

## Chapter 87 Knox

Lilah looked puzzled why I hadn't reacted more, so continued as I'd hoped "I did lots of research before I met her so had some ideas what she might be able to do to help, she met Indie and I at a nice little coffee shop in town, she is actually quite a sweet lady, runs a jewellery shop too.... She listened to what I'd gone through, she was so kind and caring"

Yeah I bet she was, probably wanting your money or thinking of ways to trick you, they're known for that.... I find myself thinking.

"I explained how much pain I was in, how much I was struggling, that I just wanted this pain to stop, that I wanted to stop being able to love romantically, but still have love for my family and friends, I wanted that ability taking away from me, if I didn't feel love for him I wouldn't have the connection there, I wouldn't be suffering...." she says.

I could see her logic but still this seemed drastic, I did my best to bite my tongue to stop myself saying anything, she had her reasons and I needed to hear it, as wrong as I thought they may be....

"I had seen tales of jewellery that enabled people to pretend to be someone's mate, or others that block out the mate ability, so I wondered if she could do something that could stop me feeling love.... I said it couldn't be jewellery as I didn't want anyone knowing or suspecting I was wearing jewellery linked to witches as I'd be in trouble for talking to them, Indie's Aunt is a proper outcast for that..."

I could feel her eyes on me. I could sense she was scared, and rightly so, quite frankly she had been stupid....

"She said she could help, that she thought she could make me a lotion to put on each day and night," she explains.

She didn't have it here, that's why all this happened, no lotion and there is no effect.... my brain realises.

"She explained to me that it would stop me feeling any romantic love, not just to Logan, to anyone...." she bit her lip, I could sense her heart rate picking up, so I knew she was more nervous now than she had been before. "but it also meant it would block any mate connection, that if I came across my mate I wouldn't know, I wouldn't scent him, have no connection there, and he would ...."

"...feel nothing either?" I interrupted, standing up from the bed, walking to across the room, running my hands through my hair. How can she have been so reckless to have done something like this? All over a teenage relationship?!

"Knox please, you said you wouldn't be angry...." she sobbed "I agreed immediately, I didn't even think properly looking back, I just wanted the pain to stop...." "I looked across to her. She was doubled over on the bed, her body racked with big heavy sobs.

But this wasn't ok....

"But Lilah it's witchcraft.... You must know how dangerous that is?! She could have been doing anything to you!" I yelled "surely you had been taught not to trust witches, they are known for trying to hurt our kind"

She stood from the bed, only now did I realise she only had on underwear and a vest top. Obviously the stay here had been unexpected so she would have had no clothes.... I would have to make sure some were sent for her.

She was instantly in front of me "I know that now! Of course I do! Knox, please... try to understand...." she grabbed my arms with her hands "I wasn't even 17, I had lost the boy I thought was my mate, my best friend, I was devastated and now I was being pushed to the outer edges of my pack by his new mate.... I was desperate.... I didn't know what else to do.... I wanted the pain to stop" she sobbed.

How can I be angry at her? She was desperate.....She'd made a mistake.....

I pulled her close to me, letting her cry again against my chest. The warmth of her body against mine felt like pure bliss, felt like I was home. This was my mate.... She took her time but she was here.... And oh goddess she was perfect!

I lift her chin up with my finger so I can look at her, she is looking up at me, he big blue eyes shimmering, and I can't help myself, I lean down and kiss her, gently touching her lips with mine, I feel her heart begin to race as her hands twist into my T-shirt, I deepen the kiss, my tongue slipping into her mouth, now twisting and turning with her tongue, I don't think a kiss has ever felt this good....

I hear her moan and then suddenly she moves back slightly. I look to her, a million questions in my eyes. Yeah maybe the fact she's standing in her underwear is a little uncomfortable.... aaand the fact you now have a massive hard on... I tell myself with a sigh... hmmm.... Deflect.deflect.....

"Lilah you can't keep using that stuff" I tell her.

"What?" She looks at me, puzzled.

"While I don't agree with the witchcraft, I do understand kind of why you did what you did, but you don't need it now sweet," I began to explain "you have found your mate, and he is going to show you what it is like to be loved and worshipped like no other"

And going off that kiss there would be plenty of loving to be had, touching her felt amazing, kissing her felt sooo good, I can only begin to imagine what foreplay, sex and making her scream will feel like.... My mind begins to wander..... I felt the effect this chain of thoughts was having on my body.... I really needed to stop or I'd be freaking her out.... think clean thoughts..... think clean thoughts.....

"I don't want a mate though Knox" her words interrupt my thoughts and within a second destroy my visions.....What?! How can she not want a mate?!

"What?! What do you mean? Everyone wants a mate?" I look to her, almost begging in the way I ask.

"No, not me. Having a mate involves love and care, and for me that brings the risk of being hurt, I can't do that to myself again" she says so matter of factly it hurts.

I can't believe the girl I had already been falling for, who had turned out to be my mate and she doesn't want a mate? What could I do?!

"No Lilah, please, let's talk about this...." I look to her.

She goes and drops to the bed, holding her head in despair "I'd decided back then I didn't want a mate, I didn't want to feel love again...."

This was crazy! I needed her, I wanted her!

I can't handle this right now and start to head to the door, anger and hurt clearly evident, as I reach for the handle she suddenly speaks, tears evident in her voice "Knox.... I'm sorry.... But will you still help me? I.... I..." she paused and something in the way she spoke made me turn to look at her, raising one of eyebrows questioningly "I know it's a lot to ask when I have said I don't want a mate, but you guys might be the only way I can get out of the pack..."

"Your family are there" I say. Though I knew I was being spiteful because I was hurting at the fact she was saying she didn't want a mate, she didn't want me.

"Before you knew I was your mate you wanted to help me, Indie told you things didn't she? She told me she did.... I know you probably hate me right now.... But It's not safe for me there Knox.... please....."

"Wait what?! Firstly I don't think I could hate you if I tried, and secondly what exactly do you mean it isn't safe for you?!" I boomed across the room, louder than I had planned. The thought of her being in danger infuriated me. Though the look on her face made me realise I had probably scared her even more with my reaction.

She stood again, looking directly at me, her blue eyes staring intently into my brown eyes, burning into my soul, I could see her chest heaving from her heart racing and from her body recovering from crying as she slowly came across the room toward me, as she edged closer her hands were at the edge of her vest top, slowly pulling it upwards.

Wait... what was going on.... Was she trying to seduce me? Shift!

She had just slipped the vest top over her head, and was now stood in front of me in a pair of small black lacy short style knickers and a small black lacy bra, and despite the fact my beautiful mate was stood in front of me in her underwear it wasn't that I was looking at, it wasn't even her body, though I did hope to be able to do that another time, what I was looking at was her sides - they were covered in faint bruise marks.... And scratches..... with our fast healing, these had to have been done in the last two days.....

"Lilah? Who?" I demanded.

"I can't say, they said if I told anyone they would make me pay, just know while I may not want a mate Knox I need you, please know that I need you more than you know....." she fell to her knees and began to cry again.

I simply lifted her and brought her to the bed, I climbed in and placed her in alongside me, holding her close to me, "Lilah I need to know, I want to protect you, they whoever they are won't make you pay because they won't get to you, I won't let them but I need to know...."

She looked up to me "I don't know Knox, if she knows then she will find...."

She, this was a woman? Wait....

"This is Anya's doing? Because of your past with Logan?" Everything had fitted into place in my mind as soon as she had said she, and the fact she had told me Anya had broken her arm, plus her friend joking about her ex's psycho new mate made so much more sense now.

"Knox...." She began to sob "she can't know...."

"What has she done baby?" I pulled her to me. Not sure I wanted to know the answer, but at the same time knowing I needed to know, "you are safe, please know that" I reassured her.

"She broke my arm the first time that first day of finding out she was his mate, and the more Logan would find excuses to be around me the more she got angry, she would look for me... Wait for me.... initially she started by just small things like saying nasty things to me... then spreading nasty rumours about me..... she would wait until I was on my runs and attack me"

Woah..... What the fuck?! She did what? This girl has a screw loose! She had her mate why would she hurt Lilah?!

"Over the space of a year I think she must have broken my wrist, my shoulder, my knee, I lost count the number of deep cuts and scratches I had and the hair I lost....." She sobbed, "she even had her friends help her out "

"Lilah why didn't you speak to someone? Your dad surely would have helped?"

"She was so sweet with everyone, was the perfect Luna to be, and was spreading crap about me, making me out to be so jealous because I hadn't been his mate, that I was causing issues, trying it on with him, I'd never gone back near him.....I swear Knox I didn't "

I didn't doubt her I truly didn't but she felt the need to reassure me.

"The lotion certainly did what it was meant to do, with almost immediate effect. There was one occasion she saw me out on a run and literally kidnapped me for a weekend, messaging my mum and dad on my phone telling them I was staying with Indie who was out of pack, I was stuck with her, she had me cuffed with silver handcuffs and kept injecting wolfsbane, threatening me, said Logan never would look at me again when she was done with me, she had a knife, I think she planned to cut me up with it, but she'd messed up with the wolfsbane giving me too much, I was so bad I passed out, I was out for days, waking up a few days later in hospital, she made out she found me in the woods, making out rogues had attacked me using wolfsbane, "

What? This was beyond sick! And not normal behaviour, I heard of possessiveness of a mate bond but this is beyond that, she could have killed her!!

"Oh sweet" I held her tight kissing her head "you have gone through so much. Why didn't you tell anyone? And she is still hurting you? "

"I couldn't tell anyone, she said nobody would believe me, that my dad would lose his job and I know he loved his job, and she threatened me with being kicked out of the pack..... That would destroy my family from the disgrace..... She was until the last few week, she is pregnant, so her friend is doing the harm while she stands and watches and gives orders....." she looked up at me through her eyelashes.

What a fucked up mess this had been for her. She has been tortured .....

"Does he know?" I had to ask.

"I don't know, he idolises Anya, or he did, and is really happy about having a baby, but he has clung on to me, he didn't want to let our link go, maybe it was because we were friends for so long..... part of me thinks he must know something because he must smell me on her, smell my blood.....there has been times there has been so much blood from me....."

Knight was going crazy in my head the thought of his mate being hurt and not defending herself, I didn't understand.

"Sweet you are strong, I've seen you fight with Indie at our training session, you are a strong she-wolf and good warrior, why didn't you try to stand up for yourself?" I ask.

"I couldn't risk her being hurt Knox, if she had any marks on her she may say I hurt her and I could be in trouble and put my family at risk so I just let her do what she needed to do...." She sighed..... "I know that makes me weak...."

Weak?! It made her unbelievably strong, stronger than she relaxed, going through all this almost alone and carrying on, still smiling, still trying to help others, so beautiful..... so so strong..... She would not be going through it any more, I had to make sure of that!

"Lilah, you will not be going back there" I tell her. "You say you need me, you need us here at this pack, because this is where you are fated to be sweet..... don't you see that? You and Indie...."

She looked at me with a sadness "But I don't want a mate Knox"

"Hmm yeah, that's a slight twist to the tale I guess, one I hope I can find a way around, but I know I need to help you sweet, you will not be going back to live at that pack , we will go and tell them you are my mate...."

"I don't want a mate Knox!" she interrupted with some force.

This wasn't going to be easy.  
  
"I know, but they don't need to know that Lilah. It just means they let you come live here then with no question. We want to help you Lilah, so let us...." She smiled at me, and gently kissed my cheek.  
  
"Thank you." Then her face suddenly dropped.

Oh had she felt that? Didn't know if it had pressed against her leg.....

"Sorry, it's just been a while, think my body getting a bit over excited..." I explained.

She giggled slightly as she blushed "No you idiot, if we go to them and say you're my mate they're going to want to know why we didn't know why until now, they're going to find out about the witchcraft... I'm going to get into trouble Knox, my mum and dad could disown me" her face looked solemn. And I felt like an idiot for thinking what I had minutes before.

"I'll think of something, I'll have to explain all this to the guys anyway, between us we will come up with an explanation sweet I promise, and if needs be, I'll say it was me, you're not the only one been hurt in love" I smile.

"You'd do that for me? Let people think that?" She looked shocked.

"I'd do a lot more than that for you sweet" I said pulling her close to me in an embrace "you see there is this thing, I don't know if you've heard of it called a mate bond, kinda special you know...." she rolled her eyes at me and shoved me slightly with her hand, but I noted she didn't move out of my embrace.

"I'm serious though Lilah, I would do a lot more than that for you, you may not have been able to feel love due to your witchy ways, but I think there may have been stirrings of feelings inside of me, so either your witch wash wasn't fully effective or you may have had the big bad wolf turning soft and falling for you ....."

"But," she begins.  
  
"Let me finish! I know you say you don't want a mate Lilah, and I would never force that, but there is a connection with us I'm sure of that, I was sure of that before I knew we were mates, so knowing you're my mate I know it even more now. The pack will help you, you can stay here always, but I ask that you don't reject me.... At least not yet .....stop using your lotion, let the mate bond take effect, let me show you how it feels to be loved properly sweet, let me show you how I could love you, how you could be the most important thing in the world to me, I'd give you all the time you needed Lilah... I'm just asking you to give our mate bond a chance..., to give fate a chance.....please...."

"I... I" she was looking at me, I could feel her shivering, clearly nervous and scared.

"Lilah, please, there is no pressure, I will try my best to give you the time and space you need, it will be at your pace.. Just please say we can try? We were fated to be together baby..." I knew I was begging now but I just didn't want her rejecting me, I couldn't lose my mate now I'd finally found her...."please Lilah...." I felt her finger on my lip....

"Knox stop..."  
  
Fuck I'd took this too far, I'd begged too much, I'd put too much pressure on, I just wanted a chance.....  
  
She gently pressed her lips to mine, I instinctively wrap my arms around her and go to deepens the kiss but she stops me, again by placing her finger on my lip.

"Can I say I don't want a mate right now? But I will stop the lotion, I have nearly run out anyway and was due to get more so I just won't bother, and can I say I am ok to see what happens? But please Knox no pressure, and if it doesn't work then please understand? I can't guarantee I will change my mind, I have been determined for a long time that all happened I did not want to feel love or have a mate, and I don't think that will change, but I owe you to try considering what you are doing for me"

Well it's not perfect but it's something to work with I guess.....I just had to do my best to prove to my mate that having me as a mate was a good thing.