

## Read Novel In Between the Alpha's

### In Between the Alpha's Chapter 12

I couldn't sleep all night. Each tick of the clock was a reminder that my freedom was slowly slipping away and I had very little time left to do anything about it.

I spent the entire night thinking and brainstorming ideas, anything that could get me out of this wedding and short of being pregnant for another man, I couldn't think of any more options except running away but I know after the last attempt they wouldn't be so careless with their security.

I heard the door knob rattle and I turned just in time to see Carmen and Liana walk into my room. I instantly sat up straight and watched them as they strolled into the room without a care in the world.

"What are you doing here?" I couldn't help but ask but they both ignored me and came to stand by my bed.

"Get up," it was Carmen who spoke.

"I'm not going anywhere with you until you tell me why you're here; it isn't even morning yet." Liana scoffed and pulled back my curtains and I saw the sun rising against the horizon.

It can't be morning yet. I still need more time to think. I haven't thought about how I'm going to avoid this yet. I can't go through with this.

"Seeing the panic on your face right now is worth waking up this early," Liana said with a smile, "Now get up; we have a lot of things to do this morning."

She pulled the blanket off my body and I forced myself to get off the bed and let them lead me into the bathroom.

"Can you bathe yourself or are you going to make us do all the work for you today?" Carmen asked making me snap out of my internal battle and I turned around to shut the door. Just before I was able to close it Liana stuck her foot out, stopping me from fully shutting it.

"What do you want?" I asked and she shrugged.

"I just want to give you a piece of advice."

"I don't want your advice Liana."

"I think you'll find it helpful," she said, "If you truly want to get out of this there is only one way." She paused to gauge my reaction but I kept my face perfectly still, "Don't you want to know what it is?"

"If you're going to speak then get to the point. If not then please leave me alone."

"So rude," she chided then let out a huge sigh, "But it's your wedding day so I'll be nice." She stepped closer and leaned in to whisper, "The only way to get out of this is if you die. We're leaving you alone in the bathroom so you can do us all a favor and end it. We'll happily take the blame. Good luck."

She blew me a faux kiss and walked out making sure to shut the door tightly behind her.

I wish I could say my day got better after that but it only became worse. Carmen and Liana did nothing but make digs at me throughout the entire getting ready process. Their favorite words were that I didn't deserve a professional make-up artist.

When they saw that it wasn't bothering me so much Liana put in that I probably needed one to cover up how hideous I looked in real life. That earned her an eye roll from me and it was probably my worst mistake because once she noticed my reaction she did and said everything possible to get a reaction out of me. They only left when they had to get ready.

It took me over two hours to get ready and I cursed myself for loving how beautiful I looked. The dress was amazing. It was a simple straight gown with a few designs around the upper part. It wouldn't have been my first choice but it somehow looked absolutely beautiful.

"Come; we can't keep everyone waiting," Carmen said and I followed them quietly down the stairs and to the front of the house where I saw the convoy of cars waiting. "Did you think anyone would risk you trying to run away again?"

I was escorted to a simple black car that appeared to be in the very middle of all the cars. I expected Liana and Carmen to sit inside as well but they just shut the door after me.

"Your husband doesn't want any of us around you on the way," Liana said, "Apparently he doesn't trust us." I let out a sigh of relief at that. "Don't get too excited, you still have two heavily trained female warriors in the front seat; you still can't escape."

I immediately felt my relief disappear but I kept my expression neutral. When she didn't see any reaction she just rolled her eyes and left. Not too long after the car started and I was on my way to my doom.

A few minutes into the drive I felt the car jerk to a stop and it snapped me back to reality.

"What's going on?" I asked but I was ignored, "What is going on?"

"There was an accident here and it is going to take hours at least before the road gets cleared." One of the females said, "But we don't have hours to waste."

Just as she was speaking I saw one of father's guards approach the car and whisper something to her. Her face paled for a second before she nodded and pulled the car into reverse then took another route directly through the forest.

"Where are we going?" I asked then I turned around and saw that no one was following us, "Where is everyone?"

She stopped the car and turned to me, "Get out of the car."

"Excuse me?"

"Get out of the car now we don't have much time." I didn't know what she was up to but I got out anyways, "Now I want you to roll around on the grass for a quick second and try to cut yourself up a bit." I looked at her in shock but she rolled her eyes. "Do it."

I went on all fours and rubbed my skin against the grass a bit then used a couple of twigs to cut up my skin. Just as I had finished I saw her drive straight into a tree making me gasp. I ran over to make sure she was alright but she stepped out of the car looking perfectly unharmed.

"Are you crazy?" I asked and I saw the other guard step out as well.

"I need you to be quiet we have at least five minutes until people get here. There is a stream upfront, get into it and wash away your scent. You should also see some clean clothes around there." She said, "We'll stay here and pretend like it was an accident."

"You'll get punished," I said but she shook her head.

"They wouldn't dare punish the Luna of another pack." She said with a small smile, "I'm Aubrey from the Dark Fangs pack and you need to hurry." she continued, "I have a human friend in the next town. It's about an hour away from here. His contact is in the clothes by the stream."

"But why would you help me? You'll be guilty of treason."

"Not if they think I was compelled to do it by a witch," she said with a wink then she and her friend took out a bottle from their pockets and drank the contents after which the bottle disintegrated to dust and they fell to the ground in heaps.

"Thank you," I whispered to her then took off my heels, grabbed the hem of my dress, and ran.

### In Between the Alpha's Chapter 13

The stream was about five minutes away and I immediately jumped in and tore my dress off and let it float downstream.

True to Aubrey's words there were some clean clothes and I quickly put them on and continued my journey.

I don't know how far I ran but I ran until I came to a busy street and from the smell that assaulted my nose I knew it was dominated by humans. I can blend in here and no one will ever find me.

I made my way over to the payphone but cursed when I realized I didn't have any money on me.

"Are you okay dear?" I heard a woman ask from behind me and I turned and gave her a small nod.

"I am thank you." I said with a small smile.

"I think I have a few coins here if you need one," she said as she rummaged through her purse and handed me a quarter. "You look like you're lost."

"It's my first time in the city and I want to call my brother," I lied and she gave me a nod, "Thank you for the quarter."

She just waved me off and continued on her way. I slipped in the quarter and pulled out the note from my pocket and dialed the number. It was picked up on the third ring.

"Who is this?" I heard a male voice grind out.

"Hi I'm Charlotte and Lu- Aubrey gave me your number. She said when I get into the city that I should call you and you would help." I muttered and I heard him curse.

"She's lucky I owe her a favor," he mumbled under his breath then cleared his throat, "Where are you?"

"I don't know," I admitted, "I've never been here before."

"Okay well can you describe your surroundings for me?" I described the area to him in the best of my ability and told him what I was wearing and he sighed. "I think I know where you are; I'll be there soon; just try to stay hidden."

He hung up the phone and I lingered close to the gas station so the smell from it would continue to mask my scent. I couldn't calm down the entire time I was waiting because I was so scared that someone from my pack would run through here and see me.

I don't know how long I stood there before I noticed who I think is the man I spoke to over the phone. He had a single tattoo line that started from his middle finger and disappeared under his sleeve and he had four piercings on his face alone; one in each ear, one on the lip and an eyebrow piercing. His hair was dyed an unnatural shade of white and I couldn't make out the color of his eyes because of his dark shades.

His eyes snapped to mine and he made his way over. I secretly prayed that he was the guy on the phone and not someone from my pack.

"Are you Charlotte?" he asked in that gruff and bored voice of his and I eyed him skeptically.

"Who are you?" I asked.

"I'm Greg," he said and when I gave him a confused look he sighed and took off his glasses, "I'm the one you spoke to on the phone; Aubrey's friend."

I let out a sigh of relief and came out of my hiding spot and allowed him lead me to a simple black station wagon.

Just as I got into the car he turned to me, "I hope no one from your pack followed you here." He said and I gasped in shock. How does he know about packs?

"What do you mean pack?" I asked trying to feign ignorance, "We're not animals."

"Don't try to play dumb kid," he cut me off, "I know all about werewolves and packs. I came from one too."

"But you don't smell like a werewolf."

"That is courtesy of a potion I got from a witch friend." He said, "Speaking of which; you might need one too so your pack doesn't find you."

"Why are you helping me?"

"I'm helping Aubrey not you." He corrected.

"Why are you helping her?" I probed and he shot me an annoyed look that made me quickly turn to face the window.

Just when I had given hope of him answering me he spoke in a small, almost inaudible voice, "Because when I was at my lowest she helped me."

He took me to an abandoned building first and my heart rate began to spike. What if he's bringing me here to kill me?

"Relax, I can hear your heart beating fast," he said, "I'm just taking you to see the witch who gives me my potion."

"Why would she be living in a rundown building?"

He didn't reply, just stopped the car and gestured for me to come out and follow him which I did. Just as we were a few steps away from the door of the

house I felt a ripple pass through me and the atmosphere changed revealing what was a beautiful looking bungalow with a huge garden.

His eyes snapped to mine and he made his way over. I secretly prayed that he was the guy on the phone and not someone from my pack.

“Wow,” I couldn’t help but say and I saw Greg smile from the corner of my eye.

“You’re not the first to be fascinated by my cloaking spell,” I heard a voice say and I turned abruptly and saw the witch. She looked young, almost my age but I know from experience that she is probably a lot older. Her hair was an unnatural shade of black almost as if the night itself bled into her hair and her violet eyes were so unreal. It gave her a hauntingly beautiful look.

“Hi I’m-“

“Charlotte, I know,” she said with a smile, “And I also know why you’re here.” She handed me a small perfume bottle, “One spray and your werewolf scent is gone completely for the next 24 hours.”

“Thank you,” I said but she just waved me off, “But wait, what’s the catch.”

I saw a smirk grow on her face, “What do you mean?”

“Everything comes with a price,” I said, “He’s helping me because he owes Aubrey; why are you helping me?”

“You’re smart I’ll give you that,” she said, “My only request is that when you’re in a position to help; don’t forget about my kindness. The witches need an advocate.”

“I won’t,” I promised, “Thank you.”

Greg signaled that it was time to leave and I followed him back. I was almost to the car when I heard her voice clear as day in my head.

“You have a long road ahead of you Charlotte; and when all seems like it is lost remember that you will always have an ally here.”

Greg started the car and turned to me in shock, “You’re either very smart or very dumb for talking to a witch that way.”

“She didn’t seem to mind,” I shrugged, “But wait; I forgot to ask her name.”

“She wouldn’t have told you,” he said, “For witches names have power; she would never tell someone her name because it would mean having power over her.” He continued, “All she or any other witch needs to perform a spell on you is your name.”

“Then should I be worried that she knows my name?”

“You would be a fool not to be,” was his only reply.

#### In Between the Alpha’s Chapter 14

I have been staying with Greg for two weeks and honestly it’s not as bad as I initially thought. I was scared of him at first but now I know that Greg is just a teddy bear underneath all that aggression.

I’ve been helping out at his grocery store to earn my keep and so far I haven’t heard or even seen a single person from my old pack. I’m finally free and it feels so good although it hasn’t stopped me from glancing over my shoulder every time.

It was awkward at first having to stay with someone and accept favors from someone I don’t even know but we got into an easy routine by the second day and he has only two house rules.

Don’t forget to spray the potion every day.

Do the chores and clean up after yourself.

I’ve also been in touch with Luna Aubrey, in fact she was the one who sent Greg the money to take me shopping seeing as I left my pack with nothing but that horrible wedding dress which needless to say I burnt to a crisp so now I have absolutely no ties to my old pack.

I dyed my auburn hair a mousy brown color and I cover up my green eyes with hazel contacts. They irritate my eyes a lot of times but I have to keep it up just in case someone from my pack wanders here by accident.

“Charlotte!” I heard Greg yell, “I’m leaving for the store now, are you coming or not?”



"I'll be right there." I replied and I heard him huff and mumble something under his breath. I quickly sprayed the potion and just like that my scent was cloaked.

"I swear if I have to yell again I'm leaving without you," He yelled again and I rolled my eyes and stepped out of the room.

"Will you relax already, I'm right here," I said as I walked past him and out the door.

"You're late again," he frowned, "Keep up like this and you're getting fired."

"I'm barely a minute late," I said with a frown of my own, "And you can't fire me; I'm your only employee, who's going to do all the work if I'm gone."

He seemed to think about that for a minute because he scowled, "Just try to be early okay."

We got to the store and I quickly settled into my usual routine. At this point I basically knew everyone who came in or out; it's a pretty small town so it makes it a lot easier and it also makes it harder for people to go missing.

"Good morning Charlie," Mrs. Wiggins said and I flashed my brightest smile at her.

"How are you today?" I asked and she shrugged.

"As well as I can be at 79." She said making me laugh.

"You know I don't believe you; you don't look a day over 60."

Mrs. Wiggins is the resident old lady. She is super nice to everyone and everyone knows her, people always bend over backwards to help her because they know she'll do the same for them. She's the one who brings food when you're broke and comes to visit after a tragedy.

"I saw a cute guy down in aisle 12." She said with a wink and I rolled my eyes slightly. "Don't give me that look, he's hot I can guarantee that."

"Thanks but I'll pass."

“Are you sure you don’t want him? You haven’t even seen him yet.” she said and I nodded not looking at her, “Oh there he is by the drinks with the white shirt and jeans.”

Out of instinct I raised my head and I have to give it to her, he is hot. He has a mop of light brown hair on his head and I can see his eyes are a beautiful shade of cocoa. He also has a lean athletes body, nothing too built but also not too skinny.

“I know that look; he is hot isn’t he.” She said with a wag of her brows and I couldn’t help the laugh that escaped me.

“He’s hot I’ll admit, but I’m not interested.”

“Well then, I guess I can keep him for myself.”

“Go ahead,” I said with a small laugh, “I’m sure you’ll be able to charm the hats off of him.”

I saw him raise his brows slightly at that and I realized he must have heard me. There is no way he would have heard me from that distance except.

He made his way over to us and his scent hit me like a ton of bricks. He’s a werewolf. I can’t get anything other than that because one of the side effects of the potion is I can’t smell people’s ranks or packs.

“I’ll see you later Charlie,” Mrs. Wiggins said with a wink as she hurried off; traitor.

He set down the things he had picked and I began to ring them up.

“So Charlie,” he began and I just gave him a small hum in response, “I’m Jake.”

“That’s nice,” I said without looking up. I know my scent is covered but that still doesn’t help my fear that he is after me.

‘I haven’t seen you around here before.” He said, “I’m not a regular but I’m here almost every month.”

“I just moved in with my uncle two weeks ago.” I said sticking to the lie that Greg had all but tattooed into my head.

"That's cool," he said as he handed me cash and I started with his receipt, "I was wondering if you would like to hang out sometime. I know you're probably tired of hearing this but you are absolutely beautiful."

"Thank you for the compliment," I said as I handed him his things, "But I don't go out with strangers."

"Then let's get to know each other."

"I'm sorry," I said with a small smile as I handed him the change but he shook his head.

"Keep the change." He said, "I'll see you around Charlie; maybe I'll be able to change your mind."

He left the store and I let out a breath I didn't know I was holding.

"For someone who wants to avoid getting captured you're not doing a good job at avoiding werewolves." I heard Greg say from behind me.

"It wasn't me okay," I whisper yelled, "It was Mrs. Wiggins who started talking about how cute he was and he overheard it and used that as an invitation. I didn't do anything."

"Meddlesome old witch," he cursed but I could see the small smile at the corner of his lips, "Listen; you have to be extra careful and your refusal will only excite him more. He's a beta."

"How do you know that?"

"I've spent a lot of time around werewolves to know a Beta when I see one," was his reply, "He's going to see this as a game of catch." He said, "My advice is go on that stupid date with him."

"I thought you wanted me to avoid him."

"I do."

"Well now you're being confusing."

"Let him grovel for a little while longer," he said, "Then go on the date with him and make sure it is the worst date of his life; easy."

He walked away and I couldn't help but roll my eyes. Easy for him to say; he isn't the one who's now on a Beta's hit list.

I forced the thought out of my head and went on with my day.

## In Between the Alpha's Chapter 15

Jake has been here every day for the past week and I have been doing my very best to avoid him. It's hard and I hate to say that I have not succeeded.

At first I would leave the counter when I see him but he would wait outside until I finish my shift and I'm heading home so he can ask me out on a date.

His persistence is actually cute and honestly if he wasn't a Beta I could see myself going out with him but I am avoiding the werewolf world at all costs right now. The only thing that can take me back there would be to find my mate and as long as I stay here in this human town that chance is pretty much nonexistent.

As usual he walked in by 2: 15 pm and I watched him as he picked up the same things he always does: eggs, milk, sugar, flour, cheese, bacon and watermelons. I already know his list by heart and he never misses a single thing any day and sometimes I wonder if he eats the same thing every day; that can't possibly be healthy.

Today was a bit different because by the time I was done ringing up his stuff I realized that he didn't take his usual pack of mozzarella cheese.

"You forgot to get cheese," I couldn't help but blurt out and I saw him raise a brow in surprise and I mentally face palmed myself for slipping up that I know his order.

"It's flattering that you already know what I pick up every day," he said as he put a pack of cheese down on the counter, "I wanted to see if you looked at me as much as I looked at you. It's good to know I'm not the only one who's interested. My only question now is why you're leaving me hanging."

"I am not interested," I said with an eye roll as I added the cheese to the other things to avoid answering his latter question, "It's a small town and the same set of people walk in every single day; I know everyone's list."

“Keep telling yourself that sweetheart,” he said with a wink, “Don’t think I didn’t realize you ignored my question,” he said and I cursed under my breath, “Have you put any thought into my offer?”

“Jake I’m sure you’re a sweet guy and all but-“

“One date Charlie; that’s all I’m asking,” he said, “Just a few hours of your time to show you that I’m worth it.”

“Why do you want to go on a date with me so bad anyways?” I asked genuinely curious, “I barely talk to anyone and I don’t go out so why me?”

“There’s just something about you that pulled me in from the beginning,” he began, “I knew you were special; almost like we’re supposed to be m-friends.”

I didn’t miss his slip-up, he almost said mates but he isn’t my mate; I know he isn’t. I don’t know how you’re supposed to know who your mate is but I can just tell that he isn’t mine.

“I’m really sorry Jake but I’m going to have to-“

“Accept,” I heard Greg say from behind me and I turned around to give him a look and mouthed ‘What the Actual Fvck’.

“I think you’ve t0rtured this poor man enough.” He continued and I rolled my eyes; says the person who actually told me to t0rture him. “She would be more than happy to join you on your date.”

He picked up a sticky note and scribbled down the address then handed it to Jake who gave Greg a relieved look.

“Thank you Mr.,” he trailed off waiting for Greg to tell him his last name but he just shook his head.

“Please, call me Greg.”

“Thank you Greg,” Jake said then turned to me, “I’ll pick you up tomorrow at 6; dress casual.”

“You’re the one who said to tell him no,” I whisper yelled at Greg as soon as we got back to the house, “I was telling him no and you told him yes.”

"You've told him no long enough," he said not facing me, "Just go on this date and make sure it's terrible." He continued, "Besides he is pretty easy on the eyes."

"He's a werewolf," I pointed out, "I don't want to go on a date with him no matter how easy on the eyes he is."

"So what you're saying is if he was a human you would go on that date with him?"

"Yes; that is exactly what I'm saying."

"That's a bit prejudiced to your own kind don't you think?"

"Well MY kind tried to get me married to a man almost three times my age and they locked me in a dungeon and tortured me for a week." I screamed, "They would have dragged me to that altar kicking and screaming if not for Luna Aubrey and I would be shackled to that monster for the rest of my life which wouldn't be much anyways. So excuse me if I don't want to have anything to do with them."

Greg stared at me with his mouth slightly open and I realized what I had just done. "I am so sorry," I began, "I should never have yelled."

"You don't have to apologize," he said softly, "I understand how you feel more than you think." He sat on the couch and gestured for me to do the same, "I don't think I've ever told you how I ended up in this human town."

"I'm the son of an Alpha but not from his mate. I was a bastard because I was his only heir he left me alive but he was the worst father ever." He said with a small smile, "His mate wasn't any better. She was bitter because she couldn't have a child and she somehow found a way to blame me for it."

"One day his mate got pregnant and he decided he had no use for me and basically ignored me because he was going to have his perfect heir," he smiled humorlessly then pointed to an almost healed scar running down his left temple, "He did this to me the night she died and lost the baby."

"I ran away the day after and accidentally stumbled onto Aubrey's territory," he smiled a genuine smile then, "She was about my age and was the daughter of the Alpha; she saved me and brought me here. I owe her my life."

"I am so sorry," I whispered.

"I didn't tell you this because I wanted your pity," he said, "I'm just saying that I know how you feel about werewolves and I understand your anger but if you want to get rid of that Beta completely then you have to do as I say."

"Okay," I whispered and he gave me a small smile.

"You should go and change; I'll get dinner ready."

I gave him a nod and made my way to the room but stopped halfway, "Greg," I called out and he froze, "Thank you."

"You're welcome Charlotte."

"I'm grateful to her for saving your life," I said then added softly, "Because you saved mine." He gave me a small smile and while he was in a good mood I decided to ask, "Who was your father?"

"My father was Alpha Hunter; your ex-fiancé."

## In Between the Alpha's Chapter 16

I was already dreading the date from the moment I woke up. I went about my day with my thoughts running around in my head. In fact, I was so in my own head that customers actually noticed and Greg had to give me a ten minute break to (and I quote) "Get my head back into the game".

"Are you alright today dear?" Mrs. Wiggins asked snapping me out of my thoughts and I quickly nodded and gave her a small smile, "You've just been so out of it today; I've been watching you since I walked in."

"It's okay Mrs. Wiggins; I'm fine." I said, "I'm just thinking."

"Are you sure?" she asked again and I nodded, "If you're feeling a bit under the weather then I'm sure Greg will be more than happy to give you the rest of the day off."

"I'm perfectly fine Mrs. Wiggins," I assured her, "I promise you."

"Well if you're sure," she trailed off as I packed up her stuff, "I hear you're going on a date with the hot guy."

“Where did you hear that?” I asked quickly.

“We live in a small town Charlotte; news travels fast.” She said with a shrug, “Besides Mary said he asked her where the best date spots are and everyone knows he has his eyes on you; so we put two and two together and figured you finally agreed to go on a date.”

“So now the whole town knows about the date.”

“Pretty much yes,” she said with a shrug, “But as of a few days ago I thought you weren’t interested in him, what changed your mind?”

“I’m still not interested,” I said with a frown, “I just agreed so he would stop bothering me every day. It would be good to not have to see him every single day.”

“You wound me Charlie,” a voice said from my left and both of us turned sharply to face Jake. “And here I was thinking you had grown attached to me.”

How did I not notice him sneak up? I must be getting way too comfortable here; I can’t keep my guard down anymore. What if my pack comes back and I’m too relaxed. I can’t go back there. Luna Aubrey can’t save me twice.

“Earth to Charlie,” he said snapping his fingers and bringing me back to reality. I realized Mrs. Wiggins had left us and he was sporting a huge grin on his face, “It’s good to know that I distract you so much.”

I kept my face perfectly neutral and ignored his words and started ringing up his things and I tried to keep the confusion out of my face when I saw a bunch of things he has never bought before.

“It kind of sucks that you work at the only good store here,” he began, “You’ll probably piece together what the date is before tonight.”

“I’m not looking forward to it enough to make me lose a few minutes of my day over it.” I said and I saw surprise flash across his features before he wiped it off.

“I take it you don’t want to go on this date.”

“What gave it away?” I asked rhetorically and he just smiled.



"Don't worry," he began, "You may not want to go now but I promise that you won't regret it by the time we're done."

He might be wrong because it's almost time for the date and I already regret saying yes. It is 5: 58 and I've been staring at the clock wondering if I could just freeze time right here.

"You'll be fine," Greg said as he walked into the living room, "Besides if you're going on a date looking like that then there's a 90 percent possibility you won't get asked out again."

I looked down at my outfit. It's a pair of grey sweatpants and a matching grey hoodie with white sneakers. My hair was in a low ponytail and I thought I looked cute; lazy but cute.

"You're so mean, there's nothing wrong with my outfit."

"If you say so." He smirked and I was about to reply when I heard a knock on the door, "Six o'clock; he's punctual I'll give him that."

I ignored him and opened the door to see Jake standing there with a bouquet of roses in his hand. I looked him up and down slowly; he was wearing a pair of jeans and a simple blue t-shirt.

"Don't you think roses are a bit cliché?" I asked as I took them out of his hands and made sure he saw me placing them on the table.

"I didn't know what you liked; it seemed like a safe choice," he shrugged, "You look beautiful."

"I know," I said with a sickly sweet smile on my face, "Are you going to stand here all day or are we actually going to leave?"

"You seem excited about this date."

"The quicker we leave; the quicker the date will be over." I said as I stepped out and shut the door behind me, "So where are we going?"

I honestly feel bad about being so rude and dismissive towards him because he obviously put so much effort into this.

We took a walk around the park and even fed some ducks before ending up at a cute little picnic site. It was so beautifully set up with tiny lilies and candles. It

was at the tip of my tongue to mention how beautiful it was but I had to dismiss him with a shrug. I could see the hurt on his face but it had to be done.

The snacks and pastries actually tasted wonderful and by some miracle he actually made my favorite oat cookies.

"You seem to like the oat cookies," he began softly and I shrugged.

"They're not horrible," I lied.

"So why don't you tell me a bit about yourself," he began and I shot him a bored look; I hate that sentence so much. He seemed to get the hint because he cleared his throat, "On second thought would you prefer it if I started?"

"You can do whatever you want."

"Well you already know my name is Jake and I'm 21; I'm from a small town about a day south of here." Well it's good to know that his pack isn't anywhere close to mine, "I work in real estate with my best friend; he's the boss." In other words he's the Alpha, "What about you?"

"I'm Charlotte and I'm 19." I said simply and he raised a brow.

"That's it?"

"That's it; were you expecting some kind of life story?" Seeing the hurt on his face made my heart clench and I almost took back my words.

"I'm sorry," he began, "I really thought you were just playing hard to get; I didn't realize that you really didn't want to go on this with me." He let out a long sigh, "How about this; you drop the attitude; I've taken the hint and I'll never bother you again. Let's just finish today on a good note."

I thought about it for a second before nodding curtly, "Fine," he gave me a small smile, "I really can't tell you anything more about myself; Greg is my only family."

"That's okay; I'm sorry for prying."

We sat in silence before I spoke, "the cookies are my favorite actually."

He let out a small laugh, "Good to know."

## In Between the Alpha's Chapter 17

True to his words Jake has never bothered me for a date or anything romantic and he doesn't come to the store every day anymore; he comes once a week- Tuesday to be exact. And although I didn't ask why he offered up the information himself; he has to go back home every week because his "friend" needs him.

I knew he couldn't stay away from his pack for too long. In fact I wonder why his Alpha let him stay away this long in the first place. Father would have never allowed it.

I pushed all thoughts of Jake out of my mind and focused on getting ready for the day but something didn't feel right. I paused what I was doing to think about it then I realized- Greg wasn't yelling at me to hurry up.

"Greg," I yelled as I poked my head out of the door, "Is everything okay?"

Everywhere was quiet for a second and I was about to go looking for him when he yelled back, "Yeah; everything's good."

"Why aren't you ready for work yet?"

"Oh I must've forgotten to tell you," he said, "We're not going to work today. I already asked someone to take over for today."

"You're giving me a day off?"

"I'm giving myself a day off," he replied, "But by extension that kind of applies to you now quit yelling; I have things to do."

I distinctly heard a door slam shut and I chuckled in response. A day off seems like heaven right now; I could use it. I quickly stripped out of my clothes and into a comfy pair of cotton shorts and a plain tee and decided to spend the rest of my morning cleaning up the house.

Contrary to what most people say I actually like to clean. It was always a way for me to clear my head and also a subtle act of defiance towards my father since he hated the idea of us being useful for anything other than looking pretty. According to him, the daughter of an Alpha does not degrade herself to tasks like cleaning. Doing it despite his qualms towards it made it all the more fun.

I had just finished up in the kitchen when Greg walked in. he took in the sparkling counter tops and the rag in my hands and just made a hum of appreciation.

“Hey I need you to help me get some things from the hardware store down the street.” He said and I nodded. “Just meet Mr. Brennan and he’ll give you my box of tools that I lent him.”

“Sure; just let me clean up my hands first.”

I finished cleaning up and made my way down the street. I didn’t bother changing because it’s a walk able distance, I should be in and out in fifteen minute tops.

Lucky for me when I got there Mr. Brennan wasn’t attending to anyone. I just had to wait at the desk while he got the tools for me.

“Tell Greg I said he’s a life saver.” He said as he handed me the box of tools which is a lot heavier than I expected.

“Will do Mr. Brennan; have a good day.”

I made my way outside and I had barely gotten a few feet away from there when I heard my name being called. I stopped and turned around and saw Jake staring at me with shock written all over his face.

“Are you okay?” I asked but he kept staring at me with that dumbfounded look on his face. “Quit the staring; it’s creepy.”

“I never thought,” he began but trailed off, “You can’t be,” he continued with the half sentences and confusing words and I rolled my eyes, “Is that why you wouldn’t date me?”

“I have no idea what you’re talking about so you have to be more specific.”

“You’re a werewolf,” he said and I had to wipe the surprise off my face and make it a mask of confusion.

“I have no idea what you’re talking about,” I said, “You sound crazy right now so please stay away from me.”

I turned on my heel and tried to make a quick escape but he hurried after me and came to a stop directly in front of me.

“Don’t try to deny it or make me look like a fool,” he said in a hard voice, “I can smell your scent; it’s faint but it’s there almost like you’ve been hiding it somehow.”

That was when it dawned on me; I had forgotten to spray the potion this morning because Greg said we were not going to the store. How could I have been so stupid?

“I can see the wheels turning in your head; I know that you know I’m right,” his voice snapped me out of my thoughts, “Why are you hiding out here? If you tell me I can help you.”

“Just leave me alone please,” I begged and he appeared confused, “Just stay away from me.”

“I can help you.”

He had barely finished his sentence when I turned on my heels and ran. I could hear him behind me but I pushed my legs to go faster. I won’t lose my freedom when I just got it and it won’t happen because of him.

A few times he almost caught up to me but luck was on my side because I was able to turn a corner he probably doesn’t know about and get home. I slammed the door behind me and tried to even out my heavy breathing.

I am screwed. I am so screwed. I am in so much trouble and Greg- oh my goddess, Greg; I don’t know how he’s going to take the news. I have ruined everything.

“Charlie is that you?” I heard Greg ask and I forced my voice to maintain a normal pitch as I replied with a yes. “Can you come over to the kitchen real quick; I need you to do something for me.”

“Sure.” I put the box of tools on the floor and made my way into the kitchen. “Is everything ok-“

“Congratulations,” he said holding a small cupcake in his hands with a candle over it, “It has been a full month since you came here. In my opinion you’re completely free of the werewolf world.”

“Thank you so much,” I said with a huge smile on my face, “This is amazing Greg. Did you make it yourself?”

"I did actually although I had to ask Mrs. Wiggins for her recipe." He said then he handed the cake to me, "Make a wish."

I closed my eyes and wished for everything- especially my mistake- to right itself then I blew out the candle and took a bite.

"This is actually really good," I said and he shrugged albeit not modestly.

"Maybe I should add baking to my ever growing list of talents."

"Yeah; you can put it right after c0cky." I said and he let out a bark of laughter.

"Come on; I made breakfast."

He picked up two plates and I followed behind him to the living room. As soon as he put the plates on the table I cleared my throat making him turn to me.

"I made a very big mistake," I said and he raised a brow.

"What did you do?"

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 18

I told him everything that happened and he just sat in his chair staring at me with an unreadable expression on his face.

"I am so sorry." I said when he didn't say anything after a few seconds, "I totally forgot about the potion because you said that we weren't going to the store today. I just assumed that I wasn't going to leave the house at all." I continued, "And I'm not trying to say it's your fault in any way I was just careless and I'm sorry."

He still didn't say anything and in all honesty I would take anything- even him yelling at me- to his silence. It's a lot scarier as he's quiet because I have no idea what is going on in his head.

"So he knows you're a werewolf." He said and I nodded, "What did you do when he found out?"

"I ran." I said, "It was the only thing I could do short of admitting that he was right."

"What do you plan on doing about it now?" he asked and confusion etched on my face, "Don't look at me like that; I want to know what your plans are right now."

"What can I do? My only option right now is to avoid him and try not to run into him anymore."

"If you think that is going to work then you are a lot more naive than I thought." He said as he rose from his chair.

"Excuse me?"

"That's your big plan?" he asked, "To avoid him?" I nodded, "And you really think that it's actually going to work?"

"Then what pray tell do you think I should do?" I asked and all he gave me in response was a shrug, "You can't just tell me that my plan is a shitty one and not give me a better one."

"Actually," he began, "I can and that is exactly what I plan on doing." He said with a smile, "This is your problem so you are going to fix it yourself."

He was already at the door of the living room when he stopped and turned around. I thought he was coming to help me out with my dilemma but he just picked up one of the plates.

"We can't forget breakfast," he said then left me alone wondering what the hell just happened.

Regardless of what Greg said I stuck to my plan of avoiding Jake and it actually seemed to be working. Once I see him walk into the store, I leave for my break. If I see him walking down the street then I turn around and walk the other way. He hasn't set sight on me since the incident and that was exactly three days ago.

I stepped out through the back for my break and almost screamed when I saw Jake leaning against the wall waiting for me; so much for my plan of avoiding him.

"You've been avoiding me," he said and I made to go back inside but he blocked me, "I'm not here to fight; I just want to talk."

“Look Jake you’re a good guy but after what you said a few days ago you sound crazy.” When in doubt, feign ignorance.

“Don’t,” he began in a cold tone, “Don’t play me for a fool.” He said and I actually felt fear prick down my spine, “I’m a lot of things but a fool is not one of them. I know a werewolf when I smell one and you know I’m telling the truth.”

“Listen Jake I don’t know what you want me to say.”

“How about you start with the truth? Then we can go on from there.”

“I don’t owe you anything.”

“Except you want me to go to the council to find out if anyone is missing a werewolf then I suggest you start talking.” He said and when he saw the look on my face he sighed, “I’m sorry; I’m not going to tell anyone. I just want you to be honest.”

“You want me to say that I’m a werewolf then fine, I am.” There goes that plan; Greg was right, it was a sh!tty one. It didn’t even last a week.

“Why are you hiding here?” he asked and I let out a deep breath. “And don’t lie to me either.”

“If you don’t want me to lie to you then don’t ask questions that I can’t answer.”

“Are you hiding from someone or running from someone?”

I stayed quiet for a few seconds before replying, “I just needed a fresh start that’s all.” It’s not exactly a lie but it’s not the full truth either.

“Is that why you didn’t want to go on a date with me?” he asked and it took me a second to actually realize what he was talking about. “Is it because you didn’t want anything to do with our world?”

“Are you serious right now?”

“Well what do you want me to think?”

“It’s a bit self centered to think that I didn’t want to go on a date with you for any other reason other than me not actually wanting to.”



"I'll take that as a yes then."

"Someone's unusually c0cky." I said with an eye roll but I couldn't help the small smile that tugged at my lip.

"I don't care you know," he began, "If you want a normal human life. I know a few people who share your sentiments; especially rogues."

"Where are you going with this?"

"I'm just saying that I would never have cared- I still don't care that you're a wolf."

"Thank you." I said mainly because I was unsure of what else to say.

"So where is your pack? Or were you born a rogue?"

"I'm from North of here." I said using the exact same description he used the first time we met.

"There are a few packs north of here; do you mind narrowing it down a bit?"

"No questions; no lies." I reminded him and he nodded.

"Okay, I'm sorry," he said, "How long ago did you leave?"

"Not long," was my answer and he sighed.

"I'm not going to get anything out of you, am I?" He asked and I shook my head. "That's okay, it's good to have someone here I can actually talk to about werewolf stuff without sounding like I'm losing my mind," he said and I let out a small laugh.

"I guess it's nice to not have to hide all the time."

"I can help you, you know," he began, "If you're in trouble or if someone is looking for you. I'm a Beta and I could help."

"I'm sorry if I don't trust you considering you threatened to report me to the council."

"I'm sorry about that. I would never do that." He began, "I swear it."

"Thanks but it's not what you think." He didn't seem to believe me but he let the subject drop anyways and I was grateful for that.

He opened his mouth to say something but I wasn't ready for any of his questions so I quickly interrupted him, "I have to go; I'm sure my break is almost over."

"That's okay," he said with an awkward shrug, "Maybe I could have your number and call you sometime so we can finish this conversation; maybe over coffee?"

"I don't have a phone," I said with a small smile.

"Will tomorrow be okay then?"

"I don't know yet," I said, "But I'll let you know whenever I'm free to talk."

He seemed to get the hint because he nodded, "I'll see you around Charlie."

I just nodded and rushed back into the store. I stayed at the back for a few minutes trying to calm myself down when Greg walked in.

"How did your talk with the Beta go?"

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 19

"What talk?" I asked, "I didn't talk to anyone."

"Have you ever been told that you are a very sh!tty liar." He said and I rolled my eyes. "You should stop trying because it's funny trying to watch you lie when you obviously can't."

"That is not true." I said, "I would have you know that I am a very convincing liar."

"Of course you are." He began, "Rule number 1 sweetheart; never play denial as a first tactic especially when you're a horrible liar; everyone expects it and it's so painfully obvious that it's sad."

"I am a good liar."

"Whatever floats your boat sweetheart." He said with a smile, "We all know the truth."

“How did you know I spoke to him anyway?”

“Well for starters I can smell him all over you; it’s faint but it’s there so I’m assuming he didn’t touch you but he was around you long enough for his scent to rub off,” he began, “And I knew it was only a matter of time before your horrible plan flopped and he cornered you.” He continued, “He wouldn’t have done it in front of me because he’s not sure if I’m a werewolf or not because some of us actually know how to put our potion.”

“I already said I was sorry about that,” I said but he ignored me.

“So that excludes cornering you after work.” He continued, “Everyone knows you go out back during your break so it’s only common sense that he would use that time to talk to you. Then add in the fact that you look like you just ran a marathon or saw a ghost; I just put two and two together.”

“I don’t know whether that was freaky or weird.”

“Maybe it’s a bit of both,” he shrugged, “What did he say? More importantly what did you say?”

I relayed the entire conversation back to him and he seemed to think about it for a second before he nodded, “Good.”

“Excuse me?” I said not sure if I had heard him right.

“It was a good thing you told him the truth.” He said, “That was your only option from the beginning.”

“I’m sorry but weren’t you the one who was against him from the very beginning? Now you’re suddenly supportive of me telling him my life story?”

“I didn’t say you should tell him your life story; I’m supportive of the fact that you told him the truth.”

“That makes no sense at all.”

“Listen, I didn’t want you to have anything to do with him but you threw that option far away when you caught his attention- not saying it was your fault,” he quickly added, “I remedied that with the date didn’t I?” he asked and I nodded, “Sorry I didn’t quite catch that.”

“Yes you did,” I muttered begrudgingly and he nodded.

"I did but then what do you do? You forget your potion and he finds out that you're a werewolf."

"I'm sorry okay."

"Oh I'm not upset," he laughed, "This is like a soap opera and I have front row seats," he said making me scowl, "I'm just letting you know the lesser of two evils here. Look at it this way; either you hid it from him and he found out the truth himself or you tell him- like you did- and control how and when he finds out the truth."

"Why didn't you tell me all this yesterday?" I asked, "it would have saved me a lot of worrying."

"Forgive me for not telling you but you would surely have found a way to fvck it up just like you fvcked up every other plan I gave you."

"I do not fvck up plans."

"Oh so you just choose to ignore them and do what you want then?"

"I do not do that," I said crossing my arms, "I have followed all your plans to the letter."

"Just like you followed my plan to always put on your potion?"

"That was a simple mistake and it was just that one time."

"What did I say about denial?"

"You are so mean." I said, "You're like some evil criminal mastermind from a horror movie." I said and he shot me a grateful look.

"That is the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me," he said and I rolled my eyes, "Now while I won't deny that I'm all invested in your life you need to get back to work. I don't pay you to sit on your a.ss all day."

"Don't I get a day off for having a sh!tty day?"

"Not when the sh!tty day is your fault no," he said, "Now get back to work; we'll figure the rest and how to go from here at home; even the walls have ears."

"Thank you Greg."

“Why don’t you thank me by actually doing whatever it is I tell you from now on?”

“You just had to ruin the moment didn’t you?” I asked and he rolled his eyes.

“Get back to work Charlie.”

I couldn’t help but keep an eye out for Jake during my shift and even at the end of the day when Greg was locking up.

“Relax; you won’t see him again until noon tomorrow at least.” Greg said and I shot him a confused look.

“You’re looking for your beta boyfriend,” he said and I resisted the urge to say he wasn’t my boyfriend like a pre-schooler, “He won’t come to you till tomorrow. He has already gotten the answer he wants out of you. He won’t come to you till tomorrow at least so you can set up a day to ‘talk’. For now you can relax and stop looking over your shoulder every five seconds.”

He put air quotes on the word talk and I couldn’t help but sigh, “Is there no way I can get out of talking to him?”

“Unless you want him to dig around on his own and find out why you’re here, then I suggest you talk to him.”

“But I don’t want him to know why I’m here. I never even wanted him to know I was a werewolf in the first place,” I began, “I don’t want to tell him and I shouldn’t have to.”

“Well all you can do about it now is to cry over it. What’s done is done.”

“That is not fair.”

“First of all you sound like a child and second no one is asking you to tell him anything,” he said and I resisted the urge to huff, “Listen, I can’t tell you exactly what to do because I won’t be there when you talk to him. All I’m saying is give him half answers; satisfy his curiosity enough without actually divulging any true answers.”

“And how do I do that?”

“I can’t teach you everything Charlie,” he said, “Some things you have to learn by yourself. You’re smart so I’m sure you’ll figure it out.”

"Thank you for the help Great Wise One; you've solved all my problems with your very useful words."

"You're welcome," he said ignoring the sarcasm in my voice, "Go take a shower, you stink. I'll order pizza."

"You don't tell a lady that she stinks." I huffed.

"I do if she does."

I stomped up the stairs ignoring his laughter the entire way.

"I hate you Greg." I yelled.

"It's a mutual feeling sweetheart."

In Between the Alpha's Chapter 20

Greg was right- as much as it pains me to admit it- I didn't see Jake until shortly after noon when he came in to buy a few things. As soon as he walked in Greg caught my eye and shot me an 'I told you so' look and so conveniently made his way to the back leaving me to handle Jake on my own.

"Hey," he said and I mumbled a greeting of my own back. "Look I'm not here to cause any trouble for you."

"Thank you."

"That said, I still need to understand why you're here and not with a pack," he said, "You're not a rogue; you don't have their scent."

"You caught my scent for what- five seconds- and suddenly you're an expert?" I asked and he gave me a sour smile.

"I only need a whiff of your scent once to have it engrained in my head so yes I am an expert."

"Look I already told you that I would talk," I said, "You don't have to hound me at work."

"Nice dog pun," he said, "But someone seems to have a high sense of their own importance; I came here to shop; you just happen to be a bonus."

“Well then I hope you have a nice day.” I said handing him his bags.

“Five o’clock Charlie- I’ll be waiting; no later.” He said and I raised a brow.

“What do you mean five o’clock?”

“Our talk; we’ll have it at five o’clock,” he began, “You seem to be having problems picking a time and a date so I’ve done it for you.”

“I have work and I don’t get off till six.”

“Well it’s either Greg is a werewolf too and you tell him the truth or he’s a human and you find a way to get out of work,” he said with a nonchalant shrug, “But either way we’re having that talk at five. I’ll be waiting outside to pick you up.”

“This is blackmail.”

“I never blackmailed you,” he said, “You could always choose not to come.” He gave me a smile, “I’ll see you later Charlie.”

Greg didn’t even blink twice when I told him I needed to get off work before 5. He just shrugged and told me to do whatever I needed to. I think he’s rather enjoying himself with this predicament I’ve gotten myself into.

I left the counter at exactly 5 and sure enough Jake was waiting outside for me. He was leaning against the wall with perfect ease and when he saw me a smile formed on his face.

“I didn’t think you were actually going to show.” He said

“Well I didn’t think so either but here I am.”

“Can we find somewhere more private to talk?” he asked and I nodded.

“Follow me.” We walked to the park and I led him over to a spot just behind the fountain.

“Isn’t this a bit open?” he asked and I shot him a look.

“People don’t like to come here because water from the fountain splashes around and makes it a bit muddy.” I said, “It’s honestly our best bet if we want to talk without people eavesdropping.”

“How did you mask your scent like that?” he asked suddenly.

“Just jump the gun straight up, why don’t you?”

“I’m genuinely curious as to how you did it.”

“A friend gave me a mixture that helps mask my scent.” I said deciding to go with the truth.

“Does this friend have a name?”

“Yes but I can’t give it away.” It’s not like I know it anyways.

“I can respect that.” He said finally after a moment of silence, “Why are you here? I mean this is the last place I expected to find a werewolf.”

“I needed a fresh start away from werewolves in general and this was my safest bet because as you said it’s the last place anyone would expect to find a werewolf.”

“How do you know Greg?”

“You’re asking a lot of questions.” I said, “What about you? Where are you from? And why are you here?”

“I’m from a pack south of here, I’m the Beta and I technically didn’t come here.” He began, “Actually my destination is a few minutes from here and I went there to meet with another pack’s Beta on behalf of my Alpha.” I actually didn’t expect him to give me an answer, “I’ve answered your questions, now answer mine; how do you know Greg?”

“How do you know I wasn’t telling the truth the last time I told you about him?”

“Greg is too young to be your uncle.” He said, “I’m not stupid.”

“He’s a distant relative,” I said which is technically not a lie; he would’ve still been related to me if I married Alpha Hunter. “I knew he was here and I decided to stay with him.”

“Is he a werewolf?”

“No,” I lied, “At least not that I know of anyways,” I added, “He doesn’t have the scent.”



"I noticed he didn't have the scent. I just thought he was using whatever tactic you were." He said and I shook my head. Greg owes me a huge one for covering up for him. "Did you know I was a werewolf the first time you met me?"

"Of course I did; it was painfully obvious." I said, "And for the record, eavesdropping on a conversation between two ladies is considered rude."

"Well when I'm the topic of the conversation I don't see the harm in it." He said with a smug shrug and I rolled my eyes, "You're only upset because I heard you say I was hot."

"Please," I said in a bored tone, "Greg is hot but I wouldn't touch him with a ten-inch pole."

"That's why Greg is family and I'm not."

"Someone's overly confident."

"I know attraction when I see it sweetheart and you are attracted to me."

"Yeah sure I am." I said with an eye roll and he smirked.

"Alright then if you think you aren't then give me a good reason why you purposely made our date a nightmare," he said and I shrugged, "Oh come on; I can't have possibly rendered you speechless yet; I haven't even brought out the big guns."

"First of all I am not speechless; your question just doesn't deserve an answer."

"You mean you don't have an answer," he said, "Admit it; you flunked our date on purpose because you were scared of actually falling for me."

"I'm sorry to burst your bubble but I am in no way attracted to you." I lied.

"Of course you're not."

"I'm not."

"Prove it then." He said and I cocked a brow.

“How on earth am I supposed to prove that I’m not actually attracted to you other than saying it of course which I have been doing for the past ten minutes or so.” I had barely gotten the words out when he pressed his lips to mine.

I’ll admit I have thought about how it would feel to kiss him before and while I expected things to be hot and rushed it was the exact opposite. His lips were soft and not demanding at all and I could feel myself easing into the kiss.

I felt him smile into the kiss and I wanted to slap that smile off his face but then he deepened the kiss and I couldn’t help but melt into it.