

Read Novel In Between the Alpha's

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 26

I'm really enjoying my job and it helps that I don't really have to relate with people or make any friends while I'm at it. Diana is different though; she doesn't ask any questions or try to pry into my personal life, we are work buddies and that is all there is to it.

Amelia has also become my favorite tiny human. She clings to me from the moment I walk in and doesn't let go until her mother comes to pick her up. Thankfully her mother seems just as easy going as she is; she hasn't given me any dirty or snide looks.

"This is the first time I'm actually getting your scent," Diana said as I walked in and when she saw the expression on my face she continued, "I'm sorry I've been told I have no filter sometimes. I didn't mean it in a bad way; it's just that I've never actually noticed your scent before."

"That's okay, I used to hide it but I don't need to anymore."

"Is it because you used to stay in a human town?" she asked and my eyes widened in surprise, "I'm sorry I just asked Jake how you two met and he told me you met in a human town; I was just putting two and two together."

"I was just surprised that's all," I said with a sigh, "But yes I used it in the human town because I wanted to blend in."

"That's good and all but you know humans can't smell us right?" she asked, "So there was no need to hide your scent; the only people who could have figured out what you are would have to be another werewolf."

That is exactly what I was trying to avoid.

"I guess I know that now," I said with a small laugh and she gave me a smile. "Before I forget; I made some brownies yesterday and I brought some with me today. Would you like some?"

"Of course," she said and I went over to where I kept my bag and took out the tin of brownies. She took a bite and moaned out loud, "I swear you're in the wrong line of work; you should consider opening your own pastry shop."

“I don’t bake as an occupation,” I said quickly, “It’s just a hobby.”

“I don’t know how to convince you otherwise but you should really change your mind. I mean- oh wait Logan can you come over here for a second,” I turned and saw Logan and Jake walk in. Jake sent me a small wink and I responded with a smile. “I need you to try this.”

She held out a brownie to him and he raised a brow in confusion. “If you want me to try one of your horrible experiments I will but please don’t ruin brownies for me,” he said, “I happen to enjoy them.”

“Oh shut up and eat the damn thing,” she scoffed and he rolled his eyes but took it from her and took a small bite. His face was still carefully guarded and I wondered if he actually hated it.

“Well either you became a magic cook overnight or someone else did this,” he said and she rolled her eyes.

“First of all, rude,” she said as she hit his stomach with her elbow, “Second, it was Charlie who made it.”

He turned to me in shock, “They’re really good Charlotte.”

“Thank you,” I whispered and he just gave me a brief nod. I turned to Diana who gave me an ‘I told you so’ look.

“Why do you call her Charlotte anyway?” Diana asked, “You sound like some boring old grandpa; just call her Charlie.”

“Her name is Charlotte,” he said then turned to me, “Isn’t it?”

“Well it is,” I said then forced my eyes to the wall and away from his piercing gaze, “But everyone calls me Charlie.”

“It’s a good thing I’m not everyone then.”

My eyes went to him unconsciously and I saw him looking at me. I quickly turned my eyes away and they landed on Jake who was looking at me with a huge frown on his face. In fact it looked like the vein on his forehead was going to pop in a second.

“Why do you look like someone kicked your puppy?” Diana said to him and he just shook his head and forced a smile on his face.

"I'm perfectly fine Diana, stop being so nosy," he said then turned to me, "I'll be here to get you in an hour."

"That's unusually early for you to leave work," Diana said and he shrugged.

"I want some alone time with my girlfriend," he said and I blushed at the insinuation, "Besides Logan doesn't mind. He can handle things without me, can't you?"

"Of course," was Logan's simple reply and with a wink from Jake they were gone.

I kept staring at the door after they had left and I didn't even notice until Diana let out a loud breath.

"I told you the brownies were good."

Jake did come to get me after a hour and he drove s straight home. In fact, I started to get a bit worried when I noticed he hadn't said a single word to me since he came to get me.

"Is everything okay?" I asked and he just grunted in response, "Are you sure? It doesn't sound like everything is okay."

"I'm driving Charlie," he said in a rushed breath, "I don't like to talk while I drive."

I knew that was a lie but I kept quiet either way. We got to his house and he didn't even look at me before exiting the car and I just followed behind him in silence. I waited until he sat down on the couch before I spoke.

"Will you tell me what's wrong?" I asked and he ignored me then went over to the kitchen and returned with a can of beer, "Really? You're not going to talk to me."

"Oh so now you want to have a conversation with me," he said in an incredulous tone, "It didn't seem that way earlier."

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"You were basically letting Logan eye fvck you," he spat and I couldn't help it, I let out a loud laugh.

“You’re joking right?” I asked, “I was covered in vomit and food, we barely even spoke to each other.”

“I’m not blind Charlie.”

“What has gotten into you?” I asked and he just let out a loud sigh.

“Let’s forget about this,” he said and I couldn’t agree more, “I didn’t come home to argue with you.”

“Then what did you come home for?”

“To do this.” He pulled me towards him and kissed me. Kissing him was the last thing I wanted to do but in order to avoid another fight I kissed him back. He lowered me to the couch and when I felt his hand start to go under my shirt I stopped him.

“Jake,” I said as I broke away, “I really don’t want to do this.”

“But you would with Logan if he asked right?” he spat and I gasped.

“Get off me,” I said and when he didn’t reply I pushed against his chest, “Get off me now.”

He pushed off me with an eye roll and I couldn’t help the growl of frustration that came out of me. “How could you even say something like that?”

He opened his mouth to speak but then a pained look took over his face and he squeezed his eyes shut. When he opened them again he looked panicked.

“Charlie, please you need to,” he stopped mid-sentence and the same pained look came over his features again. It was so intense this time that he fell to the couch.

“Are you okay?” I asked but as I made to touch him he slapped my hands away. He opened his eyes again and he looked normal, “What just happened?”

“Nothing,” he said in a curt tone, “I have to go.”

In Between the Alpha’s Chapter 27

Jake refused to speak about what happened that night. I tried talking to him about it the next day but he completely shut me out and changed the subject. I even tried again a few days after that and he actually yelled at me to never bring it up again.

It has been weighing on my mind since then and I don't know who to talk to about it. Diana wouldn't understand and Logan and I- although he doesn't out rightly hate me- I still don't know how I feel about telling him something like that.

Today I don't have work, in fact, they have a bi-annual pack gathering and that's what we're going for. I made a bunch of brownies and tea cakes to take because Diana asked me to and was in the middle of setting up when I felt a presence behind me. I turned and jumped slightly when I noticed Logan.

"I'm sorry if I scared you," he said and I nodded and waved him off, "Thank you for the brownies, Diana has told everyone she can about it so I'm assuming they would be the first to go."

"There are some more in the car just in case," I said with a small shrug.

"How about you don't tell anyone else about that," he said and my eyes widened. Is Logan actually being friendly with me? "I was a bit hard on you at first but I was just looking out for my pack; I hope you can understand that."

"Of course," I said with a small smile, "You were doing what you thought was best and I totally support that."

"Samantha also seems to like you and I trust her decision," when he saw the confusion on my face he clarified, "Samantha is Amelia's mother."

"Oh; well her daughter is an angel." I said with a small smile and decided this was as good a time to tell him about my concern with Jake, "I was wondering if I could talk to you about something."

"What is it?" he asked and I was about to reply when I suddenly caught Jake's eye from across the lawn. The look in his eyes was murderous and I immediately clamped my mouth shut. "Charlotte, are you okay?"

I took a nervous step back but tripped over my feet and would have landed on the floor if not for Logan's hand that shot out to grab me and pull me back to my feet.

Sparks flew across where his hand was encircled at my wrist and I got a lungful of his scent for the first time; it was pine mixed with something earthy and distinctly manly.

“Is everything okay?” he asked then he turned to where Jake was standing but he was nowhere to be seen, “Did you see something?”

“No, I’m fine.”

“You wanted to tell me something before this.”

I quickly shook my head remembering the look on Jake’s face, “I forgot,” I lied and Logan’s eyes narrowed. He knew I was lying but didn’t push it, instead he nodded and let go of my hand. My skin immediately felt cold at the loss of contact but I didn’t dwell on it, instead I turned on my heels and ran.

I bumped into Diana who was thanking me for bringing the brownies and promised that they would be the only thing she would eat. I couldn’t even concentrate on what she was saying; I just sent her small smile.

“Are you okay?” she asked stopping her rambling, “You look like you’ve seen a ghost.”

“I’m fine,” I lied, “I just don’t do well in crowds.”

“You should have said something since,” she said with a small frown but then her face brightened, “Oh look there’s Jake; I’ll just call him over.”

“No please,” I had barely gotten the words out when she called out to Jake. He turned to her and when he saw me I saw anger flash across his face briefly but he broke out into a smile and walked over to us.

“Hey, do you think you can take Charlie somewhere more private,” she began, “She doesn’t do well with crowds. You should know that and you shouldn’t have left her out here alone.”

“I can assure you that I didn’t leave her alone,” he said then turned to me, “She was with Logan.” His eyes darkened slightly but he smiled, “But I’ll take care of her.”

His hand wrapped around my wrist and pulled me away but it wasn't like when Logan did it. His grip was as tight as a vice to the extent that it hurt and I winced.

"You're hurting me," I said softly but he ignored me; in fact, he seemed to squeeze tighter, "Please let me go Jake."

He led me to an empty room and threw me inside and shut the door behind him, "Shut the fvck up." My eyes widened at his choice of words, "I leave you alone for one second and then you're all over Logan. Why? Is it because he's an Alpha?"

"Why would you even say that?" I asked rubbing at my wrist that had already started to bruise. "We were just talking."

"We are talking but what you guys were doing was not talking," he spat, "Do you talk to everyone with their hand on your wrist and your bodies practically pressed into each other?"

"He was just helping me up after I tripped," I tried to explain but he ignored me.

"Maybe we should talk like that." He grabbed onto my already bruised wrist and pulled me close to him, "Is this how you talk to everyone Charlie?"

"Please let go of me," I sobbed and I felt tears escape my eyes.

"Now you're making it seem like I'm the bad guy when you're the one causing this." He pushed me away and I let out a loud sob. "You're the one fl!rting with my friend."

"I'm not fl!rting with him," I all but yelled, "We were talking; I thought you would be happy that I'm civil with your friend and he doesn't hate me anymore."

He let out a gr0an before speaking, "Clean up, we're leaving."

"What?"

"We're leaving," he said, "Dry your tears, I can't have you looking like you had a fight with a raccoon."

I was too shocked to speak but I obeyed and wiped off my eyes with a handkerchief and we exited the room only to come face to face with Logan. He took one look at both of us and frowned.

“You were crying,” he said and I opened my mouth to deny it but Jake beat me to it.

“Panic attack,” he shrugged, “She doesn’t do well with crowds so I’m taking her home.”

Logan ignored him and turned to me, “Are you okay?” I couldn’t form any words so I nodded and prayed the tears stayed at bay. “You can stay home tomorrow if you want.”

“No I’ll be fine.” I assure him. Logan looked like he was about to protest but Jake grabbed my wrist and interrupted before he could say anything.

“We’ll see you tomorrow.” He said, “I really have to get Charlie calmed down.”

Logan still looked skeptical but nodded anyways and Jake pulled me away not a second later.

In Between the Alpha’s Chapter 28

“What is wrong with you?” I finally found my voice when we got to the car, “You have been acting like a deranged psychopath for days.”

“Shut up Charlie.”

“Don’t tell me to shut up,” I said, “You’re acting weird and I don’t like it.”

“Shut up or I swear to the goddess I will throw this car off a fvcking cliff.” He yelled and I went quiet and stared at him in shock, “You don’t get to play the victim when you’re out there acting fl!rting with everything that moves and making me look bad.”

“Okay so this is an ego thing?” I asked, “You’re not upset because I’m talking to people, you’re upset because it’s going to make you look bad. Am I right?”

“I don’t know why you’re making friends anyways, you’re going to leave sooner or later,” he said in a casual tone, “Why make friends when you can’t stick with them? I don’t know if you’ve been told but being a runaway fugitive doesn’t make for good conversation starters.”

“Then why are you keeping me here?” I yelled, “If you’re so bothered that I’m a runaway why keep me here?”

“You could at least try to sound a little bit more grateful.” He spat as he pulled into the driveway and I shook my head.

“I can’t believe this,” I said in a small voice, “I was right about you all along.”

“What the fvck are you talking about?” he asked and I didn’t reply, I just made my way out of the car, “Get back here, I’m not done talking to you.”

“Fvck you Jake.” I threw over my shoulder and marched into the room. I started stuffing clothes into my box in anger.

“What the fvck do you think you’re doing?” he asked but I ignored you, “I asked you a fvcking question.”

“I’m leaving,” I yelled back, “What does it look like I’m doing?”

“You’re not going anywhere until I say you are.”

“I’d like to see you make me stay.” I said and surprise flashed over his featured then he stormed out of the room.

I zipped up the box and picked up my phone to dial Greg. On the second ring Jake walked back into the room and ripped the box out of my hands.

“What is wrong with you?” I asked, “Let go of me.”

“You’re not going anywhere.”

“Fvck you and you stupid orders.”

The next thing I knew he pushed me against the wall and I felt the cool sting of metal against my neck and I froze.

“Charlie?” the voice wasn’t from either of us and that’s when I realized it was coming from my phone, “Are you there?”

“Answer him,” Jake mouthed and I slowly brought the phone up to my ear.

“Hey Greg,” I said trying to make my voice sound as normal as possible.

“Are you okay?” he asked with concern lacing his tone, “You don’t sound so good; do you need me to come?”

Jake dug the knife deeper into my neck, not deep enough to draw blood but deep enough to serve as a warning if I say anything he doesn’t like.

“No,” I said trying to stop the tears from filling my eyes, “I’m okay I swear, I just wanted to check up on you and see how you were doing.”

“You don’t sound so good; are you sure you don’t need me to come see you?”

This time Jake dug it in hard enough to nick my skin and the metallic scent of blood assaulted my nose as I felt it flow down my neck slowly.

“Be more convincing,” he mouthed.

“I swear I’m fine, stop being so overprotective.”

“If you say so,” he said finally, “How is your beta boyfriend?”

“He’s good,” I said and Greg hummed.

“Is he taking care of you?”

“As well as he can,” I said and Jake’s eyes narrowed and he mouthed for me to round up the call, “Um, I really have to go now. I’ll talk to you later.”

“Okay then; bye Charlie.”

He ended the call and Jake grabbed the phone from my hand and threw it on the bed, “If you ever try a stunt like that again you will regret it,” he spat and I nodded as much as I could without cutting myself on the knife, “Unpack your bags now.”

He let go of me and I rushed over to the closet and started taking the clothes out of the box slowly. He sat on the bed and watched me until I was done; when I finished he walked over to me slowly and reached into his pocket to pull out a pair of wipes.

He slowly dabbed at the cut at my throat and all I could do was stand there and watch him in shock and repulsion.

“Don’t look at me like that sweetheart.” he cooed softly, “I didn’t want to hurt you but you forced my hand.”

I tried to keep the tears at bay but a traitorous one slipped down my cheek and I saw him frown. He leaned in and kissed the tear and I resisted the urge to push him away knowing it will only infuriate him further.

“I’m going to keep you safe,” he whispered, “I just want you to cooperate with me so I can do what’s best for you. Do you understand?” I nodded and he frowned, “I need words Charlie.”

“I understand,” I forced out and he smiled.

“You know that I love you,” he said softly, “And I will never hurt you; you know that right?”

“I do,” I said and he smiled.

“Now I need you to promise me that you will stay away from other men and never be with one alone,” he said and I actually turned to him, “Don’t look at me like that sweetheart, I’m just looking out for you.”

When I didn’t reply he gripped my chin tightly until I was looking into his eyes, “You didn’t answer me; are you going to stay away from other men?”

“Yes,” I said quickly and he released me.

“Good,” he said, “We don’t want people thinking you’re a slut now do we?” he asked and I shook my head, “Good girl; and if you ever need to be around a man then I want someone else there with you okay?”

“Yes,”

“This is all for your safety,” he assured me, “I always keep my belongings safe and you are mine and I don’t share. I just need you to remember that. You do remember that don’t you?”

“Yes,” I lied and he smiled.

“Good girl, now go get cleaned up and I’ll get dinner ready for the both of us.” He gave me a short kiss on the cheek, “We’ll eat together so we can push this bad memory to the back of our minds. What do you think?”

“It’s an awesome idea,” I lied and he gave me a smile and walked out of the room. As soon as he shut the door behind him I crumbled to the floor and let all the tears out.

I thought I escaped one monster but I landed in the arms of another.

In Between the Alpha’s Chapter 29

I couldn’t concentrate throughout the day; I was running on fumes because I couldn’t sleep all night. I was scared Jake would come into the room and attack me in the middle of the night and my mind was a jungle. It also didn’t help my nerves when he pinned me to the car as soon as he came down this morning and gave me a very vivid reminder of what would happen if I did anything to upset him today.

“You know I still don’t understand why you’re wearing a turtleneck in this heat,” Diana said from across the room and I subconsciously tugged at my sleeve and neckline before turning to her, “It is like 90 degrees in here and you’re over there comfortably wearing a long sleeved turtleneck top like it’s a winter wonderland.”

“I don’t feel that hot,” I lied.

“Now that’s a bloody lie, I can see the sweat dripping down your head,” she said in a know-it-all tone.

“I just liked the top and I felt like wearing it,” I shrugged, “It’s not a big deal.”

“It will be when you pass out from a heat stroke later on.” She said with an eye roll, “I can’t have you passing out on me and leaving me alone with these kids. They seem to like you a lot more than me so imagine the nightmare it would be when you fall sick and leave me here alone.”

“I won’t fall sick,” I assured her, “I’m used to wearing worse things in worse weather.” I always had a lot to hide, this isn’t my first rodeo.

“Well if you say so,” she said finally then turned away from me and I let out a sigh of relief that she had finally dropped the subject. We were working in silence for a few more seconds before she finally spoke up again, “You don’t by any chance happen to have some of those your magic brownies do you?”

I let out a small laugh and gestured to my bag, “Knock yourself out.”

She muttered something under her breath and took out a tin of said brownies and dug in, "These are heavenly," she said through a mouthful, "You know everyone loved them yesterday and they kept on asking who made them. I wanted to introduce you to a few people but you had already left."

"Yeah, I just needed a breather," I said and she just shrugged.

"Oh yeah, Logan asked to meet with you today." She said and my eyes widened, "Relax, you're not in trouble; it has something to do with your brownies."

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I just shook my head because I didn't know what to say. She mistook my expression for being scared of Logan; I'm scared of what Jake will do when he realizes I was alone with Logan.

"Can't you come with me to see him?" I asked and she shot me a bland look.

"And leave the children by themselves?" she asked, "I can't do that and you know that. I promise he's not mad at you or anything; you have nothing to worry about."

"I'm not worried about him." I mumbled and I saw the question forming in her eyes so I quickly changed the subject, "Where is his office?"

She blurted out the directions without even looking up and I nodded softly. I can do this. "Do you know where Jake is?" I asked and she shrugged.

"I know he has something to do in town," she said, "So he isn't here if that's what you're asking."

I let out an inaudible sigh of relief. I can do this; all I have to do is quickly go to Logan; hear whatever it is that he has to say and run out before Jake can see me.

I made my way over to the office as quickly as I could; only stopping to mutter a word of greeting to the people I passed on the way. I kept my head down because I don't want any accidental sightings that would end up putting me in trouble.

I knocked on Logan's door and he muttered a gruff 'come in' and I all but ran into his office and shut the door behind me.

“How are you feeling now?” he asked and I shrugged, “After the crowd fiasco yesterday.”

“Better,” I said softly and he nodded.

“I’m busy as well so I won’t take up a lot of your time,” he said, “How would you feel about supplying brownies to a few bakeries?”

“I’m sorry what?” I asked. This is honestly the last thing I expected him to say to me.

“Everyone loved your brownies yesterday,” he said, “In fact, my first thought was for you to get a bakery of your own but then I remembered how you don’t do well with crowds so I thought this would be a better alternative.”

“I don’t know,” I began and I fidgeted with my wrists, “I usually just bake as a hobby, I can’t imagine having to do it every day.”

“You don’t have to do it every day,” he assured me, “You can work out a specific day where you bake and supply. It could be like a special treat, that way you can be sure it’s going to sell out.”

“Can I think about it?” I asked finally and he just nodded.

“Of course,” he said, “Take as much time as you want.” He stopped for a second then continued, “And besides if everything goes out really well then you can quit working at the day care; I’ve heard from Diana how frustrating it can be.”

“Actually I love it there,” I said softly, “Thank you for giving it to me.”

“You should be thanking Jake,” he said and I frowned, “He was the one who asked me to give you that job. I had something else in mind for you.”

“Jake asked you to give me the job?” I asked and he nodded, “But he told me that he tried to beg you to give me something else and you were adamant on giving me this.”

He looked genuinely confused for a second and he shook his head, “That isn’t how it happened,” he said, “Are you sure that’s what he said?”

“Maybe I misunderstood him,” I said softly and although he didn’t look convinced he nodded, “Yeah, I must have misheard him.” I said again, “I have to go.”

“Of course,” he said, “Have a good day Charlotte.”

I quickly left his office with thoughts swirling in my head. Why did Jake lie to me about who wanted to give me the job? I wouldn’t have minded if he told me he specifically asked for it for me so why did he have to lie?

I was so out of my thoughts that I didn’t notice someone rounding a corner and I bumped straight into him making him drop all his papers.

“I am so sorry,” I said immediately as I bent to pick them up, “I wasn’t looking where I was going.”

“It’s okay, it’s my fault as well. I should have been paying more attention.” he said as he took the last of the things from me, “Thank you for helping me; I’m Spencer.”

I opened my mouth to reply but I was cut off by a loud voice behind me.

“Charlie!” The angry voice yelled and I swallowed the lump that formed in my throat. Oh sh!t.

In Between the Alpha’s Chapter 30

“It was nice meeting you Spencer,” I said quickly and he must have noticed the growing tension and fear on my face because he nodded and hurried away and I braced myself before coming face to face with a fuming Jake.

I opened my mouth to speak but he didn’t give me the chance and neither did he say anything to me. He just grabbed my arm and pulled me into an empty room. I opened my mouth to explain but he let out a loud growl that shut me up.

“One hour,” he began, “I was gone one fvcking hour and you’re already making moves on some pathetic little coffee boy.”

“I wasn’t making moves on him, I just bumped into him and his things fell so I helped him pick it up,” I explained, “I swear that I wasn’t doing anything wrong.”

“What were you doing out of the daycare?” he asked and I went silent, “What you don’t have any explanations to give anymore?”

“I went to see Logan,” I said finally and before he opened his mouth I cut him off, “He wanted to know if I would be willing to supply brownies to a bakery in town.”

“No,” he said immediately and I raised a brow at him.

“Excuse me?”

“I said no; you aren’t going anywhere I can’t keep an eye on you.”

“It’s just brownies,” I said suddenly getting upset, “You can’t keep me locked up forever; I’m my own person and I need to do things myself.”

“Why do you want to do this anyways?” he asked, “Haven’t I already done enough for you?”

“I just want to spend my time doing something I love and making money from it,” I said, “Is that so wrong?”

“You don’t have to make money; I can provide for you.”

“I am not your charity case,” I said softly, “I am grateful for everything that you’ve done but I need to do this for myself. I need to know that I did this and I got this by myself and not because of you.”

“You didn’t get your current job because of me,” he said, “Logan decided to give it to you.”

“You don’t have to lie anymore, I already know that you asked Logan to give me this job,” I said and his eyes widened for a second before he quickly schooled his expression back to indifference, “I wouldn’t have been upset, I just want to know why you lied.”

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“So is this what it has turned into?” he spat, “You gossiping about me behind my back.”

“You’re blowing this out of proportion.”

“Am I?” he spat, “Am I really? Tell me Charlie would you have preferred the job he wanted to give you? Would you have preferred to work for him?”

“I didn’t-“

“Would you have preferred to be around him 24/7?” he asked, “Always alone with him in his study every day. Maybe it would be easier for you to have your affair. At least you could always use work to cover it up.”

“That isn’t what this is,” I said softly, “Please stop.”

“I. Am. Not. A. Fool,” he said emphasizing each word, “And I will not allow you to make a fool out of me.”

“I’m not doing anything. I’m just-“

“Shut up!” he yelled and it wasn’t his yelling that shocked me. It was the fact that while he was yelling I heard rather than felt the impact of his hand against my cheek. I stood there frozen for a second before I even felt the throbbing heat on my face.

He looked as surprised as I did and a pained expression etched on his face. He lifted his hand to hold me and I moved out of his reach.

“Charlie I am so sorry,” he said softly, “I swear I didn’t mean it. It wasn’t me, it was,” he stopped mid sentence and shut his eyes.

I just stood there staring at him and not fully comprehending what had just happened. He opened his eyes again and I couldn’t read the expression on his face. It was anger, fear and panic.”

“Get your things, we’re leaving now.” He spat and I looked at him in shock.

“I am not going anywhere with you,” I said with a scoff.

“Now isn’t the time to test me Charlotte.”

I flinched at the use of my full name, “I’m not going anywhere.”

“I will tie you up if that is what it takes to get you to come with me,” he said in anger, “Get up and go get your things now.” With each word he took another step close to me until I was pressed against the wall and he was looming over

me, "I'm not going to ask you again. I will be at the daycare in half an hour and you better be ready."

With those words he left the room and I stood there for what felt like hours trying to calm myself down. I held back the tears that threatened to fall and forced my feet to take me to the daycare. I ignored Diana's looks and walked straight over to my bag and picked it up.

"Are you leaving already?" she asked and I nodded, "No fair, you're going to leave me here all alone."

I didn't have any words to say and thankfully I didn't have to because Amelia waddled over to me. She held out her arms and I gently picked her up.

She stared at me with those intelligent eyes of hers for a second then placed her tiny palm over my throbbing cheek and I swear I almost started bawling there and then and as if she was comforting me she rested her head in the crook of my neck and snuggled there.

"She really likes you," Diana commented.

"I really like her too."

Jake came in a few minutes later and when I tried to put Amelia down she started bawling and I don't mean normal tears; I'm talking about full out screams.

"I'm so sorry I don't know why she's being like this," Diana said as she tried to take Amelia from me but the little girl fisted her tiny hands into my hair and shirt. "I'll go get her mum."

Samantha came in a few seconds later but Amelia still didn't let go.

"She's never like this," Samantha commented, "Would you mind if I just pull her off? She might take a few chunks of your hair with her though."

"Do it," Jake said but Samantha kept her eyes trained on me and I nodded.

She took a deep breath and yanked Amelia out of my arms. Yes she did take a few strands of my hair with her but that wasn't the shocking part. The shocking part was that she happened to find the one loose thread in my shirt and pull it with her and the neckline of my top came loose.

“I am so sorry about your shirt,” Diana said as she hurried over to me with a scarf. I was just about to wrap it around my neck when her hand came to wrap around mine, “What is that?”

“What are you talking about?” I asked.

“That,” she said as she whirled me around to face everyone but she kept her eyes trained on Jake, “Why is there a fvcking cut on her neck?”