

## Chapter 81 Knox

I could feel my heart pounding in my chest.... why was that dick trying to control her.... The thought it was him that had made her cry again infuriated me..... why would he stop her working with us? We had an agreement..... I need to calm myself.....

“What did he say?” I reach for her hand. I know I shouldn’t keep touching her, but I want to comfort her.

“Oh other than asking if I wanted to go away for the weekend?” She laughed sarcastically.

What the hell?! Why is he asking her stuff like that?! I raise my eyebrow at her in question. Trying to keep my frustration in.

“He asked me again to be his second mate. Obviously I declined, yet again. He got angry, said it wasn’t acceptable I was whoring myself out to another Alpha, that when he becomes Alpha all contact with your pack would stop. My contract would be terminated.” I could see her battling with herself to stop herself from crying.

While I was fighting a battle with myself to stop myself getting angry. How dare he accuse her of whoring herself out?! How can he call her that? How can he try to control her? She was do an amazing job and could be an amazing representative for their pack as a business woman so him cutting ties was a big mistake. He was a dickhead.

“Sweet, did he hurt you?” I have to ask.

She slowly shakes her head “We were out on the street. But like I said Knox, it may be good idea to wrap up my work with you guys, as talk in pack is that Logan is going to be made Alpha soon. I won’t be able to work for you then, he won’t let me. I don’t even think he’ll let me off pack.....” the last bit she said was barely a whisper but I still heard it.

He couldn’t do that to her! He couldn’t keep her prisoner there... we needed to get her out somehow... we need to speed up the increase in hours and moving her to pack... or we need to speak to her dad at worst.....

I look to her, I could see there were tears falling silently down her face. Shit I didn’t want her crying. I slide myself off my seat, and onto her side of the booth so I can hold her close to me.

“Oh sweet, we will think of something, I promise.... I am not going to let him win this.... We will not give up on you.....” I tell her, pulling her right against my chest.

“ I think it’s time you did Knox. I have...” she whispered between sobs.

Wait..... what?! No!.....no.....no..... she can’t mean..... Did she plan to hurt herself?.....

“Lilah, what do you mean? Please tell me you aren’t going to do anything?” I beg, moving her back away from me so I can look her in the eyes. Our ice creams now long forgotten on the tables.

She shrugs “I honestly don’t know, I don’t want to. But this is getting harder Knox. He won’t let me have the job I want.... He’s going to keep me at pack....he wants me....” She slides her phone to me, I look down to see a message screen

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Del

I didn’t appreciate you walking away from me. I am going to be Alpha soon enough and you will be doing as I say, or you can be my mate and be near my equal. Your choice. Either way you will not be whoring yourself out to another Alpha at another pack and using gaining business experience as an excuse, I’m not stupid. What was it couldn’t get the alpha here so went and found another to have? Thing is you can still have your Alpha here, I was always yours. Anya will learn to share.

But you need to accept that that job is coming to an end. Say goodbye to your Alpha and your friends there, that includes Indie too I’m afraid. You belong to me and this pack and always will.

Logan

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I could feel fury pulsing through my body just reading that. How can he even say that?! I can feel Lilah shaking next to me, she is crying. We should leave. I drop some money on the table for the waiter including extra for the fact we barely ate. Our ice cream has barely been touched, but I’ll bring her back another day.

I take her hand and lead her to my car. The sky is now a hazy purple colour, as the sun is going down. I open the passenger door, but before I do I take her in my arms again, holding her close to me. I just want to comfort her....

I feel her breathing rate settle slightly in my embrace... I’m hoping she may have stopped crying.... I gently kiss her on her head.

“It’s ok sweet, we will get you out of there.” I say.

I’ll take you as a chosen mate if I need to I suddenly found myself thinking.... Shit where did that come from?! No.... I want my mate... my fated mate.... She’d already been hurt by falling for someone and then them finding their fated mate I couldn’t let that happen again.... That was a stupid plan... my fated mate was still out there somewhere as far as I knew.... But we need to find a way to get her out.....and finding her mate is going to be the only way she could get out of her pack if our plan doesn’t work...

Lilah pulls away “I’m sorry for all this mess, and I’m sorry for calling Knox” she gives her body a shake like she’s trying to be brave. Why does she feel like she keeps needing to apologise to me?

“Hey I told you to call me when you needed me. You were upset, I’m glad you called. Ok the ice cream didn’t work, but we’ll try that another time.” I smile “you getting in the car for a bit so we can talk?” I motion to the open door as we are still stood outside.

She nods. Good, I don’t want her to go just yet.....

I walk round to my driver door and climb in. I can see her fidgeting nervously in the passenger seat. Why does she feel nervous round me? We’re meant to be friends now. We have been getting to know each other more lately through her time in pack and in work. She obviously isn’t comfortable with me. That bothers me I have to admit.

I see her rest her head on the head rest of her seat, and turn her head to look at me. Despite the fact she’s been crying and her eyes are red now she is beautiful. I smile at her.

“You ok?” I ask.

Stupid question I know but I don’t know in that moment what else to say, in truth I want to lean across and kiss her.... But that is definitely not the right thing to do and I don’t know where these stupid impulses keep coming from.... She’s a friend.... A friend I’m meant to be helping....

“Oh I’m amazing” she laughs sarcastically.

She’s funny, I know she is hurting. Though it is my fault for asking a stupid question I guess.

“Sorry stupid question” I look at her sheepishly.

She grins “Hmm you think” she pokes me in my side.

See I like it when she acts like this with me, this is how she acts with Gabe or even Indie. I want to keep the lightheartedness going....

“You want to watch it or I’ll get you back....” I tease her with a sly grin and a wink.

She giggles, mmmmmm that is one sexy giggle..... “Oh ya think do ya?” She pokes me again, then again, and again, I grab her hand. Though to be fair I’d happily let her keep doing it as it feels nice having her playfully mess around with me....

“You want the big bad Alpha to come get you?” I grin, referencing the name she’d given me on our first meeting. Holding her hand she’d been poking me with above her head.

She wiggled her eyebrows at me “Oohh he wouldn’t dare” then she poked me with her other hand, again and again, giggling as she did. I could feel myself laughing as she did.

I grabbed her other hand and had it up over her head now with her other hand, I was now leaning over the centre of the car from the drivers side to the passenger side where she was sat. I looked down at her, her big blue eyes looking up at me, as soon as I’m sliding into her eyes time seems to stop still I swear “Now what you going to do brave girl?” I continue to tease her.

She looks a little less ballsy now, her eyelashes are fluttering nervously, her eyes haven’t left mine.... I can feel my heart racing.... Or is that hers? I’m sure I can hear hers too.... Maybe this wasn’t a good idea.....

“I could bite” she grinned.

I couldn’t help but laugh, she was funny. I drop both her hands and begin to tickle her.... I don’t know why but it felt like a natural thing to do with how we were messing...plus it meant she wouldn’t bite....she was giggling and screaming..... it was a great sound..... one I was glad to hear after her crying earlier....

“Knox!” She giggled, she was sliding down off her chair now from me tickling her so much, I laughed, and lifted her slightly back to her seat.

Her eyes were looking at mine again, thing is my face was close to hers now from reaching over to help her back to her seat. I can feel her breath on my skin..... I should move away.... I need to move away.... I want to kiss her..... maybe if I don’t move this time I’ll see if she will kiss me.....my heart feels like it’s beating out of my chest...., how can one she-wolf have this effect? She’s not my mate yet she has me hooked?? Her big blue eyes are so beautiful as they’re looking into mine, I really want to kiss her.

I raise my hand to stroke her face with the intention of pulling her closer to perhaps kiss her, she flinches slightly. Did she think I was going to hit her?! Then I notice a tear running from her left eye..... what have I done?

“Lilah?” I whisper. How can the atmosphere have changed that quickly?

“I.... Erm... I need to go Knox” she whispers. “Thank you for being there tonight” she moves away from me and reaches for the door handle.

I put my hand out to try to stop her but she’s already out of the door. And climbing into her car..... I drop my head to the steering wheel in frustration and confusion..... was she crying because of me?..... she flinched I’m sure of that..... was someone hurting her?..... Or did she think I was going to hurt her?..... did Logan used to hurt her?..... I’d come to help her, to put my mind at ease and instead my mind was now full of even more questions.....