

Chapter 21 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

My father stared at me as I placed the phone down.

“I’m staying here tonight,” I said to him as I sat on my chair behind my desk.

My father frowned.

“You need proper rest,” he said.

“I know, but I also know I won’t be able to sleep. I need to sort it out with Roxie,” I said.

He nodded, giving me a knowing look.

I looked at him. “Dad, Can I talk to Bruce?” I asked him.

He stared at me for a few moments, but he nodded.

My father mind links to Bruce, and after a few minutes, Bruce walks in. His eyes were all bloodshot, but when his eyes landed on me, he growled. “You have some nerve calling me in here,” he said.

I stared back at him, confused.

He glares, but my father places his hand on his shoulder. “You need to calm down and explain to us what happened,” he asked.

Bruce looks at my father and then back at me. I could tell he was debating whether to talk to me, but he sighed.

“Naomi never loved me, especially at the beginning; she always loved you. She would compare you to me, what you were like in bed and how big your cock was,” he said. I wince at the statement, but Bruce carries on. “She never loved me; she only used me as she wanted to get close to you. She told me that she watched you and your mate spar earlier and you won. I thought nothing of it until she rejected me out of nowhere. I was in pain. I wasn’t going to accept her rejection, but she stabbed me with a silver knife and told me she would kill me if I didn’t accept her rejection. I accepted and even rejected her. She smiled afterward and told me that she and you could finally be together.”

I stared back at him in disbelief.

Bruce looked at me with sadness in his eyes.

“I never wanted anything to do with her,” I said to him. “I have been waiting for my mate to come home for six years, and she did a few days ago.”

Bruce looked at me. “At the beginning, I mean after a week. She was truly the love of my life, but a few days ago, she went back to the woman who hated me. She had it in for your mate; she would tell me stories of what she and her friends would do to her. She was shocked that your mate never told you, Jason, or even her father what they did to her. So she kept doing it, thinking she was putting the fear into her,” he said.

I looked at him, but something clicked in my head—something that Keith said about she never liked being here or something about not fitting in within the pack.

“Why did you treat her like that at the training ground?” asked my father, who had never taken his eyes off him.

Bruce looked down at the floor but looked back at my father. “Naomi wanted to make her pay and suffer. She told me she was weak, and I believed her. I never thought she could cope in a sparring match against the alpha. So I thought I would make her watch, and she could fight someone in her league.”

I growled.

Bruce looks at me but sighs. “I noticed during training that she was holding back when she was fighting Alpha Frank,” he says, looking at me.

I stared back at him in shock; what the hell?

Suddenly, I felt Blaze come forward and look at Bruce.

Blaze ignores me but mutters. “Mate was holding back in sparring against us too.”

I looked at him; she held back when she fought me.

Blaze cocks his head at me and frowns. “You are one stupid human; she threw the whole round as she wanted to get to know you and go on a date with you.”

I looked at my father. “I need to go,” I said to him, startling him and Bruce.

Without another word, I got out of my chair and headed to the door, my father and Bruce staring at me. But I knew my father mind-linking, someone.

I knew where I wanted to go, and I knew she wouldn't want to see me. I would stay outside the house all night if I had to, but I needed Roxie to understand what had happened. I need to tell her I was a fool and an idiot.

I turned around and ran straight out of the packhouse and towards her house.

As I got to the door, I banged on it.

The door opened, but it wasn't Roxie.

It was Jason.

Jason stares at me, "what the hell?" he says.

He glares at me, "She doesn't want to see you," he says.

"I know, I just..." I say, but I stop myself. I knew I had fucked up, and I also knew Jason wasn't going to let me in, so I barged past Jason and headed straight upstairs to her room.

I could hear Jason running behind me.

As I reached her door, I banged on it.

"ROXIE," I shouted.

There was nothing, no sound or movement. Something didn't feel right, and Blaze was on edge. I pushed down the door handle and was surprised to find it open.

I pushed the door wide and walked in. I stood in the room and looked around, but she wasn't there.

There was nothing, no sign of her.

I looked behind me to find Jason standing behind me, looking around her room.

"Where the hell is she?" I yelled.

Jason looked at me, but I realized that he wasn't alone. His mate was standing there.

Sofia walked into the room as Jason stood sideways, letting her through and pushing past me.

Sofia glared at me. "You're a jackass," she said.

"I know I am. Where is she?" I asked her.

Sofia looks at Jason from behind me, but I can't see what he is doing. "She's gone," she says as she looks back at me.

I growled. I could feel Blaze pacing back and forth in my head; his anger was intense.

"Where?" I asked.

"You don't need to know where," she yells.

I walk toward her, with anger fueling my veins, but Jason steps in front of her and growls at me. "You touch my mate, and I will hurt you."

I stopped and looked at him.

Sofia steps aside to look at me, but I glared at Jason. I never take my eyes off him.

"You both need to fuck up," she says, making us both look at her.

Sofia glared. "I'm going to betray her trust by doing this," she said. She turned around and walked over to a box on the chest of drawers. She picked it up and placed it on the ground. Sofia bends down, picks up three black leather-looking books, and hands one to each of us.

I looked at the one I was holding, which looked much heavier than the other two. I looked back at Sofia, confused. What the hell was this?

Sofia stares between the both of us. "I'm betraying Roxie's trust, but I think you both need to know something, and it's not pretty either."

"What do you mean?" asked Jason as he looked at the book he was holding. Sofia looked at him and then back at me. "You want to know what Roxie went through over the years while she was here; these are her actual diaries that have everything in them that will explain what she went through, what happened to her, everything," she said.

"You won't like what you read, but something tells me it's about time people knew what truly went on here," she said.

I looked down at the book and moved back till the back of my legs hit her bed. I sat down and opened the book.

If I wanted to know about my mate, I guess I had to read about her first.

I opened the first page and instantly saw the date in the corner of the page.

I flinched as I started to read; I knew nothing of the day but the date was something that I knew all too well.

Chapter 22 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

There was a knock at the door, but I didn't say a word.

I knew who it was, but I didn't want to see anyone.

I wipe my cheeks with my hands and sigh. I moved up off the floor, walked over to my bed, stopped at the foot, and looked around.

I know I can't stay here, not in the pack; too many bad memories were here for me.

My eyes landed on my closet, and I walked over and opened it. I looked around till I found what I was looking for and grabbed my rucksack.

I turned around, placed it on my bed, and started putting some clothes inside. There was another knock at the door, but I ignored them.

The door opened, and in walked my Uncle Keith and my father.

"Roxie, please talk to us?" says my Uncle Keith.

I don't say anything, but I keep packing my clothes. I don't know what I'm putting in altogether; all I know is I need to get out of here.

I could hear yelling from outside; Jason was telling him to leave.

A tear slides down my face as I place another top into my bag.

A hand moved to mine and held it tight, making me stop what I was doing; I looked up and stared at my father.

"What happened, Rox?" he asked, worry written all over his face.

I look back down, and I feel like a failure. Why the hell do I? I thought he wanted me; he was supposed to have been waiting for me or changed when he knew what I was to him.

Bex was in my head, with her head resting on her paws. She has been hurting more but hasn't said a word to me.

“Please, Rox,” he says, pleading.

I closed my eyes, “I thought he was in danger, and I wanted to help him, but when I got to him, he had his tongue down Naomi’s throat,” I said as a tear slipped down my cheek as I opened my eyes to look at my father and Uncle.

Uncle Keith had a blank face, but my father looked angry.

“I will kill him,” he shouted.

I shook my head, “No.”

My father looks at me, “you rejected him, Rox.”

I know what I did; I wanted to hurt him like he hurt Bex and me, before and now.

I moved my hand from his and sat back on the bed.

I stared at the closet, “I can’t stay here,” I said in a weak voice. I looked at my father, “I need time, but I can’t be here. Too much here has hurt me, and I only came back to meet Sofia. And I have. I want to go back home.”

This pack used to be my home when I was younger when my mum was alive, but after she was taken from us, this pack became my nightmare. I felt more at home in my Uncle’s pack. I know I hurt my dad with my words as he stared at me, heartbroken. I worked my arse off to be who I am now and being back here, I have had to change who I am so that I don’t show anyone the real me.

My father stares at me for a moment, “I know you do,” he says with a weak sigh.

My dad walked in front of me and kneeled. He stares into my eyes. “I was a mess when your mother died; I couldn’t function. I know I haven’t been there for you, but you are my world, Rox,” he says. He places his hand on my cheek and gently rubs his finger on it, catching a stray tear as it falls.

“I don’t know what you went through, but I know you will tell me when you are ready,” he says. He looked at Uncle Keith, “Both Roxie and I will return to the pack with you. I must be with my daughter, but I know she can’t stay here.”

My Uncle nodded and smiled. “That’s okay with me.”

Uncle Keith walked out of my bedroom and must have gotten his phone out as he started to talk on it.

Sofia walks in and gives me a weak smile. “I heard he’s an ass.”

I nodded but didn't say anything to her. I watched as her eyes went to the box on the chest of drawers.

I looked back at my dad, "Dad, you best get packed and also tell Alpha Frank that we are going," I said to him. "Hopefully, he won't tell Alexander that I'm leaving."

My father nodded. "Don't worry. Alpha Frank will keep him busy, and I will explain what is happening."

My father gets up and places a kiss on my head. He turns to leave and heads in the direction of his room.

I glanced back at Sofia.

"When I go," I said to her, making her look back at me. "I need you to do something for me; I need a favor."

She nods.

I walked over to the box and placed it on the ground.

I looked over at her. "I'm going to leave the books behind, and I want you to have Jason and Alexander read them," I said to her. Sofia's eyes widened, "Roxie; I can't do that."

I looked at her and gave her a small smile. "I need you too; I don't want to be here when they read them. But I'm taking the diary with my mum's memories in as I think my dad needs to read it. But I'm also taking one of these for him to read. Well, I can tell him the other stuff in a PG version at least, but the boys need to read them."

Sofia stared at the box, but I knew which diary my father could read, so I got up, retrieved the book from the box, and placed it in my bag.

"I know that Naomi is the main villain in the diaries. What she did to you was unforgivable, but Alexander must understand the whole story. He won't stop at one," Sofia says.

I sighed and looked back at her. "I'm not hiding them anymore. I have nothing to be ashamed of," I said.

Sofia looks at me and walks over to me. She placed her arm around me. "Will you be coming back?" she asked as she placed her head on mine.

"I don't know," I said. "I really don't know." This is the truth; I didn't know. I needed time to think.

Sofia sighs and moves her head. She places a kiss on my head and leans back. I looked at her, "I will miss you," I said to her.

Sofia nods, "Me too," she says as a tear slides down her face.

I know I'm packed, I don't know what I have put in my bag, but I need to get out here soon.

After a few moments, Uncle Keith enters the room. "The car is outside, and your dad is telling Jason what's happening. I will put all the bags in the car," he said.

I nodded.

I moved away, and Sofia followed me as I headed out of my room.

I walked downstairs and saw my father hugging my brother.

My father pulls back and smiles. "I will be home soon," he says to Jason.

Jason nods, but he looks at me. His eyes were holding so much emotion.

Both Uncle Keith and my dad walked outside, with Sofia following them.

"I'm sorry," says Jason.

I kept my eyes on him but kept my mouth shut.

I know he is, but I bet he doesn't understand why he's sorry.

I didn't say anything.

Jason sighed. "Lex's an arse, and I know I should have said or done something in the past about all this, but I couldn't. It wasn't my place," he said.

I looked at him and walked up to him. I don't hug him, but I lean into him and place a kiss on his cheek.

When he reads the diaries, there will be a lot more to be said on both sides, but I can't tell him anything, but I know I need to leave.

I didn't say anything, but I turned around, walked straight to the front door, and walked through it.

The car was ready, with Sofia standing outside, holding the door open. I looked to see where everyone was, and Uncle Keith and his driver were in the front, which meant my father was in the back.

I walked up to the side I needed to go to and Sofia was holding the door open for me.

I climb in and sat back in the seat while Sofia closes the door behind me.

I looked at my father, who was staring back at me.

“Alpha Frank has him in the office, so we need to go now,” he said.

I nodded without saying a word.

Uncle Keith’s driver starts the engine and leaves. We drove away and headed toward the pack house. I held my breath when we came to pass the packhouse while we were driving past. Thinking that Alexander would know, we had left.

Once we were past it, we were not far from the open road. I began to relax and let out the breath I was holding in.

I closed my eyes and looked at Bex. She stared back, and I could tell she was crying.

“I’m sorry, Bex,” I said to her.

Bex looks at me and nods. “I know,” she whispered. “We need time to heal.”

I looked at her, “maybe we can go for a run when we get there or even have a fight,” I said to her.

She nodded. “We can see how we feel when we get there, but Rox,” she says. I looked at her, “I know you were trying and wanted to see what happened with mate; maybe some time away will help us, and we might come back. He didn’t accept the rejection, and you could always take back the rejection if you wanted to,” she says. I noticed the hope in her voice.

I didn’t say anything, but all I knew I needed to do was to get away for now. I needed a clear head for thinking, and I certainly wasn’t going to get it around this pack.

Chapter 23

Chapter 23 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

I couldn’t believe what I read; these were books of horrors.

I could feel the anger build up as I kept reading. I didn’t want to read them all, but I knew I had to. But what was startling more than anything was how no one ever spotted it during the time, not even me, Jason, or her father.

I can look back now, and after reading the diaries, everything that made no sense made perfect sense. Most of the times she told us she was ill were when people beat her up. Roxie knew how to cover it up, and so damn well.

Blaze was angry and wanted to murder everyone mentioned in the diaries.

“I knew she should have been with us,” he said, bearing his teeth at me.

He snarled. “I know she was young, but we could have stopped all this,” he said.

I looked back at him; I knew he was right. But I also knew we would be sent to jail if I went anywhere near her.

I looked up from the diary I was reading and looked toward Jason. Anger and rage were written all over his face.

The tension and anger flooding this room made it hard to breathe and nearly set every one of us stir crazy. But it wasn't the anger that flowed through us that was mainly hard; it was the guilt. The guilt of not knowing what was going on, but the guilt of how we treated her or what we said to her. Things that met as a joke were taken wrong.

The things she wrote about the parties and women that was a shock, as that was never me. It was all Jason, but her describing the sounds from my room was not what she thought.

I had more guilt, especially from what I read about Naomi.

I never knew that the girl was so evil, but what she put Roxie through made my stomach turn. The hatred the girl had for my mate ran deep, but there was no reason for it. I know Jason was reading the diary I read first, and I know he would say something about it.

I had no clue what was happening; if I knew, I would have stopped it.

The date I started reading on was when I found out that Roxie was my mate, but I never knew what happened that night. I remember meeting up with Naomi, but everything else was blank.

I never thought that Naomi would do that to someone, and thinking about it, she must have known that Roxie was mate when I did, as some of the stuff she told Roxie made me think she did.

“FUCK,” yelled Jason, pulling me from my thoughts.

I looked up at him, and his face was full of anger.

He glared at me, and I knew instantly what he had read.

“YOU FUCKING PRICK,” he roared as he stood up and marched over to me.

We were all still in Roxie's room; Jason and Sofia were on the floor while I sat on the bed. Sofia did leave at some point, but I had no clue where she went.

I stared up at Jason, who had his fists clenched.

"Why did you have to pick that slut? Why her?" he said through clenched teeth.

I stared at him, but I didn't say anything. I know when I met Naomi and how we got together. She was three years younger than me and was two or three years above Roxie. Naomi always made out that she was friends with Roxie, and during the time, I thought it was sweet as Roxie never brought anyone home. Well, she did twice, but she never bothered after that.

But looking back at it, Jason and I should have known better.

"I never knew about all the shit she pulled," I said. "She never told me anything or even made comments; she never said anything."

Jason growls, "that slut was the main feature in all my sister's torment. She was also the one who beat her up so badly that she had to have stitches, not to mention the times that she pushed her head down the toilet and tormented her about how short she was, but you had to make it worse. You had to hurt my sister's feelings by fucking her in the study the day she left. The day you made my sister leave," he yells.

I stared at him.

I read that one too; Roxie caught Naomi and me in the study fucking. But what was more hurtful was what I said, and I knew it. The only thing that made it so real was that it was recently added to the diary. It looked like she added it in after, but how the hell did she get it back to the house? She never came home; I would have smelled her scent.

"You both are to blame," says Sofia, making Jason and I look at her. Her eyes were holding so much emotion, but there was something there that even Jason never saw.

"You're a fine one to talk, Jason," she said as she moved up from the floor. "You were also a player, and I know what it is like to see everyone you have fucked, because many have told me repeatedly what you were like in bed. They want a rise out of me and me to react because they think I'm weak."

Her eyes landed on me. "You're the biggest pig I have ever met," she said. Blaze stares back at her through my eyes but never says anything. "You knew what was going on. I don't believe you ever thought about Roxie, not even the day you made her leave. No one who finds their mate would be fucking someone else. I know it comes crazy to think about, but what if it was the other way around? What if Roxie fucked around?"

I growled loudly, and Jason snarled.

Sofia looks at us; her face becomes even angrier.

“You are both jackasses; you seem to forget something. You both never bothered with Roxie, never bothered or truly wanted her here. Come to think about it; she made both of you the worst people around. What brother hates his sister so much that he tells his best friend she has feelings for him so he could get a rise of humiliation? And you,” she says, pinning me a look. “You knew something must have been happening; Naomi wanted to torment her. But you fucked her once your mate left, she wasn’t even out the door for an hour, and you were in her pants.”

I stared back at her, guilt riddling my body and knowing she was right. I was a slut, just like Naomi, and so was Jason. We knew everyone wanted us, and we didn’t even care whether it hurt anyone or not. But looking back, the one person we hurt more than anything was Roxie.

The bullying wasn’t just by Naomi; it was her whole friends. Even Amber was one of them. They set their sights on Roxie because she was Jason’s sister, but they also knew I was constantly around the house, as Jason was my best friend.

Sofia’s anger was aimed at both of us, and she is right. Roxie not only said everything about what happened to her but also commented on every little detail of the hurt from Jason and me.

“I won’t be surprised that Roxie never comes back after everything I read,” she said. She stares at us for a moment but walks toward the door, but she stops and looks over at us once more. “I will be showing Alpha Frank these diaries too, and I lied earlier; Roxie knows that you are reading them as she permitted me to show them to you both. She wanted you both to know everything that went on.” With that, she leaves the room and walks out.

“You know she-wolf is right,” says Blaze.

I looked back at him.

I know he was pissed as he read things that had happened, something I blocked him from, as I wanted to be alone or just needed a release of frustration.

Blaze looks at me. “I won’t accept the rejection, mate said,” he says, making me smile. But he lets a low growl. “Don’t think I’m doing this for you stupid dumbass; I have wanted mate since I found her. I knew it was wrong because she was young, but looking back on what you were doing, screwing that pathetic slut. I wanted mate more. What you did was push me closer to my mate. We are from Alpha blood; we will feel our mate bond stronger, which causes it to affect us more. That’s why I was a horny wolf; I wanted mate, I needed her because you were with that slut.”

He stared at me and, realizing what he was saying, sank in. I caused the mate bond to be stronger, mainly because I was with Naomi.

Blaze looked at me with a glare. “You need to find a way to sort this out, dumbass, or you will be a lonely old man with no one to love you, and I will only show up when you need me,” he says and then places a block on me.

“Blaze, okay?” asked Jason.

I looked at him; he had now sat on the bed with me. I looked over at my friend, “no, he’s not. He’s threatening me to make it up to her, or I’m going to die a lonely old man,” I said. I sighed, “Blaze also thinks due to my whoring around, I might have made the mate bond stronger for us. He was horny only when Roxie was around, but I know it affected me. That’s why I was Naomi. I never thought she was like that; if I knew, I would have stopped it. Hell, I would have made her pay for what she did to Roxie,” I said.

Jason looked at me. “You have to make this right, Lex,” he says and turns away from me. “I had to choose between you and Roxie before, and if I have to choose again, I pick her hands down.” I knew that to be accurate, and I would never come between them again. It shouldn’t have happened the first time around.

I looked ahead. “I need to figure out how to make it up to her,” I said to him.

Jason was quiet for a moment, “I think you need to see something,” he said.

I looked at him, and he stared ahead for a few moments.

But he moves his hand to his pocket and pulls out his mobile. He goes and looks for what it is he needs to show me.

He looked over at me but held his phone. “I did some research earlier, as something happened,” he said.

I could feel the block come down that Blaze pulled up; he got closer. He must have been listening to our conversation.

Jason moved his phone. So I could see, and he started to play the video he wanted to show me.

I leaned over to watch it, but my eyes grew wide.

Chapter 24

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LEX

I stared back in shock as the video came to an end.

I pulled back and looked at Jason. “She’s an ultimate fighter,” I said in shock.

Jason nodded his head. “I knew something was up. She was holding back in training when she was sparring against your dad and even with you. I could see Keith keeping an eye on her all the time. But then it was the rogues from earlier,” he said.

I stared back at him, looking at him confused. “Rogues from earlier,” I asked him.

Jason looks at me, but his hand slaps his forehead.

“Shit man, I forgot to be Beta to you for a few hours,” he said. “When you shouted rogues, we all went in the direction you told us. You wanted us to make sure there were none around. When we got further away, my father got a mind link from Keith telling us five men were at the house. My father and I ran back only to witness Roxie take down two rogues alone. She had killed two before him, but she killed him by using just her legs.”

I stared at him with my eyebrows raised.

Blaze felt proud as he stuck out his chest when Jason told the story.

Jason looked at me, “I know, but witnessing that was something worthwhile,” he said.

I nodded, not saying anything.

But something was bugging me, but then it was like a light bulb going off.

“Do you think Naomi sent those rogues?” I asked with a snarl.

Jason ponders over what I said, but he shrugs. “I would be guessing, but it can’t be a coincidence that they show up when she mind links you to come to her.”

I growled. “I’m going to kill her,” I said to him.

Jason looked at me. “I think we need to talk to your father,” he said, but a smirk pulled the corners of his lips. “I bet he will rip you a new asshole when he reads these.”

I groaned.

I know he will; he was proud to have Roxie as my Luna. But he was happy that his best friend’s children would be among the next generation of people who would help me take over the pack and make it our own.

“I think I should do this on my own,” I said to him.

He nods, “but I think you need to sort out all the shit-stirring arseholes in this pack. I mean, if Roxie is having trouble with my exes, there is no doubt that Sofia is too,” I said to him.

Jason doesn’t say anything, but he sighs. “I think you’re right,” he says and looks at me. “We both need to make this work with our mates, but also we need to make a big change in how we see and be around everyone, especially the women.”

I nodded.

“I think we need to set some ground rules and place them around the pack,” I said.

Jason looked at me. “Yeah, but you need to announce Roxie as your mate, I mean now,” he said.

I looked at him. “I know. I should have told her the first night she came back whether or not she accepted me,” I said.

I looked toward the door and stood up.

I looked around the room and grabbed the two diaries that my father should read. I think to get the worst ones out of the way. He can read the other ones later on and on his own.

Jason looked at me. “I think I will make sure all these diaries are put away, and I’m going to look for Sofia,” he said.

I nodded as I walked towards the door.

I headed down the stairs and walked through the front door.

I stop in my tracks as I look outside the house after everything. I didn’t realize the state on the ground. There was blood everywhere, but there were no bodies; they seemed to have been moved.

I opened a mind link to Jason. “Where are the bodies from the attack?” I asked him.

“Gamma Simon and some guards moved them when we were in the house,” he said. “He burned their bodies near the river to send a message to others who want to try to come onto the pack grounds.”

“Ok. Once you sort out with Sofia, both of you come to the pack house, and we can come up with ideas on what we need to do to get Roxie back,” I said to him.

Jason agreed and closed the mind link.

I walked to the pack house and headed straight to the office, where I knew my father would be.

It didn't take me long, and I walked through the door but stopped in my tracks. My father was there but wasn't alone, and his face was pissed.

The person in the chair in front of him turns around in the chair and smirks at me.

Blaze was on all fours and growling.

"SHE NEEDS TO BE GONE," he snarled.

I keep my face blank, but I move into the office.

"Alpha Lex," says Naomi. "I came to talk to you about something, but I had a lovely chat with your dad."

I looked at my father, who was glaring at her.

"You need to leave now," I said through clenched teeth. "I have some pack business to deal with, and you are not part of it."

Naomi looks at me and pouts. "Well, that's not nice. I was wondering if we could talk since our mates rejected us. I think I can help you become the Alpha you truly be," she said.

Blaze growls out, "She needs to shut up."

I tried to keep him at bay, but it was hard to control him, especially after everything we had read.

"I think you should leave now," I said as anger filled my veins. It wasn't just Blaze's anger I had to deal with; it was my own.

Naomi stares at me but moves out of the chair and walks over to me.

I sidestep her as she tried to place her hand on my arm, and I couldn't help but growl.

Naomi doesn't flinch, but she nods, "we need to talk," she said.

She walked out, and I kept my eyes on my father, never looking at her. My father looked like he wanted to kill me.

Once the door was closed, my father moved from behind the desk and stared at me.

"You better explain to me why that little whore thinks she has a right to become your Luna when you need to be setting everything right with Roxie," he snarled.

When my father gets angry, he is hard to get through to. I stared at him. I hope I can get through to him.

“I want you to read these two diaries, and once you have, I want you to call me back,” I said to him.

My father stared at me and frowned.

“Why?” he asked. “I know about these diaries; I have read one of them as Sofia gave me one to read earlier.”

I looked at him but glanced at the ones I was holding. These were the worst for him to read, and I know my head would end up on a spike.

“Dad,” I said as I stepped closer and placed the diaries on the desk in front of him. He glanced down, but he looked back up to meet mine. “You need to read these more; there is much about this pack and what went on regarding Roxie. I want you to read them, and I will warn you, these are terrible.”

My father looked down at the desk and moved back around. He sits and looks up at me, “while I am reading these, what are you going to be doing?”

I sighed. “I will be going for a run. I think Blaze needs to get out and run,” I said to him.

My father nodded.

My father opened the first diary, and I turned to walk away.

But before I leave the office, my father calls out, “keep away from that girl; she is bad news.”

I nodded, but I didn’t say anything.

I walked out of the office and didn’t even bother looking around. I walked straight through the pack house and started to run towards the forest clearing.

I knew Blaze needed a run, but I needed to get my mind off everything.

My mind was more on Roxie, and I needed to get her back.

I needed to figure out a way to get her back.

I don’t even bother taking my clothes off as I let Blaze take over, shredding my clothes in the process.

Blaze runs fast, but we both stay in silence.

Chapter 25 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

We arrived at Uncle Keith's pack just before night fell.

The pack is smaller than my father's, but it has more qualified trainers.

People train constantly, and no one ever makes you feel worthless.

I glanced at my father, who had been sleeping the whole ride there. The pack was only two hours long, but we stopped off for some food on the way.

My Uncle Keith told my father about the upcoming ultimate fighter competition, which was mainly a charity event. Everyone was going to be there, and judging by my Uncle's face, it was to be big.

We were in the middle of eating, but my father caught me off guard and asked me, "Are you competing in the fighting?"

I was shocked, but I shook my head.

Uncle Keith's alpha wanted the best, and I only started to fight. So I knew it wasn't my time. I only fought a few fights when I was needed. I remember winning three out of four contests, and the alpha was impressed. I always tried to keep my head down, but I like to do more fighting. It releases some of my anger and frustration; back then, I had a lot of both.

Uncle Keith never mentioned anything about the fight before, but his eyes have been on me since we left that place and were back on the road.

After another forty-five minutes, the car comes to a complete stop outside my Uncle's place, and we all get out of the car.

The driver takes our bags and places them in the house.

I walked up the steps, but I couldn't help but stare at the familiarities of the last six years. This place was my home, and I love it here.

I stepped onto the porch and leaned on the rail as I looked over it. My Uncle has the best view.

My Uncle and father walked into the house. I know that my Uncle is taking my father to his room. My Uncle has a four-bedroom home. He has his own room and even made one for me within three days of me staying there.

My Uncle was prepared for when my father would come, but he never did. But he already had a room ready for him as he always believed that he would come when he needed to get away.

I stared out, trying not to think about anything.

Bex fell asleep when we were in the car; she hated it when we were traveling as it always made her nauseous, and she wanted to rip someone apart. So, when the car started, Bex placed a block up.

I have tried pulling it down, but I guess she's sleeping.

I wanted to find out what she was thinking, and we could discuss what we should do next.

"Well, your father likes his room," says my Uncle as he steps outside. He sighs and walks over to me. I can feel his eyes on me.

He stood next to me and looked out. "You know I was going to ask you about joining the ultimate fight for the charity event," he said.

I looked up at him, but his eyes were focused on something in the distance. I couldn't help but frown.

"Why didn't you ask?" I muttered as I turned to look back. There was nothing there, just trees and a rabbit who thought he would try to move without us noticing.

"I didn't think you would want to, I mean, I knew you were going to be mated to Lex, but I didn't know what he would think," he said.

I sighed.

"I want to join you," I said to him, without looking at him.

"Roxie," he says. "You need to talk about what happened or try to figure out what you want. I know you rejected him, but if he never accepted it. What if he came here?"

I didn't say anything, keeping my eyes focused on the trees ahead.

Uncle Keith sighed. "I think you should take some time and maybe head back to the pack and work it out with him," he said.

I growled at him and turned to face him.

My Uncle looked at me with raised eyebrows, but he didn't say anything.

"I don't need to be told what to do," I said. "Alexander made his decision, and I made mine. I don't know what to think or do, but one thing is for certain, I want to fight."

I stared at him. Uncle Keith stared back at me, his eyes searching my face.

"Okay," he said with a heavy sigh. "I will let Alpha Gareth know you will be competing in the ultimate fight."

I nodded.

I looked to the front door, but I could feel his eyes still on me.

"I know I need to think about everything, and I know I need to talk to my dad about what was truly going on within that pack," I said as I looked back at him. "I will make you a deal; I will consider thinking about everything as long as you help me train."

Uncle Keith nodded and gave me a small smile, "that's all I want to hear, you need not overthink, and I know it is tricky for you, but Lex is a good man, but he is also an idiot for what he did."

I didn't say anything.

"He's not an idiot," blurts Bex, "he's a dumbass and needs to be nurtured."

I smirked.

"Bex," says Uncle Keith with a grin.

I nodded at him.

He smiled, "well, I think my gorgeous niece and her stunning wolf need to go for a run," he said.

I smiled.

"Thank god for that," said Bex.

I didn't say anything.

I walked around my Uncle and walked toward the forest, but my Uncle shouted out. "I will leave some clothes for you on the porch."

I didn't stop as I carried on walking toward the forest.

As soon as I am out of sight, I take my clothes off and shift into Bex.

Bex shakes out her fur and sniffs the air. It didn't take long until she ran between the trees chasing the wildlife.

I couldn't help but stare into her eyes as she ran past everything. This place was gorgeous in the spring but even better in the summer.

We went to the pack river, and Bex trots over to drink some water from it.

Afterward, Bex laid down and looked around, the silence was tranquil, and it eased us. It made us relax.

"You okay?" she asked as she yawned.

I smiled. "Yeah, just feel weird," I said to her.

She nodded. "I know what you mean," she said.

She stared at me but sighed. "I need to ask you something," she asked. "Do you think you can ever forgive mate for what he did?"

I looked back at her; that was a tricky question to answer.

I don't say anything, but Bex starts to talk again. "I think we need space from the pack, but I want to take back the rejection. Blaze never did anything to us, and he probably would kick that human's ass if he could," she says. I couldn't help but smirk at the comment.

Bex looked at me. "He was a player and stupid to think nothing happened when it did," she said. "I know talking about everything about what happened will hurt, but you do need to tell your dad."

I looked at her and sighed. "I know, and as for our mate, I need some time to process before I make any decision about taking back the rejection," I said to her.

We stayed quiet for a long while.

"You know I only rejected him because I wanted him to hurt as much as he hurt me all those times before," I said. Bex looks at me and nods, but she doesn't say anything.

"He hurt me, Bex," I said to her quietly as I started to feel my heart break.

Bex doesn't say anything.

Bex lowers her head and lays her head on her front paws.

Nothing else was said; we were both dealing with what our mate had done. I know Blaze and Bex want each other, but this was all about Alexander and me.

I needed time, but I also wanted Alexander to prove to me. But at the moment, I couldn't even think about what that meant. He broke my heart again. It would take more than an apology and begging; that's all I knew.

Tiredness loomed over us, and we both were sent into darkness as we let sleep over us.

Chapter 26

Chapter 26 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

We hear some rustling that startles us.

Bex gets up and starts to growl as she sniffs the air.

There was no other wolf here except a deer that must have trod on a branch.

Bex looks out and takes everything.

I had no clue how long we had been sleeping, but I knew we needed to get home as it was dark.

Bex turned and ran back through the forest, making it to the clearing near my Uncle's house. Bex stopped as we stared at the home; there on the porch were my father and Uncle, who were staring back at me.

Bex walks toward the house, and uncle Keith comes toward us with the clothes he left for us. "We have been waiting for you," he said. He places the clothes into Bex's mouth, putting his hand on her head. He gives her a smooth as Bex bumps his hand with her head and grins. She looked toward the porch where my father was watching us. Bex moved away from uncle Keith and walked toward my father.

My father smiled at her and did the same; he smoothed her big head.

After a few moments, Bex trots over to the side of the house, and we shift back into my human form.

I quickly got dressed and walked around. I walked toward my father, who handed me a bottle of water. "We were getting worried," he said.

"Sorry, Bex and I fell asleep by the river," I said as I sat next to him. Uncle Keith was in the chair opposite and smirked. "You and that river," he said as he took a swig of beer.

I looked toward my father, who frowned and looked between us. “What do you mean?” he asked.

“Well, Bex and Roxie love the river, which is only a mile or so in that direction,” he says, pointing toward where we came from. “It was the first place you looked when she went on her run.”

I groaned. “It’s so peaceful and quiet; it calms us,” I said.

My father looked at me, and I couldn’t help but smile. “I will take you there tomorrow; Jo will love it.”

Bex purrs at the mention of my father’s wolf. She loves him dearly and has missed their runs together.

My father smiles and nods, “I would love that.”

I looked at Uncle Keith. “Have you told Alpha Gareth that I would enter the ultimate fighter for the charity event?” I asked him.

Uncle Keith nodded. “I mind-linked him when you went for your run. He was happy and excited to hear that you agreed to participate,” he said. Uncle Keith’s eyes were on me but he looked towards my father, which made me look at him.

My father cleared his throat. “I can’t believe you did that,” he said.

I smiled. “You will have to see it, it is rough, but most people look after each other. Well, except when we are in the ring, but most of the fighters are true and have some humanity to be humans too,” I said.

He nodded.

He stares at me for a moment but turns and picks up a book from the table next to him.

I looked at it, but I quickly knew what it was.

My father looked at my diary. “You should have told me what happened,” he says with a sigh. He looked at me, and I didn’t say anything.

I looked at the diary in his hand. “I know, but I didn’t want to burden you with anything,” I said to him.

My father moves his hand to my chin and makes me look back at him. His eyes were rimmed with tears, “you’re my baby girl,” he said. “I would have sorted it out or even helped somehow.”

A tear slid down his face, but I shook my head. “No dad,” I said, but I stopped myself. I looked at Uncle Keith, who just stared between us.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath in and out.

I opened my eyes and fixed them on something that wasn't my father or Uncle, and I knew if I looked at either of them, I would cry.

“It all started when I started high school. I kept to myself, but one day I didn't realize I was being followed home. One of the mean girls was heading to the pack house, but I guess she was curious as she followed me to our house. That day changed everything when she realized Alexander and Jason were there,” I said to him. “It started with a few snide remarks here and there, nothing bad, but then Naomi came into the picture.”

I sighed and looked over at my father, who stared back at me.

I turned my attention to the hanging flower pot my Uncle had on the side of the porch.

“Naomi started to bother with me, asking me questions about Alexander and Jason. She wanted to know if I was adopted or something, as I don't have Jason's genes or I wasn't pretty enough. I thought Naomi was a friend and even wanted to come to the house. I invited her, but I made the mistake of thinking she was a friend. She wasn't. She dumped me and started to hang around with Alexander; she was on his arm all the time. She left me on my own, but I played happily to host,” I said to them. A tear slid down my face. “Naomi went home the next day and ignored me the next day at school. She started making up things about me that weren't true. But everyone believed her. A few days after the pretend sleepover, she cornered me in the bathroom with a few girls, and they started tormenting me from that day,” I said.

I never once looked at either man, I was bearing my whole soul to them, and it was the first time I had ever opened up about it to anyone. I knew I should have told my father, but I didn't want to cause more heartache for him. He was still dealing with my mother's death.

“From that day, I had everything you can think of. I was either pushed down to the ground, where people walked all over me, or even kicked me while trying to get up. They would throw stuff at me and push my head down the toilet, chanting that I should die. I was a pathetic little wolf who needed to be taught a valuable lesson about what a wolf should be. I should be strong,” I said. I could feel Bex coming close, but she didn't talk to me. She doesn't stop me; she knows I must tell them everything.

“I thought school was the only place I would get tormented, but I was wrong,” I said and turned to face my father. His face had tear stains. “You would stay in the packhouse many nights to help Alpha Frank and think that Jason and Alexander would be looking after me, but they weren't the only ones there. They would always bring girls back and were cruel to me. They would make fun of me, as I was always around and never had a mother. Jason would never stick up for me; he would usually be high on something. But the best part was when they would fuck the girls and make me deal with them the next day.”

I hear a low growl, and I look at my Uncle, who is fuming.

“He’s pissed,” whispers Bex.

I stared at him at the moment but sighed. “I could manage some, but others were horrible; one made me bleed by smashing my head on the counter. Most of the older girls were siblings of the girls in school. But when everyone started to find their mates, the older ones never came,” I said.

I turned my attention to my father, his face full of anger.

“He’s also pissed,” whispered Bex.

“I don’t know how or when, but I remember Alexander coming to the house with Naomi, and from then on, they were dating. She’s three years younger than him but three years older than me. In her last year of school, she got a lot worse before I left to come here. She told me I should never be around Alexander as I was pathetic, and he would never like me more than a baby sister. It hurt more when Alexander told her that; she asked him what he thought in front of me, and he told her the same thing she told me.”

“When Jason told Alexander that I fancied him, he made my life hell. I mean, not him or Alexander. But Naomi found out somehow, and she made me the school’s laughing stock; she printed out copies of that damn diary. Everyone laughed at me, but she beat me without anyone around later that day. We were the only ones in school as there was a game for the football team, and everyone was there. Alexander was there, and Naomi had him; she would meet him there. I was all bloodied and bruised. I told you I fell, but the truth is what I just told you.”

I looked between both men; their waves of anger were intense, but neither said anything.

I knew I had to tell them what happened that day I left, and I needed them to know the truth.

“The night I was forced to leave by Alexander, he told me I was ugly, and he only saw me as a kid. He would never love someone like me, not only because of my appearance, but because I was his best friend’s little sister. Well, I left and packed everything up. I was all set on going when I left something behind. It was not even an hour since I left. You were in the packhouse, waiting for me to say goodbye. But I told you that I forgot something.”

My father looked at me and nodded, remembering the time.

“Well, I knew Alexander and Jason were there because I heard the hushed voices of having a party when you were back at the packhouse. I walked down to the house and heard Jason with a girl. I had to block my ears, so I quickly went upstairs, grabbed what I had forgotten, and went downstairs. I was about to leave when I heard moaning in the study. I knew who it was, as I noticed the door was ajar. I shouldn’t have looked in because I saw Alexander fucking Naomi on the couch. She saw me and asked him how much he loved her, and he told her he did. I heard enough and walked out.”

Growls erupted next to me.

Chapter 27

Chapter 27 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

I looked at my uncle, then back to my father.

“Rox,” said my father with a raspy voice. “I am so sorry.”

I shook my head. “You have nothing to be sorry about. I blamed Alexander and Jason for everything over the years, but last year I decided to let it all go. I wanted to forgive and forget, but some wounds aren’t going to heal over a few days,” I said. “I learned that doing the ultimate fighting; I could pour all my anger and everything into it. It’s my go-to when I need a sense of release.”

My father nodded and looked at my uncle. “I’m assuming you didn’t know all she told us,” he asked. I didn’t need to look at my uncle to know he was nodding.

My father looked at me. “What about the teachers? Did they do anything?” he asked.

I shook my head. “They believed everyone else’s words over mine, and some completely ignored me as they believed everything that Naomi said about me,” I said.

My father growled. “No one mentioned anything to Alpha Frank or me,” he said.

I gave him a small smile. “It’s okay,” I said, but he stopped me. “Roxie, you’re my daughter; I should have known all this. I would have helped you. I would have either sent you to another school or even homeschooled you. Whatever it took,” he said as he placed his hand in mine. “As for Alexander and your stupid brother, I had some idea that they were throwing parties, which they told me they never did, but I had no clue that they were bringing girls back as the house was always cleaned.”

I sighed. “Well, that would be due to me cleaning up after everyone. I didn’t do it for them; I did it for you as I knew you wouldn’t be too happy. I knew you were dealing with mum’s death and everything. I didn’t want you to think about anything else.”

My father stared at me, “when did you grow up to become this gorgeous and talented woman,” he said to me.

I smiled at him.

I looked over at my uncle. "I am sorry I never told you all this, but I didn't want you to tell dad about it," I said.

Uncle Keith looked at me. "Kiddo, I knew some of it and even intervened once, but those teachers think I was messing," he said with a slight snarl slipping through his lips. Uncle Keith looked at my father. "I found that Naomi chick beating her up while two girls were holding her," he said. My father's hand got tight on my hand, making me look at him.

"What did you do?" my father asked.

"Well, I nearly tore Naomi apart, but she ran away from me. I took Roxie back home, but I called the school and demanded to talk to the head of the year, and let's say he wasn't too thrilled that a Beta from another pack was on his case about it."

"I will kill that arse," my father growled.

I looked over at him, but I couldn't help but smirk. My father looks at me with furrowed eyebrows, "what's that look for?"

I stared at him for a moment. "Nothing, I never heard you talk like that," I said.

My father smiled at me, "I think I have to show you more of me," he said. "Ever since your mother passed away, I have been feeling lost. But not anymore."

I couldn't help but nod.

"I would love that more, dad," I said to him.

We all sat there in silence for a moment, but I sighed.

"Are you going to tell Alpha Frank?" I asked him.

My father looked at me, and he nodded. "He needs to know what an arse his son is for one, and also, he can start looking for new staff for that school, I think."

I smiled.

Bex looked at them. "I told you it would be alright to tell them," she said.

I have to agree; she was right. I should have, and I feel much lighter for telling them too. It feels like the weight of the world has been lifted.

We drink our drinks, and uncle Keith tells us we will go to the packhouse tomorrow. He wanted my father to look around.

“Rox,” he says with a smirk. “Ana will be happy to see you too.”

I looked at him, and her name stunned me slightly. It even got Bex’s attention too.

I didn’t say anything.

My father looks between us but doesn’t say anything, but I know he wants to know what the hell is going on.

I shook my head, “um...when does the training start for ultimate fighter?” I asked him, trying to change the subject quickly.

Uncle Keith smirked. “Nice one,” he said, but paused for a moment. “We can look at the notice board in the packhouse; everything should be on display by now.”

I nodded.

“So, when is this ultimate fight taking place?” asked my father.

I glanced at my uncle, who had a sheepish look that didn’t look good.

“Well, that’s the thing. It is in three days, and the guest list is limited,” he said.

I groan. I knew I needed to train for more hours to prepare for the fight.

I stood up, which surprised both my father and uncle.

“I had best get some sleep,” I said. “I will need to train till the fight, and Uncle Keith, you will have to help me.”

My uncle nodded, and so did my father. He can help too; it would be interesting to see how he would cope with the training that my uncle puts me through.

I kissed them both goodnight and walked into the house.

I walked upstairs and headed to my room.

The room was how I left it, and I couldn’t help but smile.

My bags were in my room, but I quickly got showered and ready for bed.

Once I was ready, I climbed into bed and lay back.

I couldn’t help but stare at the ceiling for a few moments. “Bex,” I called to her.

Bex moves in my head and stares at me. “We need to train for the next three days,” I tell her. She nodded, but she watched me.

“So Ana is back,” she said with her lips picking up slightly.

All I could do was nod.

“We haven’t seen her since she left to find her mate,” she said.

I didn’t say anything for a moment. “I hope to God she has found her mate,” I said.

Bex smirked. “Well, aren’t you a little anxious about the woman we shared our first girl-on-girl kiss with?”

I groaned.

“It was fun, but I never thought she would like me like that,” I said.

I could hear Bex giggle, “her wolf was funny. Even if she did try to dry hump me a few times.”

I couldn’t help but laugh.

Ana was the only person who was interested in me. I have had men, don’t get me wrong. But they were humans in the nearby town, and I only went into town when I wanted some fun, which was not a lot of the time as I was always concentrating on fighting. I didn’t mind the human town as I got to be a different person as no one knew the real me.

I stared back at her. “Do you think Alexander is thinking about us?” I asked her.

She stared back at me. “I honestly don’t know,” she said. “I think we should concentrate on the fight, and then we can take a night to think about mate. We can decide when we are ready. But nothing before the fight,” she said. Bex always liked to be prepared for our fights, and nothing should come near, not even Alexander.

I nodded but suddenly felt slightly tired as a yawn escaped my mouth.

“We need sleep,” said Bex, as a yawn escaped her.

I nodded, and within seconds, my eyes were closed, and I was in the land of dreams.

Chapter 28

Chapter 28 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

I shifted to Blaze and let him take complete control. Once he was shifted, he ran into the forest and headed between the trees.

I went back into his mind, as I knew he needed to run to let off steam. But I needed to think; I was such a dumbass to Roxie.

All that I read kept flooding back to memory, how Naomi and most of the girls used her to get to Jason and me. But the ones who were the same age as us were at fault, even though some did things to Roxie, which made me feel the burning anger of tearing them apart. They all took it out on Roxie, and I was going to make sure they knew what they did was wrong. I knew I was never a saint. I knew I had a mate out there, but I wanted to get everything out of my system before I settled down with one person.

Naomi was the one that was the worst but looking back at the whole time. The dates in the diaries made me think back to the way she was acting at the time with me. Sometimes, I would tell Naomi to leave me alone because she was too clingy or just because I never wanted her around. I never placed it together, and Roxie never said anything. The times she was beaten and tormented, she stayed in her room. I remember neither Jason nor I would get an answer when she was there. She always made up an excuse for us.

Jason was torn when he read them, especially about one girl. His ex, not only was Naomi cruel and mean to Roxie but so was his ex. I remember telling him she was bad news, but he never listened.

“Dumbass, you okay?” asked Blaze, pulling me from my thoughts.

I couldn't help but glare at him.

“I'm fine,” I said. “I wish you would stop calling me that.”

Blaze stares at me but doesn't say anything.

“I know I'm a dumbass,” I said quietly to him. “I never thought anyone would treat someone like that.”

Blake stared at me for a moment but sighed. “You never had to be looked a certain way because you were the alpha's son; everyone wanted to be with you, especially the woman. Most of them wanted to be your Luna, not for the work that came with it, but for the lavish lifestyle you could give them.”

I always thought when I became alpha, I would have to earn money as everyone else did. I never thought of it like that. I never showed my true fortune as it was never mine to take.

Blaze stared at me, pushing me forward to see where we were. And we were outside Roxie's house.

I couldn't help but stare out.

"Do you think she is thinking about us?" I asked him.

Blaze held a lot of emotion on his face, but I knew he was thinking the same as I was.

We stared at the house; if anyone spotted us, they would think we were a stalker of some kind.

A mind link opens up, and it's my father. "Get back here now," he growls, and closes the mind link.

I could tell my father was pissed.

Blaze looked back at me, "Dad is pissed," he said.

I didn't say anything.

Blaze moves back and runs back to the packhouse. He walked toward the house, but a scent got to my nose, making us tense and growl lowly.

What the hell is she doing out here?

"Walk around the back way," I said to Blaze. He does as he is told, and we walk around and head into the back entrance, where we scare an omega to death. "Alpha," she said, placing her hand on her chest. "You scared me."

I slip past the door and shift in front of her, and quickly she grabs me a pair of sports shorts.

I slipped them on and looked up at her, "sorry," I said to her.

The omega looks at me and smiles.

"It's okay alpha," she says.

I turned to walk away but started to speak again. "I don't know what is going on here, alpha, but that woman you used to be with has been acting strange," she said.

I stopped and looked over my shoulder. I looked at her, confused, but the penny dropped. She was on about Naomi. "What do you mean?" I asked.

The omega looks around and walks over to me, quietly speaking only for me to hear. "Well, I'm not one to gossip, but she has been receiving calls from someone, and she keeps telling them that she was working on it," she says. I looked at her, but that didn't clarify anything. But the omega

continues. “I know it’s not much, but the person on the other end started to contact her when that woman came to the pack, the beta’s daughter,” she said. My heart skips a beat at the mere mention of Roxie.

The omega looks at me, “that girl had it rough,” she said. “I know she went through something as I caught her all bloodied one day and even walked in on three girls picking on her before lunch. They never saw me, but I heard how they talked to her. It was disgusting; I would never speak to anyone as they did with her.”

My heart sinks; even an omega witnessed it. But why the hell didn’t she say something?

Blaze was quiet but let out a snarl, realizing the same thing.

“Why didn’t you come forward?” I said, trying to keep my anger in check.

The omega looks at me, guilt written all over her face. “I would have, but I was also scared of the women too. They may not have seen me watching, but they were so cruel and mean, not just to her but anyone who opposed a threat to them,” she said.

I stared at her and couldn’t help but feel more hatred toward the whole situation.

The omega looked at me, her face full of hurt.

I sighed. “It wasn’t anything you can do, but when the time comes, will you give a full statement and even try to tell me who had done it,” I asked her.

The omega nodded.

I moved away, but she placed her hand on my arm, and I couldn’t help but look down at her. “Alpha, I will do anything to help,” she said. “I knew what she could do; a video is floating around with her fighting. No one within the pack had seen it. I have a cousin in another pack that sent it to me, and she asked if I knew her. I never told her anything about the beta’s daughter as it was never my place to say.”

I nodded.

I turned and walked away from the omega. I headed to the office to find my father. I knew I would get it from him; he loved Roxie as if she were his own child. He has always had a soft spot for her since she was a baby.

I walked past a window outside the office, but something caught my eye.

I stopped and looked out.

My eyes went wide; there was Naomi and two men I didn't know. I watched as she pointed to somewhere, and the men went away. Naomi watched them leave, but when she turned around, I noticed the giant smirk on her face. She walked back into the pack house.

Something was off about the whole thing; I opened a mind link to the guards to search around the direction Naomi sent those men in. Once I closed the mind link down, I walked to the office door, mentally preparing myself for what was coming.

I opened the door and walked in.

My father was sitting on the couch and looked up at me.

His face was full of anger, "you dumbass twit," he yelled as I closed the door behind me.

I looked at him.

He stared, but he turned to look at the diaries on the table in front of him.

"How the hell did we not know this was happening to her?" he growled.

Chapter 29

Chapter 29 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

I stare at my father, who looks up at me.

"Please tell me that what was in those books was a child's imagination," he says quietly.

I shook my head.

My father looks at me for a few moments but sighs. "Tim has mind-linked me, and he's not happy," he says. "Roxie has told him everything that had happened."

I stare at him. I was surprised to hear that; Roxie never mentioned anything to anyone over the years, not even her father.

"He is pissed at you and Jason," he said. But his face turned hard. "It seemed I would be taking a trip to school as well; no one ever did anything about the abuse and torment. Keith tried to tell the headmaster but was more pissed that a Beta from another pack would meddle in a child's affairs from this pack."

I couldn't help the low growl that slipped out. Blaze was pissed too; he was growling and snarling in my head. No one helped Roxie.

My father looked at me, "we need to figure out how to deal with all this," he said.

I nodded and walked over to the chair opposite him.

He watches my every move till I sit down.

"You know you have truly fucked up," he said. I didn't say a word to him. I know I am at fault and have to find a way to win Roxie back.

"I won't be surprised if Roxie doesn't take back her rejection, whether you don't accept it or not," he said flatly.

My heart sank into my stomach; thinking she would never take the rejection back makes it hard to bare, but it was my own fault.

My father and I sat in silence for a few moments.

"We have to come up with something," he says. "A pack rule that will make people feel safe within the pack, or even feel safe enough to tell us what's wrong."

I nodded.

I looked at my father. "I think if we mention a complaint that was put before the pack that a pack member didn't feel safe, we were investigating it. Maybe we could ask people around the pack for information to find out if anyone witnessed anything," I said, remembering my conversation with the omega moments ago.

My father stares at me but sighs. "Do you think anyone will come forward? I mean, it did happen years ago," he said.

I stare at him, but I tell him about my conversation with the omega. After I had finished, anger filled his face. He turned a bright shade of red. "Why didn't she come forward about it?" he bellowed.

"I believe she was scared," I said to him. "I think the women who tormented Roxie did it to other people as well, stopping everyone who would tell any of us."

He nodded but went blank for a few moments.

I watched him; he must have had a mind link come through. Once he closes the mind link down, he stares at me. "Two men were spotted by Roxie and Jason's house; they were trying to break in but were spotted by a guard," he said.

I stared at him, confused. But an image of Naomi with two men comes into my mind.

Blaze growls.

“I think we need to keep an eye on Naomi,” I said to him, and my father glared at me. “I thought I told you not to bother with that girl,” he said.

I shook my head. “I haven’t gone anywhere near her,” I said. I told him what I saw moments before I came into the office. My father growled. “You should have led with that when you came here,” he said.

“I would have, but you were too busy calling me names,” I said to him.

My father glares at me but soon frowns.

“I know what we can do,” he says. A smirk appeared on his face, “you need to call Alpha Dean about the rogue attacks,” he said. “Make a visit to Keith’s pack; there is a charity event that you may want to check out, but I believe there might be someone there that both of you have been trying to find and get hold of.”

I looked at him, confused.

My father smirked. “Alpha Gareth is holding an ultimate fighter competition for a charity gala that he wanted to do. He has some of the best fighters. Tim is going, but he was given five tickets to go. Obviously, Tim and Keith are attending; I was thinking of sending you and Jason to go. The other ticket could be for Alpha Dean.”

He stared at me for a moment but carried on. “Alpha Trevor has been invited, as he is a big fan of a certain fighter, but the fighter has only now entered the competition,” he said.

Why would Tim have five tickets? Wasn’t Roxie going?

Blaze grunts in my head, and I looked back at him. “You are one stupid human,” he growled.

I stare back at him, but something clicks. Jason showed me the video of Roxie fighting the ultimate fighter. She must have been competing.

I stared at my father, who was looking at me.

“Is Roxie competing in the fight?” I asked him.

My father nodded but frowned. “How did you find out?” he asked. “I mean, about her fighting.”

“I was shown a video earlier and watched it,” I said. “I can’t believe she never told anyone.”

My father nodded. "I have to admit, I was grateful to her for holding back on her punches during training. I would never like to be on the receiving end to one of them," he said.

I stared at him but remembered the punch she had given me earlier. It was much harder than the ones she had thrown before, and it hurt like a bitch.

Blaze smirked. "You deserved that," he said, but I ignored him.

My father smirked. "I should have asked you if you had received one, but judging from your face, you have," he said.

I didn't say anything.

My father stays quiet for a moment but looks at me. "You need to leave tonight," he said.

I nodded and moved out of the chair. I was about to turn and walk away, but something came to mind. What about Naomi?

"What are we going to do about Naomi?" I asked him.

My father smiled. "Don't worry about her," he said. "I will have someone keep an eye on her; maybe Sofia will do it. But knowing what she had done to Roxie, I might have a guard follow her. If she asks where you are, I will tell all pack members that you are on official pack business."

I nodded.

I walked toward the office door and headed to my room.

Once I got there, I walked in and closed my door behind me. I placed the lock on and quickly grabbed my phone. There was a text from Jason; he sounded confused about why we were going to his uncle's pack.

I sent him a quick message, telling him everything.

After I did that, I contacted Alpha Dean.

I had to tell him everything, including about Roxie. After an hour of explaining, Alpha Dean was quiet on the other end. "Dean," I said.

"Yeah," he says. "I have to admit you are one dipshit motherfucker. I never met anyone within my pack, and I always took human women when I needed some fun. I knew how she-wolfs were."

I groaned.

“I know I fucked up,” I said.

“I have just seen the fight you sent me,” he said. I could hear the amusement in his voice. “I would definitely love to pay to see her kick your ass.”

He laughed.

I grunted, “Okay, enough of the laughter. Meet us outside our pack,” I said.

“Okay,” he said. “It would be interesting to find out if Alpha Trevor has had any rogue attacks within his pack. Have you gotten anything back from him?” he asked.

“No,” I say. “His phone always goes to answer voicemail, and he never emails me back. Maybe during the fight, we could ask him.”

“Yeah,” said Alpha Dean. “I do find it strange that he hasn’t gotten back to us. We haven’t caught any rogues as we either killed them or they ran away from us.”

Thinking about it, it was the same at this end. We couldn’t work out if they were looking for someone or just wanted to get under our skins.

There was a few moments of silence, but Alpha Dean spoke again. “I will see you in front of your pack gates in an hour,” he said.

We said goodbye.

I quickly got a small bag and headed toward the door once I got everything I needed.

I walked out of my room and headed straight toward the front door of the packhouse, where Jason was waiting for me.

“Let’s go,” he said.

I nodded.

We both climbed in and left.

We picked up Alpha Dean outside the pack gates and headed straight to Keith’s pack.

My stomach was in knots thinking of seeing Roxie again; I needed her to listen to me. I needed her to take back her rejection.

Blaze was quiet most of the journey, so I closed my eyes. Even though it wasn’t far, I needed to keep myself calm.

I needed to find a way to persuade Roxie that I was the mate she deserved.

I would do anything to prove it to her.

Chapter 30

Chapter 30 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

I woke up early and got myself ready. I wanted to get a run-in before I went to the packhouse to find out the details of the fight.

I left my Uncle's house and went into the forest to run. Usually, I would run around the pack grounds, but since no one knew I was back, I wanted to wait until I was ready to go there; also, I wanted to go with my Uncle and Dad.

I placed my earphones on and ran.

My mind was going everywhere, and it was hard to concentrate on anything, even the fight.

Bex was still asleep, but she had some nightmare that made her move more in my head.

I ran as far as possible but ended up by the river clearing. I stopped and sat on a fallen log by the side of the water's edge.

I stared out and let the stillness around me take over. I needed to have a clear mind if I was to fight, but everything with Lex came flooding back hard.

I know he can be a dipshit, but what he did keeps playing in my head. He must have known I would have felt what he was doing; we were mates, after all.

"Dumbass probably thought we wouldn't because we haven't mated and marked us yet," said Bex with a yawn.

I stared back at her, "why would we feel it, though?" I asked her.

Bex stared at me for a moment. "I have my suspicions, but it might be to do with him being an alpha and finding us early," she said.

That could explain something.

"I think if it was someone else he kissed, you might have done something more," she said as she cocked her head to the side.

I don't say anything; thinking about Lex with someone else hurts. The rejection was in place, but I felt completely numb to the bone.

Bex stares at me, but a branch breaks behind me, and I shoot up like a bolt, looking around.

My eyes landed on a body walking toward me, but as they came closer, I couldn't help but smile.

"I knew you would be here," he said as he came into view. I stare at the only person I would class as a friend around here.

"Nathan," I said with a smile.

Nathan is Alpha Gareth's son and the soon-to-be alpha of the pack. We became friends when I stumbled upon a secret of his. He made me promise not to tell anyone, and I have never said a word to anyone.

I never mentioned anything about what happened to me, as I never trusted anyone, but he was someone I would have if he weren't Alpha Gareth's son. It's not I didn't trust him; he would have told his father anything. He wants to make his father happy, even though his secret is something that he should tell his father before someone else stumbles upon it.

Alpha Gareth never bothered me when I came to the pack, but when I won my first ever competition, he wanted to know everything. Nathan would be all too happy to tell him what he knew, and Alpha Gareth would have broadcast what I went through; I would have been the poster child for people who bullies tormented. Alpha Gareth was like that.

"You okay over there?" he asked, pulling me from my thoughts.

Bex was standing up and staring at him. "He hasn't changed," she said. I couldn't agree more.

"I'm okay," I said to him. "What are you doing here?"

Nathan walks up to me but stands just in front with a smile.

"I didn't know you were coming back to the pack," he said. "If I knew, I would have greeted you."

I stared at him but didn't say anything.

Nathan stares at me but sighs. "I can't believe I had to find out by my father that you were competing in the fight, but not only that, your uncle's mind linked my father to tell them you were going to be here for a little while," he said.

Nathan looked at me, but he was trying to figure me out.

"Rox, what happened at your pack?" he asked.

I stared at him but sighed. "I went back to meet my brother's mate, and that's what I did," I said, not giving anything else to him.

Nathan nodded, "what was she like?" he asked.

"She's nice," I said with a smile. "She will make our family whole again."

Nathan smiled, "that's good to hear," he said.

He looked at me and sighed. "So no mate then," he asked.

My heart tightens against my chest.

"No," I said.

Nathan gives me a sympathetic look but nods. "Never mind, he's out there somewhere, and when he finds you, he won't let you go."

I cringe at the statement.

I looked behind him and realized I needed to return to the house to find my Uncle; I needed to train.

"I had best get back; I need to train for the fight," I said.

Nathan smiles and holds out his hand. "Come on, my lady, I will walk you back."

I couldn't help but laugh.

Nathan gave me a smirk. "Hey, I will walk you back, but if someone attacks us, I will stand back and let you deal with them," he said.

I placed my hand in his and walked back. "I know you would; I just hope they won't be gorgeous; otherwise, you will have your way with them," I said, smirking.

Nathan's gay, but he hasn't come out. I caught him with a guard out in the cove on the other side of the river. It has a cave with a little pool. I went there to get out of my head but was stunned to see Nathan being bent over and fucked hard. It wasn't my eyes were made for, that was for sure. But when he saw me, the horror and fear on his face said a whole other story.

Nathan hasn't come out yet, but his father wants him to find his Luna and settle down. He wants to have a bigger family. Nathan has been trying to figure out how to tell his dad, but Alpha Gareth isn't the easiest of people to talk to about anything, primarily when he acts all high and mighty in front of everyone.

"Well, if they are big and muscly, send them my way," he said with a wink

I laughed.

I glanced at him, but his face was holding back so much.

“You okay?” I asked.

Nathan stays quiet for a moment but stops, making me stop to look at him. He turned to face me, “I’m okay, but my father is still on about finding my Luna,” he said. “I know I need to tell him about my sexuality, but all he seems to want to talk about, if it’s not about finding my Luna, then its to do with the ultimate fight,” he said.

I stared back at him and frowned. “You need to talk to him, or he might find out as I did,” I said. “And if I have said it before, it’s not for the faint of heart what I saw; he needs to know.”

Nathan nodded.

We both started to turn back around and walk back toward my Uncle’s place.

“I have to admit, there have been some alpha’s and beta’s here, and the fight is not for another two days,” he said, smirking.

I looked over at him and frowned. “What?” I asked.

“Well, I have to say some of them I wouldn’t mind sinking my teeth into if you know what I mean,” he said.

I groaned. Great, he’s thinking about cocks again.

Bex laughs out loud in my head at the statement.

Nathan laughed and squeezed my hand. “So when are you training?” he asked as we came to my Uncle’s house clearing. I was about to answer him when my Uncle’s voice responded for me. “She will be training here until the fight,” he said with a gloomy look.

I looked over at him but only noticed my Uncle was standing there. My father was nowhere to be seen.

My Uncle walked over to us and smiled. “Nathan, your father, is looking for you, something about doing some alpha duties,” he said.

Nathan groans, “great,” he muttered. He turns to face me and leans in to kiss my cheek. When he pulls back, he smiles. “I will see you at the fight,” he says. “I know how you and Keith train hard when it comes to a fight.”

Nathan walks away and heads in the direction of the pack. I looked at my Uncle, who was staring at me.

“So, why am I training at the house?” I asked.

My Uncle stared at me for a few moments before he spoke. “There are too many distractions up there, and you need to focus on the fight at hand,” he said.

I stared at him; I felt he wasn’t telling me something.

“He’s hiding something; even Del is being funny,” Bex said as she stared at him through my eyes.

Great, what the hell is he hiding?

“So, where is Dad?” I asked him.

My Uncle walks toward the shed, where he keeps all his training equipment. “I left him in the packhouse. Alpha Gareth wanted to show him around the place,” he said. “He said he would mind link later when he is on his way back.”

Somehow I don’t believe him; something is up here.

My Uncle turns around, and I frown at him.

He stops and stares at me. “Rox, your father, knows you have to train for this fight,” he said. “He will be fine there.”

I stared at him for a few moments but sighed.

“Let’s get this over with,” I muttered to him, and started to do some training warm-ups.