

Chapter 22

Emily's pov

"What's going on between you and Bryce?"

I looked up, spotting my best friend with a small smile yet a confused worried look on his face.

I looked away from Shawn as he sat down on the empty chair beside me.

"Nothing is going on. I'm just doing as my alpha told me to. I'm staying away from him when we're alone." I said softly, scratching at my wrists.

Shawn's eyes drop to my wrist and his features tighten. "Who did that shit to you?"

His voice is nearly a growl.

I looked at him then at where his eyes gawk at.

The discoloring Maya left.

Since I had yet to shift, it took a good while for bruises or scratches to get healed up.

"I knocked it on the door handle. No biggie." I shrugged and smiled to play it off.

Shawn didn't look like he believed me.

And of course he let it be known that I was shitty liar.

"You and I both know that didn't happen. Want me to call Bryce so he could get the truth out of you?" Shawn raised a challenging brow.

My heart skipped.

If Bryce found out Maya was a little rough with me, he'd be upset.

He was already so upset with her because she kept bringing up his pending mate.

I shook my head quickly. "No. Fine you're right. It was Maya. She held me a bit too tight." I confessed.

Shawn's eyes darkened. "She held you too tight?" He spat out the words angrily.

I quickly try to defuse the situation.

"By accident Shawn. She didn't mean to. I'll be healed up soon anyway. "

Shawn looked irritated. "Of course she didn't." He uttered sarcastically.

"Don't tell Bryson, he's already so mad at her."

Shawn huffed. "I don't know, I'd like to see that bitch get punished. She deserved it for putting her hands on you."

"Shawn!" I scowled.

Maya was our friend despite some tension between us. But it was all because the day was quickly approaching. As soon as Bryson finds his mate and is now our alpha, everything will go back to normal.

Well I hope it will.

He shrugged. "I could see right through that bitch's facade. I don't know why you and Bryson included her in our little friendship."

I shook my head. It was no secret that Shawn didn't like Maya. Everyone knew that the two didn't get along.

"Maya isn't all that bad Shawn. You just need to get to know her better."

Shawn snorted. "Seventeen years of knowing that girl and she's still a bitch. I think I know her Em. Now stop trying to dodge the huge elephant in the room, why are you hiding out here in the library?"

He looked around the rows of shelves lined with books and his face screwed up in disgust.

"What elephant?" I looked away from him and pretended to be busy with reading a book. Gosh I didn't even know the name of the book.

I was here only to avoid Bryson. Since I had said those words to him, I was ashamed to look him in his eyes.

I knew I hurt him when I told him we should stay away from each other. And I didn't want to see that pained look etched on his face.

Shawn gave me that 'you fucking know what I mean' look.

I caved in.

"I'm avoiding Bryson."

Shawn rolled his eyes. "Duh, I know that. That's why I am here. Mind telling me why? The guy looks out of it. Kind of worrying."

My heart squeezed. The last thing I want to hear is that Bryce was not okay.

"I just think it's best you know....for us to stay far away from each other until he finds his mate."

Shawn raised a brow in disbelief. "Best for who? For the pack?"

I nod.

He snorted. "I don't think you two hanging out will harm anyone. If he finds his mate, which is a huge if....I believe she would understand. You were there before her."

I looked away from him. "You make it seem as though Bryce and I have something going on."

Shawn snorted. "Someone has to be a fool to not realize you two are not in love with each other Emily."

My heart skipped and my eyes flick to his quickly.

I flushed.

"Bry-ce an-d I do not-

Shawn rolled his eyes and rose to his feet, the chair scrapping against the floor.

"I'll leave you two to talk."

My brows scrunched until I turned around and spotted Bryson rounding the corner.

I turn to send Shawn a hard glare.

Traitor.

He gave me a lopsided grin and with a salute he walks away whistling.

"Little piece of shit." I huffed under my breath as I gathered my things.

Suddenly a hands press against the surface of the table, closing me in. His scent reaches my nose and I breathed it in.

Butterflies flutter in my tummy.

With his lips near my ear, a shiver race down my spine as he whispered. "Where do you think you're going Emily? You're not trying to run away from me are you?"

His lips brush against my earlobe and I gasped. "Because I won't let you."