

Chapter 52 Gabriel

I woke with a start, realising I had fallen asleep on the sofa with Lilah in my arms. That had to be when she was sobbing. I still didn't find out what was going on to cause her that much distress, but I really wanted to, what had she meant when she said Indie was the only reason she was still here? Did she mean the reason she was still alive? As in she thought of hurting herself? Oh goddess no! I needed to speak to Lexi or Indie, and definitely to Knox.

Fuck, Knox! He'd be wondering where I was, from the glare of the sun outside I knew it was well into the morning, and I should be back at our pack by now. Knox would be flipping his lid at me! And obviously being this far away I couldn't mindlink him, I think my phone was in my jacket which was over the armchair on the other side of the room.

Shit, had Dom slept outside in the car too? I kinda hoped he'd messaged Alpha to let him know or we'd both be in the shit.

I needed to move, but Lilah was still sleeping, her head on my chest, I slowly slid myself out from under her, so she was laid down on the sofa, replacing my chest with a cushion for her head to rest on, and pulled a throw over her as a blanket realising she needed to sleep.

It had been a long night and she had definitely been upset when she'd finally dropped off. I'd message Lexi later to ask for Lilah's number to contact her to see if she was ok and to apologise for leaving like this, plus I wanted to be in touch to get her to come paint my room.it maybe that was a bit cheeky....

She stirred slightly as her head settled on the cushion, but still slept. I noticed a notepad and pen on the breakfast bar, so wrote a quick note for her find when she woke

Hey Lilah

Sorry I had to dash, grumpy Alpha will be waiting for me, I didn't want to wake you. I hope you're ok, don't be a stranger, I'm here to help if you need me.

Gabe

I laid the note down on the small coffee table next to the sofa, grabbing my jacket as I walked by to the door, taking the keys I unlocked it, opening it quietly and shutting it again after slipping out. The sun was crazy bright this morning, probably not helped by the amount I'd drunk last night. I locked the door and posted the key through the letterbox.

I walked quickly to the car where Dom was still snoozing in his seat, I knocked on the window. He jumped, ready to get out, then realising it was me, he unlocked the door for me to jump in the passenger seat beside him.

"I'm sorry dude" I said "I fell asleep on the sofa"

"Nah no worries man, Alpha said to make sure she was safe, I don't think he'd disagree her staying out here on her own at night was safe so you did what he asked right?" Dom said as he started to drive out of the pack lands. I had a feeling Knox may not see it quite so straightforwardly.

"Did you message him?" I asked Dom, hoping his answer was yes.

"Nah I left my phone charging in my room stupidly" he said.

Shit, that wasn't the answer I'd hoped for....

The sun was blinding as we drove along, I was still knackered from my late night or was it early morning? I dozed a little as Dom drove barely able to keep my eyes open.....

I felt the car come to a halt which woke me, I realised we were back at the pack house, as I felt my phone buzz in my pocket. I reached in and took it out, realising I hadn't checked it yet this morning. Oh fuck.... I was in trouble.... 10 missed calls from Knox, a similar amount of messages ranging from last night

Did they get home safely? All ok getting into their pack?

Was Lilah ok? She got home safe right?

Gabriel? Would it hurt you to answer your messages?

You guys on the way back now?

Border said you not back yet where are you? There been issues at their pack?

Is everything ok?

Oi fucker answer your phone!

Where are you? I can't mindlink you and can't get hold of you on your phone what's wrong?

Seriously fuck face, you better not have done something I'm going to make you regret!

Plus a mixture of missed calls and messages from Jake and Manuel.

Dude where are you?!

How long it take to drop off three girls bro? You stopped for a quickie?

Getting worried bro, thought you'd be dropping them off and heading straight back. Alpha losing his mind.

Has shit kicked off with their guards? You need us to come help? We can't contact you or Dom dude, use your fucking brain.

Even if you're banging her bro at least let me or Manuel know you're ok so we know nothing kicked off at their pack you tool

Shit did they all think that of me?! I hadn't laid a finger on her in that way! I was in some serious shit! I best face the music, I stepped out the car and headed into the pack house, literally stepping though the door before Jake saw me.

"Oh you're alive then!" He said with a pissed off look on his face telling me he hadn't slept much.

"Not for long dude" Manuel said as he walked up behind Jake "Alpha is pissed"

I walked toward the Alpha office, knowing Knox would be there. Knowing I was about to get the bollocking of my life. I walked through the door, my heart racing, knowing I had fucked up good and proper, I should have messaged.

Before I had even had chance to speak Knox had me up against the wall, his hand around my throat "Right fucker, care to explain...." He fumed, I could see the blackness in his eyes meaning he was close to shifting, he was beyond pissed then.

How the fuck could I explain when he had his hand round my throat and I couldn't breath?

Jake, Manuel and Dom came stumbling through the door in an attempt to rush in and slammed it shut. Jake went to pull Knox off me "Alpha Knox come on, let him explain" instead though Knox tightened his grip on me and I could feel my air supply being cut, I was more than strong enough to fight back but firstly I didn't have the energy, and secondly this was my Alpha and I likely deserved the punishment.

"Thought it was ok to stay out all night and take advantage of a vulnerable woman did you? I can only assume it wasn't that you were causing issues at their pack or we'd have their warriors banging down our doors this morning" his eyes were flashing from their natural brown to the black of his wolf eyes showing me just how angry he was,

Did he really think I'd took her back and slept with her?

"I...." I tried to speak but could barely breath...

"No wait Alpha, stop! I was there too, he stayed because we decided she wasn't safe" Dom raised his voice enough for Knox to hear. The grip around my throat loosened. I gasped for air. Grateful to be able to breath as I slid down the wall, coughing.

"What?" Knox boomed

" Indie's house where she was staying is isolated almost out in the woods, she would have been there alone and we both said we wouldn't be happy leaving her there alone, not after she'd been drinking. So I stayed out in the car to keep watch, he crashed on the sofa like I suggested" Dom explained.

Knox's face dropped, as the realisation hit what he'd accused me of. Both Jake and Manuel were silent, giving him a look that showed their displeasure in how he'd treated me before giving me chance to speak.

"Gabe, I'm sorry, I...." He started to speak.

"Just thought I'd jump on her when I already told you I wouldn't do that. Yeah cheers for that. No fumed I went in to make sure the house was secure, keeping her safe like you asked me to" I fumed at him " then sat trying to console her while she sobbed her fucking heart out at the thought of losing her best friend, apparently the only thing keeping her sane cos of whatever shit is going off for her at their pack, the only thing keeping her alive from what I could gather, which scares the shit out of me for her, but she wouldn't tell me anymore as she was too busy crying her heart out, and then I had her fall asleep on me crying" Knox looked taken back by the information I had literally thrown at him in rage.

"I fell asleep soon after from being so fucking tired from taking them all home. I forgot to check my phone til this morning, yeah I should have messaged but I forgot, I fucked up for that, but I did not fuck her I can tell you that!" I stormed out of the room slamming the door behind me heading to the stairs to get to my room. I was knackered and needed to sleep and had no plan to speak to any of them for the rest of the day.