

Chapter 8 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

"This is why neither of you ever told me about him. I knew you didn't mention it." He said frowning at Megan.

Megan shrugged. "Jake. It wasn't my story to tell. She didn't want you to know."

He frowns at me.

"But he's his son! How could you not tell either of us?"

"Why would I tell him Jake? You were there. He rejected me after I found him making out with someone else. The very next morning after we discovered we were mates. You heard the things he said to me."

"I know but still.. You should have told him. And technically you were the one that wanted the rejection."

I glare at him feeling my anger rise. "Excuse me? I wanted to be rejected?"

"That's not what I said. But he didn't want to reject you. You told him to do it. He just did it out of spite."

I shake my head. "It doesn't matter. He still didn't want me, he still said those awful, hurtful things. And he still rejected me. I wasn't going to put my baby through that as well."

I turned from them and started walking to the playground.

"Shay we need to discuss this." Jake yells after me.

"WE don't need to discuss anything." I shook my head and kept on walking.

"You know I have to tell him now?"

I stopped and turned to look at him and shrugged.

"Do what you have to do. But feel free to tell him I didn't need him then, and I still don't need him now."

I turned back and continued walking to the playground.

My heart thumped out of control. I knew I wouldn't be able to hide it once we came back. And at least this confrontation was only with Jake. I wasn't ready for Zane. But I

knew it won't be long before he shows up. Especially now that Jake is going to tell him about Zayde.

I sigh to myself. What's gonna happen is gonna happen. I guess I'll just have to wait and see.

As soon as I reach the playground I see Zayde running around and playing with some of the other pups. He looks up and smiles at me while waving. I smile and wave back before I go to sit next to Ashley.

She turns to me and smile.

"Are you okay?"

I smile at her and nod. "Yes I'm okay. I knew they'd figure it out as soon as we got here. You'll see, he is an exact copy of his father. So it was only a matter of time. Atleast I only had to deal with Jake today. But I know it won't be long until Zane makes his appearance."

"Is Jake going to tell him?"

I shrug. "Jake probably already told him I had a son after our previous phone call, but he'll tell him Zayde is his as soon as he gets back to his pack. He has to, Zayde is the rightfull heir to their pack and he's loyal to his alpha."

"And your okay with that?"

"It is what it is. I knew what was going to happen when I came back. I really just hope Zane gives me a day or two before he shows up. But enough about me, are you sure you are okay? You still look uneasy."

Ashley frowns as she looks at the pups.

"I honestly don't know what's wrong with me. I just feel a little on edge. I'm sure it'll pass."

Before I can say anything I hear my name being called and turn around to see my mother approaching us.

I smile and stand to go meet her halfway.

"Hey momma. How are you?" I ask giving her a tight hug.

She gives me small smile, pulling away a little.

"Hallo my baby girl. I'm doing as well as I can."

"How's dad?"

She sighs.

"The doctor's say he is improving but they still don't know when he will wake up."

I give her another quick hug.

"I'm sure dad will be up soon. Where is Dan?"

"Oh yes, that's why I'm here. Dan is out tracking a lead, he'll be back soon. I have to show you to your rooms."

I nod and call Zayde over. As soon as he sees his Grandmother he comes rushing over and she bends to catch him.

"Grandma!" He yells as he wraps his arms around her neck and starts to kiss her face.

She laughs and hugs him tightly.

"Hallo my little one. I'm so happy you're here. Welcome home. Do you like it?"

Zayde smiles and nod. "Yes, it's big and there are so many friends to play with here."

She kisses his forehead and turns back to me with a smile before her eyes land on Ashley who gives her an awkward smile.

"Oh shoot, sorry. I forgot you guys haven't met yet. Mom this is Ashley, she's from Auntie Monica's pack and a friend of mine. Ashley this is my mother, Sarah."

Ashley gives her a real smile and hold out her hand.

"It's really nice to meet you Luna."

My mother smiles at her shaking her hand.

"It's nice to meet you to dear. Please just call me Sarah. Well come on, follow me to your rooms. I would've wanted you to come stay with us, but with your father in the hospital I've been staying here. But if you'd prefer you could stay at our house?"

I shake my head.

"No it's fine mom. This is good."

Ashley nods aswell and we follow my mom into the packhouse.

I see Ashley stiffen and smell the room with a frown.

I touch her arm. "What's wrong?"

She shakes her head. "I don't know but what is that smell?"

I look at my mother and both of us smell the air, but come up with nothing.

My mother shakes her head.

"I don't smell anything."

Ashley sighs and shake her head.

"Sorry, ignore me, I'm imaging things. Let's continue." She says with a small smile.

We continue to our rooms and my mother turns back to us with a smile while handing me Zayde.

"Well here we are. I'll give you guys some time to get settled and then I'll meet you downstairs in about an hour to go see your father?" My mother asks.

I nod and turn to Ashley, she smiles and nods before I even start to speak.

"Yes, I'll watch Zayde for you. Just knock when you want to leave. I think I am going to try and take a quick nap."

I nod at her. "Thank you."

She nods back before she heads into her room.

I turn to my mother.

"I'll see you later yes? I'm just going to try and get this one down for a nap aswell."

My mother nods and smiles before she hugs me.

"I'm so glad you're home."

I smile back at her.

"Me too mom."

She bids me goodbye and I go into our room.

After Zayde falls asleep I walk over to the window and sigh in contentment when I look over the pack.

I really am happy to be home.

Chapter 9 - Returning to my rejected mate

Zane's Point of View

"Okay, thank you for letting me know Dan. I'll see you again tomorrow."

I sigh while putting my phone down and run my fingers through my hair.

"Nothing?"

I look up at Jake as he enters my office and takes a seat opposite me.

I shake my head.

"No, nothing. He says it's just like last time, the tracks and scents just vanished."

Jake frowns.

"How is that even possible? They cant just disappear into thin air. They have to be somewhere."

I sigh again and shake my head.

"I honestly don't know. It makes absolutely no sense. I'm heading over there again tomorrow. Maybe we missed something."

We both sit in silence, thinking about the leads that keep turning out to be dead ends.

"He looks just like you, you know."

I frown and look at Jake confused.

"What?"

"Your son. He looks exactly like you."

"My son? What are you talking about? I don't.." Suddenly realization dawned on me and I stopped midsentence. "Shay's son?"

Jake nods his head.

"Yes. He's yours. There's no doubt about it. It's why neither her nor Megan ever mentioned him to me."

I swallow. "My mate had a son. My son."

I whisper more to my self than to Jake.

"He's a beautiful little boy Zane. And strong, his aura is already noticeable."

I stare at Jake and try to swallow the lump in my throat.

"Why didn't she tell me? Is that why she left?"

Jake sighs and nod his head.

"Yes, that's why she left. She didn't tell you because you rejected her. And she didn't want the same to happen to her baby."

I frown. "I wouldn't do that."

"Come on Zane! You cheated on her the morning after you found out you were mated and rejected her. Why would she think you'd want the baby after the things you said to her? You told her you didn't want or need her."

Jake stopped talking and sighed again.

"She told me to tell you something."

I sit forward in my chair.

"What?"

"She asked me to tell you she didn't need you then. And she doesn't need you now."

I feel a stab to my heart and sigh before I sit back in my chair.

"So she knows you figured it out and were going to tell me?"

He nods.

"Yes. She knows."

"Do you think she'd let me see him?"

Jake shrugs.

"I honestly don't know. You could try. No harm in trying. Do you want to see him?"

I frown at him.

"What kind of question is that? Of course I want to see him. I want to see them both. You know I've been trying to find her."

"Yeah.. About that.. Apparently she doesn't believe it."

"What do you mean?"

"Well I told Megan, and Megan told her on the way here.. But she doesn't believe it. She's still convinced that you didn't want her, and she's terrified that you'll subject her son to the same rejection."

"Our son.. And I wouldn't do that."

I sigh and run my hand through my hair.

"I know she has absolutely no reason to believe that but I would never reject our son. He is my first born.. My rightfull heir.. Shit, no wonder her father suddenly started to hate me and Dan got so distant. They knew all along."

Jake nods at me.

"Yes they knew. Megan says Shay's mother had to step in a few times to calm them down. They wanted go cut alliances."

"Shit... My parents are going to kill me.."

Jake smirks at me.

"Oh, please let me be there when you tell them how royally you've screwed up."

I frown at him.

"Watch it, Jake."

He shakes his head.

"No, I warned you that day to stop screwing around. You didn't listen to me then. You may be my Alpha, but I'll side with Shay on this."

I glare at him and then sigh defeated shaking my head.

"I know okay, I was stupid. I didn't really expect her to demand a rejection. And then I didn't want to seem weak by asking her not to give up on me. I was a stupid kid."

"You should apologize to her."

"I know. Do you think she'd let me?"

Jake shrugs.

"I don't know. Honestly she still seems pretty pissed at you.."

I sit there and think for a while.

"I don't know what to do.. I want to go over there and see them both. But I don't think she'd appreciate it if I showed up that soon."

"She probably wouldn't appreciate that yes.. Maybe give her a day or two? You can go over there to see Dan, but don't go looking for her."

"Won't that make it worse? She knows you told me about our boy. So if I know about our son but still don't show up to see them she might think that I'm rejecting him, by not going to see them."

Jake frowns, thinking over what I said and then sighs.

"I don't know. That makes sense though.. We could ask Meg?"

I give him a questioning look.

"Do you think she'd help me? Thus far she hasn't "

He shrugs.

"We can try."

I see his eyes glazing over and I know he is mindlinking his mate.

I wait in anticipation for Megan's arrival.

Soon there's a knock on my door and she steps in.

She walks over to her mate and gives him a kiss before she sits down and smile at me.

"You called for me?"

"It's about Shay.." I start, but her face drops and she stands up.

"No." She says shaking her head turning for the door, but Jake grabs her hand and stops her.

"Meg, please. Just listen to him. For me."

I see them conversing through the mindlink before she frowns and sit back down.

Jake looks at me.

"You can continue."

I look at Megan and she glares at me but gives me a nod.

"As I was saying. It's about Shay. I know I screwed up. But we have a son and I would like to get to know him. I'd also like Shay back, but I'm willing to wait for her. I don't expect her or you to forgive me for what I did. But I really would like a chance. I just want to ask you something since neither my beta nor I know what to do in this situation."

She frown but nods at me again. "Okay?"

I swallow.

"Okay. My first instinct is to rush over there and claim them both but I'm pretty sure she won't appreciate me showing up there this soon. But she knows Jake was going to tell me about our boy. So if I don't show up, I'm afraid she'll see that as a rejection. What do I do?"

Megan looks as me skeptically.

"You want Shay now?"

I sigh and run my hand down my face.

"You don't have to believe me. But I've always wanted Shay. I was a stupid kid en did something equally as stupid. And I regret it."

"Do you just want her back because of Zayde?"

"Zayde?" I frown at her.

"Your son."

I test the name and smile to myself.

"So?"

I look up to see Megan impatiently waiting for my answer.

"Sorry. And no, I don't want her back just because of him. I wanted her back before I even knew about him. I know you probably don't believe me, but it is the truth."

She looks at me for a while and then nods.

"Fine. She doesn't want to keep Zayde away from you, but she's also not ready to deal with you yet. My advice is let Dan set up a meeting between you. Tell her you want to make up for everything but that you'll give her space until she's ready to talk to you. And then ask her to get to know Zayde. That way she'd feel less cornered. And don't demand anything just ask her and tell her your willing to take as much as she's willing to give at the moment."

I look at her and smile.

"Than you Megan, that might just work."

I pick up my phone to call Dan, hoping he'd agree as this would be the most important meeting of my life.

Chapter 10 - Returning to my rejected mate

Shay's Point of View

It's quiet between my mother and I as we walk to the hospital where my father is.

I take a good look at my mother and I see the bags underneath her eyes. Like a proper luna she is keeping it together but if you look closely you can see my father being in the hospital is taking it's toll. They've been together since they found out they were mates on my mother's eighteen birthday. I can't imagine how hard this must be for her.

I wrap my arm around her shoulders, pull her tightly to me and rest my head on hers as we walk.

"I'm not going to ask if you're okay. But I just want you to know I think you're so brave, Momma. Keeping it together while dad is injured, I know it has to be hard on you. If you ever need to cry or talk I'm here for you."

I say and kiss her on her head.

I feel her wrap her arms around my waist.

"Thank you, sweetie. I'm so glad you're here."

As we near the hospital my mother pulls away from me and wipes her face before she pulls her shoulders back and lift her head, I smile slightly. Always a proper luna. I see her nod and smile at the pack members we pass on our way to my father's room.

As we enter his room, the doctor checking his vitals looks up and smiles at us.

"Good day Luna, Shay it's great to see you again, it's been along time. How have you been?"

I smile at him. "Hi Dr. Martin. I've been good. How are you and Mrs. Martin?"

"We're doing good dear. I'm glad you're back, though I wish it was under better circumstances."

I give him a small smile and look at my father lying in the hospital bed.

"How's he doing?"

"His heart rate is stable and most of his injuries are healed. But there is still alot of swelling on his brain. We are monitoring it closely and it has definitely come down a bit."

I nod at him, watching my mother running her fingers through his hair, softly talking to him.

"Will he wake up?" I ask, trying to swallow the lump in my throat.

Dr. Martin sighs.

"It's hard to tell. He is healing well, which is a good thing but anything can happen. Even if he wakes up there could be side effects. All we can do is monitor him and hope for the best."

I nod at him and smile. "Thank you, doctor."

He nods at me and leaves the room, I head over to the bed and take my father's hand.

"Talk to him."

I look at my mother.

"Sorry?"

"I said you should talk to him. They say he can hear us. Maybe it will help him if he hears your voice."

I nod at her and take a seat on the bed.

"Hi dad. It's me. Shay.. You gave me quite a scare. Both me and Zayde rushed down here to see you so you better wake up soon. Zayde misses you."

My mother smiles at me and nods, encouraging me to continue.

"You should have seen his face as we came driving up, the forest with the wolves running along the car, he got so excited. And the way he just stared at the packhouse. It was really funny to watch his reactions. I think he likes it here. Has made a few friends already and we just got here." I smile, thinking about my little boy. Then my thoughts go to Jake and I sigh.

"I ran into Jake today. He immediately figured out who Zayde was. Told me he was gonna tell Zane."

Suddenly my father's heart rate monitor beeps faster, just for a minute before it goes back to normal and I smile again.

"I'm assuming even in your current state your still mad at him. I am too. But we're here now, and eventhough I don't want anything to do with him, I won't deny my son a chance to get to know his father. So now I'm just waiting for him to make his move. But we'll see what happens."

For the next hour, my mother and I just talked to him about anything and everything. Until the nurse came to check him again and told us visiting hours were over. We said our goodbyes to him, promising to come back the next day.

As we head out we were both quiet again, I saw my mother's eyes glaze over, mindlinking someone, then she turned to me.

"Dan's back. He wants to speak with you."

I nod at her and we walk to the packhouse. As we get closer, I see a car pull into the garage before Dan emerges.

He heads over to us and wraps me in his arms.

"It's so good to have you home."

He says hugging me tightly.

"It's good to be back. I've missed.. Hey!"

I yell as he suddenly pushed me away, still holding on to my shoulders. I frown up at him as he starts sniffing me.

"What are you doing?"

"What is that? That's not your normal smell." He said frowning at me now.

"I don't know you weirdo. Stop sniffing me."

My mother stepped closer to us and gave me a quick wiff. She stepped back and shook her head.

"I don't smell anything strange Dan. She just smells like Shay, and Zayde. Maybe that's what your getting." She shrugged.

"Yeah, maybe. Where is he by the way?"

Dan asks as we head for the door.

"Upstairs with my friend. Why did you want to speak to me?"

I turn to face Dan that stopped just inside the door. I see him sniffing the air and frown. I frown as well and look at my mother, she shrugs just as confused as I am.

"Dan?"

He shakes his head, as if to clear it.

"Sorry, it's just that smell again."

My mother and I exchange looks again.

Dan sighs. "I'm not crazy guys."

"Never said you were sweetheart. I'm going up stairs. I'll see you at dinner."

My mother gives us both a peck on the cheek before she leaves.

"So? What did you want to speak to me about?"

He looks at me and frown before I see realization set in.

"Oh yes.. That.. Let's go up to my office. We can talk there."

I frown but nod and follow him to his office. I take a glance at him but he seems distracted.

"Are you okay?"

He looks at me and smiles while nodding.

"Yes, of course I'm fine. Sorry I just have a lot on my mind."

I nod.

"So do you have any leads on the rogues that attacked?"

He sighs and runs his fingers through his hair.

"Yes and no. We thought we had something, tracked a few of them but then the scent as well as the tracks just vanished."

I frown. "What? How is that possible? They can't just disappear. "

"I know. That's why this is so frustrating. But you should see these attacks Shay.. They are very well organized."

"Rogues aren't normally well organized."

Dan sigh and nods his head.

"No they're not. All of their attacks are carefully planned and executed. It's almost like.. like.."

"Like they're testing you."

I finish his sentence and he nods.

"Exactly.. I don't know what exactly is going on but I'm sure this is just the beginning."

I frown thinking about his words.

We reach his office in silence and he closes the door behind us.

"So what do we need to discuss? It must be important if we need to do it here."

I ask as soon as I sit down.

He sighs and rubs his hand down his face.

"It is.. And your probably not going to like it. I got an interesting phone call this afternoon. From Zane."

I feel my heart start to pound as soon as I hear his name.

"What was the call about?"

"Zayde."

I swallow the lump in my throat. Here it comes. The moment I've been dreading.