

Wait! Werewolves Exist? Chapter 16 -

AMBER.

I was spending the day unpacking and making this house my home. Once i was done putting away the few belongings i had brought to Lakeside with me, i began going through the things that were already here. I was making a list of everything i would need to buy. Mary had left a lot of her belongings here, and I wanted to take my time sorting through them. It seemed like she had left Lakeside in a hurry. I had found a beautifully engraved wooden box at the back of one of the wardrobes. It contained a few love letters from someone who had only signed them Love D x. Whoever D was he was clearly in love with Mary. Although in the last two letters, it seemed as though something had changed in their relationship. He seemed to be trying to convince Mary that they should be together. Maybe he was the reason that Mary decided to leave town. There were also some old photos. As i sat looking through them, I felt warm tears slipping down my cheeks. I had only been five when I had lost my parents, but I had regularly dreamt of them over the years.

The dream was always the same one. It was a beautiful summer day. I was little again, playing with my dad beside a lake. He was chasing me around. Once he caught me, he would sweep me up into his big, strong arms and swing me around. I would squeal in happiness. My mother would call us over to join her. She was sat on a big blue and white striped blanket that was covered in all kinds of food. Her curly blonde hair blew gently in the breeze. Mary was sat next to her, though she was younger. My dad would sit down next to my mother and kiss her on the cheek. She would smile up at him. That's when I would always wake up.

I had always loved that dream, but I had never thought that it was anything more than my imagination filling in the blank where the parents she so desperately missed were. Yet here were those very faces from my dream looking back at me from the photo. They looked slightly younger than in my dream, but it was them. My dad's short chestnut coloured hair brushed over to the side. His blue eyes were full of love as he looked at my mother. She was so beautiful, her hair was pulled into a fancy updo, and her eyes were hazel like mine. They were all dressed up. Clearly, this was a special occasion. I wondered what occasion it was. Maybe Ellie would know. After all she had said that Mary had been her friend, so maybe she knew my parents too. I would have to ask her.

I kept looking through the photos, there were ones of me as a baby, and as a small child playing with a young, dark-haired boy who couldn't have been much older than me. There was a picture of Mary, Ellie, and my mother as young women dressed in beautiful gowns. So I was right she did know my parents. I stopped when I came to a photo of my parents and me having a picnic by a lake. Smiling, I realised that my dream wasn't a dream at all. It was a memory. I decided that I would buy some frames and hang the pictures up. For now, I put them back into the box and left it on the coffee table. I was starting to get hungry, so I figured I should wash up and go get some food.

I had just finished washing my hands and face when my phone rang. "Hello" I answered slightly cautiously as I hadn't recognised the number. "Ahh, Miss James" I recognised his voice at once. "Mr Daniels, is everything OK?" I asked, sounding surprised. For a moment, my mind was racing. Had there been a big mistake after all? Was he going to tell me the house and money isn't mine after all? Was I going to have to leave Lakeside? He interrupted my thoughts "Everything is fine, I just need you to confirm to his fine gentleman that you do infact know me." He gave the phone to someone else, and a deep voice said "Ummm, Miss James, this is Sam Clarke. From the guards hut, we met when you arrived at Lakeside. This fella says he knows you and that he's here to deliver a package to you." I assured him that Mr Daniels was who he said he was and arranged to meet Mr Daniels at the restaurant shortly. Since when do lawyers deliver packages? I wondered. Hopefully, I will get answers soon enough.

SAM.

As the lawyer drove off towards town to meet that woman. I let the Alpha know about it. I didn't want him any more annoyed at me than he already was. Another car was approaching the barrier, but at least I recognised this one. "Evening Sam" came the cheery greeting. "Alright Adam, any luck?" He shook his head, and I lifted the barrier, letting him through. I felt bad for the guy. Adam Morris was Ellie and Peter's boy. He had been trying to find his mate but obviously still hadn't. I thought about Lisa, my mate, and how lucky I was to have her and our baby. I said a quick thank you to the Moon Goddess and went back inside the hut. Hopefully, we won't have any more unexpected visitors for a while.

Wait! Werewolves Exist? Chapter 17 -

AMBER.

Arriving at the restaurant, I let Becky know I was meeting someone and asked if Ellie was around. She told me that her mum would be in a little later and showed me to a table. Becky seemed a little bit unsure how to speak to me today. As if she was choosing her words carefully. Strange, she had been really friendly and easygoing yesterday. I didn't have time to dwell on that, though, as Mr Daniels arrived and came over to join me. He ordered a coffee and politely refused the menu that Becky offered him.

"Miss James, It's lovely to see you again." He began taking a drink of his coffee. "It's nice to see you too, but it's Amber" I reminded him. He smiled and pulled a thick, padded envelope out of his briefcase. "Well Amber, I was left very strict instructions to follow in the event of Ms James's passing." He began to explain "If you had stayed in the city or gone somewhere else, i was never to deliver this to you. However, if you were to find your way to Lakeside, I was to deliver it by hand. So here I am." I took the envelope that he was now holding out to me. He finished his coffee and asked me to walk him to his car. "There is a second part to the delivery you see." I let Becky know I would be back shortly, and we left.

As we walked to the car park together, he asked me how things were going and if I liked it here. I assured him that I did, that I was already feeling at home here. He seemed pleased to hear that. We reached his car, and he pulled a sealed box from the back seat and handed it to me. We said our goodbyes, and he drove away. The box was pretty heavy. I was glad that I'd decided to drive down as I wasn't sure what the delivery would be. I locked my car back up after putting the box inside and headed back to the restaurant to eat.

Ellie was there when I returned. "Back again?" she joked "you've been here more often than Becky, and she gets paid to be here." She gave me a big cheery smile. I laughed but made a mental note to go food shopping tomorrow. I couldn't just eat out every day, as good as the food was. I decided to wait until I got home to open the envelope. Relaxing into my chair, I gazed around at some of the other customers. The group of men from last night were in again, but they were less rowdy this time. They were just laughing and joking. There were two older women who were deep in what seemed to be an intense conversation sat at a table on the other side of the restaurant. A young family was sat in a booth. I smiled watching the couple play with their young child while they waited for their food. The mum looked up, and our eyes met for a moment. She looked away nervously. I didn't mean to make her uncomfortable.

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Ellie came and took my order. She thanked me again for helping out. "It was no problem" I told her before asking "Ellie, could I ask you a huge favour? Would I be able to bring some photos that I found to show you? Or maybe when you have time, you could stop by the house for a coffee and take a look at them for me. I was just hoping you could tell me a little bit about them." Ellie smiled kindly. "Of course, sweetheart, it would be my pleasure, and coffee sounds lovely. Would tomorrow lunchtime be OK?" I nodded eagerly, and she left to seat a group of teenage girls that just come in.

I could hear the girls talking excitedly about some event that they were clearly all looking forward to. I smiled a little, hearing them talk about what they would wear and how they would style their hair. I was reminded of the nights Kim had slept over during high school, and we'd sat up all night talking about clothes and boys, etc. I felt a pang in my chest. I hadn't even heard from her. I had blocked Chris's number days ago but hadn't bothered blocking hers as she hadn't tried calling. I had thought we were friends, best friends, and she had betrayed me. Worse than the actual betrayal, though, was that she had never apologised or tried to explain.

I was startled by a man setting a plate down in front of me. "Sorry miss, I didn't mean to scare you." His voice was soft and warm. I looked up, and my eyes met his. "You didn't. My mind was miles away" I smiled. His green eyes narrowed slightly, and he had a puzzled look on his face. "I don't think we've met before, I'm Adam." I held out my hand for him to shake. "Hi, I'm Amber. I'm new to town." He shook my hand, and his body stiffened slightly. He seemed to be waiting for something. I wasn't sure what to say next. Ellie called him, and he left. That was a little awkward, I thought as I tucked into my food.

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The girls were still talking loudly, but the things they were saying were making less sense. They were talking about dancing, and then one said how she was looking forward to the moonlight run but was nervous about shifting for the first time. The others were reassuring her that they would help her through it. One told her it would hurt at first, but once she relaxed into the transformation, the pain would stop. I couldn't make sense of it. Maybe I should ask Ellie about that tomorrow, too.

Yawning, I paid the bill and told Ellie I would see her tomorrow. I noticed Adam looking at me strangely as I left. He was hot but odd. I thought as I walked back to my car. Getting home, I went straight to bed. The package could wait until morning.

Wait! Werewolves Exist? Chapter 18 -

CHRIS.

I stopped at a b and b about an hour away from Lakeside. A car pulled in before me and an old guy in a nice suit got out. I recognised him from Mary's funeral. What was he doing here? I wondered. A human wouldn't have any business at Lakeside, so he must be up here to see Amber. If not him being here would be a hell of a coincidence. I checked in and headed up to my room. I would call my Dad in the morning so he could contact Stone, let him know I'm coming. Why did she have to be in f*****g Lakeside? Of all the packs, it had to be that one. Does her being there mean that she knows about werewolves now? Does she know about me? Things were about to get a whole lot more complicated.

Becky.

I like Amber. I had liked her straight away. I wanted to be her friend, but I've never had a human friend before. I don't know how a friendship with her would

work. Especially as she doesn't know anything about my kind. When I met her I had just assumed that she knew. I'm sure I said something about her being a human. She didn't say anything so maybe she didn't notice. It had come as a shock when Alpha Stone sent out the mindlink.

Part of me thought it would be better to sit her down and explain everything. I mean surely he can't think that she won't figure out that there's something different about Lakeside sooner or later. The Moon Goddess ceremony is coming up in a few days and it's going to be pretty hard keeping it from her at that point. In my opinion it would be much better for her to be warned in advance by a friendly face, than seeing someone or more likely multiple people shift, with no explanation. I will talk to my parents and see what they think.

AMBER.

I was so tired tonight. It didn't take long for sleep to claim me. I found myself at the Lake again with my parents and Mary. Only now I knew that it was a memory, that it really was them. I concentrate on my Dad's face, his blue eyes twinkling in the sunlight. I wanted to run over and hug Mary, tell her how much I missed her. Suddenly I was in her arms, looking up into her face. The dream had always happened exactly the same way before, yet tonight it was different, I was in control of it. I stayed in Mary's arms for a while, enjoying the warmth of her hug. I watched my parents, they seemed so in love, so happy.

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I woke up the next morning feeling happier than I had in a long time. I walked over to the window and gazed out. I would never get tired of this view. I stopped realising that the same wolf was there again. I wonder why it keeps coming back. It ran away again. I needed to get moving. I had to go shopping and then Ellie was coming over later. I suddenly remembered the package Mr Daniels had delivered and hurried downstairs to open it.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I slumped into my chair in my office. What was it about that woman? Why did Brutus keep ending up behind her house on our morning run? Something about her was gnawing at me. She seemed familiar somehow. Could I have met her somewhere before? Maybe I'd slept with her. No, it can't be that, she didn't recognise me at all the other night, and let's be honest she's definitely not going to have forgotten me. Brutus snickered at that. "I'm not being big headed" I told him "She's human remember. Werewolves have much higher stamina levels than humans. We can go harder and longer and we don't need the recovery time that humans do. So if she'd spent a night with me she would remember, even if I wouldn't." Brutus laughed at me "You really are stupid sometimes ." Before I could ask what he meant he blocked me and went silent on me. f*****g Brutus, why can't he just accept that we are the Alpha not the f*****g Beta. We do not serve anyone.

The phone on my desk rang, and I was so irritated by Brutus that I didn't bother checking the caller ID before answering. "Hello, this is Alpha Stone of the Lakeside pack." I regretted it the moment I heard who was calling. "Jason, Alpha Baxter here. I am just calling to give you a heads up. My son will be stopping by your pack today." I gritted my teeth "What business does he have in Lakeside?" I asked, trying to hide the annoyance in my voice. "Just paying a visit to an old friend. A young woman called Amber." He sounded almost amused, which just annoyed me more. "I trust you will make him welcome." He finished before hanging up. I slammed the phone down. How the f**k does Chris f*****g Baxter know Amber? Does this mean she was playing me the other night and knows all about werewolves? Right I needed to find out what was going on. I let Sam know to expect that prick's arrival. I would like to shift and go snoop around Bluebell cottage, that way she wouldn't recognise me. Unfortunately Brutus was still blocking me so I would have to go as I am.

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Wait! Werewolves Exist? Chapter 19 -

AMBER.

I was searching for the envelope that Mr Daniels had given me. I couldn't find it anywhere. I decided to just go ahead and open the box for now. I would find the envelope sooner or later. I sat on the sofa with the box and took a deep breath. I mentally prepared myself, not knowing what I would find inside. Whatever it was, it must have been important to Mary. I cut the tape open. Looking inside, I was so confused. Why would Mary have wanted me to have this stuff so badly? I pulled out the strange selection of items that were inside the box.

There was a fancy glass bottle. It had a stopper and was sealed with wax. There was a bright blue shimmery liquid inside. There was also a really old book. It had a black cover with 'THE SILVER WOLF LEGEND' written in silver. Next was a necklace. It was beautiful. It had a long, thin silver chain. With a crescent moon and a strange looking rock dangling from it. The last thing was my birth certificate, but not the one I'd seen before. I had always thought that my birth name had been Amber Collins, but it had been changed to James when Mary became my guardian to make things easier. According to this certificate though my name was Rivers, not Collins. Why would Mary have lied to me about that? None of this made sense.

I put all the things back in the box except the book I put that in my bag to have a look at later. I didn't have time to worry about what they meant right now. I needed to go shopping. I grabbed my bag, list, and keys and headed out.

ADAM.

Mum had found a big, padded envelope under one of the tables last night. It was addressed to that woman who had moved into town. Amber, her name was. I had offered to drop it off to her, but mum said she was going to visit her today anyway. I was a little disappointed, I was looking for an excuse to see her again. I wasn't sure why, but I felt drawn to her. I would need to find another excuse.

BECKY.

I sat down with Mum and Dad this morning and told them what I thought about telling Amber. "No Becky." My dad said firmly "if Alpha Stone finds out that you disobeyed him, you will be punished. Amber seems like a nice girl, and I always liked Mary, but I will not have my daughter hurt for a stranger." My mum agreed with him. They wouldn't budge no matter how much I tried to convince them. "Look, eventually, she will find out, and we can be there for her when she does. We can help her through it. We just can't be the ones to tell her." My mum reasoned with me. I sighed and nodded. They clearly weren't going to change their minds.

ALPHA JASON STONE.

I was relieved to see that Amber's car was gone as I approached Bluebell cottage. I headed around the back and let myself in through the patio doors. My dad had made a copy of everyone's key somehow when he was Alpha. I had only used them to go and visit whichever she-wolf I was f*****g at the time. I started upstairs. I didn't find anything interesting, unless I counted the lingerie. Brutus growled before blocking me again. I closed the draw and headed back down.

After looking through all the cupboards I flopped down on the sofa. There was a cardboard box on the floor under the table and an engraved wooden box on top of the table. I opened the wooden one. It had photos in. I was about to put them back when I saw one that had me in it. I was just a young boy and I was playing with a friend. I remembered this day, it was a good memory. These were clearly Mary's photos.

I looked inside the cardboard box next. I looked at the bottle that was inside. I knew what this was. It was magic, some sort of potion. Is Amber a witch? I touched the necklace in the box but recoiled in pain. s**t! It was silver which burns werewolves. The only thing left was a birth certificate. I read the name and froze. Amber Rivers. Why the f**k would she have her birth certificate? Amber Rivers was the old Alphas daughter, she was the friend in the photo with me.

I looked at the photo again. I couldn't believe I hadn't noticed it before. This Amber James actually bared a resemblance to Amber Rivers well from what I could tell, she was really young when I last saw her., but the hair and eyes were the right colour. It couldn't be though. Amber Rivers had died with her parents. She shouldn't have, she wasn't supposed to be with them. Besides that Amber was a werewolf and this one wasn't. f**k I was even more confused now. Was this woman planning g to try and take control of Lakeside

by pretending to be Amber Rivers and use the birth certificate to do it. Did she really think it would be that easy?

I was just about to leave when the door knocked. s**t! I didn't want anyone to see me. Then I might have to explain why I was in her house while she was out. I ducked down behind the kitchen island and waited. After another knock and a few minutes, something was pushed through the letterbox. I waited long enough for whoever it was to walk away and picked up the note. 'Amber, there's something you need to know about Lakeside. I can't tell you anymore but just pay attention to everything.' I wished that I'd seen who had posted it now. I didn't like that one of my pack was disobeying my order. Besides, little did they know she probably knew a lot more than we thought.

Wait! Werewolves Exist? Chapter 20 -

BECKY.

I knew my parents would be mad if they found out and that I was taking a risk by disobeying Alpha Stone. Well, sort of, I mean, I hadn't actually told her anything, really. He'd probably still punish me, though.

AMBER.

I got back from shopping and there was a note waiting for me. What did it mean? What do I need to know about Lakeside? I closed the door and put the shopping away. I sat on the sofa and was about to pull out the book from my bag when I smelt something strange. There was a smell of apple and cinnamon. It definitely hadn't been there earlier. I felt uneasy. I was pretty sure someone had been in here while I was gone, but who? And why?

Before I had time to think about it, there was a knock at the door. Ellie was here, I thought happily and jumped up to open it. My smile faded when I saw who was stood on my doorstep. How the f**k had he found me? "What the f**k are you doing here?" I asked. Chris ran his hand through his blonde hair and gave me a look that had always made me melt, but now it just made me want to slap him.

CHRIS.

It wasn't working. This look had always worked on her before. s**t I was hoping that she would have started missing me. "Babe, I'm so sorry for everything I did. I've missed you so much. Please can we just talk? I can't lose

you. What we had was special. I love you.” Hopefully she would let me in. I just needed the chance to convince her. She laughed and shut the door in my face. Well that didn’t go how I’d hoped. I wasn’t about to give up though. “Amber, I’m going to stay right here. I’m not leaving until you’ve spoken to me.” She didn’t open the door so I made myself as comfortable as possible on the doorstep. I would wait as long as I had to. My Dad would rip me a new one I I didn’t.

ELLIE.

I had headed to Bluebell cottage to visit Amber as we had arranged, but when I was nearly there I saw a blonde gut sat on her doorstep. He was calling through the open door. Clearly she had enough on her plate right now. Besides I didn’t really feel like it would be right to get caught up in the middle of whatever that was. He didn’t seem to be a danger. He was sitting calmly not causing trouble, but I decided that I would get Adam to walk up in a bit just to check. I turned around and headed back down to the restaurant.

AMBER.

I was glad I went food shopping earlier as he was still sat outside. I had seen Ellie leaving earlier through the window. I didn’t blame her. She didn’t even really know me yet. I settled down on the sofa and started reading to pass the time. It was actually quite interesting. Although it was written as if it was fact rather than fiction. It was about a legend in the werewolf community. I snickered as if that was a real thing. I carried on reading. It said that once every few hundred years the Moon Goddess Selene, comes down to walk among her children and blesses a baby. This baby will become an extremely rare silver wolf. The silver wolf has special abilities and when they find their true mate and they have mated and marked, the mate will also share those abilities. Their children will be blessed with an ability each and will be bigger and stronger than even an Alpha.

I put the book down after reading for a while longer. I was getting hungry. I guess I had better cook something. I stood up and headed towards the fridge when the door knocked again. For fucksake. Can’t he just piss off. “GO AWAY!!” I shouted. “Ummm food delivery.” a voice called back. Wait that wasn’t Chris. I opened the door to find Adam stood there holding a bag. I gestured for him to come in and he stepped over Chris and followed me in.

“Adam, what are you doing here?” I asked, though I was glad to see him. “My mum sent me up with some food. She told me to make sure everything was

OK.” He explained while handing me the trays of food. It smelt so good my mouth started watering. Screw it I could start cooking tomorrow. I asked him if he’d like to stay for a bit. His white t-shirt looked good on his well built frame. I found myself wanting to run my fingers through his brown curls. He said that he’d like to but he needed to get back to the restaurant. He looked a little disappointed though. He turned to leave and I noted that he looked just as good from the back. He turned back around. I’m sure he caught me looking. “I almost forgot, my mum found this after you left last night.” He handed me the envelope from Mr Daniels. “Thank you so much, I’ve been looking for this.”

There was a noise outside and I remembered about Chris. Adam asked for a pen and paper and he wrote down his number, telling me to call him if Chris started causing trouble. I thanked him. “I’ve written down Becky’s number as well, she would kill me if I didn’t give it to you” he laughed. “She will want you to call or text so she can get yours.” He added before leaving. I watched out the window as he walked away. The smell of the food reminded me I was hungry, and I tucked in while sending a quick message to Becky. ‘Hey Becky, it’s Amber. Your brother said I should message. Hope you are well x’