

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 47

Chapter 47 Bailey

Oh goddess, the happy one's face at the things his Uncle and former Alpha had suggested looked like he had suggested be allowed me to go and s**t on his bed or something. Beta Asher was not exactly doing much to hide his displeasure at the suggestion. Though Lam quickly learning this man does not have many friendly facial expressions anyway, but the one currently upon his face looked like he wanted to go and attack his Uncle. Who, incidentally, had wandered out of the room happily humming to himself like he was extremely pleased with himself. Something told me he enjoyed irritating the

Beta

Not that it did me any favors, as it now left me alone with the big bundle of happiness, unsure what to do or what to say, and now the room was in a very awkward silence. In all honesty, I didn't particularly want to be spending that much time with the Beta, so the things the former Alpha had suggested sounded h**nd**s, but I remained with a neutral expression upon my face to be polite. Evidently not a skill Mr Cheerful here had discovered.

"Erm..." Beta Asher began, avoiding my gaze, looking anywhere he could within the room other than at me. How was this a fully grown man? He had no people skills.....

"It is fine." I said sharply, instantly irritated by his actions. "I do not expect any of that." I told him. knowing the thought evidently disgusted him. And, as I said, it didn't particularly fill me with pleasure

either....

I heard a big sigh of relief from the Beta while Akira was chuckling in my mind. Did he think we would want to spend time with him?' she says. "I don't think my brain could take it. Imagine all the happiness!" she adds sarcastically. And she sure has a point. Once I have my induction, I think he will be one I avoid within the pack.

"Erm..." Beta Asher began again, sounding both uncomfortable and awkward, but he seemed determined to explain himself. "Erm, it is just that I have work to do as well as this induction." He says with what I could only describe as an uncomfortable expression upon his face.

"Is he constipated or is he trying to smile? Akira asked, and I had to bite my lip to stop myself smiling at her words. "Either way, I don't believe a word of it

He is the Beta, so he probably does have work to do. I told her.

"If he is as good as he so clearly believes he is, and acts like he is, then a break to give you your induction wouldn't affect his work. Akira says with a chuckle. She seemed to find the behavior of this new Beta quite amusing, to say the least. I, however, find him quite irritating.

"I can wait for the induction until Luna Eden is better if that would be easier for you? Less of an inconvenience to you." I told him, standing awkwardly by the door.

He stood up quickly from his desk, making me step back a little. "Did I say this was an inconvenience?" he snapped. Okay, I seemed to have angered the beast.

Akira growled within my mind his temper. She wasn't finding him quite so amusing now. My heart was pounding, and I felt a little intimidated by this grumpy f**r in front of me. I took a deep breath. "It isn't always what you say, Beta Asher, sometimes actions speak louder than words." I told him, my voice a little wobbly. And his actions since I had arrived had more than told me he would rather not be

I saw him taking me in as I stood anxiously by the door, and I am certain I saw his face drop at my words "Well, if that is the case, I apologize. Shall we go and begin this induction, Miss West? Because I wasn't actually lying when I said I had work to do after this. I have an increased workload while Luna Eden is unwell.

I felt bad now, he seemed genuinely sorry, and I obviously did not know he was taking on additional work so his friend and the pack Alpha could be there for his pregnant mate. Don't feel sorry for him. He will make you feel guilty, then be an a** again. Either that or he'll just eat you because you got on his nerves or looked at him the wrong way! Akira says with a weird little chuckle, like she found herself funny. Well she would have to find herself funny, because right now I wasn't.

"You can call me Bailey, you know?" I told him. having wondered why he kept calling me Miss West ever since my arrival. It was beginning to drive me crazy. It sounded far too formal, and I would rather make the situation feel less formal and more friendly.

"I will try to remember. He says curtly. I don't think this guy knows how to do friendly. "Did Eden, sorry. Luna Eden show you the school when you came for your interview?" he asked, like he was trying to change the subject quickly.

"Briefly." I answered.

-We could go and look at the school properly if you wish. I imagine you would like to see where you will be working. I know I would. It is a lovely little school for the younger children." Beta Asher explained, and I am actually surprised he had thought of it in that way, but I had been desperate to get to the school and have a proper look around, see where my new workplace would be, so he had definitely not been wrong in his words.

I smiled and nodded in response. "Is Luna Eden okay, do you know?" I asked.

“Just the baby causing issues, she struggles in the later stages. She did with their first too, though not quite this much. The doctor said perhaps because of her smaller build. It will all be worth it when their little one is here. But. I don’t think that helps her when she is finding the pregnancy difficult and suffering. She says she won’t have anymore, but she said that after Matty, so I do not bank on that.” he says as we walk through the packhouse, his voice is quite calming when you listen to him talking. Animated and interesting, but when I find myself glancing across at him. there looks to be little or no emotion upon his face nor within his eyes. Like he is dead inside.

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Chapter 48 Jordan

Saying our goodbyes to Bailey had been difficult, but leaving her there at Autumn Valley Pack had felt right. I knew she would be better there than she ever would be in our pack, and she seemed so positive. about this new teaching role. This is what she had worked so hard for, for so long. She deserved it, and I hoped she would thrive now she had the job of her dreams. We just needed to do our part now and deal with the s**t back in our pack. Ensure Miles got everything he deserved.

The drive back across to pack had been long, and we were all ready to get some food, but had been determined not to stop and make the drive home as quickly as we could. There was far 100 much to deal with when we got home, and the thoughts of any delays in getting there were not ideal, so we had agreed it would be a direct journey. My Dad seemed full of positivity about the things we had to do, so I could only hope his plans were possible. He immediately took to Gia, which made me happy. That is all I wanted, my family to accept my mate, and they had. I just hoped she would like our pack and settle in there when we finally had things sorted there.

We were about half an hour from pack now and Gia was snoozing lightly in the back of the car. “You are happy now son?” My Dad asked me, as he glanced across the car toward me as I drove.

“With my mate, yes. Everything else I want to sort out, Dad. There is so much unsettled.” I told him, having waited until Gia actually settled to be able to talk to him, and I think my Dad had waited for the same. “It unnerves me. The things that have been going on and we had no clue. The things he has been capable of, and we didn’t know,”

“I understand, and I am the same. We can only do so much though. We need your Uncle to listen. If your Uncle does not listen, we have the power of the werewolf council if needed. Your Uncle will not want that. He will not want the risk of them in pack, no pack does.” My Dad tells me, but I still fear what the reaction of Miles is going to be when he learns of all of this happening behind his back. This is not just one thing, this is many things, by a number of people he considers close to him. Many betrayals by many people. He would be seriously angered. He and his wolf could go on a rampage if not handled properly.

Not only that, he was yet to learn that Bailey had been brave enough to go against all the orders he had thrown at her, and leave the pack without the permission of him or his Dad. However, she did have the permission of our Dad, who was the pack Beta, and when Uncle hears the things that Miles has done he will have to see why it was important for Bailey to leave. She was never going to be safe here. It never made sense to me that he rejected her, yet kept her here. A small part of me wonders if he still wanted her. Or if he simply gained some sick pleasure from it all.

may

“What if he goes looking for Bailey, Dad?” I asked him, because I know there is a strong chance that he

1. He seemed to see her as his possession, so there was a strong chance he might go to Autumn Valley demanding her return, but I hoped Bailey would speak to the Alpha and allow them to protect her. But, knowing her, she was too shy, and would not want to cause any problems for the pack and would not say anything. Likely terrified, they would judge her for the situation that wasn't even her fault.

“I briefly explained the situation to the former Alpha. He is aware. He said it would not be discussed, but if she needs help she will have it. She will be

fine there. My Dad told me, taking me by surprise. He had gone behind Bailey's back to discuss this with his old friend, but I have to say, I am glad he did, if that meant my sister was safe. We had done a terrible job so far in keeping her safe.

“I believe so, but we have another issue, which I was a little unsure of mentioning. Bailey overheard your sister on the phone with Miles. It would appear your friend is involved with Morgan in some way. My Dad's words bounced around within my mind, trying to make sense. No. That cannot be right.

Why would he be involved with my youngest sister? She had a mate out there. I knew she had always had a bit of a crush on Miles, but so had the majority of the younger she-wolves in the pack, so I thought nothing of it. I don't think it is uncommon for she-wolves in the pack to have a bit of a crush on their Alpha, especially one as handsome as Miles. Though, I suppose, any given an opportunity would take it... but what didn't make sense to me, was, after being fated to Bailey, why would Miles choose to pick Morgan to date? Were they even dating? No.. just no!

“Are you sure?!” I snapped, my hands tightened around the steering wheel in anger. He was dangerous. He was not right for her.

“From what Bailey overheard. I think we need to speak to Morgan.” He says with a sad smile. “She will think it is wonderful, as would any of the she-wolves in the pack”

“Could this be in a bid to get at Bailey?” I asked. I hate that it sounds almost critical towards Morgan, but it was the first thought that came to my mind. That Miles would use my youngest sister to get at Bailey. Or to gain information on her to hurt her....

“Hmm, that could be true, but you know Morgan will not be willing to hear that, and Morgan does not know of their situation. My Dad tells me, as we pulled up at the pack gates, the guard waving at us as we did, to allow us through into the pack.

“You didn’t tell her yet?” I asked, unsure how this would go down. “What about Mum?”

“Not properly” Dad says, running his hand through his dark hair, now dappled with the occasional gray, I think having us as his kids was definitely taking its toll. “I wanted to get Bailey away, and then come back and deal with the rest.

I can see his logic, but my Mum would not be happy being kept in the dark. Today or the next few days was not going to be easy. But, this was what was needed to move forward, and put our pack on the right path again, because with Miles as the planned next Alpha with the person he had changed into, we were on a path into the fiery pits of hell, of that I was certain.

I turned onto our road, driving closer to our house, and as I did, I saw a familiar figure sitting on our porch steps. I looked across to my Dad, instantly knowing this was not going to go as we had planned at

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Chapter 49 Miles

Finished

I had managed to evade my father for most of the day. Hunting down the warrior who p**d m**e off has not gone my way, so I have a few people asking around for him. The hospital staff said he was discharged, which implies to me, he recovered awfully quickly, so evidently I didn’t do enough damage after all. So, I think I may need to find him again.

Someone to take my anger out on, because quite frankly that is what is rippling through my body the majority of the time right now. Seeing Ellis in this sickly loved-up state with his new mate is beyond sickening. Yes, his new mate is hot. A former cheerleader. **g wh**pee doo for Ellis. Once again, I don’t get how that worked, he got this curvy, vivacious little lady, who cannot do enough for him, giggling sweetly at everything he says, and I got f** Bailey West with her out of control mane of curls and her over the top brain power and intelligence.

Ellis had been different in recent days since he caught me attacking the warrior. If anything, I would say he was avoiding me, and that irritated me. But, then he had this

new mate too, and no doubt they had things to be seeing to as well. That meant spending time with friends and family would most certainly be taking a back seat, much like Jordan who had done a runner to the pack of his mate to get to know her better before bringing her back here to settle in. Both whipped by their little ladies, it would seem. Pathetic f**rs I would much rather have the freedom of a single life where I get to have

77k of any she-wolf I want, and then I can toss them to the side when I am bored with them.

Morgan, however, was proving to be quite fun. She seemed so desperate to please me, so I had kept her around for longer than usual, though she had yet to give anything up to me properly yet. But, the real reason I was using her was to gain information on the b**h of a sister of hers. Inside information, of course, because Jordan was f**g clueless as to what was going on within his sister's life or her mind. So, I decided to try getting to know Morgan, and it soon proved that she was more than willing to give up more than her time for me.

Morgan was definitely the prettier of the two West sisters, and going from what I have experienced the easiest too. Not that I had ever tried anything with Bailey, nor would I want to. The thought repulses me. But, I knew that me spending time with her sister would get under her skin. And, thankfully, Morgan had not questioned a thing. She was just simply desperate to please her Alpha.

It was upon one of our video calls, after I had convinced Morgan to do a little strip tease for me, that we were sitting chatting, and she briefly mentioned that she hadn't seen her sister since yesterday, which raised my suspicion. My anger began increasing as I felt my wolf Jet pushing forward, desperate to go. and look for her. That b**h was meant to stay within our packlands. I needed her here to maintain my strength. She may not be my mate after I rejected her, but a fated mate gave their fated one their strength, right? I needed her!

"Where is she then?" I demanded.

"Not sure." Morgan said nonchalantly, like it was unimportant.

"Well, do you not think you should f**g check?!" I snapped, and her eyes shot to me on the screen, confused.

"Why are you so bothered? It is only Bailey." she argued. And I suddenly realized that she would be wondering about my overreaction. But I did not care. How can she not have seen her own sister since yesterday? They lived in the same house for f**k's sake!

"Ask your Dad, he has to know where she is right? He keeps tabs on you all, right? Or mindlink her." |

told her.

“Not seen my Dad, for that matter. But, I will try mindlinking if it means so much to you” she almost snarled at me through the video call, and I realized at this point the fact we had become closer had meant Morgan had become a little too confident. Too c**k **y, and I did not like it. She would not be talking to me like that again.

But, something she said bothered me more right now. So she had not seen her Dad either? Both her Dad and Bailey had not been seen since yesterday? Jet snarled at that thought. Our very own Beta had betrayed our orders and helped his daughter to leave the pack. I believe. Yet, for some reason, I do not feel surprised. Well, if I found that to be the case, then he would live to regret it. I would make sure of

“Erm, there is no connection to the mindlink, so I don’t think they are in pack” Morgan says with an awkward smile. “Can’t we just carry on what we were doing? We were having fun, Miles She said. fluttering her lashes at me, seductively.

Previously, that sight would turn me on, but right now it simply irritated me. I needed to deal with the f**k of a dad of hers who thought it’s acceptable to betray us, and the st*d b***h of a sister. And deal with them, I would. I would make sure of it.

“No, I don’t think they are in pack. Which means I want answers, Morgan.” I told her, and the little w**e rolled her eyes at me, further irritating me.

“Look Miles, you wanted my attention, you had it, now you are here having a hissy fit over my sister, want to tell me what that is all about?” Morgan said, sounding more like the teenage girl Bailey had been when I rejected her.

I smirked. “Oh, did you forget your place there, did you, Morgan? Because if I am not mistaken. I never agreed to anything with you. And I am still the upcoming Alpha. So f*g r**emember your place and do not talk to me like that! Your sister is a pack member who was told she should not leave the pack. and yet here we are. It appears she has left the pack with the help of your father, so yes, as the upcoming Alpha, I would say I have every right to be p**d. If you don’t like it, you know where the f**k off button is.” and with that I hung up. I would not have anything else to do with her. She was not worth my time nor my energy. I would not be spoken to like that by anybody.

Jet was once more rippling beneath my skin. I was tempted to go for a run, let my wolf out, but I knew with the mood he was in, he would likely rip the place apart, so I pushed him back. I had something else I wanted to do. I walked out of my house, and went to sit on their front porch. I knew Jordan was on his way home because he had texted to let me know.

So I would wait and speak to him, demand answers from him, because without a doubt he had to have spoken to his Dad. If I found my friend knew about this and had betrayed my trust too, then he would be made to pay too. I would wait for as long as it took until

they got home. The longer I waited would mean the more time my anger had to simmer. But I was good with that. More anger, meant more punishments for them. I would wait for as long as it took to deal with them. All of them, the way I see fit. I would not tolerate being unglorified by some old f**t who thinks he has the right to go against the decisions made by me. I would make him pay.

As for Bailey, I would bring her back to the pack where she belonged, kicking and screaming if needs would not be going anywhere.

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Chapter 50 Bailey

Well, I had my detailed tour of the new school I would be working at, and who knew a four could be quite so detailed... it seems Beta Asher is a s**k**r for the finer details. maybe a little OCD lingering under that mean and moody exterior... but, still, I now knew every inch of the school, in great detail, and I loved it! Now the two of us were walking through the packlands, while the happy one did his best at showing me around.

Bless him, it was so obvious to me that he was not comfortable in the company of others, or maybe it was just in the company of me... but he looked so uneasy I felt bad for him.

Do you want me to go back to my room?" I asked, looking up at him with a polite smile.

"What? Why would I want to go to your room?" he almost choked on his words, and I had to try to stop myself laughing at him. Is that what he actually thought I was suggesting?

What in all holy hell does he think we are proposing? Akira almost squealed within my mind. sounding truly horrified, and to be honest I found it more amusing that he had misheard me. Though, I was a little insulted at how disgusted he looked. I wasn't that bad...

"Woah there sailor, I think you need to get your hearing tested! I most definitely was not inviting you back to my room. Oh, hell no!" I grinned at him, and saw his cheeks flushing with color at my words. "I simply said would you rather me go back to my room. As in alone. You know, meaning without you.

He ran his hand through his hair uncomfortably, and sighed. "Okay, don't make it worse than it was.

Haha. Worse for him, he means, I quite like him looking uncomfortable. Make it worse. Say more! Make it worse!' Akira urges, and once again I am trying hard not to smile.

I bit my lip to prevent myself from saying anything, and looked ahead as we continued walking. I feel Beta Asher's eyes upon me, and I try so hard not to look at him, because I know the moment I do I will laugh, and with Akira's input I don't think I would be able to stop...

"You're trying not to laugh, aren't you?" he said, with a little huff to his tone.

"No.... what gave you that idea?" I struggled to speak.

"I can just tell. Not to mention the fact you are nearly eating your lip." He says, and again his eyes are. still upon me, though I sense a little humor in his tone this time, and I slowly move my gaze to his, and I note a small smile upon his lips.

"It was kind of funny." I whispered.

"No, it was embarrassing, Miss West. He says just as quietly.

"Will you please just call me Bailey?" I asked him, with a roll of my eyes. "I am not your teacher, you know. And it doesn't need to be embarrassing, just laugh it off. You know how to laugh, right?"

He suddenly stopped walking and gave me a sharp and dirty look, his eyebrows raised at me, like he did not quite believe I had asked him that.

"S**t. You pi**d him off. Take it back. Take it back Akira urges me. Though I don't think he knows what laughing is, she adds with a giggle.

"Seriously?" he asked. "Of course I know how to laugh. I just don't find you funny,"

"Oooh roasted!" Akira was giggling again.

"Well, excuse me. I do apologize for not being funny enough for you, Mr Cheerful." I said with a smirk, and he shook his head at me as he began to walk again.

Keep up, Miss West, I still have the rest of the pack to show to you." he said to me, with a glance back at me. his big green eyes looking straight at me.

'You don't want me to go back to my room?" I asked, surprised, as he had said he had work to do. Yet he was taking his time showing me around what seemed like every inch of the pack.

"I believe I said I would do your induction, and I plan to do it properly." He said to me with a smile. "And it has not been as bad as I thought."

I chuckled. "Aww, was that an attempt at a compliment there, Beta Asher?"

I would not go that far, Miss West. I simply said doing the induction was not as bad as I thought. I do not usually do them. But, as I said earlier, I do have work to do, so speed up.” He said to me with a nod “Because the pace you walk, I will still be doing this at Christinas.”

Wow. What a guy. Gone from what I thought was a compliment to insulting me. Truly remarkable.

D**k...

“Oh, because I hurt your feelings, you are going to be mean to me now?” I said sarcastically. “Bad news for you is, I am used to people doing that, so it won’t work.”

He looked at me with a frown. “What does that mean?”

Oh... maybe I shouldn’t have said that. His tone did not sound impressed. I didn’t expect him to pay attention to what I had said, or at least not ask questions. Hmm, what do I do now?

“Oh, nothing major.” I did my best to dismiss it, not wanting to be explaining to the man with no heart nor a sense of humor the stuff I dealt with growing up. He would likely think that was normal.

“No, I want to know what you meant.” He says, and this time his voice sounds irritated. “Is that why you had to come here so quickly?”

“What?” My heart was beginning to pound now. Where did that question come from? How was that even related to this conversation?! And, why did he need to know about my sudden need to come here quickly?

“I found it quite odd that you had to come here so suddenly, usually processing a new job could take a few days to a few weeks, depending on the papers. Usually closer to weeks. Yet with you, we needed to have a space ready the next day, And for some reason nobody could give me an answer as to why. So, perhaps, now you have said that, you will explain why” Beta Asher is watching me again, but now I feel myself feeling suddenly anxious. Was there a way to get out of this one? Because I truly do not feel comfortable telling this moody monster of a man anything

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Chapter 51 – Asher

This girl in front of me looks on edge, and it makes me feel uncomfortable. Well, in truth, being around her in general has made me feel uncomfortable. I do not like being around people I do not know... no, scratch that, I do not particularly like being around any

people anymore. But, was doing my best at the induction, and she seemed to be enjoying herself.

The way her face lit up at the different things I showed her within the school made me want to show her more, so I found more things to show her, so the tour of the school took longer than it probably needed to, but she would now know where everything was.

But, this conversation has since made me uneasy. She had implied things that didn't sit right with me. Was she here because she wasn't welcome in her own pack? She had been the Beta's daughter for f**k's sake... they were stereotypically popular... and it wasn't like she wasn't beautiful, she was stunning... she was clearly a character too. I could see that with the cheeky interactions she was attempting with me. So was that not what you would consider the whole package? Smart, beautiful, funny and evidently kind and caring, being a teacher... so why would she not be welcome in her own pack?

No. Something about this girl and her past did not add up. I watched her as we continued to walk through the pack, and she fidgeted nervously with her hands as an awkward silence had fallen between us. She was unsure what to say to me. Even Zion was on edge with her now, and he had been enjoying the back and forth with her literally moments before... not many people do that with me, and he found it amusing.

"Bailey, I would appreciate knowing the reason you came here. I worry about the safety of our pack." I explained to her, surprising myself by using her first name as I had been formal so far, but I have to say her name sounded good on my lips...

She glanced across at me with a dark expression. "Your pack isn't at risk. It will be that is." she said, and I could hear the tears in her voice.

"And what does that mean?" I found myself asking. "Because if you are at risk would that not mean the pack is?"

"Oh for f**k's sake, should I just go back? Would that be better for you, Beta Asher? It took me long enough to get away from him. But if it is that much of an issue for you, I will just go back. Let him have his own way. Be his prisoner in his pack despite not being good enough for him. Would that be better for you?" she yelled, before rushing off, leaving me standing open-mouthed at her rant. Where the hell did that come from?

'Well, aren't you a p**k?' Zion helpfully adds, causing me to block out my own wolf, truly not needing him to make me feel any worse for what I had just caused, because I could now hear Bailey crying as she rushed away from me. F**k it. I do not like crying women... especially not when it was my fault they were crying.

My mind is spinning with all the things Bailey had thrown at me just then, but I know the decent thing to do is to go after her. I don't know what had gone off in her pack or her life, but evidently something has happened to cause her to seek refuge within our pack.

Did Eden know of this? If she did, why hadn't she explained this properly to us, so I could have avoided this sort of s**tshow?

"Bailey, wait." I called after her as I ran to catch up with her, and as she turned to look at me, I saw tears glistening down her cheeks. D**n, I feel like a d**k now. Everything she said sounded like she had been through enough s**t, and I likely made it worse.

"It is fine, Beta Asher, I will head back to my room and get my things." She nodded at me, wiping her eyes. "I will message Luna Eden and explain that this won't work out."

Oh s**t. Eden would kill me.

"Bailey please, give me a moment?" I asked, motioning with my hands to the treeline not far away. Maybe a walk through the forest could be a good place to talk. At least we wouldn't be disturbed.

"Are you going to kill me?" she suddenly asked, and I couldn't help myself but laugh. I have no clue where this girl gets her ideas from, and I know laughing at her isn't the right thing to do either, but her question was just so random.

"Why would I be killing you?" I asked.

"Don't know, my wolf said, and my head is a bit battered, so I just wondered." She sniffed, wiping away another tear. I can't help but smile.

"I don't make a habit of killing people, especially not ones we have just employed. Luna Eden would have my balls on skewers if I did that. I was suggesting a walk so we could talk. I think I likely owe you an apology." I said, hating having to apologize, but I know in this instance I do need to.

She frowned at me. "That hurt, did it?"

I smiled again. "Funny."

"It is fine. We don't need to talk. It won't change things." She said, taking a deep breath like she was trying to push back the thoughts of everything that had happened. I know that action, one I have done many a time myself. The difference is, I think this girl is struggling to push things back, or things were becoming too much for her to manage.

"Bailey, you are part of our pack now. Do you not think we should know what happened, so we could help?" I asked, curiosity was killing me now. I truly wanted to know what had happened to her to make her scared so much she wanted to get away from her pack. Who was keeping her like a prisoner in her own pack?

"My own family only just found out, that was hard enough." She told me as we began to walk toward the forest.

“They didn’t know?” I asked, no clue what they didn’t know, but desperate to learn, and to keep the conversation going.

Bailey slowly shakes her head. “Messed up, right? It is easy to be missed when you are the middle child who is an embarrassment.”

“Your father did not seem embarrassed of you.”

“I don’t know.” She shrugged, and as I looked across to her again, I saw her wipe away another stray tear. Whatever this is that happened, it still hurts her. Maybe I shouldn’t force her to talk about it. She doesn’t know me. And from the things she has said to me, she certainly doesn’t think too highly of me. Maybe I should let her settle here and decide if she wants to open up to us about it, likely to Eden. I knew it was not going to be me. I didn’t do being friends...

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Chapter 52 – Jordan

I pulled up the car onto the driveway of the family house, despite the fact Gia and I now had a home of our own allocated within pack, but I did not intend to leave my Dad here alone to deal with Miles. Especially not with that look upon his face. He looked set for a f***g rampage

‘How much do you think he knows?’ My Dad mindlinked as I switched the engine off.

‘Not a clue, but don’t give anything away. Especially not our plan.’ I told him. ‘We need to speak with Uncle Marshall. Admit we allowed Bailey to go for a new job, but say that was because you did not want her degree to go to waste, and we have agreed she returns the moment we have a vacancy for her, right?’

‘Good thinking.’ Dad agreed, as he opened his car door, like he did not care that Miles looked ready to kill someone.

“Right baby, go straight into the house, my Mum should be in, or maybe Morgan. Once we have spoken to Miles we will head to our home, okay?” I said softly to Gia, and she smiled that gorgeous smile of hers at me, telling me all would be okay. I have her to think of now. I need to focus on my life with her.

I stepped from the car, to see my Dad standing in front of the porch steps, in front of where Miles was sitting, yet he is not saying a word, he was simply staring at him. Gia is getting out of the car and I watch as Miles’s eyes drift over her, causing my heart rate to race and my wolf to snarl.

Chapter 52-Jordan

“Oh, you not like someone else looking at your little lady Jordy?” Miles said sarcastically, and something in his tone told me he had been drinking. “See, that is the plus side of not having a mate. It doesn’t matter as a woman is a woman. You don’t stay with them long enough for them to matter.” He laughed an almost sa**ic laugh, making me want to go and punch him, one for talking of my mate that way, but also for dismissing my sister in such a way.

“Shut your mouth boy.” My Dad suddenly decided to speak. “And shift your lazy behind too.” He pulled Miles by his t-shirt, until he was face down in the dirt, before looking at Gia. “There you go sweetheart, get yourself inside, I do believe this waste of space was waiting to talk ot us.”

I looked down at my friend, who, as I had thought before, could only have been drinking to have allowed him to have been pulled over so easily. He was an Alpha, he should have been easily able to put up a fight against my Dad, despite my Dad being an experienced Beta. But Miles didn’t even bother. He had to have been drinking heavily.

“What is going on Miles?” I offered him a hand as he was getting up off the floor.

“I would ask you two f*k**rs the same question.” He snarled. “Where is my mate?”

I looked at my Dad in sheer confusion. Bailey had said he had rejected her. He had said he had rejected her... so why was he calling her his mate?

“Miles, she isn’t your mate, you rejected her, remember?” I told him.

“You know what I f***g mean. Ex mate. F**g b**h. She has disappeared.” His words were slurred, but still sounded angry. “And so had you.” he suddenly poked my Dad in the chest.

My Dad looked down at the finger poking him in the chest, before grabbing hold of it, and twisting it. “Want to watch yourself there f***kface.” He snarled at Miles, and I pulled my Dad away from him before he started something we really do not need right now. I know he is desperate to defend Bailey, but it is not the right thing, not now.

Miles rubbed his finger, scowling. Before glaring at my Dad. “Think it is you that needs to watch themselves. Going against pack orders.”

“I didn’t go against a pack order. I used my Beta initiative, which oddly enough your Dad trusts me to do. So, I chose to give my daughter permission. And plan to okay it with your Dad. She will return when a vacancy becomes available here, as agreed with her when she gained her degree, that she works for us. But, as you know, there are no vacancies, so it seemed silly for her degree to go to waste. And for her to be sat twiddling her thumbs until we needed her, so I agreed she should find

I

something until we need her.” My Dad says with authority, like he dared Miles to argue, but I knew d**n well he would.

“That was not your choice.” He snarled.

“Hmm, I believe it was.” Dad said.

“No. Bailey was told she was not to work for anybody else. She had to remain in the pack.” Miles snarled.

“Why? To be at your beck and call for you to make her feel even worse than you already had? I don’t think so little boy.” And suddenly my Dad was taking out his phone, scrolling through the contacts, and I could hear the dialing tone. Miles stood looking equally confused as my Dad began to talk once more. “Hey Marshall, how are you?”

Miles flew toward my Dad, but I pulled him back, hard until he was once more sitting down on the porch steps, forced to listen to the conversation, as my Dad continued. “Look, I hope you don’t mind me making a decision without you, but I could not find you, and it was sort of an on the spot sort of thing. Autumn Valley urgently needed a teacher, and as you know, Bailey was at home twiddling her thumbs. So, I suggested she take it. I did not want her degree going to waste and her rotting away being bored here while we had nothing for her.” Dad said with a sly smile at Miles, whose eyes were dark, telling me his wolf was close to shifting.

“I was aware of the order you gave to her, and I didn’t want to go completely against that, but at the same time, I didn’t want my daughter suffering either, so I compromised and told her as soon as a vacancy here became available she must return. Is that okay with you?” My Dad is nodding, I assume, in response to whatever my Uncle is saying to him, before he is suddenly hanging up and looking at Miles with a smile.

“Oh, dear. Look at that, Daddy agreed with me.” Dad said with a smirk. “So if there is nothing else, perhaps you should run along.” And with that he walked into the house, leaving me with a furious-looking Miles who looked ready to kill someone.

“What the f**k?” he roared him. “But, right now, I have my mate to get settled into our new home, so I think that can wait for another day.” I added, before I too walked away from him to join the rest of my family. Hoping that my Dad could soon arrange that meeting with my Uncle to get Miles dealt with before he brought the pack down...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 53

Chapter 53 – Asher

We walked through the forest in what I could only call a comfortable silence, which was unexpected. Bailey was happily looking around, enjoying the scenery, while I was fighting hard not to ask questions and also fighting Zion, who was pushing hard to push through and shift. He was desperate to come out and go for a run. But, I knew we were here for Bailey right now, and I didn't think my wolf out on one of his rampages was what she needed to see...

"Thanks for not asking too much." Bailey suddenly said as we approached the treeline, heading back toward the pack. "When didn't want to talk."

"It is fine." I said with a small smile. "I realized that somethings are difficult to talk about. I know that better than anyone."

"Yeah?" she looked at me curiously. I could tell from the expression on her face she wanted to know more. Well, she would be disappointed. I did not share my thoughts nor my worries with anyone. The things within my mind were mine. Nobody else needed plaguing with them. They were beyond messed up most of the time...

"Yeah, and you don't need to be asking" I said to her with a sharp look, causing her to laugh.

"Kinda figured." She shrugged. "You don't come across as the talking type."

I held back the smirk playing on my lips while Zion was chuckling to himself. 'She got you sussed pretty fast.'

"We have been around most of the pack, I believe. Was there anything else specifically you needed to know?" I quickly tried to change the subject. Not wanting to get into talking about me and my lack of willingness to talk. I got enough h**le about that from Eden.

I saw her trying not to smile now, her eyes lit up when this happened, which seemed to be fairly frequently. I looked at her. "Something funny there, Miss West?"

"Back to Miss West now am I?" she asked, and I simply shrugged, while she continued. "My wolf is being her usual snarky self, so nothing for you to worry about."

Ah, so it seemed I was not the only one who had to worry about their wolf giving them a hard time, though she was smiling, which made me wonder what her wolf had said to make her smile. Whatever it was she had clearly found amusing. It seemed her and her wolf had a decent bond...

'And we don't?' Zion grumbled, sounding almost hurt by the implication that we were not close.

'Depends on what type of mood you are in.' I responded, as I stepped back onto the paths of the pack now. Knowing time was moving along rapidly, and I should be returning to my office soon to get on with my work.

"So, Bailey." I said, putting emphasis on her name, which made her smile. "Were there any other questions?"

"When can I start work?"

I chuckled. "Nothing like being eager."

"I have been desperate to find a job since I finished my degree, but I haven't been allowed to get one out of the pack, and there were no vacancies within my own pack." She said

absentmindedly as if in explanation, as she wandered along, but once again my mind was drawn to her words. She was not allowed to look for work outside of her own pack. So, has she been made to stay in her own pack then?

That made little sense to me. If one of our pack members had gained a degree, but we had no vacancies within our pack for them, we would permit them to work elsewhere, or what would the point of them having their degree be? Something about her pack and how they treated her bothered me. Even more so, after her rant at me... no... I cannot pry. It is not my place. She has nothing to do with me. This is her business.

"Something changed then?" I smiled.

"Huh?" she looked at me confused.

"You said you were not allowed to look for work away from the pack, yet here you are, working away from the pack. So, I guess something changed to allow you to look for work?" I asked, but instantly cursed myself internally for being nosy. I swore I wouldn't do this. But it just seemed to happen. A curiosity to .know more...

Bailey raised her brows at me. "So much for realizing some things are difficult to talk about." She said to me with a smile, and I found myself looking down at my feet, looking guilty.

"Sorry."

"I am joking, Beta." She giggled, and it took me by surprise. It was the sweetest sound... "All that changed was I didn't have to apply as such, my Dad was friends with your former Alpha. So, the saying it's not what you know it's who you know, kind of worked in this instant."

“So it all could be arranged without any official contact.” I said as I realized, and she simply nodded as we approached the doors of the packhouse.

“Was there any news about Luna Eden?” she asked me, and I figured that this was her attempt to change the subject, telling me not to pry any further, despite the fact I was desperate to know more.

“Not yet, but I plan to call in to see her later. She will want to know how this has gone. She will eat me alive if I haven’t done a good job.” I joked.

And I saw Bailey’s face light up as she smiled. “I will be sure to give you a good report, Beta.”

“Why, thank you, Miss West.”

“Keep calling me that, and I may change my mind.” she smirked, and I found myself laughing as I held the door open for her.

“Back to where we started.” I said to her. “You think you can remember your way back to your room?” I asked her. “Because I do have things I need to do before the end of the day.”

“Sorry for holding you up.” She looked to me with an uncomfortable smile.

“That was not a criticism of you, nor a complaint of having to do the induction, Bailey.” I told her. “It was not as bad as I expected.” And oddly, I wasn’t lying when I told her that. I actually found her company bearable...

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 54

Chapter 54 – Jordan

My first night in our new home with Gia was truly amazing. If this was going to be life with a mate, then I could most certainly get used to it. Waking up next to her in her pack for those first days had been incredible, but here in a house that I knew would be our forever home, well, it was on another level. Seeing her as I opened my eyes, brought a contentment to me and my wolf I could not describe. This was what I had needed, yet I had just not realized it.

I snaked my arm around her waist, pulling her close to me, loving the contact of her skin against mine. “Again?” she giggled.

“Can I help it if I find my mate irresistible?” I purred into her ear, causing her to giggle once more, making me smile.

‘Jordan need you in my office asap.’ My Dad suddenly

mindlinked, and my heart dropped. Wow. Nothing like c**k- blocking your own son was there?!

‘Are you sure I am needed?’ I tried, desperately hoping he would get the message and would realize I wanted some time with my mate.

‘You have all of your life to be with your mate, Jordan. Keep your mucky mitts to yourself, and get to my office. We have this mess to deal with. Your Uncle is on his way, and we need to speak with him about everything. My Dad linked, and I knew despite his slight joke he added in there, he was deathly serious. This was our only chance we would get to put this across to my Uncle. And if he didn’t listen, then we would be facing the council, seeking their help on the matter. And that was the last thing we wanted.

‘On my way.’ I grumbled reluctantly, with a big sigh.

“Everything okay baby?” Gia looked up at me with those beautiful eyes of hers, and I instantly hated this mess, but I knew what I had to do.

“I have to go out, I am needed at the office to deal with everything that has been going on, so as much as I do not want to leave you, and trust me, I cannot tell you just how much I do not want to leave you, I really need to be there.” I explained, with a sad smile.

Gia smiled, her calm and caring smile. “It is fine. I will still be here when you get home. This needs dealing with, so go and deal with it.”

I softly placed a kiss upon her head as I clambered from the bed and rushed to the shower, knowing if I did not rush then my Dad would be on my case, and I did not need my previously good mood completely ruined by him.

I got to the office in record time, to find Ellis just arriving too, and he smiled enthusiastically as he saw me. “Your Dad disturbed your time in bed with your new mate too, by any chance?” he asked with a grin, and I couldn’t help but smirk at him. I had heard Ellis had found his mate too, so it didn’t surprise me that my Dad had disturbed him as well as me.

“Hmm, I wonder what gave you that idea? The ever so cheerful expression on my face?” I said sarcastically.

“You mean the same one I am wearing?” he grinned. “But, he is right. This does need dealing with, and Miles is passed out right. now, so no better time, right?”

Of course, that would have been why my Dad was up and doing this as early as he was. Miles will be rough today after his late night drinking session, because he continued drinking long after I left him last night because he was persistently mindlinking me to go and join him. I think he had forgotten I had found my mate now and did not need to be going out to the bars to pick women up like he was suggesting.

Him being out of it gave us an opportunity to speak to my Uncle, the pack Alpha, and Miles's father without any chance of Miles disturbing us. Offering us the opportunity to explain all that needed to be explained to him. And, hopefully, he would see things the way we needed him to. He would see our side.

"You think your Dad will listen El?" I asked him, as we approached my Dad's office door

"Not a clue, he has a habit of not seeing any flaw in anything Miles does, so if that is what happens here, then in truth, we are in trouble." He says with a shrug as he knocked on the door.

"Yep." My Dad called, as Ellis opened the door, slowly sticking his head around the door.

"Hey Uncle, oh hey Dad." He smiled, as I followed him in.

"Oh, why do I feel like I am being ambushed here?" My Uncle suddenly says, crossing his arms

"We need to talk, and we feel the more of us here to express our concerns the more likely you are to listen." My Dad said, and I suddenly felt more than a little concerned, especially, going off the angry expression upon my Uncle's face.

"Oh, is that right? And what is it we are talking about? Because this does not feel right." My Uncle's eyes darted between the three of us, and I could see his eyes were flickering between those of himself and his wolf, and I knew if his wolf came out we would be in trouble.

"We are worried about Miles Dad." Ellis took center stage, and the moment Miles was mentioned, Alpha Marshall stood up, his anger flaring immediately.

"Yet you didn't think it was right to have him here to defend himself?" he snapped.

"Considering he is passed out because he has been drinking heavily again, that would be difficult." My Dad said almost sarcastically, telling me he would not be taking any messing. "He has issues Marshall, and we need them addressed, before he destroys the pack you have worked hard to maintain."

"What the f**k do you mean he has issues? He is a young Alpha wolf enjoying life is all." My Uncle dismissed the bad behavior as nothing of concern, which did not surprise me.

My Dad shook his head while Ellis suddenly walked across and stood in front of his Dad, "And what about attempting to kill a pack member? Is that a young Alpha wolf enjoying life?" My Uncle's mouth dropped open and was about to speak, but Ellis continued. "Or meeting his fated mate and rejecting her because he deemed her not good enough for him?"

Once again, my Uncle's mouth was wide open. Shock etched all across his face. "No. Not Miles. Surely not." He muttered, looking at my father as if he expected to tell him Ellis was wrong. "Did you know about this?"

"I only just discovered it. Why do you think I moved Bailey?"

Alpha Marshall looked confused now. "Bailey? What has she to do with it?"

"She was his fated mate. He treated her like s***it, Dad. Total **t for years. Then he had tried to keep her here, for whatever reason, despite rejecting her. And then attacked a warrior she was friends with to the point he almost died. Had I not found him and stopped him, I am certain that the warrior would be dead. Had I not then taken him to the hospital, he would have been dead." Ellis snapped.

My Uncle dropped into his seat, shaking his head. "Why? No, it doesn't make sense. That does not sound like Miles."

"It is true, Uncle, believe us. Bailey has suffered at the hands of Miles for years. Bullying and then rejection. He did not want her working away from here, he wanted her by his side yet did not want her. And then tried to hurt the one man that was making her smile again. We had to allow him and his family a safe passage out of our pack. Have you ever heard of a pack having to do that before for an Alpha? Because I don't think that is normal behavior?" I said, knowing I was treading a thin line in how I spoke to him, but I needed him to hear what we felt. He needed to see how dire the situation had become.

"The warrior and his family left the pack?" he murmured. "Because of Miles?"

"He couldn't be trusted not to do the same again, Dad. Do you not see that? He is **g dangerous. I have heard some of the things he says. Because he is the upcoming Alpha. He sees himself as untouchable. It makes him dangerous. Harley was told to leave for his own safety. As was Bailey. Though she wanted to leave. She hasn't been happy here for some time, and who can blame her with how Miles has treated her?" Ellis says with some spite to his tone. "Miles deemed her not good enough and made sure all across pack thought the same."

"Bailey wasn't happy here?" My Uncle chewed his lower lip. "Sweet Bailey? I thought she loved her home."

"Why do you think she wanted to study away? And then why do you think she begged to go and work elsewhere?" I pointed out, hating that I likely played a part in that in how I had treated her too. But, I am doing my part in putting that right now.

"Miles has become out of control, Marshall. He needs dealing with. He is out each night drinking heavily. Sleeping with random. she-wolves. And being aggressive now around pack. He broke pack rules in rejecting his fated mate, which is not allowed by an Alpha, not if you follow the older rules of a pack. He has bullied and made Bailey suffer

needlessly for years, yet she has kept quiet. None of us knew, even her own f**g family! Do you know how bad that makes us feel?" My Dad yelled, and my Uncle looked to him with wide eyes, shocked at just how angry he had got. "That boy has been given far too much freedom over the years and now the power has gone to his head. He feels nothing can touch him. But, he needs pulling back into line. He needs dealing with appropriately before he becomes so much out of control that there is no way back. So, the question is, are you going to deal with him yourself, or are you going to continue to make excuses for him like you always have and force me to go to the werewolf council for the benefit- and safety of our pack?"

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 55

Chapter 55 – Ellis

I saw the look upon my Dad's face at my Uncle's words and I think it was safe to say he wasn't happy. I had known my Dad long enough to know he hated to have his authority questioned. The thing is, my Uncle knew that, even more than me, he had been his Beta longer than I had been alive, and they had been friends even longer than that. But, I can't say I disagree with a word my Uncle has said. I know my Dad would expect me to take the side of my family, but on this, I couldn't. My Uncle was right. We had to look out for the safety of our pack, and with Miles in the current state he was in, he was a serious risk to the pack.

My Dad needed to deal with him. The thing was, I didn't know how was best to do that. He had almost killed a man. Yes, we are werewolves. Yes, we kill, but that is when it was deemed necessary. We generally do not go around needlessly killing. That is not how we were brought up. And, Miles was to be the next Alpha, his reputation mattered massively. There was being respected for your strength and being feared for your ruthless and heartless manner. And being feared in that way, I did not think was right.

I glanced across to Jordan, he had his head in his hands. I could see this was taking its toll on him. 'Are you okay?' I mindlinked him. He and I had always been close. Much like he and Miles had. Growing up with our Dads being best friends, it was always going to happen, though he was always that bit closer to Miles, knowing he would be his Beta. He was likely worried for his best friend, like I was about my brother.

'Stressed. Wondering what will be. Tired. Brain feels like it wants to explode.' He replied, and I couldn't help but smile. I don't think I could have put it better myself.

'Yeah, I get that. Hopefully they sort this. But going from that look on my Dad's face, he wants to kick some a**es.' I warned him.

'So long as it isn't mine, I haven't had a coffee yet.' He replied, and I held back the chuckle that was threatening. He was not the only one that hadn't had a chance to have his coffee this morning, after being rudely disturbed by my Uncle, during mid- morning fun with my new mate.

“So not only are you throwing all this s**t at me, but now you threaten me with the werewolf council too?” My Dad suddenly yelled right back at my Uncle, telling me this was likely far from over.

“If needs be, Marshall, yes. This needs dealing with. He is going to destroy this pack, and himself if he is not dealt with, can you not see that?” My Uncle says, and he is not backing down. I got to give it to my Uncle, our current Beta. He is a tough cookie. He is one of the few people, besides my Mum, who will stand up to my Dad so willingly. He does not take his s**t, and if he believes he is wrong he will tell him without faltering or fear.

I have to say, I have always respected him for that, because, friends or not, he would always be the weaker of the two, because my Dad was the Alpha, yet that never stopped my Uncle, he was always ready to give my Dad **t when it was needed, which many a time had brought much amusement to me. Sadly though, right now, this was far from amusing, and much more concerning. Neither one seemed willing to back down, and Uncle Donovan was ready to stand up for both his family and the pack without a doubt, and this time I would have his back whether my Dad liked it or not.

“So, smart guy, what the f***k do you expect me to do?” My Dad looked to my Uncle, and for once saw uncertainty upon his face, and that filled me with fear. My Dad is an overpoweringly strong Alpha, always meticulous in his work. Ruthless yet logical and decent and compassionate when needed. He was much respected as an Alpha both within our pack and beyond. He was always so certain of what he was doing, so to see this look of indecision and doubt upon his face worried me. “You know all of this is true of Miles, I assume?”

“You think we would come to you with things we weren’t sure of, Marshall?” Uncle Donovan says a little less harshly now. “This is some serious s***it. We cannot hand the pack to someone so dangerous. He could destroy everything. He is already running around like he has no rules to follow. Like he believes, as the next Alpha, he is not touchable. He broke rules in rejecting Bailey, and thought nothing of lying about that and covering it up. Hurting her over and over while he slept with other she- wolves before rejecting her. And now he won’t even let her leave the pack. He is drinking excessively night after night, going to w**e houses, getting into fights in clubs. One of the guards had to go and pay bail the other night and pay extra to allow the issue with the police to disappear. This can’t continue.”

I saw my Dad drop his head into his hands. “This was all Miles?” he muttered, while I reeled in shock at the revelations, many of which I hadn’t heard of either. It seemed my older brother had been doing a whole lot more than even I knew of. My Uncle was right, we needed to fix this, and soon. My Dad had to see that though...

“I am afraid so, Marshall. He isn’t the sweet kid he once was. The power of knowing he is going to be Alpha seems to have gone to his head. And, as for this, almost killing a pack member. That is it in my mind. That is not a man fit to be an Alpha. He needs help.

He has anger issues, but he has had since being a child. You know that. Had Ellis not been there, that warrior would be dead. Miles was ready to blame it on rogues. It was only because Ellis spoke up the truth came out.” My Uncle explained, and my Dad looked across to me.

“He said it was rogues?” he asked, and I nodded. “He tried to lie to cover it up? To cover up his disgusting actions?”

And I nodded once more. “I am sorry Dad, but yeah. He asked me to lie for him too. Saying the warrior deserved it. I did lie initially until I realized the truth. Then I told Uncle. We knew then we had to speak to you.”

My Dad shook his head. “I need to speak to your Mum.”

“Dad, you can’t make excuses for him anymore. This is the pack’s safety you are talking about now.” I warned him and he nodded.

“I know son. I feel sick knowing Miles is capable of all of this. This does not sound like him at all. He should be with his mate. Maybe Bailey should come home?”

I saw the eyes of Jordan and Uncle Donovan dart towards one another, before looking at me and my Dad in shock. “Marshall, he rejected her. He treated her shockingly. She is not going back to him. She is finally free of him, and she will stay that way. If you want him to have a mate, then it will be a chosen one. And it will not be my daughters!”

Beauty and The Beta Chapter 56

Chapter 56 – Bailey

I lay on my bed after a quiet second day in the pack. Luna Eden was still in hospital, apparently on bedrest now, until she had the baby, which from what Beta Asher had told me had gone down like a lead balloon. So seeing her would likely wait until I was given the green light to visit her, or she had the baby. Other than a brief visit to my bedroom door to notify me of that information early in the morning, I had not seen anymore of Beta Asher either.

I had wandered around the pack on my own, seeing if I could remember where things were, and I think I was doing okay. A few more days of exploring and I think I will know my way around. Thankfully, as bad as my sense of direction could be at times, I could just rely on the sense of direction of Akira, and she generally put me on the right path.

I had spent the rest of the day sitting in my room creating name badges for all of my new class members with supplies I had brought with me. I was a s**ker for arts and crafts and always had supplies lying around, especially for classes I had done at university. While visiting the school with Beta Asher, I asked for a class list of the children I would be teaching, which he had reluctantly given me with a confused

expression. But, it allowed me to create them all individual name badges as a little gift for me arriving, but also that would help me learn their names too.

Plus, it had been a good way to kill time, as I was so desperate to begin my teaching role now. But I still had a few days to wait, with Beta Asher saying I would start on Monday, likely thinking a beginning of the week start would be best. I felt full of excitement about what lay ahead. My new pack was beautiful. I had the job I had been training hard for, and I could not wait to meet the children I would be teaching! And, I was finally away from Miles.

Yet, as I lay and looked up to the ceiling of my new room, I felt a little alone. I thought instantly of Harley and wondered if he was okay. I know he had left the same night I had. I could only hope he had reached his new pack safely like I had. Was it truly what I wanted, not to be with him? He still seemed keen on being with me... and I missed him...

I picked up my phone...

"Hello?" his familiar and warm voice filled my ears, and immediately I smiled.

"Hey Harley." I greeted him, so glad to hear his voice, realizing then just how much I had been missing him.

"Bailey! How are you?!" he sounded enthusiastic at the sound of my voice, and instantly I felt uplifted.

"Well, I am in a new pack. Just like you." I joked.

"You got your job?"

"I got my job. But, that isn't important. How are you doing? Are you okay now? Did you get to your new pack okay?" I bombarded him with questions.

"Woah, lots of questions!" he chuckled. "And, let me just say your new job is massively important Bai, do not forget that! I am so happy for you. But, in answer to your questions, I am doing okay, still a little tender here and there, but thankfully, I am slowly healing now. Wolf is finally able to do what he is meant to do. And, yes, we got to the new pack."

"Aww, I am so glad to hear that. I have been so worried about you." I admitted, with a sigh. Wishing he was here to hug right now. I won't lie I missed him.

"Guess what, Bai?" he exclaimed, sounding super excited, and this made me smile. Though the more I got to know him, the more he knew how to make me smile.

“What Harley?” I teased. I wondered if he was about to tell me he missed me or something.

“I found my mate!” he exclaimed, and instantly the smile upon my face was gone. “She was here all along, in my Mum’s old pack!”

The excitement in his voice was so clear. Yet my heart felt like it had fallen through the floor right now. But I knew I had to say something. He would be expecting an answer...

“Wow! That is amazing Harley.” I said with as much happiness as I could force within my voice.

“Bailey, are you okay? I am sorry, maybe I shouldn’t have said anything... I was going to message to tell you, but then I thought it was better to speak and tell you... d**n it, I messed up, didn’t I?” he muttered, and I can hear the excitement gone from his voice now too, making me feel terrible.

I feel so bad now. His initial reaction told me he was happy about the fact he had met her, so I did not want that to change. This was his fated mate. Like my Dad said, he would want her. Instinct would kick in. He would grave her. And he so evidently had. He sounded overjoyed at finding her. Just the way it should be too. He should not feel anything less because of me...

“Harley, it is fine. She is your fated mate. You sound so happy, what is her name?” I asked, despite not caring one little bit, but trying desperately hard to be interested for Harley.

“Dana. She is a female warrior, Bai! They have female warriors here! She is tall, with long dark hair, and the biggest blue eyes. She was on guard duty as we arrived and I knew then. Boy...” his voice faltered, and it felt like my heart was crumbling at his words. But, I did my best to stay composed. He deserved this. This was the girl picked for him by the moon goddess. The one he was meant to be with.

“Aww, she sounds perfect, Harley.” I told him. “You will be back to full strength in no time with her by your side. And a warrior too, she will be able to wh**p your a**”

He chuckled. “I think she probably already could, though I think I may let her...” his voice trailed off as if he was thinking of it, and I knew then, I needed to get off the phone, I didn’t think I could listen to much more of this. I was glad he was safe. I was glad he was healing. And now I knew he would be happy too. He didn’t need me anymore.

“Aww, sorry Harl, my Dad is trying to call, I am going to have to go. I had just wanted to ring to check if you were okay, and it sounds like you are doing amazing.”

“Oh, okay Bai. Thanks for calling. Call again soon, won’t you?” he asked.

“Sure thing.” I told him as I hung up, but I knew that we likely wouldn’t be talking too much now he had found his mate.

Seems things had worked out the way they had for a reason. Had me and him gone to his Mum’s pack together like he had suggested, him taking me as his chosen mate and his fated mate had been there, things would have been beyond awkward. He would never have been able to resist her, not when you listen to how enamored he was with her. Things would never have worked for us. He was with the right girl now. I needed to accept that. Fate had done the right thing...

I slid off my bed. I wandered out of my room and down toward the kitchen. I needed a drink, seeing as I couldn’t sleep. The corridors were empty now as I walked along them, but I had expected nothing less, it was gone ten o’clock at night. My head filled with thoughts of Harley.

I had genuinely thought we could have had a future. Perhaps as chosen mate further down the line. I should never have allowed myself to get close to him knowing there was his fated mate out there. I was just risking getting hurt.

“Bailey?” a deep voice says from behind me, making me jump as I turned around, only to find Beta Asher looking at me, a little confused, likely as to why he found me wandering the corridors of the packhouse at this late hour. Then he tilted his head slightly as his eyes drifted across my face. “Have you been crying?”