

Chapter 188

The rain hadn't stopped. It wasn't pouring it was small rain, the rain that gets you wet. I was soaked,ac freezing and couldn't wait to go home for a hot shower.

"Should I be worried that we haven't heard from Alanna?". I asked Rocco.

"Nah". He grinned. "She plays by her own rules out here. I'm sure she'll be fine".

"Shouldn't we at least check? I mean it's almost 4 and she hasn't checked in once". I'm not saying something had happened to her, but I find it weird that we hadn't seen her all night.

"You up for shifting?". He asked. "We'll cover more ground and it'll be faster".

I nodded.

"Or we could just walk?". He offered.

"No". I frowned. "I'll shift it might just take a little longer for me to do so".

"A little tip. Think of your wolf and she'll appear. You got this". And he shifted before taking off into the woods.

And it was that easy? Think of my wolf and she'll appear?

So, I did. I closed my eyes took a deep breath and focused solely on connecting with my wolf. I didn't need to be angry to shift. I could do this by reaching out to her.

Or at least I hoped I could. It shouldn't be this hard and it wasn't that big of a deal. I was born wolf so, therefore.....I opened my eyes, a sigh falling from my lips.

I was still on two legs.

Maybe something was wrong with me?

"Rocco". I called out. I knew he was still here. Weirdly I could feel his presence. The trees ruffled behind me before he appeared. "You go ahead. I'll walk to our meeting place and wait there".

But he didn't leave instead he shifted back quickly pulling on the shorts that he had tied to his ankle. Good job it was dark, and I couldn't see

much.

"Jake will have my balls if I leave you out here on your own. We'll walk to Alanna and if she's not there then you can have her balls". He smirked.

"Does she always do this?". I asked.

"Sometimes. Alanna does what Alanna wants and then suffers the consequences later".

"And by consequences you mean Jake, right?".

"Right". He spoke. "She hates night patrols"

"It's not that bad". I smiled. "I don't see why she hates it so much".

"It can be a long night if nothing ever happens. Alanna always wants the action and that's why she left you with me and took off".

"So, where do you think she'll be just now?". I asked.

"Around here somewhere, I hope. We'll head back to our spot and get something to eat and dry off. She may be there".

"Okay". I nodded.

Jake had packed my bag I only hoped he filled it with goodies.

Thankfully, Alanna was already there waiting for us by the time we got back.

"Find anything exciting?". She asked.

I shook my head. "Where have you been all night?". I took a seat on a broken log and grabbed my bag.

"Patrolling like I'm supposed to. What did you bring for food?".

"And you couldn't have checked in?".

"Relax". She rolled her eyes. "We're all good here".

"You could have checked in Alanna". Rocco added.

"Fine I'm sorry". She sighed. "Now what are we eating because I'm starving".

Rolling my eyes I dug around in my backpack. He packed me a sandwich, a banana, some granola pieces and a small bag of chips.

"Yound can have half my sandwich?". I asked.

"Boring. Rocco what have you got?".

I swear sometimes I'd love to punch her in the mouth. She could be rude at times.

"Chicken". He muttered.

She scrunched her nose up before jumping to her feet. "I'll beem back I'm going to grab something to eat".

I said nothing and continued to eat my sandwich. I had a feeling we weren't going to see Alanna for the remainder of the shift. I could be wrong, but I didn't think she was coming back.

A sigh fell from my lips as I poured myself some coffee. "I'm going to put this out there and say she's not coming back?".

He shrugged. "It will be really shitty on her part if she doesn't come back and I'm sure Jake won't be happy".

"I still think there should be more than two people out here all night. It doesn't sit well with me". I spoke.

"It's safe". He grinned. "There's no need for there to be more people. We're only making sure the outsiders stay out and the territory stays secure".

"Right". I nodded a yawn escaping my mouth. I was tired, soaked to the bone and ready for my bed.

"Tired?". He asked.

"Shattered".

A laugh fell from his lips. "It takes a while to get used to and the first one is always the killer".

"I don't know how you do it every night. I'm already thinking about a hot shower and my bed".

"I don't really have a choice, and I don't want to say anything because I don't want Jake or his dad to think I'm ungrateful".

"They wouldn't think that". I frowned. "Your part of this pack just like everyone else and if you don't say anything then how are they supposed to know you need a change?".

"So, I should say something and hopefully Alanna gets my shifts". He smirked.

A laugh fell from my lips. "If she doesn't come back tonight then I'm almost certain she'll be the one taking your place. Has she done this before?"

"I'm not a grass sweetheart whatever she does or doesn't do out here has got nothing to do with me. I do my biten and that's it but when it's Alanna we barely cross paths".

"So, she has?"

"I never said that".

"You didn't need to but don't worry I'm not going to say anything. She'll land herself in it just like always".

"You being out here going to become a regular thing?". He asked.

I shrugged. "Do you ever feel like you don't belong sometimes?"

"I'm the outsider Leah so what do you think?"

"I'm the outsider too remember. I wasn't born into this pack heck I didn't even know I was a werewolf. I was brought here on false pretences and my life changed forever".

"Do you miss your old life?"

"I used to but when I really think about it there wasn't much to miss. Everything I had back home I have here. It took a little time for me to adjust and even now I still feel like I don't belong sometimes".

"Your dad's got the werewolf gene right?"

I nodded.

"You ever hear from him?". He asked.

"Sometimes". I didn't want to go down that path. I hadn't heard from him in weeks, and I wasn't sure I was going to again. But I wasn't worried it's not like I was used to having him around.

In my mind I was back to having no parents and I was okay with that. I made peace with it a long time ago. Jake and his family didn't replace mine because truth was, I didn't have any.

"How about we finish up here, we'll do one more sweep and call it a night?"

It wasn't 6 but I was more than ready to go home and go to bed. It had

been a long-wet night, and I was ready for it to be over.

"Sure". I packed away all my things before we took off into the forest.

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The house was in darkness when I got home but I expected as much. I quietly closed the door behind me making sure to lock it. I wanted to shower badly but I was so tired.

I kicked off my shoes and took off my wet clothes before making my way upstairs. I could already hear the light snores coming from our bedroom. I honestly thought I'd see him tonight. Thought he'd make some excuse to come out and see how I was getting on.

But he didn't.

Instead of disrupting his sleep I opted for the spare room but first I slipped into our room for fresh pyjamas. I tried my best to be quiet, but it was like he knew I was home.

He shot up from the bed almost giving me a heart attack.

"Hey". I whispered.

"Is it six already?". A yawn fell from his mouth as he fell back against the pillows.

"Not yet". I chewed the inside of my cheek. "Rocco let me come home early".

"Okay baby, are you getting in?". He pulled the cover back on my side his hand patting the empty space.

"In a minute let me get changed". I quickly pulled on pyjama pants and one of his t-shirt's before getting in.

Instantly filled with warmth my body relaxed against his as he wrapped himself around me.

"Missed you tonight". He whispered kissing the top of my head.

"I missed you too". I could feel my eyes closing as my body relaxed deeper into the mattress.

I was out like a light within seconds.

I slept till noon and when I woke, I felt better than expected. Yawning I stretched out my arms before getting out of bed. I brushed my teeth found

my slippers and made my way downstairs.

I could smell bacon and my stomach growl with hunger. Walking through the living room into the kitchen I smiled when I saw him at the cooker.

"Is that for me?". I asked fixing myself some coffee.

"Did you sleep okay?". He asked.

"I did". I yawned. "But I'm starving". I sat at the table as he placed the plate in front of me.

Bacon, waffles and eggs.

"How was it?". He asked.

"Like you don't already know". I took a piece of bacon shoving it straight in my mouth. I loved how crispy he always made it.

"I don't". He grinned. "But I'm assuming it went well?".

I didn't believe that he hadn't called Rocco first thing. I wonder if he knew about Alanna and her disappearing act.

"It did but I have a few things I want to talk to you about". I took the glass of orange juice he was offering and watched as he sat opposite me.

"And what's that?". He asked.

"Maybe we could go for dinner tonight and talk about it?". I suggested.

"I thought we were going to the cabin?". He frowned. "I already left my duties with Jack and was planning on going once you were awake".

The cabin would have to wait. I still had to tell him about the message I received from my gran. I still had to read said message.

"I got a message from my gran yesterday".

"What did it say?".

"I haven't read the full message. I didn't want it to put me off when I was going on my first patrol". If it was something bad it would be the only thing I would have thought about.

"Should we read it now and see what she wants?". He asked.

"Do you not think it's strange that I haven't heard from her in months and then she texts me out of the blue?".

"It is but we don't have to read it you can just delete it?". He suggested.

No, I couldn't because if I did that, I know I'd forever want to know what it said. Can you believe we still live in the same state and never see each other. She just disappeared from my life like she was never in it to begin with.

"Can you read it?". I slid my phone across the table at him.

"She's wants to see you. Said she has something important to discuss with you".

"Does it say anything else?". I asked.

"She asked if you could call her". He gave me my phone back. "I could do it if you want?".

"How did my relationship with my gran, the one person I thought I would have forever become so fucked up?". I pushed my plate to the side suddenly not hungry anymore.

"I can't answer that Leah".

"Yeah". I pushed back my chair and got to my feet. "Well, she's going to. I'm going to shower and then call her".

"So, we're not going to the cabin?".

His words stopped me in my tracks. I know how much he was looking forward to spending time together I was too, but I had to sort this now. Our trip would be wasted if I didn't.

"Can I take you to dinner tonight instead?".

"You take me to dinner?". He smirked.

"Yes". I grinned. "Just us because I still want to talk to you about some things".

Hearing his laughter I took off upstairs to get dressed. .