

Chapter 85 Lilah

I stirred, it took me a few seconds in my sleepy state to register I wasn't in my own room. Man I could sleep for a week! This bed was so comfy!

The sheets were so soft and cosy against my skin, and I swear these pillows were like resting your head on a cloud they were that soft. I pulled the soft cover up to my chin to keep myself warm, as I snuggled my head back into the softness of the pillow as I reached out for my phone like I do most mornings. And as I did my eyes made contact with a dark pair of eyes glaring (or were they gazing?) at me from across the room. What the fuck?!

"A.. Alpha Knox" I muttered "what are you doing here?" I said seeing him sat in the arm chair across the room from the bed, staring intently at me, which made me feel extremely uncomfortable as I laid here in my state of half undressed.

Does this dude not have any manners? Does he not realise it ain't normal to come in to someone's room and sit watching them fucking sleep?! This dude is meant to be my friends Alpha and also now my fucking boss and apparently a friend, what the actual fuck! I slowly looked up to make eye contact with his deep brown eyes, the intensity of his gaze meant I quickly looked away. Talk about intimidating, then he's an Alpha he's meant to be but I didn't appreciate that right now when I'd just woken up!

"Care to explain?" He boomed in the silence of the peaceful bedroom.

Explain?! What am I meant to be explaining? I swear this guy was losing his fucking mind!! Or making me lose mine!!

"I don't understand what you mean sorry Alpha" I said quietly. Knowing that was likely the last thing he was going to want to hear but I genuinely had no clue what this loon was on about right now, I was too sleepy and I swear he hadn't even given me chance to wake up properly before yelling at me for information I had no clue about.

"You don't understand?!" He demanded interrupting my thoughts as he stood up and stomped across the room, before I knew it he was stood in front of the bed and right now was looking pretty intimidating. And anyone in the right mind would give any information they had up right there and then, but that was the issue, I didn't have any information to give him so what the fuck was I meant to do?!

I simply shook my head as my body was trembling with nerves. Surely this fool could see I was terrified, or maybe he was a sick bastard and got off on that sort of shit, I heard there was many Alphas that did. I had hoped this one might be different.

His breaths were calm and measured, as he stared at me "Ok, you want to play it like that?! Answer me this, what happened to your scent?" He demanded looking me square in the eye. I was puzzled, it wasn't unusual for werewolves to use de-scenting sprays when out in the human world so that they could be detected so why is he making such a big issue?! I worked for him out there, and he uses a similar spray so surely he knows that!

"I used spray to cover my scent, so nobody can tell I'm a wolf Alpha, the same as you do when we're out at work" I explained hoping that would be the end of it, not wanting to have to go into further details as he likely wouldn't be too happy with me.

His brow furrowed into more of a scowl now as his gaze intensified on me "NO!" He bellowed, "there is more than that and I want an explanation!"

I gulped, I was still trembling and raised my eyes to look at him, "Wh.. wha.. what do you mean?" I whispered.

He suddenly sat himself down on the bed next to me, my heart was pounding out of my chest. What in the goddess's name was this fool doing? And what did he know? I had a feeling I was in the shit but didn't want to tell him everything, I could end up being kicked out of the pack, the pack that had helped me in when I needed an escape from my dipshit of an ex, I didn't want to go back there with my tail between my legs, giving that dick and his fucking princess the pleasure of seeing me fail.

I hoped to move here soon they'd told me they'd think of a way to do that, but if they find out that won't happen, and I'd they tell Alpha Grayson...or my Dad they'll probably not want me back there.....so the only other alternative would be becoming a rogue and that was not an alternative I even wanted to consider but it was looking like it could be my only option if Alpha Knox knows the truth he would have me kicked out of here quicker than I can blink, this guy was renowned for being brutal and extremely strict.

His eyes were burning into mine, I tried not to make direct eye contact, when suddenly he raised his left hand and I shut my eyes, flinching, waiting for the impact of him hitting me as I was sure that's what he was about to do, take his anger out on me, that's what Alphas were likely to do, though rarely to females but if he knew what I'd done I could understand why he may change his view on that. I readied myself for the impact.....

"Lilah?!" his voice had softened somewhat, hurt evident in his voice.

I slowly opened my eyes, his hand was hovering above my face, but his eyes were still burning into mine, but the intensity was slightly less anger now and a little sincerity and a little concern. "Why are you flinching? Do you think I'd hit you? I'm an Alpha, that doesn't make me a complete beast...." his voice faltered and stopped.

"L..L.. I'm sorry" I stuttered, you lifted your hand quickly, you looked angry, I thought you were going to slap me" I sighed dejectedly and looked at him before looking down feeling bad for making him feel bad.

Seriously how does this work?! He forces his way into my room, acts like a dick, demands answers, raises his hand to me (yes admittedly maybe not in the way I thought he was though still not a fucking clue why, it's still there hovering near my face fucking weirdo), he scared me, yet I end up feeling bad!

He sighed, a big, deflated sigh, he moved his hand back down to his side, I thought for a second he was contemplating walking out of the room and to be honest I would have been glad if he had but at the same time I knew that wouldn't have been the end of this conversation. It would be dragged up again as he clearly suspects something.

"I was simply going to do this" he said as he more slowly, gently lifted his hand to my face and stroked my cheek, a static like shock ran through me - what the actual fuck was that?! Then realisation struck..... No! No! No! No! I don't want this, this can't be happening.....My eyes shot upward to make contact with his, my heart racing "You're my mate....." he said with a sigh as he stood up.

Sky was going crazy in my head at the realization her mate was in front of her, though why she couldn't smell him made no sense, I thought he was going to walk away, I had to explain, he needed to understand, if I was his mate he might take pity on me, he may not kick me out, he might not tell my pack what I'd done, may not force me to turn rogue, but I don't want a mate, I don't want this, my heart was crumbling to pieces all over again inside. Fate was truly fucked up.

"Alpha Knox please don't leave" I stuttered through shaken breaths as I sat myself up in bed.

He turned back to me and raised his eyebrow as he spoke "I'm simply sitting down Delilah" then he gave a sad smile "it's torture being near you, my wolf is screaming inside of me, but you have some explaining to do because that de-scenting spray you use isn't normal if it can block the pulls of a mate". He looked at me intently.

I was in the shit.

"Please don't hurt me Knox" I begun to cry, not sure where that had come from, I couldn't breath.... I don't think he would understand.....he was going to hate me....but within a second he was beside me on the bed, holding me in his arms, the sensation of his touch strangely addictive, it was like little shots of electric to my skin.....no! I don't want this!

Mate! Mate! Sky screamed inside of me.

"Lilah I could never hurt you, but I think you need to talk to me..." he sighed, clearly thinking his words through carefully "I can't promise I won't be mad sweet but I need to know, you need to tell me..." I sobbed again, looking down at my hands...

I did... I had to do this....he needed to know....he'd not forgive me and I'd be alone again.....

"It's complicated, please try not to get angry, I did what my messed up head....." I pulled away and looked up to him, his big brown eyes looking down at me, they didn't look quite as intimidating now "or my messed up heart thought was right....." I explained. " wait if you're my mate, why can't I smell you?" I grasped at straws, hoping it may not be true, despite Sky screaming it in my head, despite the tingling from his touch.

He simply nodded, "I scented you from my room Lilah, I sprayed de-scenting spray on myself before I came out of my room after going back for the room key so you didn't work it out straight away from my scent and panic" he explained now sitting in front me, and he squeezed my hand almost like a gesture of reassurance, but also I had a feeling it was to display to me the tingling from his touch..... this wasn't going to be easy.

" Look you know my Dad is Beta at River Ash, my mum and dad were always close to Alpha Grayson and Luna Talia, like the closest friend imaginable, they were like second parents to me. And Logan was always with me growing up..." I could see Knox's face darken slightly at the mention of Logan,

"What has this got to do with why I didn't know you were my mate Lilah?" He questioned.

This wasn't going to be easy.... "It will make sense, but you need to let me speak, please....." he simply nodded "we were inseparable, crying for each other as toddlers, always with each other, could read each others mind, he always knew how to make me smile when I was upset and he always was there to protect me..." I smiled slightly at the memory.

But saw Knox didn't like the thought of another man protecting his mate the mating bond clearly sliding into place despite it being years ago it irritated him....so I tried to deflect away from that quickly "not that I needed protecting, not many people would want to mess with a she-wolf who was the daughter of a Beta and the niece of an Alpha"

I tried to laugh, but saw no response from Knox so continued "because of how close we were people throughout the pack thought we would be mates, told us from being young pups that we were fated to be together....." I saw a Knox's jaw tighten in frustration but I knew I had to continue, this wasn't going to get any easier.

"At first we dismissed it, but we got closer growing up and nobody else knew me like he did, and he didn't like other guys being near me, got pretty jealous to be fair, then one day he told me nobody would be good enough for me other than him, that nobody could treat me the way I deserved like he could and I agreed, he made me feel amazing, and he knew me inside out, he was my best friend, we were already inseparable but from that day our bond got even stronger and complex. It was like he completed a part of me that was missing...." I looked to Knox, seeing his brown eyes flashing black. Was that his wolf getting angry? I know I was giving a lot of detail but he needed to know how much I loved Logan so he can understand why I did what I did.....

"You want me to stop?" I asked him

"No" he growled, roughly moving his hand from mine and running it though his hair, he was clearly finding this as hard as me. "I need to know Lilah" his tone softened slightly.

"We were about fourteen I think when we started dating, and became closer than ever, every spare moment we were together, and when we weren't together we were messaging or calling each other, it just seemed to confirm to everyone in the pack what they'd predicted all along that we were in fact fated mates....."

"That's never guaranteed" he interrupted bluntly.

I let out a short ironic laugh "Didn't I come to find out that the hard way!"

He gave me a small smile as I continued " no it's not guaranteed, but stupidly I think we got taken away with the way pack was talking about it, even the pack elders were predicting it, including our oldest pack member who was amazing at predicting mates so it felt like it seemed reasonable to think it was possible, especially considering how close we were, how special our bond was, and as a teenager, especially a silly little she-wolf you dream of romance and love and hear all the amazing things of fated mates and I was able to imagine my own little love story in my head, and let myself get carried away with it all, from then on I was sold on the belief he was my mate and so was he....."

"Wait, if you thought he was your mate....." he interrupted, then stopped obviously thinking better of what he was saying. But I knew what he was going to ask without him needing to finish his question, it was reasonable seeing as he would now see me as his mate.

"Did we sleep together?" I looked to him, his jaw was so tightly clenched. I don't think he was sure he wanted the answer. "No" I said softly, the tension eased in his jaw but instead he looked puzzled. Obviously unsure why we wouldn't have when we were so sure we were mates.

"I think Logan may have liked to more than once but we'd spoken and decided it would only be right to honour the mate bond process and wait until we had our wolves" I explained. I was still eternally grateful that that is what I had pushed Logan to do. Knox seemed to calm at that explanation, obviously eased at the fact his mate was likely not to have been with another man. Not that that was going to matter in the long run.....

"Go on" he urged me to continue with my explanation.

"We dated for the next three and a bit years, being as close as ever, preparing ourselves for the day Logan would shift and the day he would know I was his mate...answering my calls which wasn't as expected, I woke late and went to look for him, he wasn't answering my day didn't go as I thought, everyone was being weird with me, I walked into the pack house, excited to see him, to hear him shout "mate" to me, to lift me up in a hug the way he'd told me he would when he saw me and knew that fate had confirmed what the whole pack he'd predicted, I looked for him, , thinking he'd be looking for me too, that he'd have called me back, and then I saw him...." I looked to my hands.

I hated reliving this.... Knox must have known how hard I was finding it, he squeezed my hand. I smiled at him, both at the tingle his touch gave me and also in thanks for his reassurance before I continued "He hadn't even noticed me walk into the room, oh everyone else did though, they all made a hasty exit, and he was there..... with Anya on his knee, their eyes locked, oblivious to anyone around them, her hands on my boyfriends face, he looked like he was in heaven too..."

I paused and took a deep breath. I can do this, I tell myself. "I called his name and the realisation in his face like he wasn't sure what to do, I didn't know what to do either, we hadn't planned for this, we were all so sure Knox, so I ran from the room. But he followed..... he grabbed me and dragged me into my Dad's office to talk, he told me he was sorry, I cried....he cried.... He told me he loved me.... That he was sorry... that he didn't know what to do... that he still wanted me.... But that he wanted her too, that the mate bond was pulling him to her..... I just kept crying..... my future I thought I'd had had fallen apart in front of me.....and then he kissed me....."

I felt Knox stiffen next to me, clearly not happy at that "I know I shouldn't have, but I was messed up, I kissed him back, my head and heart were all over, I wanted him....but then I stopped it as his dad came to the door and I knew that he had a mate and it couldn't happen anymore no matter how much I loved him....and I ran to the woods to be alone...." Knox didn't speak but I could see him watching me, I dread to think what he was thinking of me right now.....