

Chapter 91 Knox

I begin to cook some breakfast for Lilah and myself, giving her some space as I knew she was upset. Jake had linked me to say they were back so I asked him to make their way up here, time to get this over with and explain our unusual situation. I honestly think they are going to be happy, but at the same time confused as to why she doesn't want a mate...

I just hope that is something I can overcome... I want to kill that dick for the trauma him and his mate have caused to her...nobody should have to go through what she has had to, yeah teenage break ups happen but the mind games afterwards weren't normal and the literal bullying and torture she has endured since plus bordering on alienation from her pack at their hands.... I had no intention of her ever going back there....

I plated the bacon sandwiches I had made us, putting them onto a tray with the mugs of coffee I had just brewed and walked toward the living room. Just as Jake and the guys walked through the front door, I had told him to let themselves in...

As I walked into the living room I glanced around not able to see Lilah, but my eyes were drawn to the balcony doors....Fuck No!!!

I flung the tray to Jake, running toward the balcony, catching site of her stood at the edge, her long blond hair flowing behind her, I have no choice....

“GET DOWN NOW LILAH” I yelled using my Alpha tone.

A tone only an Alpha had that held such authority and dominance that anyone in the room would feel, and would be impossible to ignore or disobey. I avoided the use of my Alpha tone and aura unless absolutely necessary, hating the effect it had on others, The aura seeping from me right now was beyond powerful but I had no other choice as I'd feared I wouldn't have reached Lilah in time otherwise.

She was ready to jump, I am certain of that... she was frozen to the spot, I ran to her, taking her in my arms, I could feel her body shaking, instantly Jake and Gabe were by my side.

“What happened?” Gabe said, I could see tears in his eyes.

“Knox?” Jake asked.

“Can you give us a minute?” I ask them.

They both look to Lilah, then to me and nod, before walking back into the living room, I can see Indie is there too, sobbing into Dan's chest. Manuel is stood in silence, his eyes not moving from Lilah.

“Lilah why?” I ask, feeling tears in my own eyes.

“I cant do this Knox.” She simply states. “My friend, my only friend left hates me now....I'm alone.... “ there is an emptiness to her eyes, and I pull her close to me, never wanting to let her go.

“Oh sweet, you are not alone, not anymore. She is not your only friend, you have all of us, and trust me she doesn't hate you.” Tears were flowing from my eyes as I held her to me. I cant believe if I had been a minute later.... “Lilah I cant lose you....i have only just found you.....” she was trembling in my arms.

“I don't think I want a mate though Knox” she says.

“It doesn't mean I don't want you though Lilah. And even if you don't want me, it doesn't mean I don't want you in my life. I cant lose you, I mean that. You scared me....” I kissed her head gently.

“I'm sorry, but I don't know what to do, I don't know how to carry on Knox” she looks up at me, I see fear in her eyes....

“You don't have to be scared Lilah, whether you want me as your mate I am going to be there to help you though all this I promise, as a friend ok? Knight may be a little more protective and clingy than when we first expected but I'll do my best to keep that under control. You are not on your own sweet” I reassure her “ first thing we need to do is go tell your friends in there whats going on so they have your back too, ok?”

She looks at me, sheer terror in her eyes. “They will hate me Knox...” she sobs. “I have loved being part of this for the last few weeks... having friends as well as Indie....I had an escape...I saw a way out other than....” She looked down. She didn't need to finish her sentence, I knew what she meant. While I didn't know how the others were going to react to what I had to tell then I was going to do my best to make sure they were relatively ok with it.....

Need you guys to be open minded now, please don't get angry and let us speak... I mind link them all in the living room before helping Lilah to her feet. I stand myself up, reach for her hand and walk to where my friends are all stood, concern clear on all their faces. I know what they have just witnessed in itself will have shook them up as much as it did me so I hope when they hear the details of what Lilah has been going though they will understand ....

“Oh Angel” Manuel is instantly by Lilah's side, brushing her hair back from her face “you scared us.....” he was biting his lower lip, I had a feeling holding back tears. Gabe was by his cousin squeezing his shoulder.

“Lilah I am sorry if this is my fault” Indie was crying, pushing Manuel out of the way to give her friend a hug. A dark look passed over Dan's face. I wasn't sure how much he knew...

“It isn't your fault. I just can't take anymore...I'm tired Indie... I thought I'd lost you.... I thought I was alone....”Lilah whispered, though whispering in a room full of werewolves was pointless as our hearing meant we heard everything, I could see the guys looking at Lilah, then to me in confusion....

“Chica, you aren't alone, you have us, no?” Gabe spoke quietly, his cheery voice no longer there, replaced by one full of concern for his friend, I knew he had a soft spot for both Lilah and Indie like younger sisters I think.

“I think we need to explain some things, shall we sit down?” I suggest, the sooner we get this out of the way the better. I lead Lilah to one of the large recliner armchairs, the temptation to sit down and have her sit on my knee was overwhelming, but instead I motion for her sit herself down, she does so, kicking off her shoes, then curling her feet up under herself on the chair. I sit myself on the arm of the chair next to her, while I cant have her on my knee I need to be close to her.

Dan has taken the other recliner armchair, and done as I had wanted to with Lilah, but with Indie, she was wrapped up in his arms on his knee, looking safe and content in the arms of her mate. Will Lilah ever feel like that with me? I find myself thinking.

Gabe, Manuel and Jake have sat themselves on the sofa opposite us. All of them are looking at me in expectation....I can feel Lilah trembling beside me, I reach out for her and put my arm around her shoulder....

Knox? Jake links me

Well here goes....

“ Well guys, there has been some new developments since we saw you last...” I start, unsure how best to explain this.

“I should do this” Lilah says. I quickly look to her.

“Are you sure?” she simply nods in response

“This is my mess, so I want to say sorry and I understand if you cant forgive me ok?” she says, her voice trembling as she speaks “but I just ask that you let me explain first before you think the worst...”

This doesn't sound good Jake and Gabe linked me within seconds of each other.

I sat as Lilah explained the same situation she had explained to me just hours before, tears threatening to fall from her and Indie.... the looks of confusion on many of the guys' faces..... I have to say even looks of sympathy at some points as she described the pain she felt finding out Logan wasn't her mate.....maybe they were more understanding than me...

The sadness as she described her contemplating taking her own life to escape the situation much like the situation we had literally just witness moments before....their anger at the mind games he had played with her.....that he seemingly still seemed to want her as well as his fated mate.....their fury that his mate had hurt Lilah out of jealousy and she had kept quiet out of fear.....wait til I told them the rest about her!.....I could see they cared deeply for Lilah, but then there was the uncertainty flashing in their faces as the witch was mentioned....

A witch?! What the fuck Knox?! Jake spat through the link.

Gabe, Dan and Manuel all had a look of darkness on their faces. None of them agree with witchcraft, I knew that.....

Then a look of realisation hit Dan's face, he looked to Indie “You knew?” he said, anger evident in his tone. Indie had tears in her eyes as she nodded.

This was not going to be easy.....

Just listen to her... I link Dan.

“Please, let me explain... Dan, don't blame Indie....” Lilah said, “ she begged me not to go, did everything she could to try to stop it, so I had arranged it behind her back, she found out at the last minute and forced me to let her come to try to keep me safe. She didn't know that the stuff I was getting would block me finding my mate. Like I said guys I know you will be angry....”

“Lilah they are fucking witches, they are renowned for doing serious harm to us!” Manuel said, frustration clear in his voice “they could seriously have hurt you!!!”

“I know. And looking back I know I was stupid. I was desperate, I was in so much pain. I asked her to stop the pain, stop me feeling love....”

“You are a fucking idiot” Dan angrily spat out, “you put yourself and your friend at risk over a fucking teenage crush! I know that pack of yours is fucked up but surely you were taught witches are not to be messed with?! I could have lost my mate because of you!”

“Wind your neck in Dan!” I boom, seeing Lilah sobbing, and Indie too. “ Lilah has explained all this to me, no I don't agree with the witchcraft, of course I don't, but there is a lot more to it than that. This situation is more complex... she was young, she was desperate, and in pain, she didn't know what to do and thought this would help, she made a mistake.... Yeh it could have had dire consequences but thankfully it didn't, seems the witch they found was a decent one”

“No such thing....” Jake muttered.

“Look you need to get over this, I have. Its me that it effects...” I pause, I see the guys look to me, confusion evident on their faces now, interlaced with the irritation Lilah had been naïve enough to mix with witches...

”this stuff the witch gave her to take away the ability to love also meant she lost the ability to sense her mate...” I explain.

The shock on their faces was now apparent...

“Why would you want something to do that?” Manuel asked her softly.

“I didn't think at the time. I was 16. I simply thought no love, no pain. If I don't feel love I can't be hurt.... I agreed. I didn't want.... I don't want a mate....” She looked down biting her lip.

“Wait? You don't want a mate? Even now? Somewhere out there angel is a man meant for you, the moon goddess looked and decided who would be perfect for you... someone who could love you just right.... Protect you.... Make you happy.... And for you to do the same for him..... he'll be out there missing you Lilah and you don't even know it...” Manuel whispered gently to her, what he'd said had brought a tear to her eyes, and to be honest mine too.

“But if I let him love me I let myself get hurt....or what if I am not perfect for him?” she looks desperately to Manuel, I can hear the tears in her voice, Manuel is suddenly on his knees in front of her, holding her hands.

“Just because you were hurt before doesn't mean you will be hurt again Bonita, love with Logan was the not the same that you will feel with your mate I can promise you that. He was not fated for you mi amor, Selene did not select him as the one meant to accompany you through life, to hold your hand, to light up that face of yours with your beautiful smile Chica. And trust me you will be his vision of perfection mi cielo, how could you not be? Do you look in a mirror? Do you not see the way you capture people's attention when you speak? Your mate is out there missing you Lilah, he will be desperate to meet you....” It always made me smile hearing Manuel or Gabe speaking throwing in the occasional Spanish word in, usually terms of endearment or curse words, on this occasion I think they were endearment.

I don't think I could have put it as nice as he did.... How does this guy not do well with the women?!

I felt Lilah look up at me, her eyes filled with emotion.... I need to explain....

“That's the thing, her mate isn't out there Manuel...” I began...

“Oh!” he gasped “Lilah no, has he...” he began, I assume he thought I meant he had passed on, so I quickly interrupt.

“He's not out there because he's here. Yes you're not wrong he's been missing his mate....” I look to Lilah “you pretty much were right in everything you said Manuel...” Lilah's big blue eyes are looking up at me, I think I may have just declared my feelings for her to the entire room....

“Wait, she's your mate?!” Jake asked “but how?! She might not feel but you could...”

“The lotion the witch gave her blocked all mate bond effects, so she felt none, I felt none. It was only when she stayed here last night unexpectedly she didn't have it with her the scent of her hit me and well, Knight was going crazy.... I sought out the scent and it led me to Lilah.... I broke in her room... we spoke and I found out everything you know, plus a bit more that means she will not be going back to River Ash...” I state.

“But if she doesn't want a mate then you cant force her to stay here” Jake points out bluntly.