

Chapter 149

I don't know why but I felt anxious. I re-read the text repeatedly. She was coming home, and our friendship wasn't in the best place. I didn't want it to be awkward between us but there was a conversation that needed to be had.

I put my phone away as he got back into the car. Had he spoke to Pete? Did he know they were coming home?

"Do you want to go out for dinner tonight?". He asked.

I made a face. We had just bought food for the month, and he wanted to eat out?

"Are you cooking?".

His smile was contagious. I loved where our relationship was at right now. I loved how much time we were spending together. Our relationship was finally blossoming.

"I'm going to try".

"Pizza on standby then?". He winked placing his hand on my knee. "I'm joking I'm sure whatever you make will be great".

"Lana is coming home tomorrow". I placed my hand on top of his. "And I feel really nervous about it".

"Why?".

I shrugged. We all know how much of an overthinker I was. I always played out situations in my head before they happened. I was a worrier.

"How much does she mean to you?".

I frowned. We were like sisters. Lana had never not been in my life and it's not something I've ever had to think about. But the

things she said still played in on mind.

"A lot". I answered.

"Then invite her over and sort it out". He lifted my hand to his mouth placing a kiss on my knuckles. "I'm not saying she wasn't in the wrong but sometimes we have to put things aside and move on".

"I don't even know what to say to her".

"Just be honest with her. Tell her how you feel and say exactly what you want to say. No matter how much it might hurt her or your friendship for you to feel better you have to tell her the truth".

I think that's the best advice he's ever given me. And he was right. I had to be honest with her and deal with whatever happens after.

"You're right". I sighed. "I'll call her tomorrow".

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"Again?". He laughed.

"Shut up". I yelled.

I had managed to set the fire alarm off three times. Cooking wasn't for me, and I was about to throw in the towel. I couldn't stop the seasoning for the chips from burning. Every batch I tried dried up and stuck to the pot.

I dumped the pot in the sink filling it with water.

"So, pizza?". He grabbed me around the waist.

A laugh fell from my lips. "Pizza". I agreed.

He kissed the top of my head just as there was a knock on the front door.

"Maybe more flowers". He smirked.

Rolling my eyes, I shoved his arm as he went to answer it. We still had to find out who sent them. Receiving flowers wasn't always a good thing. I began tidying up the kitchen and clearing away the dishes I had used.

"Leah".

"Who was at the door?"

"Leah, sweetheart".

I froze. The hairs on the back of my neck stood as I turned around. She looked old, my gran had never looked her age but right now standing looking at her she looked sick.

Maybe she was sick.

Was I ready to face her? To have the conversation on why she ran out on me?

My heart hurt just looking at her. How did it all of this happen? How did we get here? If she had told me the truth from the start, then none of this would have happened. There wouldn't be any tension or awkwardness. We wouldn't be sad because right now I was sad.

I was sad because our relationship was non-existent. But maybe just maybe this was our time to fix it.

"Do you want some tea?". I asked.

I could tell by her expression she wasn't expecting that. I would never be disrespectful to her or at least I would never mean to be.

"Sure, I'd like that".

My eyes landed on Jakes. He was stood in the doorway smiling

at me. He winked before disappearing upstairs and leaving us to it. I fixed two cups and nodded towards the table.

"You look good sweetheart, you're glowing".

"Are you okay?". I asked taking a seat.

"Never mind about me. I want to know how you're doing".

Something was wrong I could feel it but instead of going off on one I decided to tell her about me. "I'm doing okay, we're both doing okay. We mated and our relationship is better than ever". Nowadays I couldn't help but smile when talking about Jake and me.

We were finally happy.

"You seem happy Leah and I've wanted nothing more than for you to be happy".

"Why did you leave?". I asked.

"Because you're better off without me. I've done nothing but lie and keep secrets. I kept you in the dark for so long when I should have been honest. I don't deserve to be in your life".

"Don't say that". I frowned. "You raised me, brought me up and made me who I am today. Yes, there were secrets but don't say you don't deserve to be in my life".

For so long she was my life. It had only ever been the two of us and I looked up to her so much. She lied but she lied to protect and keep me safe. I get that now.

"I made so many mistakes with you and I wish I could take it all back. I thought if I left, you'd be happier. You'd be able to get on with your life with Jake".

I didn't want to keep going over this. I wanted to put it in the

past and move on. Everything happens for a reason, but there's nothing to say we can't get back what we had.

We were family. For years she was my only family.

"I still need my gran. I'll always need you".

"I'm so sorry sweetheart and I know I've said it many times before but I truly am. I never wished for any of this. I should have told you everything from the minute I knew you'd understand".

"I know and it's okay. I know now you were only trying to protect me, but I don't want to do this anymore. I don't want to keep talking about the past. I'm in a good place and for once I want to keep being in that place".

"Can you ever forgive me?".

Our relationship may never be the same but then again maybe it could be. There was nothing stopping us. No more secrets and no more lies.

"Are you coming back home?". I asked.

She gave me a small smile. "I'm not coming home sweetheart, but George and I won't be far. We can visit all the time".

Oh, right. I don't know why I was expecting her to say yes and that everything would go back to normal. What was normal for us now?

"You don't need me Leah". She reached for my hand. "You've turned into a beautiful young woman and I'm so proud of you. You have your life with Jake it's time you start living it.

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I was sat on the couch drinking tea. George picked my gran up

about half an hour ago taking her home. We left things on good grounds. Decided it was best to leave the past in the past and focus on right now.

I knew the minute she left I wouldn't see her again.

She came here to fix things and that's exactly what she did. Our relationship may not be perfect but for the first time I wasn't worried or sad about it. She had her life and I had mine.

"You're quiet". He spoke.

I was so deep in my own thoughts I forgot he was here. He didn't come downstairs until she left. We had the tv on, but I wasn't paying attention.

"Miles away". I smiled. "But before you ask, I'm okay".

"Are you and your gran, okay?".

"We're okay".