

## Beauty and The Beta Chapter 77

Chapter 77 – Asher

I had been on my way back to my office to do some additional work, just the usual for me of an evening. I hadn't been paying attention to where I was going as I was reading an article on my phone, and it was only when I felt the impact to my chest that I realized Bailey was there. The second I realized she was falling, I quickly went into action, and leaped forward, grabbing her and pulling her to me, my heart pounding in desperate fear filling me that she was going to fall all the way down the stairs.

But, thankfully, I had her in my arms, as I lowered myself onto the top step, Bailey still in my arms, both of us trembling. Her eyes had been clenched shut, but she slowly pried them open, looking at me with what could only be described as a look of horror and embarrassment.

She jumped back, as if my touch was repulsive to her. And I had to say I was a little hurt by that, but tried hard to ignore it. "Are you okay?" I asked her, trying to check her over. As she quickly moved herself from my embrace, to sit herself next to me. How do I seem to find myself in these messes?

She nodded. "Sorry, I wasn't looking where I was going." I noticed a loose strand of her hair falling over her face, and I don't know why, but I found myself reaching out to gently brush it back, but I saw her eyes widen at me as I did. Did I do the wrong thing? Should I not have touched her? Was she hurt? Now I was more worried she might be hurt. Yet her big brown eyes look up at me, and I swear my heart pounds harder in my chest as she looks at me, not saying a thing.

"I think I may have been pre-occupied too." I told her, not wanting her to take all the blame. Then as I looked at her, I saw tears leaking from her eyes. Had she been crying before? Or was it through what had happened? I am sure I had stopped her falling, so she shouldn't have hurt herself badly. I am sure of that...

She shrugged, going to stand up, but I reached for her hand without even thinking, wanting to check she was okay. "Bailey, you look like you have been crying, is everything okay?" I asked softly. "Did you hurt yourself when I stopped you falling? Are you hurt?" questions seemed to blurt from my mouth. Making me sound like a blathering fool right now, but I was desperate to know if she was okay...

As she lowered herself back down to sit down alongside me on the top step, she shook her head. "I am fine. Beta Asher. Really, I am."

I had to say I was missing all of Zion's sly comments right now, because no doubt he would have plenty to say right now. But, since he had left me earlier today, he had yet to return, and as much as I had said I would be glad of the peace, his absence was beginning to bother me...

Though, Bailey's lack of information bothered me too. She didn't seem fine. There was a wobble in her voice, but I don't know if that was simply because she was shaken from nearly falling down the stairs. That would make sense. But, would that make her cry? I am not so sure that it would.

"Bailey, I know I have not made the best first impression, and I doubt I ever will. I am not the best with people. But, please, Eden is desperate for me to make sure you are okay..." I paused, contemplating if I should be honest here or not. "And, In truth, I want to make sure you are okay too. Me, not Eden. Me. I know there are somethings you are not sharing with us..." I faltered slightly, unsure how to word what I wanted to say, while Bailey looked at me, a little confused, a little scared. Could I blame her? No... because in truth I think they were a safe estimate of how I feel right now, and little rarely scared me.

I ran my hands through my hair in frustration, realizing she was expecting me to continue what I was saying. "Eurgh... I am even worse with words. Look, I realize some things are private, so you may not want to share them. But am worried about you. Maybe I have no right to be. But I am. You look like you have been crying... or want to cry. And that bothers me. Look, you can tell me to mind my own business, and in truth, I probably would if I were you, but, is there anything I can help with?" My words feel jumbled as they blurt from my mouth...

I sit, my breathing rapid as I am feeling like a total idiot at the words I have just blurted out as Bailey looks at me, completely lost...

Then, she suddenly sighed, a sigh that sounded like it came from her feet. It was so deep. But, she shook her head. "Beta Asher, honestly, it isn't even worth talking about."

"Is any shit that makes you feel crappy?" I said, and she looked at me in surprise. "And, didn't I say to call me Asher?" I reminded her.

She shrugged in response to my words. "Fine, Asher." And I have to say, I am surprised just how good my name sounds from her lips... it sounds pretty good... but she continued. "Like I said, it isn't even worth talking about. Or worrying you about. Let me say it is just me feeling sad over something that was never even mine." She said quietly, before looking down at her feet, a blush of embarrassment crossing her face.

"You missing the guy who met his fated mate I guess?" I asked, and at my words I saw the pain across her face. I know my guess was likely right.. "I don't think there would be any shame in that. Especially if you guys were close. It is like losing someone, right? Losing a link that was there, and now it feels like it is lost?" I suggested how I saw it, though it pains me to admit, I hate the thought of her being close to another guy...

Bailey shrugged, and suddenly, out of nowhere, Zion is back. After being absent all afternoon and evening, he is back, pacing within my mind, so on edge, and he is whimpering, like he can sense her pain and he doesn't like it. Not one little bit. Like he

did not like to see her struggling. What is going on with my wolf today? I only prayed he did not get any louder, or she would be hearing him and I had no clue how I could explain that...

"I sound like I feel sorry for myself, but I don't. I just have the occasional moment where things get on top of me, I guess. I can say without doubt, I would never have wanted to be with Miles. He treated me so badly before and after he rejected me. I had a lucky escape. But, I can't help but wonder if my own fated mate didn't want me, and the guy I turned to and trusted enough to consider as a chosen mate isn't there for me now, if I am forever going to be alone." she whispered, and her words are so quiet they are barely audible, but because I am sitting next to her, I can hear her, and I can feel the pain within her voice.

I saw a tear slide down her face. It sounded like she had been through too much, far too young. But, I know this pain she is talking of. Because I have felt the same pain in the years since Isla died. A pain that eats away at you. One that makes you wonder if you can cope. The fear of forever being alone...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 78**

Chapter 78 – Bailey

I looked across at Asher, and saw a sadness upon his face and I realized I had said far too much. I am not the only one who has had their own struggles. I should stop being selfish, and stop focusing on my own worries. I had been given a fresh start here in this pack, I didn't want to mess that up, Beta Asher had been through so much more than me, and here I was feeling sorry for myself to him, he must think of me as a silly little girl...

I began to stand, thinking it better to give him some space, and again he placed his hand upon mine. "Are you going to be okay?" he asked softly, so far from the ruthless and callous Beta I had met on that first night it was unreal. In many ways it was like he was a completely different guy...

'Hell, he almost seems human... well, not human, werewolf... but kind. Caring.. decent. A good guy. Who would of thunk it?' Akira chuckled, but for once, I didn't find her little digs at Asher all that funny. He genuinely did seem like a decent guy, even if some of it was being forced by Luna Eden. Maybe my mind had been that messed up with everything that was going on in my life, I had been too quick to judge him.

He had enough to deal with, and did not need bringing down by me and my pathetic worries. I smiled. "Yeah, I am always good." I lied, and flicked my hair back from my face before looking at him again. "I get these occasional low moments, and then pick myself right back up. I will be good. You don't need to worry yourself about me, Asher. Some chocolate and I am good to go."

He chuckled. "I may have some chocolate back at my place if you want to come and share? Keep one another company for a little while? So your mind isn't drifting back to the same things." He suggested, a little tentatively, taking me by surprise, I had to say. That offer seemed so out of the blue, and so unlike him, I truly didn't know how to react to his offer...

'Ooohh, the Beta lllllkkkkeeess yooooouuu!' Akira giggled, clearly thinking this was a perfect time to tease me, so I quickly put my block up to her, not needing her input right now. She was not funny. He did not like me at all. He was trying hard, likely very hard, to be kind, because Luna Eden had said to make sure I was okay. I should probably be grateful for his offer. But, still, it confused me. I highly doubt he wanted to be keeping me company. I think he has been made to give up enough of his time for me over the last few days as it was thanks to Luna Eden. I didn't want him feeling he had to give up more of his time.

"You really don't need to." I told him, with an uncomfortable smile.

"Oh." He looks uncomfortable now. Almost a little hurt. Like a wounded puppy... How do I manage it? "I just thought it might be better than both us sitting alone?" he suggested, and I found myself sighing, maybe he was right.

"What chocolate have you got?" I asked, a little curious, because I knew my supply was running low in my room, and I needed to go out for more.

He looked at me guiltily. "Would you judge me if I said a cupboard full?"

I giggled. "Hell no! I would call you a dream guy!"

And suddenly Asher was laughing, and it was such a bright and cheerful sound, something so unexpected from him, but it made me smile. He stood up, offering me his hand to pull me up. "I don't think I have ever been called that." He smirked. "But, I will take that as well, let's go then?" he asked with a wink.

"I guess so." I took his hand, appreciating his help in pulling me up, and we walked in a comfortable silence along the landing, to the short corridor leading off it, and he opened the door to what I assume was his Beta suite. Inside was modernly decorated in black, gray and white. Asher clearly took great pride in his home. Though part of me wonders just how long he actually spends here, because every time he talks about things he is always saying how busy he is. We walked into the hallway, with a number of doorways off it, I assume to bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. But Asher leads me to the room near the lower end of the hallway.

"Right, this is a secret, okay? I am trusting you here, Bailey. I am meant to be a fitness freak. So, if anyone were to know how much chocolate I ate they would never take my training sessions seriously again." He said to me with a grin, and once again I found myself laughing at him. He was funny, without even trying, I think. And his whole face lit

up when he was smiling so genuinely. That darkness and moodiness I had seen him was almost all gone.

He opened the door to a modernly decorated kitchen, with black units, and a marble countertop. He went straight to one of the cupboard doors, opening it for me, and motioning for me to take a look, and as I did, I could see a whole selection of different chocolate bars. My idea of a very sinful heaven...

"Wow." I gasped, and I heard Asher laughing behind me.

"The way to a girl's heart, I guess?" he asked, and I turned to look at him, my eyes wide in shock at all the different variations of chocolate. Wide eyes, likely with hearts coming out of them for all the chocolate that resided in his cupboard. No wonder he was smiling at me, he likely found me highly amusing.

"Definitely this girl's heart, not like I had much luck in any other aspect." I joked, and he smiled sadly at me.

"I am sure you will, but until then, I guess I don't mind sharing my chocolate stash with you. So long as you keep my secret."

I found myself giggling without even meaning to, as I looked up at him. "Wow, my hero!" I added sarcastically, and he simply smiled once more. A smile that seemed to come so much more easily than it had before...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 79**

Chapter 79 – Asher

Listening to Bailey giggle as she stood in the kitchen of my Beta suite, made my heart pound harder than I think it had done in a long time, but I tried my hardest to ignore it. She looked up at me, through her long dark lashes. "Wow, my hero." She said with a sarcastic smile, and, despite myself, I smiled right back at her. There is something about her that makes me smile. Something about the way she jokes with me. Her carefree character. Her humor and way she teases me with no thought...

"You want to watch that sarcasm, missy, or else my offer of sharing my chocolate may be withdrawn." I said with a smirk, and Bailey looked at me open-mouthed, feigning shock, and once again she had me smiling. This girl has had me smiling more since she arrived than I had done in months...

"Oh! How rude! You know that you can't promise a girl chocolate and then take it back, right? You do that, and, I would just have to let the pack know that their big strong Beta gains his super-strength from chocolate, not working out. Imagine their shock and disappointment in you when your secret is revealed!" She wiggled her eyebrows at me as if to challenge me, and once again I found myself laughing.

“Okay, I think you may have me there. I won’t break my promise.” I nodded. “So, you want a coffee to help that chocolate go down?”

“Coffee? You want me to stop up all night?” she asked, then suddenly, Bailey turned to look at me, biting her lip uncomfortably. “You want to do me a favor and forget I said that?”

I held back the chuckle that was so close to leaving my lips. She had obviously heard what she said in the same way I had, but no, that was not my intention. Not, in the slightest....

I grinned. “All forgotten. You seem to think so badly of me, Miss West.” I winked at her playfully, and the slight flush to her cheeks made my heart warm, knowing she was embarrassed. “I have soda too, if that is better for Sleeping Beauty?” I added, so she knew she didn’t have to have a coffee.

Now she rolled her eyes at me, before answering. “Soda would be good, thank you. And trust me, I am far from a sleeping beauty. You so do not want to see me when I wake up!”

I chuckled, as she dropped her head to her hands, as if she had realized what she had just said. She was incredibly sweet when she was embarrassed. “How am managing this?” she muttered.

“I did not think of it in any way but the sweet and innocent way you meant it.” I reassured her, biting my lip to stop myself from smiling. “Though you forget I have seen you in your pajamas.”

Her eyes widened, as if she remembered. “Hmm, I remember.”

“You have curly hair.” I pointed out, slowly reaching out to touch her currently straightened hair that was currently pulled back into a ponytail.

“Yeah, I hate it. Forever been picked on for it. Wild and crazy hair. Like a mane. When you are constantly criticized for something, you kind of end up hating it. Thankfully, I learned how to tame it.” She ran her hand through her ponytail as if to demonstrate.

“I think the curls suited you for what it was worth.” I said with a shrug, and she looked at me in shock, her cheeks flushed once more. Before, she quickly looked back at the stash of chocolate in the cupboard to avoid my gaze, Okay... maybe I shouldn’t have mentioned that. It just kind of happened.....

I grabbed a couple of cans of soda from the refrigerator, as she picked some chocolate from the cupboard, before I led her through to the lounge of my home. My home that I barely spent any time in... Modestly decorated in modern colors and

furniture. I watched as Bailey's eyes darted around the room. taking in the room before looking awkwardly at me, like she was unsure if she wanted to be here alone with me or not.

"Sit yourself down." I said, allowing her the chance to pick where she wanted to sit. I was beginning to question if inviting her here was a little on the too friendly side... this was not me. Not in the slightest...

Bailey nervously sat herself down on the edge of one of the sofas, her big brown eyes looking toward me. "Your home is nice." She said politely.

I sighed. "Thanks. I moved back here after..." my voice faltered a little. No, I don't think she needed to know that. I shook my head. "Thanks."

Bailey smiled at me as I sat down at the opposite end of the sofa. We were almost acting like two nervous teenagers on a date right now, it was ridiculous. I had invited her here so she wasn't sitting on her own for the night overthinking things with the guy she was missing. I was trying to help her. There is nothing between the two of us. She doesn't like me. And I don't like her. There was nothing to be nervous about.

"When your mate died?" she asked quietly.

"Sorry?"

"You started saying when you moved back here after, so I wondered if it was when your mate died." She looked at her feet, looking a little uncomfortable. "Sorry, maybe I shouldn't have asked."

I shrugged. "Why not? Not like I don't ask you things I shouldn't. Yeah. When Isla died, I couldn't go back to the home we had just begun to call ours."

"You guys weren't together long?" she asked, her head tilted gently, her face full of compassion as she spoke.

I slowly shook my head, sighing. "No. I don't know if I was one of the lucky ones now or not. I thought I was at the time.

Meeting my fated mate so soon after coming of age. But, in doing that, it meant she was here when the pack was attacked. When the rogues came..."

I closed my eyes, my fists clenched tight in my lap. Trying hard to calm my breathing. I can't remember the last time I had spoken about all this... Suddenly I felt a hand over mine, and as I opened my eyes I was surprised to find Bailey had edged along the sofa to sit herself closer to me, and her hand was now holding mine softly...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 80**

## Chapter 80 – Bailey

I could see Asher struggling and feel so bad for even asking now. For even encouraging this sort of talk. This was all my fault. I didn't like seeing him hurting. I know I had said some choice things about him when I had arrived, but I truly hated seeing him struggle like this. He didn't deserve to be in pain, I was sure of that...

I slid myself along the sofa, noticing his eyes were closed as he breathed heavily like he was trying to compose himself. Maybe I should leave? Give him some space? He seemed like the sort of guy who needed his space... Yet, instinct had me reaching for his hand instead.

The touch seemed to make him jump, as he instantly opened his eyes to look at me in shock. His big green eyes were looking at me with confusion. "Sorry." I muttered, going to move my hand, but instead his fingers gripped mine, as his eyes fell upon our hands. "Maybe I shouldn't have asked." I whispered.

"No, I understand." He said, exhaling deeply. "I don't talk much about it all. It is not easy as you can imagine. I lost Isla soon after we had met. Before being able to build a life together. But, the bond was already there, forming. And we had just moved into our new home together. Both so excited at the thought of what the future would bring for us. I couldn't go back once she had gone. It was always going to be our home. The home we planned our future in. So, I moved back here..."

I felt the pain within his voice, and I can sense Akira whimpering within my mind at the suffering this man next to us must have gone through. I thought what I had gone through was bad, but this poor guy had lost the one he was destined to be with. The one he had thought would be by his side for the rest of his life. The one he had been waiting for. The one the moon goddess chose for him. He must have been heartbroken. There was no worse pain, I would imagine. My own heart clenched in pain for him. In truth, I desperately wanted to throw my arms around him and hug him, but he doesn't seem like the kind of guy who would appreciate a hug...

The darkness that lingered over him made so much more sense to me now. The pain he must battle daily if this was what he struggled with, must drag him down. Dim any joy within him. Grief can be overpowering...

"I am sorry you had to go through that, Asher." I said faintly. "You have done amazing to continue being such a wonderful Beta. Your pack is lucky to have you."

He laughed, a dry and almost ironic sort of laugh, causing me to look up at him. "I think my Alpha and Luna may beg to differ on that opinion sometimes." He told me with a wry smile. "I think I am slowly driving them insane."

'Hey, with all the favors it sounds like you do for them, I don't think they can complain much.' I told him, and he grins.

Finally! Someone who sees it from my point of view!"

laughed. "I am sure they appreciate all you do. You will get our chance to gain all your favors back one day. Seems to me, hey definitely owe you some."

Hmm, that would be a whole lot. Caleb may not be quite so greeable, and don't even get me started on Eden. You think the

Alpha runs the show? In truth, It is our little Lady Luna."

"She knows you call her that?" I asked him, finding it funny, and I could tell just from the way he spoke of them that they were all quite close.

"Hell no, nor would I want her to! She would wh\*\*p my a\*\* if she knew for a second I called her anything other than her name. Especially right now. Pregnancy hormones and Eden do not mix." He grinned at me.

"I will be sure to tell her then." I teased him, and the way he looked at me feigning shock, made me giggle.

"Aww, now come on, Bailey. Surely you wouldn't want to get me into trouble, would you? I am sharing my chocolate stash with you, after all. Doesn't that make us friends now?" he questioned. And I found myself looking at him with a feeling of confusion filling my head. I definitely didn't expect that when I arrived...

"Yeah, I guess it does...".

"Wow, that look upon your face tells me the thought of being friends with me is far from a good thing." He said with a shrug.

"Huh?"

"The deep frown." He signals to my face, over-exaggerating a frown upon his own face, making me stick my tongue out at him, aware he was teasing me.

"I didn't frown. Or not intentionally." I explained.

"Don't think I could blame you. Not like I have been the best at making an impression upon you since you arrived."

Oh, I didn't realize you were trying to make an impression on me. I teased.

His eyes met mine, and the way he looked at me made my stomach churn. Or was that butterflies? "Neither did I." he grinned, making me laugh again.

Suddenly, my phone began to ring from by my side, causing me to pick it up out of curiosity, wondering who it would be. But, I didn't recognize the number. So, I thought I had better answer it. What if it was someone at pack?

"Hello?" I answered, smiling politely at Asher to apologize for the disturbance, but, he simply smiled in response, as he picked up his soda, and leaned back into the sofa.

"So, thought you'd got away from me, did you?" a voice I thought. I had got away from hissed down the phone at me. And my hands began to tremble. "I may be away from pack for now b\*\*h, but I will be back, and when I am, I will make you pay for the \*\*t you have caused Bailey. Mark my words. Difference will be, I will have a new mate by my side, and you will be all alone." Miles's voice snarled at me, as tears filled my eyes, while I saw the eyes of Asher looking at me with a look I wasn't able to read...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 81**

### Chapter 81- Miles

I had to force myself to attend yet more treatment just to prove to Kaia I was more than capable of doing what was expected of me. I would make this girl want me. If that was the last thing I did..It was driving me wild that she seemed to not want me. Never before had. I encountered a she-wolf my age that could resist me. Normally they were falling over themselves to get their hands on me. I was fighting off offers of dates back in my pack and beyond.

Yet this she-wolf seemed to be resistant to my charms. And it was sending me insane. I would need to up my charm. Do what she asked of me, and make her see I was not a bad guy. Anything to lure her to my bed. I would have a taste of her before I was done here, I would be sure of that...

"Thanks for coming to another session." Ben said to me with an anxious smile. This fool, I swear I could jump toward him, and he would s\*\*t himself. He was that on edge when around me. It was so amusing. I loved the feeling of power it gave me.

"Is that not what I am here for?" I snarled, allowing my canine. teeth to elongate just enough to let them slip through my lips, so he could see them, and he stepped back a little into the wall, the scent of his fear filling the room. I wanted to laugh so badly, but instead, I walked away. "I assume I will be back again soon." I asked, turning to look at him, pushing my wolf far enough. forward, so my eye color changed too, knowing I would be scaring the \*\*er even more then too.

"Er...Erm.." he sputtered. "Y..Y..Ye. Yes. I believe so, Miles. Kaial

will confirm." His voice shakily agreed, and I continued back to my room with a smile upon my face, loving the power I had over others. The power that being an Alpha brought. It gave me al wolf with so much more power and dominance that most would

quiver in fear at their presence. I was beyond ruthless, and so much more powerful than my Dad could ever be, and he would come to realize that when he eventually handed the pack over

to me.

I opened the door to my room. Glad to be back alone, and eternally grateful that Kaia had not followed through with her threat of putting me into a multiple-occupancy room. She was trying to gain a reaction from me, I am certain. She seemed to enjoy the power she had here too. That told me that her and I would be an exceptionally remarkable couple if she would just give me a chance. Both of Alpha blood, too, we could be so powerful as a pair...

I went to lie on my bed, thinking once more of the woman who had been taking over my thoughts since she had walked into my room. It made a change to the angry thoughts of Bailey, that was for sure. But, when I returned to my pack, I would be sure to bring that b\*\*h home and make her pay for all this mess. I was here because of her. She had become too bold. Too

confident. Too brave. So much so, that she felt she could share the secret I had ordered her to keep. The secret that had brought my life crashing down around me. Risked my title...

This had gone beyond me needing her there now for the power her being my fated mate would bring. This was about making her suffer for the pain and suffering she had brought to me, because of the damage she had caused by running to her family and my family and exposing my secrets. I would make her pay. She would live to regret her mistakes. And I would ensure she

would regret them for every day of the rest of her life.

Suddenly there was a knock at my door, disturbing my angry thoughts. And the door opened. A member of staff stood there, brandishing a telephone within their hand. I had not had my phone since the moment I had arrived here. Cut off from my friends and my family. All a part of this treatment plan,

apparently. Needing to be cut off from the world. So, I wondered now why they were bringing me a phone.

“Sir, your parents wish to speak to you, I do believe Miss Kaia informed you earlier.”  
The lady said nervously.

I nodded, suddenly remembering that was why Kaia had said. she had come to my room, and I put my hand out to take the phone from the anxious-looking member of staff. \*ng the \*\*phone from her hand as soon as she was close enough.

“Hello?”

“Miles?” My Dad’s voice greeted me..

“Hey Dad. When am I coming home?” I demanded, hoping he would see sense and decide that this treatment option was not the right thing once he saw I had given it a go.

“Miles, you know why you are there. This treatment is to help. with your anger issues. The problems you have been having. We need to try to help you. Or else we will have to consider your position, you know that.” My Dad said, sounding far too calm for me.

He had no intention of changing his mind then. He was still listening to my Uncle Donovan, Jordan and Ellis over me. All the people who had taken Bailey’s words over my own.

I sighed angrily, “What is happening in the pack?” I asked.

“Pack is all fine, nothing to report, You need to focus on your treatment, then we can consider bringing you home. Finding you a mate, seeing as you chose to reject the one the moon goddess blessed you with.” My Dad said, and I am certain there was spite in his voice when he spoke. Did he not like the decision I made? Was it not my choice to make? I did not want. Bailey, and that would never charge! Yet even my own family. were set to punish me for not wanting her?! They would punish me for the mistake of the moon goddess?

I felt fury rippling through me, as my hands began to tremble. I could see the staff member who had brought me the phone. watching me curiously from across the room, like they were partially listening in. I looked across at her. I had a sudden idea...

“Excuse me, this is meant to be a private conversation with my family. An Alpha. So can you leave the room please?” I demanded angrily to the staff member, and once again I allowed my canine teeth to elongate enough, so they were. partially visible, and the fear was visible upon her face. She looked like she wanted to cry, only making me want to laugh...

“Sorry.” She stuttered, quickly rushing from the room, her scent. of fear lingering as she closed the door, only making me smirk. even more.

“Miles, do not speak to the staff like that!” My Mum suddenly spoke up. “They are there to do a job, and they are only trying to help you.”

“Well, they do not need to be standing around listening to my conversation with you.” I snapped.

“Show your mother some respect, she does not need talking to like that,” My Dad snarled at me.

“So, I assume nothing has changed then?” I snarled right back. Did he think I would be backing down to him? Nothing was changing from me. I was not going to change. I would remain the same. They needed to change their views on this whole situation. I was the rightful heir, and they needed to accept that. Ellis would never be Alpha. I would kill him before that happened...

“What are you expecting to happen, Miles? You know the situation. You are there for treatment, which we heard you were reluctant to participate in, so we are glad you changed your mind on that. But until we are happy there is positive change, and you have a suitable and secure matebond, we will not make a choice.” My Dad said bluntly, and with that, I hung up the phone, not wishing to hear another word. He was \*\*g clueless.

I looked down at the phone within my hand, my plan fresh within my mind, as I dialed a number I had long since memorized within my mind. The phone rang for a few moments, making me edge. I needed to hear her voice. I needed to feel the thrill of terrifying her. She had always been scared of me before.

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Suddenly, the ringing of the phone stopped, as she answered the phone.

“Hello?” she answered, sounding more than a little uncertain, though I wonder if that was because she was not sure who had called her. But the sound of her voice filled me with rage, and all of my anger spilled of me.

“So, thought you’d got away from me did you?” I hissed at her, all my resentment and rage pouring from me. I hated this b\*\*h, and it was about time she knew it. “I may be away from pack for now b\*\*ch, but I will be back, and when I am, I will make you pay for the s\*\*t you have caused Bailey. Mark my words. Difference will be, I will have a new mate by my side, and you will be all alone.”

I could hear her breathing quicken at my words, telling me my words had scared her. But yet, she never said a word. “What is wrong, Bailey? Cat got your tongue?” I asked sarcastically. “Not like you not to have something clever to say, that is your thing, isn’t it, being the all intelligent girl? Well, your intelligence won’t be saving you this time.” And with that I hung up, not caring if she had an answer for me or not. I had given her something to think of. My words would have been enough to scare her, and that was thrilling enough.

Bailey had thought that in running away from me, she was free, but I would bring her back. Her hell would only just be beginning.

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 82**

Chapter 82 – Asher

I sat back into the curve of the sofa as Bailey answered her phone, giving me an awkward smile as if to apologize, but I simply smiled in return, showing her I did not mind. I realized she was likely waiting for news from her pack, so taking at

phone call was not an issue. Nobody would be expecting her to be sitting with me at this time of night, so that could well be why they had called...

It was only as her eyes widened, and I looked across to her and saw her hands shaking, that I began to pay better attention. I could hear the words being said at the end of the phone, simply because she was sitting so close, and because of the fact that our hearing is so enhanced as werewolves. And I did not like what I was hearing and, needless to say, neither did Zion...

"So, thought you'd got away from me did you?" a voice hissed nastily at her, and I could see the fear in Bailey's eyes at that moment. She looked absolutely terrified, and I realized in that moment, I hated seeing her scared. "I may be away from pack for now \*\*h, but I will be back, and when I am, I will make you pay for the \*\*t you have caused Bailey. Mark my words.

Difference will be, I will have a new mate by my side, and you will be all alone."

Zion was suddenly more than alert, and he was snarling within my head. He did not like what he was hearing. I knew he would not shift while inside of my home, but I could feel his presence rippling beneath my skin. He was angry. He did not like what he was hearing. Though, neither did. Who the f\*\*k was talking to this sweet girl that way? I clenched my fists in anger, so desperate to grab the phone from her and yell at the person at the other end of the phone. Was this her former mate? Or was this someone else bullying her? Either way, I wanted to rip them limb from limb...

My eyes fell on Bailey, and I could see she was fighting tears, so I knew I needed to stay calm. I did not need to scare her with my anger. She needed support. Reassurance. She needed a friend right now. I would find out who this was and help her with dealing with them. Speak with Eden about it too. That would be the right thing to do, right? That is what a good friend would do, right? Hell, I don't know, I don't have many she-wolves for friends...

As I moved to place my arm upon her back to ask if she was okay, the voice at the other end of the phone came again, sounding just as nasty. "What is wrong, Bailey? Cat got your tongue?" he asked sarcastically. His voice sounded venomous and so nasty. Whoever he was, I hated him already, and wanted to make him pay for scaring Bailey. She did not deserve this. "Not like you not to have something clever to say, that is your thing, isn't it, being the all intelligent girl? Well, your intelligence won't be saving you this time." Suddenly the line went dead, and I saw the phone slip from Bailey's hands to the floor, clattering as it hit the wooden floor under our feet. But Bailey sat like she was frozen in time, staring ahead of her, and I knew in that moment she didn't know what to do.

I quickly moved across the sofa to her, placing my hand upon her back, as she dropped her head into her hands. "Bailey, this is going to be the most s\*\*d of questions, but I don't know what else to say." I warned her. "But, are you okay?" I gently ran my hand up and down her back, in what I hoped was a reassuring gesture. I am so not good at this sort of thing.

Zion was pacing my mind, angry, and desperate to protect the new she-wolf to our pack. My senses now turned upon their head. All I can feel from him is this overpowering urge to protect the she-wolf sitting next to me. Where has that come from? I barely even know her...

Bailey slowly turned her head to look at me. And I could see tears in her eyes. "I think I should go, Asher." She whispered, and my heart dropped at her words. She was going to push me away now? I wanted to help her, and she wasn't going to let me? I knew that Zion wouldn't settle with that scenario either... she needed to let us help... I felt desperate...

I ran my hand through my hair in frustration. "Bailey, please, let me help?" I tried, but she simply shook her head.

"I am fine. It is just a misunderstanding." She said, chewing her lower lip anxiously, going to stand, but despite her words, I could see she was visibly shaken. Telling me she was anything but fine.

I stood up alongside her as she made her way toward the door. I quickly grabbed her hand, trying to stop her as she did, but she pulled it away. Gone was the carefree atmosphere that had been between us moments earlier. She seemed tense and on edge. She was nervous and anxious about something, but whatever it was, she did not seem willing to share it, and that was not just bothering me, but it was seriously affecting Zion. too. He was whimpering loudly now.

"Bailey, please?" I tried once more, as she moved down the hallway of my home.

"Asher, thank you for tonight, I had fun. But, really, I should go. I need to go now." She said, and despite her trying to hide it, I could hear the wobble to her voice.

"Bailey, I opened up to you earlier. I haven't done that with anyone for a long time. I haven't trusted anyone like that for a long time. Maybe you could do the same with me? Try talking to me? Maybe I could help you?" I suggested, hoping that me admitting to her that I hadn't trusted anyone the way I had her in opening up the way I had might allow her to see that she could talk to me.

Yet she tilted her head slightly as she leant against the front door. "I never asked you to do that, Asher." She said quietly, and I can't explain why, but her words sting. They hurt me more than I expected them to.

“Fine, just go if that is what you want to do. I am sorry I

overstepped the mark.” I snapped, opening the front door for her, closing it a little harder than was likely necessary as she left... moved down the hallway of my home.

“Asher, thank you for tonight, I had fun. But, really, I should go. I need to go now.” She said, and despite her trying to hide it, I could hear the wobble to her voice.

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## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 83**

Chapter 83 – Bailey

I dashed away as I heard the door closing loudly. I know I have hurt his feelings. Just as he seemed to be opening up to me too. But I couldn’t stay, not after he had heard all of that. What would he think of me now? He was such a strong man, I did not want him to think I was weak. Hearing Miles talk to me in that way would change the way he thought of me without a doubt, and I was terrified it could put my position here at risk.

I rushed to my room and closed my bedroom door behind me. My heart felt like it was pounding within my chest. I could feel Akira’s presence, and she felt on edge. Whimpering, and broken. Much the same as me. She had been allowing herself to get closer to that man, I was sure of it. She had felt for him when he was struggling and that was unusual for her.

Why did Miles feel the need to call me? He was meant to be secure and in treatment was he not? So why was he able to reach out to me? None of it made sense. Though I suppose the reason why was easy to answer. He wanted to torture me. That was always his reason for his nastiness toward me. Always his reasoning for his vileness. I had naively hoped that the treatment would make some changes in him, turn him back to the boy he used to be. But, I think Jordan is right. He craves the power being the Alpha brings, and the fear it instills in people. And that makes him dangerous.

What I don't understand is why he had to make me suffer. I was willing to walk away. Allow him the life of power and freedom he desired. But he seemed to want me there. Not as his mate as fate had planned, but more as a toy to torture...

I stripped my clothes off, and walked into the shower, needing to scrub myself clean. Hating everything about me right now. This was not the life I wanted for myself. But it appeared to be the life I had been given. The life was born into. I quickly washed my body and my hair, before rinsing myself off, trying hard not to allow my mind to wander. I did not need to let myself think of home and the mess that would await me if I was forced to return. I quickly turned the shower off, stepping out and grabbing a towel as I did.

I put on my pajamas and walked back to my bed, to hear my phone ringing once more. My heart began to pound, fearful of the thought it could be Miles again, so I tentatively walked to my phone only to see it was Luna Eden.

"Hello?" I almost whispered, my voice a little hoarse.

"Hey Bailey. I can't sleep, so I thought I would get the down low on how my little host has done today." She said, her voice full of enthusiasm, and I couldn't help but smile. She was checking in on Asher. That was a little crafty. The thing was if she wanted me to drop him in it, I don't think I could. He turned out to be a lot sweeter than I had ever expected him to be.

"Did you not think I might be sleeping?" I suggested.

"You answered, so probably not." She said with a chuckle, which I suppose was logical. "So, did my Beta behave today, or do I need to give him a lesson in how to interact with other people?"

I lay myself on my bed, as I smiled at her words. He likely could do with a lesson in that, as it definitely did not seem like it was his specialty. "He did okay. Considering you forced him to come and check on me." I joked.

"He told you that?" she said with a giggle. I could see her character being quite likable, endearing even as a friend. I could see why Asher thought so highly of her. "Well, that is a big cross by his name!"

"In all seriousness, he has tried hard to make me feel welcome. As have the staff at school. I enjoyed my day. Thanks for wanting to check in on me." I told her with a smile. She was certainly going to a lot of effort to make sure I fitted in within her pack. For that, I would always be grateful. It meant I had a haven to escape to after everything with Miles...

"Aww no worries, though I am not too fussed with the ladies at school, I had no doubt they would welcome you with open arms. Just cranky pants I had my doubts over."

“Honestly, Luna Eden, he did fine. He checked on me before I started, and when I finished work. I mean, it is pretty clear he does not like having to talk to people he doesn’t know, but I don’t take that personally.”

The Luna began to laugh at the other end of the phone. “Well, you are not wrong. But he is not too bad of a guy, really. There is a sweetness under all that darkness and moodiness. You just got to rummage around a little.” she giggled.

I shook my head. Anyone would think she was trying to sell him to me. “I will bear that in mind.” I said quickly, feeling a little uncomfortable, considering I had already seen that he could be more than a little sweet just moments earlier. “Anyway, how are you doing?” I asked, hoping to change the subject.

“I want this pup out how. He must be the size of a full-sized werewolf now! Sure feels like it. His feet sure feel like it when he kicks me!” she said with such emphasis in her voice couldn’t help but snigger.

“Aww, you are uncomfortable then? Do you know it is a boy?” I suddenly realized she had said him multiple times.

“No. Just assuming with the way it is kicking the shit out of my insides. A little soccer star in the making.” She joked.

“You could have a little female soccer star.” I pointed out.

“Very true, either way, they are getting their eviction notice. pretty soon. I have cooked them long enough. Besides, they can’t be comfy anymore.”

“Do you ever think they are comfy in there?” I questioned, wondering about the pictures you see of a baby in the womb and how squished they always looked to me, and I heard Luna Eden sigh.

“Who knows, but I know I am not comfy. My belly is stretched as stretched can be. Docs have said if labor doesn’t start naturally in the next day or so, they will induce it. So mini Caleb will be here soon.” She told me, her voice now sounding exhausted. I think it is safe to say she is finding it all a bit much.

“Aww. It may be a mini Eden. You sound fed up though, Luna, are you okay?” I asked, worried about her.

“I love the thought of a new baby, and to some degree I enjoyed my pregnancy, just the end bit terrifies me. I get uncomfortable, and then actually giving birth, scares the shit out of me. Knowing that is imminent petrifies me.” She said, and the enthusiastic voice was now gone, replaced by a shaky and vulnerable sounding voice. Seems even a strong and powerful Luna has her own fears and weaknesses.

"I think I understand that. You will be in the best of care though. And you will have a gorgeous little one at the end of it all. The pain is temporary, but that gorgeous pup you will have at the end of it will be yours forever. Someone to love and adore, and make you proud." I told her and I heard her sob.

"Aww, thanks." she sniffled. "I think you can stay. Your pack isn't allowed you back. You will be my new friend." She said, and I found myself smiling. I wish it was that simple...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 84**

Chapter 84 – Asher

I sleepily walked down the stairs, after very little sleep, yet again. This time, there had been ttle to no visions of Isla that I remembered. My dreams were overtaken by visions of Bailey. And not in a pleasant way either. By a man I could not see. A man voice was the one on the phone...

Visions of her being tortured.

could not identify. Yet his

I woke up multiple times drenched in sweat, struggling to settle because I was desperate to go and check if she was okay. Yet, I knew I could not. Knew that I had to give her the space she had wanted. She had not wanted me there. I needed to know who this man was that had spoken to her like that. The moment she had rushed from my suite I had been on edge. Zion was the same. The urge to protect her was like nothing else I had experienced, and it unsettled me.

This girl is not my mate. She is technically nothing to me. Not even a pack member. But, for some reason, her vulnerability and weakness had affected me and my wolf. And hearing the way that fucker had spoken to her had ripped through my heart. I had realized then I wanted to help her, yet she had refused my help.

I needed to know more, and I would find out more one way or another. From how he spoke, and the things he said, I can only assume this man was her former fated mate. The man that had been foolish enough to reject her. I had lay there for so long trying to process the things she had briefly mentioned since her arrival which may help me decipher who this man was. I knew she had not been willing to give much away, but had said a little without realizing.

I knew he had rejected her. He must have some power over her. As she had said, he had been stopping her searching for a job out of the pack. That had to make him a senior role within their pack, to my mind, at least. That would also explain to me why he felt he could dictate where she went and what she did. Could he be their upcoming Alpha? That seemed the most obvious to me. And it would be a likely pairing too... Now... that could be an interesting turn of events... because if I am not mistaken, the

way their pack worked, along with so many others, was that the Alphas were not expected to reject the mate fated to them. That was considered a sign of going against the moon goddess. Disrespecting everything we stand for as werewolves.

If Bailey had been fated to the Lotus Shadow Pack's upcoming Alpha, like I am beginning to wonder, then this meant their pack must be in disarray if they had learned of it. Because their young, future Alpha had broken one of their main laws, so was he even able to be their Alpha anymore? And listening to the way in which he spoke to Bailey, he did not sound like a man I would want in charge of a pack...

As I reached my office door, I could see Caleb approaching, a big beaming smile upon his face. Evidently, all this additional time off to spend time with his family was doing him good. "Good morning, Good morning." He greeted me, enthusiastically. "I heard you did a good job at being the hospitable host for our new teacher." He winked at me.

I rolled my eyes at him. "Good morning to you too. Do I assume your delightful mate has been checking in on me, yet again?"

I opened my office door, in desperate need of a coffee, especially if I was going to have to deal with Caleb in one of his irritatingly cheerful moods.

"Perhaps. She called Bailey last night." Caleb said with a shrug as he followed me into the office.

I quickly turned to look at him. "Eden called Bailey last night? What time? Was she okay?" I asked, so many questions flooding from my mind, wondering if she had mentioned anything about what had happened with her former mate.

Caleb had sat himself down on the sofa in my office, and now he looked at me with curiosity. "Oh, really? Am I missing something? Was there a little more than welcoming the new girl that went on Asher?"

I felt anger rushing over me. How fucking dare he imply I tried it on with the poor girl. I did not think of her in that way, and I knew for definite she would not be looking at me in that way either. We were far from being compatible. "Don't be so fucking ridiculous." I snapped. "She had been upset when I passed her in the corridor, but she wouldn't elaborate as to why." I lied.

Caleb nodded, looking at me with suspicious eyes. "Is that right?"

Great, now he thinks I have a thing for the new teacher. Just what I need. Especially if Eden gets a hold of that piece of information, she will be doing all she can to match-make. And that is just not going to happen. My mate had been Isla. I was destined to be with her, and fate had chosen her for me. After her, I was doomed to be alone. Live a lonely life on my own.

“Yes, that is right. I do not like seeing someone upset; especially if it could bring trouble to our pack, Caleb. But, I assume you looked into her past appropriately, did you? Her family history, mate etc?” I demanded, hoping this way Caleb may look into things for me.

“Erm... I don’t know, I left it all with Eden. She seemed pretty determined to have Bailey working here.” Caleb said with a shrug, like he wasn’t even concerned, only irritating me considering the things I now knew.

“So no checks were done then?” I demanded, and I saw Caleb puff his chest up at me in a dismissive motion.

“Not a clue. She is a Beta’s daughter, Ash, not like she is going to be causing problems for us. She seems sweet enough. Obviously got you hooked already.” He winked at me.

Zion sharply and unexpectedly pushed forward, causing me to growl, causing Caleb to look at me with his eyebrows raised, not in the slightest bit intimidated by me nor my wolf. “Oh really?” he boomed. “Back off Zion.”

“Well, do not imply I am sweet on some fucking new girl to pack, just because I am concerned about her when the truth is, I am on edge for the safety of our pack. You are questioning my loyalty to Isla in even suggesting that.” I snarled, turning away from him, my fists clenched, moving toward my coffee machine.

“Ash. I was messing. And it is not questioning your loyalty to Isla. She will always be your mate.” Caleb’s voice was softer now, as he joined me by my side. A look of concern upon his face. “I am sorry if you saw it that way. It was meant as a joke. But, even if you did choose to look for another mate, there would be no shame, you know that, right? That is not betraying Isla. What you had will always remain precious. She will always remain your fated mate, and you hers. Fated by the moon goddess. But, I doubt Isla would want you alone and isolated forever. Not when you were so young, when she left you.”

His hand was upon my shoulder as I messed with the coffee machine, sorting it to allow me to make my morning coffee, desperately wishing I was anywhere but here, and able to avoid this conversation. His words were gripping at my heart. They hurt. I would always be Isla’s. I could not think of myself as somebody else’s. That to me made it feel like I was forgetting her. Betraying the bond we had. And I don’t think I could forgive myself for that.

“Well, that is irrelevant, Cal, because it isn’t happening. Least of all with the new girl, so back off, right?” I said bluntly, while Zion, stalked away, curled up in the far reaches of my mind, his emotions such a mess...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 85**

## Chapter 85 – Bailey

I waved off the last little ones from my class at the end of another fun day in school. Two days in, and I was loving this place more and more. The children were a constant source of happiness and I could not help but smile in their company, despite how broken I had been feeling inside, and Alli and Gabby were both very sweet ladies too. Both tried their hardest to make me feel welcome. Thankfully, there were no more unexpected visits from Asher today. After last night, I don't think I could cope with them. I could only imagine what he must be thinking.

I had barely slept once I had come off the phone to the Luna. Tossing and turning, thinking of everything Miles had said. I didn't know why he had decided to reach out to me. I planned to message my brother once I was back in my room today to let him know everything. Also, it would give me a chance to try to discover if anything else was happening in pack and if any more progress had been made. Because, for some reason, nobody seemed to want to keep me updated.

"Hey Bailey." Gabby stuck her head in the doorway of my classroom. "Everything ok today?" She questioned as she watched me tidying my classroom.

"Yeah, all was good." I smiled back at her.

"Good stuff." She walked away, leaving me in peace to prepare my lessons for tomorrow, before I finished work for the day. I didn't really feel in the mood for sitting chatting and gossiping in the staff room like her and Alli seemed to. I wanted to be alone, especially right now. I know that wasn't the best way to establish my place within the school, but for now it was going to be the way it was, because thanks to Miles, my head was simply not in the right place.

It didn't take long for me to have my work done once I got into it, and with me fully focused on it. So, I picked up my things and walked out of my classroom and headed for the main door of the school. "Aww, are you off sweetheart?" Alli's voice called from behind me, as I turned, I saw her standing at the doorway of the staffroom watching me.

"Yeah, all done for the day." I told her with a smile. "Will see you tomorrow."

She nodded, returning my smile. "You look tired. Get home and put your feet up. You want me to get Marc to bring your dinner to your room?" she suggested, taking me by surprise. Was she trying to find excuses for Marc to spend time with me? That seemed a little odd...

"No, thanks for offering, but I will be fine." I told her, definitely not liking the idea of a man I barely know coming to my room.

Alli grinned in response. "What about the Beta? I am sure he would be happy to help?"

I frowned. Here it was again. The implication there was something between me and Asher. All because Luna Eden had urged him to come and check on me. Anyone could see that man was far from interested in me. In anyone, I would say. So why Alli and Gabby felt the need to keep going on about it, I didn't know, but it was beginning to irritate me, "Most definitely not the Beta, thank you." I snapped, before pushing open the main school door, only to hear chuckling from the staff room, no doubt Gabby and Alli finding my response highly amusing.

'You best not be telling them King Sociable invited you back to his lair to share his chocolate stash then.' Akira decided to begin. with her little quips, as I began walking along the path from school. 'Imagine the drama! Because I imagine he doesn't do that for just anybody.'

I rolled my eyes at the rubbish my wolf was wittering. She seemed to like winding me up. Though last night she was the one whimpering over Asher, if I am not mistaken...

'Don't even go there, Akira, or I will put a block up with your again.' I warned her.

Think the happy one is rubbing off on you, you know? You have been putting a block on me a whole lot more since meeting him.' she tells me.

'Akira...' I warned, to be greeted by a giggle.

'Just saying.' She giggled. 'He gets happier, more smiley, and you get more grumpy. Go figure.'

I decided to ignore my wolf and her little digs, while I increased my speed as I walked through the pack, enjoying the late afternoon sunshine, as I saw a few of the children from school playing in the nearby play area, squealing in fun, making me smile. I turned along the nearby road that led to the pack hospital, having promised Luna Eden I would call in to visit her after work today.

I think she was getting sick of the same four walls of her hospital room, not to mention seeing the same people. She had near enough begged me to visit. So, I had been to the store and bought her some magazines and some treats before work, and had planned on heading to see her as soon as I finished work.

The pack hospital was busy as I entered through the automatic doors, and walked down the corridor. Only to bump into Alpha Caleb. His face lit up into a smile as he saw me. "Aww, Bailey, right?" he said, stopping in front of me. "You on your way to see Eden?" he asked and I nodded.

"Yeah." I agreed, unsure what else to say to him.

“She did say you were coming. Come on, I will take you up to see her, then you know where to go. She will be happy to see you. Think she gets bored with the same faces.” He said with a chuckle.

“Thanks Alpha.” I nodded at him, feeling awfully uncomfortable, as I don’t know the guy particularly well.

“No worries. I hope you are settling in okay. We would have liked to have been there for you a little more, but this little one is being a right little pain in the butt. Though, Eden says it isn’t doing anything to me, like I’m not worried about her and the baby.” He grinned.

I smiled, feeling a little awkward at his words, feeling like I didn’t really know them well enough to comment. “I am sure you are both worried. Baby will be worth it once they have arrived.”

“Oh for sure.” The Alpha has the biggest smile on his face as he says that, telling me he is super excited at being a Dad for the second time, making me wonder if he was even aware of Luna Eden’s fears of everything that was approaching...

Having walked down what felt like a serious maze of corridors, which I am sure all hospitals plan their corridors like to confuse you, we arrived at the end of a corridor, with a doorway, to what looked like a suite. The Alpha opened the door, and walked in, and I heard Luna Eden speak as he walked in. “Didn’t you just leave?”

I couldn’t help but smile at her, and even more so at the Alpha’s response. “Aww, and I love you too, baby! So lovely to see your bright and beautiful face!” he stuck his tongue out and blew a raspberry at her before continuing. “However, I found someone on the corridor I thought you might like to see.”

Alpha Caleb motioned for me to come into the room, so I awkwardly walked in to the modernly equipped hospital room, where Luna Eden laid on the bed, looking hot and bothered, and far from comfortable. “Yay! Bailey!” she said, full of enthusiasm.

I smiled in response to her, ready to say hello as I heard a chair near the side of the bed scrape, and a throat clearing, making me look across, only to find Asher sitting there, about to stand, looking uncomfortable. “I will get going Eden. Leave you to spend time with Bailey.” He said, avoiding my gaze.

“What?” Luna Eden said with surprise. “You just got her Ash, don’t be ridiculous. I can hold a conversation with more than one person at once, you know? I know it may be beyond your abilities, but I can manage it.”

Asher was now standing, like he still intended. “Honestly sweetheart, it is fine, I will let you spend some time with Bailey. I can come back later.”

The atmosphere in the room was uncomfortable, to say the least. Asher could not wait to get away, all because I walked in to the room, it seemed...

Luna Eden was now frowning. "Sit down you idiot. You only just got here. Don't be so rude." She snapped, and I realized then, there was no denying, that things with Asher were more than a little awkward, and he suddenly seemed to want to avoid me altogether after what had happened last night...

## **Beauty and The Beta Chapter 86**

Chapter 86 – Eden

I lay in the bed, seemingly my prison now I was on strict bed rest. It was getting more than a little boring now. Tiresome. Repetitive. If this baby does not come out soon, I am going to start pushing and hope for the best. I don't care if contractions have started or not. I will force the little b\*\*\*er right out. I don't think I could stretch anymore. And as much as I love my mate, he irritates me. Killing me with kindness. Not to mention s\*\*y.

"Aww, does it hurt when the baby does this?" "When the baby pees inside of you, where does it go?" comments like that were becoming a regular occurrence, and I was running out of patience... though his favorite comment lately had been, "You know they say sex brings on labor..." Oh yeah, because I feel incredibly \*\*y right now! Oozing sex appeal from each and every pore... I am the size of a beached whale! I swear he brings that thing near me again anytime soon, and I will chop it off! It is because of that thing I am in this much discomfort. It is alright for him, he sticks it in, wiggles it around a bit, gets his kicks, and he's good to go. Me, I am the one struggling for months after...

Okay, I may turn into a pregnant monster. So, unsurprisingly, when Asher, or one of our family or friends calls in to visit me, Caleb takes a break from sitting with me at the hospital, and goes to check in at work or with Matty, our little one, who has been spending time with our parents more in recent days.

So, to see Asher walk in, looking even more moodier than normal, I wasn't entirely sure I wanted Caleb to leave, but he still took the opportunity, but I guess couldn't blame him when I had just given him a hard time for suggesting a little fun in my hospital suite's washroom. I swear men think with their bits, not their brain... or my mate certainly does!

"Hey sweetheart." Asher leaned over to give me a half-hug. He wasn't keen on personal contact, so I allowed him that much. Besides, I was far too warm and uncomfortable for a proper hug. "I brought you some fruit." He says with a smile.

"Wonderful, I will add it to the rest my family brought. Will be able to open a shop soon." I said, realizing a little too late how ungrateful and sarcastic I sounded. Fortunately, I knew Asher wouldn't care.

He nodded, as he sat himself down on the chair next to my bed. "I expect a cut of the profits then."

And, I found myself smirking. "You okay Ash? You look even less happy than usual."

"Wow, cheers Eden, you have such a nice way with words, you know?" he said with a roll of his eyes, telling me he was not open to talking about it. I have known him long enough to know his body language. Something was bothering him, but Asher was like a closed book. He rarely talked about his problems, or the things that worried him. It bothered me, because I think he would find himself so much happier if he just opened up to someone.

"Always happy to help." I said with a smile. "So, how are things in the pack? Any gossip?" I asked, desperate for something exciting. I was bored as hell sitting here each day with nothing going on. It was as exciting as watching paint dry.

"Not a clue. You know I don't pay attention to gossip, Eden."

Asher said with a shrug.

"Jeez, Ash, I need to train you better, you are no good as a messenger." I rolled my eyes.

"A messenger? So I am a messenger as well as your host now?" he snapped.

I looked at him in surprise. Was he actually angry at me over that? At the end of the day, that was part of his duties as Beta, he knew that. "Asher, what is up? You know that is your job too. Bailey is nice enough. Do you and her not get along?" I urged, and just as he was about to answer, the door to my room opened, only for Caleb to walk back in. He had only just left. Did he get bored and come back? Or did he get lost? Even I don't think he is that simple...

"Didn't you just leave?" I asked him with confusion.

Caleb grinned at me sarcastically. "Aww, and I love you too baby! So lovely to see your bright and beautiful face!" he stuck his tongue out and blew a raspberry at me, the cheeky fucker, before continuing. "However, I found someone on the corridor I thought you might like to see."

He had my attention now. I know I had asked Bailey to come, so I wonder if it was her, though would she have finished her work by now? Caleb motioned for someone to come into the room, and as he did Bailey walked into the room looking more than a little uncomfortable, bless her. Her eyes fell on me, and she smiled, so I grinned back. "Yay! Bailey!" I greeted her, so she knew I was pleased to see her, and there was no reason to feel uncomfortable.

Bot, then, for some reason, Asher began to move on the chair next to the bed, and began to clear his throat, just as it looked like Bailey was about to speak “I will get going Eden. Leave you to spend time with Bailey.” He said, appearing to be avoiding everyone’s gaze. What the hell was wrong with him? I had been trying to make Bailey feel less uncomfortable, yet the moment she walks in, Asher acts like this? I swear this man needs classes in how to interact with people... he was never this bad before...

“What?” I asked, unable to hide my surprise. “You just got here Ash, don’t be ridiculous. I can hold a conversation with more than one person at once, you know? I know it may be beyond your abilities, but I can manage it.”

Yet Asher appeared to ignore what I had said and continued to stand. Evidently still planning to leave. “Honestly sweetheart, it is fine, I will let you spend some time with Bailey. I can come back later.”

I couldn’t help but frown. What was his rush to leave? “Sit down you idiot. You only just got here. Don’t be so rude!” I couldn’t help but snap at him, his behavior was downright ignorant. I had already asked him to welcome Bailey to the pack and make her feel like she was welcome, yet this could not be further from that.

Asher fidgeted uncomfortably on the spot, still avoiding the gazes of us all, and now I could see Bailey was looking uncomfortable too. ‘Right f\*\*kface.’ I snapped through the mindlink at Asher. ‘What is going on, because I asked you to welcome the new girl, yet she arrives, and you are wanting to get away as soon as you can. Did you do something you shouldn’t? You better not have had an argument with her already. You and that f\*\*g temper of yours.’

‘Oh, back off Eden.’ Asher responded. ‘Mindlinking with her in the room is rude, is it not? Fine, if it bothers you so greatly, I will stay. Don’t expect me to talk much is all I will say.’

Asher dropped himself back down into the seat he had been sitting in, his face sulking like a toddler throwing a tantrum. I swear this man was like an overgrown man-child. A bit like his best friend and Alpha. The pack was being run by two oversized children...

I looked at Bailey, hoping to salvage the situation. I want her to like it here. She could be good for our school. Plus, I genuinely liked her, and thought we could be friends. “How are you? Did you have a good day? Is everything good with you?” she smiled awkwardly, glancing over at Asher as she did... hmmm, something seemed to be going on here. I didn’t know what it was, but I swear I would find out...