

Chapter 78 Knox

I sat to the side of her chair, just happy to be close her. Which sounds pathetic, I'm an Alpha and yet I find myself weirdly attached to this sweet and vulnerable friend of the mate of my Gamma. But she seems completely uninterested in me, not that anything would happen with us, she was vulnerable and I think I'm better waiting for my mate anyway, seeing how happy Dan was since finding Indie and made me realise how much I wanted my own mate.

Made me wonder where she was...I wonder if it had had the same effect on the other guys too as none of them had yet come across their mates which was unusual for guys of our ages.

Lilah had gone quiet, just sitting picking at the food I had given her, can't help but wonder if I'd made her feel uncomfortable with the comment about her wolf... I seem to say the most stupid things around her!

"Hey Del, did you know that Sara had her baby now?" Indie spoke up "a little boy, they can't decide on a name though. Oh and Becca crashed her new car again!! You'd think her dad would just stop buying them right!"

Where does she know this stuff? She's not been back since she told her parents she found her mate...I find myself wondering.

"Awww yeah I heard" Lilah answered. "I bet he is so sweet"

"Oh no, looks like a little troll apparently" Indie declared which made Dan splutter his drink all over with laughter at the abruptness of his mate's statement. Surely nobody would say that about someone's new baby... well clearly Indie would! She sure was a character!

"Wow you're nice baby" he smiled at his mate.

"It's true though!" She looked to Dan, giving him a quick kiss before continuing " I saw pictures! Oh yeah Del, Joey is leaving for med school in a few weeks.... Heard Taylor is devastated!"

Seriously does this girl have an off switch?! I'm not even sure she's stopped for air...

"Ind, you haven't been back since you saw your mum and dad, I still live there and don't know half this stuff, how do you know all this?" Lilah asks laughing.

She is so not wrong though and simply asking what I'd been thinking!

"I have my ways" Indie laughs.

Yeah I swear I don't need any spies, just use this girl and I'd be sorted! MI5 could use her they'd know everything there is to know about anyone in a matter of days I bet!

"Nah you know working in store meant I saw everyone so I heard stuff, well my friends still work there...." She explained

I couldn't help but smile, Dans new mate was weird and wacky, but she was funny too, and she fit in really well with us, and I don't think I'd seen Dan as happy as I have when he is with her. I just had to get used to the fact she could talk a lot.

"I also heard on the grapevine..... that a certain someone got asked out on a date..... kept that quiet didn't you baby doll" I heard her say to Lilah.

Wait what? Lilah had been asked out? By who?

I saw Jake's attention drawn into the conversation, his eyes suddenly on Lilah, as well as Gabe and Manuel trying to discreetly pay attention too. They weren't good at hiding it, though to be fair. I don't think I was hiding it well, I could feel my breathing was already faster and my fist was clenched ...unclench your fist.....

"You got a date Chica?" Gabe asked, I could tell from his voice he was trying his hardest to sound casual. "do I need to come do my big brother talk with him so he looks after you?"

Lilah looks pointedly at Indie, "No" then rolls her eyes at Gabe " no, and no"

"Oh, I heard Sam asked you out, didn't he?" Indie looked to Lilah in confusion.

Again I could feel my heart racing. Why does it bother me so much her going out with someone else? Not like I plan to go out with her. She's one of my friend's mates' friends, is all. That's it.

"Uh-huh, just because he asked me out doesn't mean I want to go out with him." Lilah sounded pretty indignant in her tone, though I could see a slight blush to her cheek which told me she was also embarrassed this was being spoken about, probably the fact there was audience not appreciated, Indie definitely needed a filter! "he probably just thought he could add me to the ever increasing list.... Well no thanks, fuck knows what I'd catch!"

Haha, good on her.... I'm secretly relieved, but at the same time quietly impressed at her fieriness.

Indie bursts out laughing, "Ooh that's probably true, he does get around a bit from what I've heard. He's not good enough for you anyway baby doll."

"Don't think anyone is in your eyes are they?" Lilah teases Indie.

The conversation flows naturally again, Dan chatting about his niece and her dance competition. Jake speaks about his parents looking to go on holiday, but his mum also trying to convince his dad he should fully decorate. The atmosphere was so calm and chilled out, Lilah seemed at ease her with us at all and that made me happy, that's what I think she needs right now.

"Wanna race Gabe?" Manuel suggests to his cousin nodding toward the lake, I knew instinctively Gabe wouldn't be able to refuse as the two of them were so competitive, that is what made them such good warriors, they were constantly trying to be better than one another.

"Let's go" he sprinted off to the lake.

"I'm in" Jake said following, which meant the likelihood was neither Gabe nor Manuel stood a chance as Jake being Beta was a stronger guy, plus he was on the swim team in high school too so that gave him an even stronger advantage. I had to laugh,

Indie pulled Dan up "Let's go for a dip before we go babe"

Which left me with Lilah.

"You can go in if you want, I'll just sit here and watch" she said, I was still unsure why she didn't want to swim today. But didn't want to pressure her.

Instead I sat myself in the seat next to hers, passing her a fresh drink

"You had fun today?" I asked, hoping the answer would be a yes.

"Yeah definitely. It's gorgeous up here. Might have to bring my paints next time" she smiled at me.

"Yeah? I'm glad to hear you want there to be a next time sweet"

"Sorry, I shouldn't have assumed" she said barely audible.

"Lilah, sweet you don't need to keep apologising to me. If you want to come here to paint I can bring you, or I can sort it so you and Indie can come it is no problem, the same with the view in my lounge sweet, really you need to stop overthinking. We're you're friends, you shouldn't be worried here" I find myself saying to her, it really bothering me she constantly seemed on edge.

She nods, biting her lip, I have a feeling stopping herself from apologising. Man this is frustrating, I want her to feel at ease here....

"If you want to spend the weekend I'll show you around the whole pack I have a feeling there are some places you'd like for painting Lilah" I say to try to distract her from being nervous.

"Wow really?" She smiles up at me.

"Yeah I think so. Some of it looks even better in the winter with snow...maybe you could do some paintings for the pack house, you and Indie?" As soon as I say it she flings herself on me in a big hug.

"Really?!" she says.

Wow, that was unexpected!

"Yeah definitely! If you're painting places on the pack lands it makes even more sense to have them up in the pack house" I explain.

"Aww thank you Knox" I notice she is still half resting on me, not that I am going to complain.

"That's ok. Your work deserves to be seen, yours and Indie's. We should do something about it"

We look to the lake watching Gabe and Manuel trying to hold Jake back so they can swim past him to beat him. Anything so they don't have to lose. I can feel Lilah chuckling to herself at their antics. She must think they're crazy! Gabe especially as he's acted crazy round her since day one.

Dan and Indie are both laid on their backs holding hands just enjoying the last of the sun as it lowers in sky. We'd have to be heading off soon.... I look to Lilah to tell her that and realise she has fallen asleep, her head resting on my shoulder.... again.... I find myself smiling.... I gently kiss her head and let her sleep, watching the others enjoy themselves in the water....