

## Chapter 11 Lilah

The party was in full swing when I followed my Mum and Dad in, an awkward silence came as I walked in, the same silence that had followed me when I walked in to the lounge earlier today, is that what would await me now?

Alpha Grayson came to us “Ah so glad you’re here, Logan’s party wouldn’t be the same without his best friend now would it, to celebrate him finding his mate too” he made a point of saying that loud enough for everyone to hear I noted.

Nothing like making it obvious is there? Surely he knows the pack will see what he is doing...

Lilah I would appreciate you acknowledging what I have just said and acknowledging that Logan has met his mate, despite that not being you, the pack need to hear it please my Uncle and Alpha mind linked me sternly.

What a dick, he truly had no heart...

I could see my parents and my Auntie and Uncle watching me, clearly waiting for me to reply, knowing that this was the moment they needed me to act like I was telling the pack all was fine, that I accepted that things didn’t go as we expected. In truth I wanted to tell him to fuck off, but I doubt that would go down too well...

LILAH he linked again, sounding more insistent this time

“Obviously we wouldn’t miss the party Uncle,” I could feel everyone’s eyes on me, not sure, almost watching me with baited breath to see what my reaction would be. Though what they thought I could do I’m this was a situation out of my control, so I continue “and of course we have to celebrate Logan meeting his wolf, having his birthday and of course meeting his mate, our future Luna” the tension seems to ease and the silence that had fallen over the party seems to lessen as my Uncle suddenly says

“Of course, I knew you’d be fine with things taking a different path than we expected, you’re a sensible girl” a sensible girl? This man is unreal! Any love and respect I had for my uncle was disappearing and fast! “Let’s find Logan and Anya, they’ll be so happy to see you here!” he said with such fake enthusiasm it was ridiculous.

If I wouldn’t have ended up in the dungeons I would have punched him on the end of his nose right there and then! I swear he was pissing me off.... How can he expect me to now happily spend time with Anya and Logan?!

It was one thing expecting me to come to the party, I thought that would be enough, but no it would appear he is going to expect me to act all pally pally with the new wonderful couple too.....tonight was going to be hell on earth.

I felt my Mum squeeze my hand I’m sorry sweetheart, your Uncle is being a bit of a knob my Mum linked me haha, don’t think I’d heard my Mum say that before, but she was sooo not wrong! I think he was just nervous about how you might be tonight when you got here, he knew you would be finding this difficult, though even so it doesn’t excuse his knobbishness.... Is that even a word?! I was trying not smile at my Mum as she linked me, obviously trying to comfort me, knowing I’d be struggling, completely oblivious to the fact that in her annoyance with my Uncle she was actually amusing me too.....

I know Mum, and I don’t think it is a word.. I link back, as I smile slightly at her, she looks to me, trying not laugh it should be though I add, she is really struggling not to laugh and now so am I.

Well to avoid Alpha knob and his knobishness, shall we go and get a drink? My Mum links with a wink. I grin and nod at her.

“Excuse me Alpha. I think Lilah and I have somewhere we need to be ” my Mum says to Alpha Grayson, taking my hand and pulling me away. We both look to each other and start laughing, ok, it won’t mean I avoid seeing them tonight, but it may mean I can avoid it for a little while longer, thanks to my Mum....

“I’m so sorry sweetheart, I didn’t want you to come here tonight, I really did try, your Dad did too, but Alpha said you had to” my Mum tried to explain once we stopped laughing as we wandered toward the tables where the drinks were set up.

“I know Mama, I do. It’s a situation there is no way of winning” I sighed

I felt my Mum put her arm round my shoulder “it will get easier though. The link you had together can just be friendship, it didn’t have to be love darling, you had that connection long before you dated. I just hope Anya is kind and lets you stay friends and isn’t threatened by your years of friendship as the jealousy a mate bond brings can be powerful...”

“I don’t know Mama, I don’t know if I want to be near him right now, seeing him with someone else like that so quickly will be hard...” I try to explain as we approach the tables set up for people to help themselves to drinks.

There are two large tables with a collection of bottles and cans of every drink imaginable, jugs and pitchers of juices and cocktails too. Auntie Talia had definitely been busy making sure there was everything needed to make sure that the party was a good one. I grabbed myself a can of diet cola, while my Mum picked up two bottles of beer.

“I best get your Dad a drink too...” she explained “your Uncle is currently wittering away at him so he is likely to need a few of these tonight” I chuckled lightly at her.

“Go take him his beer Mama, I’m going to go look for Indie” I explain, knowing she will want to go and check her mate is ok, and also likely wanting to smooth the situation over with her Alpha as she had been quite rude in the way she had walked me and her away “and thanks for saving me from Uncle and Logan”

She smiled gently at me, before kissing me lightly on the top of my head “ not a problem sweetheart. Maybe we should look to find a way to add the word to a dictionary...” she winked as she began to walk away, watching me as she did

I stood, puzzled at what she’d said, what was she on about? Dictionary? Word? Knobbishness Oh!! I looked up at her, she was still looking at me, I laughed, she grinned and walked away toward my Dad, she’s funny, and know she’s trying to cheer me, though it’s going to take a lot more than few jokes.....

I scan the party to see if I can see Indie.... I instantly notice her flame red hair, it’s a bit difficult to miss, over by the BBQ. I began making my way across to her. The big field had been decorated with bunting between the trees, and some twinkling lights hanging between the wooden posts standing at various positions within the field, which no doubt would look lovely later on as the sky dimmed darker than the hazy shade of early evening blue it was currently, there were tables set up at different area around the field with drinks on them, much like the one my Mum and I had been stood at just moments before.

Plus there were numerous tables lined up to make almost a buffet style arrangement, filled with a mass selection of food, I couldn’t see from here, but no doubt going off past parties and knowing my Auntie there would be plenty of sandwiches, snacks, cakes, pastries, enough to feed an army and more – enough to make sure her son had a wonderful party.

Plus there was a couple of grills going for food to be barbecued on for guests too, so nobody would be going hungry tonight! Though to be honest the thought of food didn’t appeal to me, I felt sick to my stomach, the events of today had taken every ounce of my appetite away....

There were speakers set up around the edge of the field with music playing so the pack could enjoy some songs while they enjoyed the party, younger guests already dancing away. Chairs were set up with others sat down chatting.

Some of the guys I knew from school were playing a game of football too. That could end badly if that went near the food or drink... I thought to myself as I walked round the edge of the field, do my best to avoid as many people as I could, the sympathetic smiles I was getting were enough to repel me quite frankly, why the hell would I want to speak to them?!

“Lilah?” a voice from behind me said as I felt a hand grab my hand and pull me to the edge of the field, Logan of course....

“Logan? You shouldn’t be with me, you should be with Anya” I state quite bluntly, he looks taken back, and almost hurt, so I feel bad, this isn’t his fault, I know it isn’t.

“Baby, don’t...” he goes to touch my cheek, I quickly step back “I’ve been looking for you, I wanted to speak to you” as he speaks I notice Anya standing across the field slightly from us, looking beautiful in a short turquoise dress, her dark hair in big curls down her back. Her dark eyes, glaring in our direction, I knew she had seen what was happening....

“Don’t call me that Logan. Your mate doesn’t want me on my own with you” I say, as I know this was likely to stop him pestering me.

A look of confusion crossed his face, “why would she say that?” and as he spoke Anya had walked up to us, Logan quickly dropping my hand and stepping away from me as soon as he saw her approach.

So he does know he is in the wrong touching me when she is his fated mate yet he still finds a way to do it?

The dark glare that had previously been on her face now replaced by sunshine, and a beautiful smile, aimed directly at Logan as she wrapped her arms around his waist “Hey Logan, wondered where you’d got to”

“Hey Ani, just wanted to say hi to Lilah and see if she is ok” he explained away the reason he’d been with me.

“Aww I’m sure she’s fine Logan, you heard her when your Dad spoke to her when she arrived” Anya looked to him with that sickly sweet smile, fluttering her eyelashes at him, how was he not seeing through this fakeness? Does the mate bond really make you that blind?!

“Hmmm” he said “Did you tell her you didn’t want us seeing each other? She’s my friend Ani, one of my oldest friends at that” I saw a darkness cross her face as she looked at me, fury clearly taking over her soul at the fact I had told him what she had said to me.

“Oh don’t be silly! Think if anything she maybe misunderstood baby... I said I might find it difficult her spending time with you now” she fluttered her eyelashes at him, kissing his cheek lightly “having my mate around such a pretty she wolf who I know he is so close to who I know still loves him, I know you wouldn’t do anything, not with our mate bond” she emphasised the mate bond while looking at me dead in the eye before continuing “but the mate bond makes you feel crazy things and I got to get used to that.... You know how silly I can be baby”

wait? Had she passed this off as being an exaggerated mix up?! She had said she didn’t want him near me!! Not that she’d find it difficult!

“Oh see, I didn’t think that sounded right Lilah” he looked to me with a smile “it’s going to be weird for us all, but we can get through it right. It’s what the Moon Goddess fated....” What a dick, he believed her....

“Definitely baby” Anya literally purred at him, pretty much nibbling at his ear.

“Fuck this” I said and walked away

“Oh I think she’s finding it hard seeing how close we are baby, how much we want each other” I hear Anya say as I walk away.

I fume to myself if I stay near you I want to rip your eyes out! How dare you lie so blatantly!! I fumed. Marching myself away to find Indie, currently surrounded by a group of guys from high school laughing with them as she served up the food from the grills.

She was shy deep down, but was good at putting on an act of being bubbly and friendly, and people seemed drawn to her. Yet she liked her own space too, and time on her own. And while she had plenty of attention from the guys in pack she had yet to find her mate, despite shifting last year. And she avoided relationships, wanting to wait for her mate. I couldn’t wait to tell her what had happened just now with Anya and Logan....