

## Chapter 93 Knox

Our few hours out to the shops and for food alone with Lilah had been amazing. We had laughed and joked, chatting like we usually do, but there was the added bonus of every time we touched I got to feel that spark from her touch...truly heaven...

She seemed reluctant to let me spend money on her, so I made a point of telling her I would just pick things up otherwise so she would be better picking up some things she liked rather than rely on my questionable taste in clothes...though I think I've known her long enough to guess things she'd wear.... But you can never tell with girls....

I loved that she had reached for my hand a few times to lead me to some racks of clothes, the contact between us felt sooo good, but it was the hope it left inside of my heart that perhaps she was enjoying the contact too.... Perhaps there was a hope for us.... I need to stop thinking like this..... I was setting myself up for a fall.....the sun was still shining, though getting lower in the sky as we were getting close to heading back. When I realised one thing I hadn't bought for her was boots! I knew Jake would be expecting them and I had promised...

"Hey we need boots right?" she giggled at me as I spoke.

"I can do without, you haven't seen my collection I already have..." she says.

"I'm sure I will tomorrow when you bring them home..." her face darkened.

"Home?"

She thinks you mean your room..... I realise.

"I was going to ask you tonight, you can still say no, but my suite has two bedrooms, I don't expect you to share my bed don't worry..." Oh I wish you would..... "but obviously we're telling your pack you're my mate, we need as many people to believe it as possible, it doesn't change everything I have said about no pressure. If you decide this isn't what you want down the line that is still ok sweet, ok? But it will be hard on our wolves so having each other near might ease that for them..." I explain " but you will have your own room, your own space"

I felt undecidedly nervous, she was looking at me, "Ok"

Wait, is that it?! She is just agreeing to it? I'd put this off all afternoon dreading how to approach it, and she simply says ok?! Still don't complain, your mate will be living with you!! Your mate...

"Really?" I ask unsure she was actually ok with it.

"Yeah makes sense" she nods.

"Right, lets go find some boots" I grin at her, putting my arm around her shoulders pulling her close to me, right now feeling really happy. All was good in the world....

I had my mate right here... I was about to treat her.. she was smiling... and she would be moving in with me...I would ignore the fact it may not be permanent....

We left the three shoe stores with four pairs of boots, so not quite the one for each day of the week like Jake had suggested, but I could work on that... seeing Lilah's face light up at something as simple as boots melted my heart... though if them boots stood on my feet my heart would not me melting, I would be cursing!!

They were big and chunky and far from lady like, but she loved them, they made her happy so it made me happy. There were a brown pair with thick chunky soles, which reached up to her knees, buckles up her calves. The other three pairs were black with similar variations in chunky soles - all that I knew was if it stood on your toe it would likely crush it. ...one pair was an ankle boot with a zipper... one thigh high with laces up the centre, the other knee high with buckles similar to the brown, so she certainly had a good mixture to add to the ones she said she already had.

She left the store with a beaming big smile on her face, as I carried the bags to my car. She had her arm looped my arm. I couldn't be happier, Knight was content too that his mate was happy. We threw all the bags into the trunk of the car.

"You had fun?" I ask, though the lightness in her step I can see that she has. Maybe getting her away from the struggles will make a difference to her...

She smiles, then suddenly wraps her arms around my neck pulling my face to hers to lightly kiss my cheek. I chuckle at her clumsy attempt at affection as she'd knocked my head as she'd done it.

"I'd tease you for knocking me up side the head but right now I want to kiss you kinda bad" I tell her.

She giggled "I just wanted to say thank you for my things. And I wondered if we would be ok to FaceTime my mum and dad when we get in to tell them stuff before tomorrow? They're my mum and dad."

"Well firstly anytime, and I plan to be doing this again.... And secondly yeah that makes good sense sweet, I can understand that. Now about that kiss..." I grin at her.

"Oh now would you look at that" a high pitch voice interrupts us "we were right she is whoring herself out to Alphas"

Lilah froze, dropping her arms from around my neck "Anya" she whispered.

I turn and there is a young woman striding across the car park, a pregnancy bump clearly visible under her dress. And alongside her was the upcoming Alpha of River Ash Pack Logan. Beside me I could feel Lilah trembling, and could feel my heart race quickening but I knew I had to handle this well ready for tomorrow. I slid my phone from my pocket, pressing a few buttons.

"I'll handle this sweet" I whisper to Lilah. "I beg your pardon?" I look to Anya.

"We had our suspicions she was whoring herself out to Alphas" Logan suddenly spoke up.

"Whoring herself out? That is a member of your pack is it not Mr Ashwood? Not to mention the daughter of your Beta, hardly the correct way to be talking about her is it?" I look to him, it is taking every bit of my strength not to pull him to pieces there and then.

"Oh she's a nobody.." Anya cackled "I'm surprised you're lowering yourself to being near the likes of her Alpha Knox. She wanted my Logan but he was my mate, so you're getting his sloppy seconds there. Nothing but a cheap..."

"Excuse me, but that is not an appropriate way for a future Luna to be talking about one of her own pack, nor about the daughter of their Beta...." I interrupt before she further insults Lilah. I can see confusion and irritation pass over Anya and Logan's faces at me defending Lilah. "As you are full aware Lilah has been working alongside my senior staff for the last few weeks in my businesses, I only had the pleasure of meeting her myself last night..... so do not appreciate you distastefully implying she has been whoring herself around, she has been working for my business as prearranged with your Father Mr Ashwood."

"Certainly looked to be whoring herself out to me" Anya replied, looking down at Lilah with what can only be described as a snarl crossed with a smile.

I do not like this girl...

"I would appreciate you quit that kind of talk, it is inappropriate, distasteful especially for an apparent upcoming Luna and Alpha, especially when you are discussing my mate." I say with such venom as I am beyond angry at the way they have spoken about Lilah. I look to her, she is looking to me, so I reassuringly place my arm around her shoulder and look to the fools in front of us

"Mate?!" Logan yells. "No that can't be true"

"Oh I can assure you it is Logan" Lilah spoke up, I was shocked, she sounded nervous but was pointedly saying her words. "We met for the first time last night, he realised the minute he walked in the room I was his mate...we plan to come and tell the pack tomorrow"

"No, you won't be able to leave... you're needed at pack..." he tried to start speaking. Anya looked to him, a look of sheer annoyance on her face.

She doesn't like he still clings to Lilah...

"I will be returning to pack to inform Alpha, see my parents, and then leaving with my mate Logan. I have a mate now" she stated so matter of factly and while I know it was to get her point across to this dick, it felt good to hear her call me that.

I could see Logan eyeing us both "He hasn't marked you, and you haven't marked him, he isn't your mate is he? Is he forcing you to do this Lilah?" Logan tried again.

"Not that our private life is any of your business but we simply met yesterday, I have no intention of rushing Lilah, she is special and she needs to be treated as such, it's a shame others did not see that" I look to him and his psycho mate, seeing how that description had suited her... "Now if you will excuse us Mr Ashwood we have plans don't we sweet?" I look to Lilah.

She smiles to me "Yes we do. And Logan, no he isn't forcing me. He is my mate. Seems like our moon goddess had better plans for me after all" and she turned away from them and walked to her door and I went with her to open the door for her.

"You kicked ass babe" I kiss her cheek feeling her shaking as she sits herself on the passenger seat of the car. She clearly hadn't felt as confident as she had tried to sound bless her, she smiles up at me as I close the door.

I think we have a trip to make....

I walk round to the drivers side, noticing Logan and Anya were stood further away now, near a car arguing.

Ah well... dicks...

"I'm sorry to that end of a good afternoon" I tell Lilah as I get into the car.

She looks to me "It's ok. You were so good at getting him told! Hmm, well, got it all on here too", I hold up my phone and press play to hear back our conversation all be it a little muffled but you could still hear what was said, "all evidence as to why that guy is not a suitable upcoming Alpha, along with the screenshots you showed me earlier . I want you to show them to your Dad, his Dad and if that ain't enough I am willing to take it to the council. That behaviour isn't ok." I tell her.

"Aren't you just angry because I'm your mate?" She asks.

"A bit yeah but this isn't right, regardless. Look sweet I need to call Jake. We need to go to your pack, because he knows now we need to bring forward what we planned to do tomorrow. I'm sorry..." I explain.

She simply nods.

I press buttons on the dashboard to connect to my phone, and get it call Jake. So it's on speaker. As with us being off pack we'd have no mindlink yet.

"Hey dude is it ok for you and the guys to get together and head to River Ash? Ran in to Logan and his mate as we left the store. He knows me and Lilah are mates now so we need to bring forward the plans." I explain as he answers.

"Sure, I'll round them up and be on our way. Meet you there. Link you when we're near. Where will you be? And is Lilah ok?" He asks, concern in his voice for Lilah, knowing it will have been hard for her to see them...

"Hey J" she speaks. oh he got a new nickname? Nice.... seems she fitting in with my friends well...why can't that happen with me? I find a little hint of jealousy there as she speaks. "I'm ok, Knox was amazing getting him told, standing up for me"

"That's his job you know" I hear Jake chuckle,

"You want to meet at my parents? I want to tell them first. I should do that." I nod at her noticing she didn't acknowledge what Jake had said about it being my job to stand up for her...she definitely fighting this mate bond with all she's got...or simply avoiding it....

"Sounds like a plan. We going with the you been working with me and Manuel yeah, only met Knox last night?" He asks, as I'd explained to him earlier.

"Yeah I think that's best" I tell him.

"All good. I'll get going" he clicks off the phone.

I look to Lilah before I set off driving "Are you ok? That must have been your worst nightmare seeing them." I bite my tongue to stop myself using some nasty words to describe the idiots we had just met...

"It was ok, you were there, that helped" she smiled and looked out of the window.

Again I hoped that was a little victory to me for the working toward her wanting me as a mate if she felt me supporting her was good.