Chapter 96 Lilah

We walk from our house down the garden path in a line, following my Dad to our neighbouring house of Alpha Grayson and Luna Talia, thankfully I knew that Logan now lived in the Packhouse Alpha suite with Anya so they had the much needed privacy she demanded when they were established as mates so I knew they shouldn't be around, we walked along the footpath to the house, a path I was certainly more than familiar with, one I'd walked plenty of times in the past.

Though to be fair I usually did just jump over the garden fence as a short cut, but seeing as my parents were there and we had visitors too it probably wouldn't look good, though right now looking good was the last of my worries as I was dreading this.

I didn't know if Logan had already been in touch with his Dad... I didn't know if him and Anya had already been poisoning his parents against me... I felt sick with nerves... I want to go home.... And the home I realised I was thinking of was Knox's home....

I felt a hand touching mine, and I look round, it is Knox, he is offering me his hand. I smile up to him, as he kisses my head in a reassuring way, had he sensed my unease at the situation?

"You ok sweet?" he whispers as I hear my Dad knock on the door.

I just nod, not trusting myself to speak because in truth I was far from ok right now, I didn't want to be here, I wanted this done with and to get gone. The sky was going dark as we stood in the front garden on the large Alpha house, I felt myself shiver a little, unsure if it was from the disappearing sunshine or the nerves that were settling within my body.

I felt Knox's arm around my shoulder now pulling me closer to him to keep me warm, and while it felt good I didn't think it would look good if the Alpha opened the door to it. So I stepped away and simply shook my head, stepping toward my Dad, leaving Knox stood behind me, a hurt expression on his face...

Great I feel even worse now.. I hurt his feelings... I'd explain later... either that or he'd have to get over it... the door opened and there was Logan....

What the actual fuck?! He shouldn't be here... oh this wasn't going to go well... I could see the tension instantly on my Dad's face, so I could only imagine what the faces of Knox and the others would be like.

"Uncle Trent! Hey! What you doing here?!..." Logan said with such fakeness to his voice.

He knows exactly why we would be here...

"Hey Logan, is your Dad home please?" my Dad was blunt and to the point "I did tell him we were coming, all of us" he motions to the group of us standing behind <u>him</u>.

Logans eyes fall to the group behind my Dad, then his eyes drop to me, moving to Knox, then back to me before slowly shaking his head...

Lilah... you cant be serious about going through with this.. I was suddenly linked by Logan.

"Oh hey guys" Uncle Grayson was suddenly at the door "you could have let them in Logan, be a decent host at least. Come on in.. Alpha Knox, Beta Jake," he spoke, holding the door open as everyone walked into the house "guys" nodding to Dan, Gabe and Manuel which made me think he maybe didn't know their names.

"Do you want to come into the dining room, we have more seats in there, Talia will sort drinks for you all, sure Sadie can help" he smiles to my Mum.

He looks perfectly at ease, and I assume my Dad has given him some idea of why we are here so he seems ok with it all, hopefully this may go ok....

You cant keep ignoring me Lilah... I'm still your senior. Logan linked again. This time I put a block on my links from him, not wanting to hear any more from him. I could already feel tears in my eyes.... My breathing was quickening...

"Oh hello again Alpha" I heard Anya's voice purr fakely from the doorway to the living room as we passed as we walked down the hallway to the dining room.

Oh no.. she was here too... I want to go.... I stop mid step, my breathing is fast... my chest is hurting...

Knox is straight by my side, his hand on my lower back guiding me, his mouth next to my ear "We can do this.... " he whispers "I am with you sweet"

He was next to me, holding me even though I'd upset him.....

I took a deep breath and walked with him to the dining room, taking a seat along side both Knox and my Dad at the large table, Alpha Grayson was on the other side, Jake came and sat alongside Knox but Gabe, Dan and Manuel chose to stand behind us.

Logan walked in behind us all "I want to be here for this Dad" he states, looking at nobody other than me when he speaks.

"Is there any need Logan? It's just an informal chat" Alpha Grayson spoke up, I could see my Dad was doing all he could not to react to Logan being near.

I don't think he will ever see Logan the same again... they used to be quite close.. saw him like family...

"Doesn't look too informal when he's bought a small gang with him. I'm staying. Besides Lilah is my friend, you all seem to have forgotten that somewhere along the line" Logan still was yet to take his eyes from me, I could feel Knox reach for my hand, I gladly took it not wanting to make eye contact with Logan, hating that he was here.

He sat himself down opposite me at the table, he had barely changed since we were together but when I did force myself to look at him I realised there was no feelings of love there anymore, I wasn't even sure I could call him a friend anymore after the pain he and his mate had caused me.

I could see his eyes glazing over, a look of frustration on his face.... was he trying to link me again? Well he isn't going to get chance, I kept my block up so he wasn't able to. I do not want to speak to him...

I felt Knox squeeze my hand, bringing his mouth to my ear again "Don't let him get to you sweet. I'm here with you, we've got this" he whispers, I look to him, looking into his beautiful brown eyes, there is concern in them but more than anything I can see affection and care...that scares me a little....

"Here we go... drinks..." Auntie Talia said as she and my Mum walked in with trays of drinks for us, placing them on the tables, before taking a seat alongside their respective men.

"Well I can only assume you have some news Lilah?" Uncle Grayson speaks... here goes....

"Well Alpha Grayson, as you are aware Lilah has been working at my businesses, and may I say doing amazingly according to my Beta and my other staff who have been working alongside her." Knox said, taking charge of the situation, so I let him. "I tend not to work at the offices working remotely from the pack house so I can deal with pack issues too so I had yet to meet Lilah but as I said had heard great things about her and her ideas for the business. They were working late yesterday due to completion of a deal, and by the time they were done we had had reports of rogue attacks within the area so Jake contacted me with concerns for Lilah's safety travelling home alone at that hour.." he continued.

He had adapted the story slightly to fit our version of events for them. "So I advised them to leave her car at the office and return home to the pack house with her and she could stay in one of our guest rooms, as I did not want to put her at any risk travelling alone when there are rogues around. I understand her Mother agreed it was sensible when she messaged her about it too. It was upon Lilah being at the pack house that I met her for the first time, and well, we discovered.. she is in fact my mate..." he looked to me, smiling.

Alpha Grayson was nodding, Logan next to him was tense in anger, his jaw tight with fury.

"That is wonderful news Lilah" Alpha Grayson spoke.

"You believe that?" Logan spoke.

Wait? Did he know something?? What did he mean? Why did he have to cause issues.

"What is that supposed to mean Logan?" My Dad looked to him, clenching his jaw, I had a feeling he was doing that to stop himself saying a lot more.

"Lilah has been working for them for weeks, surely she will have seen the boss before now..." Logan starts.

"Erm may I interrupt?" Manuel speaks up from behind us.

Alpha Grayson nods in his direction.

"The businesses while they are primarily Alpha Knox's are run mainly by Beta Jake, Gamma Dan, Gabriel and myself. We have been close friends since childhood and are very close, so when Alpha Knox offered us shares in the business as well as managing roles we clearly did not refuse our best friend or the opportunity to invest in him. We all have major rolls within the pack also; so will alternate who will be in the office but there is always one of us for each of the businesses at the office when needed, but we also have more than capable senior staff at the offices capable of doing what is needed. We are also able to do our rolls remotely, like Alpha Knox does so can do it from the Pack House. This is how our business runs as well as it does sir." He nods to Alpha Grayson.

"Lilah has been working alongside Beta Jake mainly or myself, there has been no major meeting in the last few week so no cause for Alpha Knox to be at the office so they had yet to meet. We were as surprised as you were sir to find they were mates, but have to say we are beyond happy, they seem a perfect match for one another and I am sure they will have a wonderful future together" he spoke calmly and confidently.

Alpha Grayson looked to Logan "Why make yourself look so rediculous, he is an Alpha, what seems wrong in what he just explained?!"

Oh this might work.....

"No I don't think so... she visits indie, she lives at the pack house so you telling me she hasn't met him before there? I'm telling you something doesn't add up... he isn't her mate.... He's forcing her to be his mate...." Logan states glaring at Knox.

"Logan!" auntie Talia says, "you can't say things like that."

I see Knox clenching his fist, he is clearly annoyed by what he has just heard. I need to sort this.

"Uncle Grayson, I can assure you I am not being forced to be anyone's mate..."

"I never thought that for a moment sweetheart, I apologise for my sons ridiculous accusations Alpha Knox" Alpha Grayson says.

"I did go and visit Indie, but we often met in the gardens to paint, or in town, and I believe the occasional time I did go to the pack house was when Alpha Knox was out of town on business..." I explain feeling the need to clear that query up from Logan, despite it being a lie...

"This is wonderful news Lilah, you must be so excited to have found your mate!" Auntie Talia says to me "and an Alpha too! We always said you would make a wonderful Luna, it seems the moon goddess had another pack in mind to bless that privilege on"

I see Knox look to me and smile, and I swear I see a big smile on my Dads face. Wait Jake is smiling too.. do they all think I'm going to be Luna....No..

My thoughts are disturbed by Logan's fist hitting the table "I don't think Lilah should be going. She seems unsure...." Wait he knows? "We need her here at pack, I planned to have her help me in running pack as a female Beta actually when I take over as Alpha... plus with her business skills I think she could massively benefit the pack.... It is not sensible to allow her to leave... and I don't think she is happy to leave... you all forget I know her better than anyone else.... We have a connection that you don't understand despite everything.... And I know this won't be what she wants...she won't want to leave me or this pack." He blurts out.

All the eyes in the room are on Logan, all in shock for what he has just said . I can't quite believe what he has just said to be honest... we have a connection? That has been long gone... he knows me better than anyone? Not anymore... won't want to leave him?! Haha I planned to go rogue to get away from him!!

"Logan! You cannot say things like that. I am Alpha and she has every right to leave to be with her mate. You have a mate, and a baby on the way. Do not be so ridiculous!!" Alpha Grayson yelled "I apologise Alpha Knox"

I saw Knox was about to speak so I butted in standing up as I did "Let me tell you something Logan, we do not have any kind of connection anymore, yes once we did, but things change and you know exactly why that is, you think you know me better than anyone, I think you will find you are wrong. I would not want to be your Beta, you would be a lousy Alpha and your father will be finding that out very soon trust me! And as for me not wanting to leave you or this pack?! Don't make me laugh, the shit you and your mate put me through lately had put me to the point I was contemplating going rogue to escape you and this hell hole of a pack!! It was a blessing from Selene that Alpha Knox came into my life when he did, as it meant I had a safe way out of here to a place I would be loved and cared for. So don't try to be acting like you care when in truth you want me to stay for your own selfish reasons you total dick" I was shaking, everyone was looking at me.

I think I said too much, I just called my future Alpha a dick...in front of my current Alpha, his Dad.... I feel Knox hold my hand and squeeze it.

"Well it seems there is more going on that I'm aware of..." Uncle Grayson said "but Lilah if things are as bad as they sound to the point you would contemplate going rogue because of Logan I am so sorry sweetheart... I wish you could speak to me. I am glad you have found your mate, and I hope he will offer you the love and care you deserve... we know how special you are, Alpha Knox I ask that you take care of her. We love her like our own family, despite our son apparently treating her questionably recently. Their situation was complicated, perhaps partly our own fault... I hope she trusts you enough to tell you about it all one day... but fate had a different plan for our Lilah, and our moon goddess chose you as her mate for a reason... I ask that you cherish her Alpha Knox"

Wait... had she chosen him for a reason? What would happen if I reject him? This was getting harder...

Knox pulled me to his knee, and smiled at Uncle Grayson "I hope to do exactly that"

Suck up...

I was aware of auntie Talia watching me "Lilah, my darling, you thought of going rogue because of him? Why did you never come to us? Or your mama or pops sweet girl?" There were tears in her eyes.

I felt Knox's arms tighten around my waist.

"She's exaggerating mom, you know how hung up on me she was when she found out I was mates to Anya. She was probably planning to do it for attention...." Logan looked to his mum.

Wow.. so he was going to play it like that. I could sense the anger from my dad and the men around me, the men that knew what had actually gone on, the men that I knew wanted to protect me.

"I think it's about time we had a chat Alpha Grayson" my Dad suddenly spoke "I may need your phones son" he looks to Knox.

I see Logan raise his eyebrow at the familiarity between my Dad and Knox though even I was surprised by it. "I'd appreciate if Logan could leave though".

Alpha Grayson nods "Out please Logan"

"You going to let your Beta dictate to you?" Logan demanded to his Dad.

"Well when I agree with him I am. Certainly not going to let you dictate to me after how you just behaved. I'm still the Alpha. Now I said out".

Logan gave my Dad a dirty look before walking from the room. Though I had a feeling he would be hanging around the door trying to hear what was being said.

"Look I'll show you these things first then I'll let these guys get home, I'm sure they've had a long day and I'm sure Alpha Knox wants to get Lilah settled at home" my Dad speaks "we can talk more about the details once they've gone and I will update them"

Uncle Grayson nods, looking unsure what was going on. I open the screen shots. And slide the phone to my dad, my stomach is churning, unsure what the reaction is going to be when they see these... would they believe me?... surely they had to?.... I hope so....

My dad looks to me and smiles, we got this sweetheart. You are not on your own anymore he mindlinked me. I smile back to him as I watch him pass the phone to my Uncle.

"These are messages over the last number of months Alpha, from both Logan and Anya as you will see, they are self explanatory really.." my Dad explains as I watch Uncle Grayson begin to read and scroll through them, I see his eyebrows raise in surprise....

I look to my Dad his eyes are not moving from watching my Uncle, probably trying to read for a reaction, I notice Auntie Talia looking over my Uncle shoulder at the phone so I guess she too is looking at the messages... I see tears in her eyes... I see my Uncles face darken, a deep furrow across his brow..... I guess he is angry too....I hate that I am doing this to the people close to me.... But they shouldn't be allowed to get away with what they've done.....

Auntie Talia's hand goes to her mouth, I see a few tears run down her cheeks. I can't do this.... I stand up and walk out from the room, I can't go over all this again... they will hate me for destroying the image they have of their son... I walk for the front door, hearing voices behind me but in my state of mind I can't hear who they are... I flee from the front door.

Lilah you don't want to do this... Logan links me, I realise I have let my block down in my rush to leave the house he can't love you like I do... he will never have the connection we have ... I block him again and I run, shifting as I do, letting Sky take over, letting her free... I needed to get away....