

Chapter 0085

(Lily POV)

James gets on his phone and walks away just as Brady comes up to us.

"Hey."

"Hey, Brady. What are you doing back so soon? Surely it has not been two hours yet."

He reaches out and rubs both of my arms. "No, it has only been about 45 minutes. But the guards let me know that you were crying and yelling, and so I was worried."

My face turns a little red; I had not realized that my emotions had been so obvious to bystanders.

"I am okay. Thank you for worrying, but I promise that I am fine. I actually think you may have been right. It was good that I met with James. I did not realize just how much I had bottled up that I wanted to say and ask him."

Brady looks at me curiously. "So are you all done then? You have the closure you need?"

I shake my head. "Not quite. Almost. I feel like there is so much more to talk about with him. I haven't even told him about Stephanie, Sheila, or what happened that night Stephanie died."

"But do you need to tell him any of that? I mean, at some point, he has to figure these things out for himself. That has been what my father has said from the beginning."

"I don't know. Maybe I don't need to tell him everything. But is it wrong that I kind-of want to?"


Brady looks at me sympathetically. "No, it is not wrong. But it also may not be the wisest thing to do. You have to remember that your safety is the number one priority. And right now that means not spending any more time with him or his pack than is absolutely necessary." 2

"No, I know that you are right. But.... I did agree to be friends with him."

Brady gets an angry look on his face. "What? Lily, why would you do that? How could you do that? After all that he did to you?!? After all that his pack did to you?!?!?" 2

I sigh and turn so that I can look at the ocean again. "I don't know how it happened exactly. One moment I am yelling at him and crying, and the next moment I am asking him how he can say that he cares about me if he does not know me. And after that, he said he wants to get to know me, and I sort of felt boxed in. So I offered to be his friend."

Brady ran his hand down his face. "Lily, you did not offer to be his friend; you just offered to let him court you. You cannot be 'just friends' with a former mate. It does not work. URRRRRRRGGGGGHHHHH. You were supposed to

be closing this chapter of your life with him, not offering to have him write new ones with you. We have to think about your safety first and foremost. The more people who know where you are, the more dangerous things will be." 


I look down. "I know Brady, and I'm sorry. It just sort of came out of my mouth. But I did tell him that you were a part of my life now, and that I have feelings for you."

Brady grabs my shoulders and gently spins me around. "You did?" he asks with a silly grin on his face.

"It's amazing how quickly his attitude just changed," Rose comments in my head. "I know," I link her back.

I nod at Brady. "Yes. I wanted to be sure I was being honest with him, and not setting up false expectations. He may have hurt me, but I am not interested in revenge and I do not want to hurt him. I am better than that."

Brady continues to smile at me. I gently hit his arm.

"You know, you need to wipe that silly grin off of your face. I am still not going to sleep with you. I am feeling really confused. And you should know that I feel something for James too. I do not know what it is, but I feel it. I do not want you to get hurt either." 

Brady pulls me into a hug. "Lily, you are worth risking getting hurt for."