice is like the smoothest velvet but also a bit rugged.

"Yes, this is my girlfriend Charlotte," Jake said and I gave him a small smile which he didn't return.

"What is your name?" Logan asked

"Charlotte Denver," I said in a small voice.

"You're Alpha Denver's daughter?" he asked and I nodded, "Who is the man you were supposed to marry?"

"I don't know his first name but I referred to him as Alpha Hunter." I said and he let out a humorless laugh.

"You couldn't pick anyone else Jake from that horrid human town, it just had to be the one girl who is the most trouble," Logan said with a frown and then he turned to me, "Do you know that housing you here would mean a possible war between me, your father and Hunter? And in case you haven't noticed the odds aren't exactly stacked in my favor because you have nothing to offer me."

"I'm really sorry but I don't have any other options."

"You could always go back and save me the trouble that seems to be associated with you." He said with a shrug and I bit my lip. I knew he wouldn't agree.

"If I may Alpha, going back isn't an option." Greg interjected, "You know what they'll do to her if she goes back."

"I'm sorry who are you?"

"I'm Greg," was his simple response, "And I have been tasked with keeping her safe."

"Well if you were doing a good job then she wouldn't be here now would she?" Logan asked with a frown, "Regardless of whatever happens I cannot turn you

away because of Jake but believe me when I say that if your father or Hunter gets a whiff of you being here then I will turn you over to them and deny knowing who you are. I will not risk the lives of my pack members over a girl I do not know, am I understood?"

"Yes." I said and he leaned back against the chair without another word.

We left the throne room in a hurry. If I had to stay another second in his presence I would've started bawling.

"I'm afraid this is where I leave you," Greg said and I shot him an alarmed look, "Don't look that way; you'll be safe here. Besides it'll be too suspicious if I just disappeared a day after they came to look for you."

"I don't want you to go." I said softly and he smiled then handed me a small bag I didn't notice he was holding. I opened it and saw a phone.

"If you ever need me, all you have to do is call and I'll be here." He said and I threw my hands around his neck.

"Thank you," I whispered and he just held me tighter.

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 24

Jake drove me to his place; it took almost five minutes for me to agree to stay at his place. I feel like he has done too much for me but he feels responsible. I wanted to stay in the pack house with the other guests but he was very adamant about me not staying there.

I thought I was winning but then he played the 'Greg left you in my care' card and that's what made me succ.umb and finally agree to stay with him.

It was a very simple looking house on the outskirts of town. It was almost completely isolated; in fact the closest house to it was about five minutes away by drive and he told me that it's Logan's place. Apparently they both like their privacy way too much.

He helped me carry my bag in and led me to the room I would be staying in. it was a very simple room with cream walls and a queen sized four poster bed in the middle of the room. There was a dresser with a mirror over it to my right not far from the doors that led to a balcony.

There were two doors to the left that I'm assuming lead to the closet and the bathroom. It's so simple and I love it, there's nothing extravagant like a chandelier or an ice sculpture. I've honestly never seen a beta that is this simple; then again I've only met one beta in my entire life.

"Earth to Charlie," Jake said snapping me out of my thoughts and I turned to him. "Do you like it? If you don't we can add a few things to make you feel at home."

"I love it; thank you," I said softly and he just grunted in response making me arch a brow, "Are you okay?"

"Why wouldn't I be?" was his snarky response as he placed my bag in front of the closet.

"Okay now I know you're upset; you don't use that tone except you're angry," I said, "What's wrong?"

"Are you really asking me that?" he asked and I took a calming breath.

"I haven't even been here for five minutes Jake, so I don't see what I could have done to get you upset in such short time." I said, "Why don't you just tell me why you're upset."

"Why don't you trust me?"

"I'm sorry but I'm not following," I said, "If I didn't trust you I wouldn't be in your house right now without anyone to watch over me."

"I mean why didn't you trust me with your secret before this?" he asked, "I could have helped you; it didn't have to get this bad."

"Jake, I thought we were done with this conversation," I said softly and he rolled his eyes.

"I'm sorry but I can't just throw the conversation to the back of my mind. My girlfriend was going through sh!t and she couldn't even tell me. How do you think that makes me feel?" he asked, "I only let it slide earlier because getting you to safety was more important than my questions and you're safe now so I'm listening."

"I know but I didn't know if you would help me or ship me back to him."

“Why would you even think I would send you back?”

“I’ve lived with werewolves and their first loyalty is to their pack- I don’t blame them for it either,” I began, “I’ve only met two people before you who were willing to put their morals above what was expected of them and I didn’t know you well enough to know if you were like them or not.”

“So now you do?” he asked, “What changed your mind? Was it the fact that I was your only hope?”

“I understand your anger, I really do,” I said, “And I’m sorry; if I could change things I would have told you earlier but I didn’t know and you can’t really blame me for wanting to look out for myself. I trusted the wrong person once and I wasn’t ready to do it again.”

He sighed at my words and pulled me into a crushing hug, “It just hurts to know that you were going through so much and couldn’t tell me.”

“I’m really sorry for bombarding you with everything like this.”

“You don’t ever have to apologize; it’s not a chore to help you, I love doing it.”

“Thank you.”

“But you have to promise me that you won’t keep any more secrets from me.”

“I promise.” I said and he gave me a soft smile.

“I’ll give you some time to get freshened up and you can come down for lunch okay?” I nodded and he gave me a soft kiss on the mouth before leaving.

He spent the rest of the day taking me around the pack and showing me all the most important places and when we got back to his place we made dinner together and watched a movie. I fell asleep during the movie and woke up around 5 a.m. the next morning in my bed.

I sent a quick text to Greg and decided to make breakfast instead of just sitting in bed with nothing to do.

Jake came down around 7 fully dressed in jeans and a plain tee and he was shocked to see me at first.

"I'm sorry I didn't expect you to be awake so early," he said, "Did you have a good night?"

"I did thank you," I said, "I'm used to waking up this early with Greg because we had to go to the store. I made breakfast."

His eyes widened in surprise but he sat at the counter anyway while I brought a plate of food to him. "This is really good, thank you."

I just waved him off, "Are you going somewhere?"

"I have to go to work," he said through a mouthful and I cringed with a small smile, "You have the entire house to yourself."

"About that," I began, "I was wondering if there was anything I could do to help, some kind of work maybe; I don't like being alone."

He frowned and I thought he was going to refuse but at the last moment he sighed, "You can come with me today and we'll find something for you to do at the pack house."

"Really?" I asked and he nodded.

"Sure, it's no big deal," he shrugged, "But you will have to deal with Logan on a daily basis? Is that something you're willing to go through?" he said and my eyes widened for a second.

"It doesn't have to be at the pack house though; I know how private packs are and I'm not a part of this one." I began, "Besides I don't think Logan likes me very much."

"I don't like the idea of you working away from me," he frowned, "If something happens to you I want to be there to help. I don't want to hear about it half an hour later when I can't do anything." He started, "And about Logan; he doesn't really have anything against you, he's just looking out for the pack."

"Thank you," I said suddenly feeling overwhelmed and he just gave me a smile.

"You should get ready because I'm leaving in the next five minutes."

I squealed in glee and rushed upstairs to get ready. I pushed away the gnawing feeling in my gut and focused on the small good feeling I have about this.

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 25

Apparently the pack house was that massive castle like building we visited yesterday. Technically it's a part of it and not the entire thing; the other part that houses people was another building about thirty minutes away.

Jake spent a few minutes with Logan trying to convince him to let me work here. There were a few raised voices (I was listening in from outside) and I honestly thought that Jake would come out and tell me Logan refused but then finally Logan relented and I was allowed to help out with the children at the daycare.

"I tried to make him give you something else; I know children can be a menace." Jake said but I stopped him.

"It's okay honestly," I said, "I've always loved children so this should be easy for me." I sighed, "Besides I'm grateful that I'm even allowed to do something."

"I told you not to worry about Logan," he said, "He may come across as mean but he's a good friend and he will do anything for me."

"Thank you," I said and he just waved me off

"If you need me then just give me a call okay?" he asked and I nodded, "Or ask someone to take you to me. No matter what I'm doing; I'm never too busy for you."

"Relax Jake, I'll be fine. I'm going to be here all day."

"I just want you to be safe."

"I am safe," I said, "No one except you and Greg know what I'm here." He didn't seem convinced about my safety but he nodded.

"This is where the children stay; Diana should be in there, she'll tell you everything that you need to know." He gave me a kiss on my forehead, "I'll be back to get you at the end of the day."

I hummed in response and he made sure I had walked in through the doors before he left.

I had barely gotten in when a girl ran up to me. Her brown hair was in a braid but a few strands had come loose. There was a stain on her shirt that smelt suspiciously of spilled milk and she looked half crazed but relieved that I was there.

“I’m Diana and you must be Charlotte; Logan told me you were coming.” She said and my eyes widened, I didn’t know he allowed his pack members call him by his name, “I’m so glad you’re here. The last girl Kelly quit after a kid threw up on her.” When she saw my face she cursed, “Shit Logan always says I shouldn’t start up new people with talks of vomit.”

“That’s okay,” I said, “But I have a question though; why do you call your Alpha by his name?” Her face went blank and I realized I had crossed a line, “I’m sorry if I crossed a line.”

“Oh I don’t have a problem with your question,” she said, “Really, I’m used to hearing it from a lot of people. Logan is a childhood friend so I call him by name. I usually don’t do it in front of new people; it was a slip-up.”

I let out a breath I didn’t know I was holding and she smiled, “Welcome to the torture chamber; I hope you can handle.”

Diana explained to me that the children were kids of the people who worked in the pack house and couldn’t look after them while they worked.

“All we have to do is feed them, change their diapers and just make sure they’re entertained and don’t miss their mummies or daddies too much.” At her words a child made a small sob and muttered a heart broken wail for his mum. “Shit; well I guess it’s time for rule number one, don’t ever mention mummy or daddy near them. It triggers fireworks.”

“Mummy,” the boy wailed again and she cursed under her breath.

“Feeding time is in an hour,” she said as she picked up the little boy, “Just find something to do.”

Turns out kids aren’t exactly the easiest set of people to handle but it wasn’t really that bad. The worst part would have to be feeding them. I never knew how hard it was to feed a two year old until I had to do it. I have an orange

stain on my shirt from where one of the kids threw a handful of chewed carrots at me.

“I hope you brought a change of clothes,” Diana said as she eyed the patch and I shook my head, “Oh well then I guess that’s rule number two, always bring a change of clothes because there is absolutely no way you’re leaving here unscathed.”

I let out a small laugh when I noticed one of the calmer children walking over to me. She’s a pretty dark skinned one year old with chocolate colored eyes and curly black hair. When I asked, Diana said her mum was in charge of accounts and brought her here after she drew all over the tax receipts.

She walked over to me and held her arms open for me to carry her. I turned to Diana in confusion and shock and she just shrugged.

“Amelia does that a lot,” she said, “She loves to be held and it seems she wants you to carry her.”

I stood to my feet and lifted the little girl. She buried her face in the crook of my neck and put her little thumb into her mouth. It was honestly such a beautiful sight. I saw Diana wink at me and just as I was about to say something she rose to her feet and somehow I knew who was behind me before I turned.

“Can I have a moment alone with Charlotte?” Logan asked and Diana nodded.

She tried to take Amelia from my arms but she let out a small wail and Diana had to leave her with me. She whispered a good luck into my ears as I followed Logan out.

“Thank you for letting me stay here,” I said after a minute of silence, “And also for letting me work with the children; I love it.”

“I don’t trust you Charlotte,” he said and I swallowed the lump in my throat, “In my opinion you’re a lot more trouble than you’re worth and you’re a liability to this pack.”

“I know and I’m sorry for the inconvenience.”

“I only left you here because I’ve learnt it helps to keep our enemies close.”

"I'm not an enemy," I whispered and he just smiled coldly.

"That is yet to be determined Charlotte," he said, "For the meantime enjoy your stay but know this; you can't run away forever. One day, sooner or later, your family is going to find out where you are and I hope you know that I have zero intentions of hiding you once that happens. You will be on your own."

"I know."

"I really hope that you do," he said, "But on that note; have a good day Charlotte." He had only walked a few steps when he paused and called over his shoulder, "I do believe it's bad for babies to chew on hair."

It took a second to figure out what he was saying and then I noticed Amelia who was chewing on my hair. I gently pulled it out of her mouth and looked up to say thank you but realized he had left me standing in the hallway alone.

I took a minute to myself to steady my breathing before turning around and making my way back inside.