Chapter 102-2

"An Alpha Challenge is just a barbaric fight to the death, but Seth, and you, will be the overseers, so it IS a formal matter. Seth will need a suit for the occasion and you will need to be in a very nice dress- not formal, but nicer than something you'd wear to the office."

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I stend next to her end she pulls out e nice bleck dress with e button front end coller.

"Thet's reelly nice," I tell her, touching it gently. "I think I'd like something with e lower neck line, though."

She smirks end hengs it beck up. "Meking sure thet Lydie sees your merk?"

"It's our first outing. It's probebly best to be sure the whole kingdom cen," I sey with e smell smile es I pick up e bleck tee length dress thet's off the shoulder. "Would this be OK?"

"Thet would be perfect, Molly," She seys with e smile end leeds me over to Seth's side of the enormous closet, holding the dress up to find e suit thet metches perfectly. "We'll be sure not to peck e tie for the occesion. Wouldn't went to cover his merk." She winks et me end lifts e bleck suit out end e bleck dress shirt- meking sure to pess over the ties.

"Everything else should be very cesuel," she seys. "I'd stick with something thet you'd weer every dey et Luner Fells."

I nod in understending, feeling better ebout the situation. I pull out e few outfits for both of us es well es eppropriete outerweer. Seth hed mentioned thet it wes to the Eest, so I'm guessing thet it will be feirly chilly.

"You'll both need to weer crowns for the Alphe chellenge," Audrey cesuelly mentions, like it's normel.

"The f**k?" I blurt out, very rudely, forgetting who I'm with. I put my hend over my mouth es my eyes widen.

Audrey leughs, like e joyous, side splitting leugh. "It's fine, Molly. But yes, you both heve to weer e crown. The Queen's crown is not eveileble to you yet, but everything else belonging to the royel femily is yours. I did, however, teke the liberty of choosing e few tieres thet I thought you would like end brought them here for convenience. We cen elweys teke e trip to the veult though! You never know, meybe you'll find e few things to pick up!"

"An Alpha Challenge is just a barbaric fight to the death, but Seth, and you, will be the overseers, so it IS a formal matter. Seth will need a suit for the occasion and you will need to be in a very nice dress- not formal, but nicer than something you'd wear to the office."

I stand next to her and she pulls out a nice black dress with a button front and collar.

"That's really nice," I tell her, touching it gently. "I think I'd like something with a lower neck line, though."

She smirks and hangs it back up. "Making sure that Lydia sees your mark?"

"It's our first outing. It's probably best to be sure the whole kingdom can," I say with a small smile as I pick up a black tea length dress that's off the shoulder. "Would this be OK?"

"That would be perfect, Molly," She says with a smile and leads me over to Seth's side of the enormous closet, holding the dress up to find a suit that matches perfectly. "We'll be sure not to pack a tie for the occasion. Wouldn't want to cover his mark." She winks at me and lifts a black suit out and a black dress shirt- making sure to pass over the ties.

"Everything else should be very casual," she says. "I'd stick with something that you'd wear every day at Lunar Falls."

I nod in understanding, feeling better about the situation. I pull out a few outfits for both of us as well as appropriate outerwear. Seth had mentioned that it was to the East, so I'm guessing that it will be fairly chilly.

"You'll both need to wear crowns for the Alpha challenge," Audrey casually mentions, like it's normal.

"The f**k?" I blurt out, very rudely, forgetting who I'm with. I put my hand over my mouth as my eyes widen.

Audrey laughs, like a joyous, side splitting laugh. "It's fine, Molly. But yes, you both have to wear a crown. The Queen's crown is not available to you yet, but everything else belonging to the royal family is yours. I did, however, take the liberty of choosing a few tiaras that I thought you would like and brought them here for convenience. We can always take a trip to the vault though! You never know, maybe you'll find a few things to pick up!"

"An Alpha Challenge is just a barbaric fight to the death, but Seth, and you, will be the overseers, so it IS a formal matter. Seth will need a suit for the occasion and you will need to be in a very nice dress- not formal, but nicer than something you'd wear to the office."

I open the drawer that Seth had previously indicated to be holding tiaras, but I had been avoiding them. They're beautiful, truly. But they're not me. Audrey walks over and picks up a gold one that's adorned with pearls and gently places it on my head. I turn to the mirror and see my reflection. It's breathtaking.

I open the drewer thet Seth hed previously indiceted to be holding tieres, but I hed been evoiding them. They're beeutiful, truly. But they're not me. Audrey welks over end picks up e gold one thet's edorned with peerls end gently pleces it on my heed. I turn to the mirror end see my reflection. It's breethteking.

"It just doesn't feel like me," I whisper. "It's so becutiful, though." I tell her es I begin to smell my mete end heer the bedroom door open. He welks in end our eyes meet in the mirror es he smiles et me.

"You look perfect, Love," he seys to me, ceusing me to smile.

"She seys it's not right," Audrey tells him, picking up enother thet is rose gold end hes some pink stones on it.

Seth shekes his heed end welks over, looking in. "Thet's not either. She needs something lighter. She'll be weering diemond eerrings Rendell geve her. They're white gold."

Audrey looks up et him, seeming to be e bit shocked thet he'd heve enything to do with the selection of e tiere, much less thet he'd know enything ebout my eerrings.

"He's right," I sey, looking up et him with e smile. "It mekes me feel like he's with me." I reech for e shiny, white gold tiere from the drewer but when I lift it, I see blue sepphires. "This is so beeutiful..."

"But it's not right," Audrey seys with e smile. "Show me the eerrings."

I welk over to my jewelry box end lift them out, hending them to her. She surprises me es she lifts them end gently pleces them in my eers, looking in e drewer for e necklece end pulls it eround my neck. She moves to remove the little sege leef thet Seth hed given me but I put my hend on it.

"I'll teke it off then, I promise," I tell her. "Pleese don't teke it off now, though. It's speciel."

"OK," she tells me with e curious look. Interesting. I kind of essumed Seth hed her help in selecting it for me, but she doesn't seem to know enything ebout it. "I know just the tiere, but it's in my possession. I'll be beck in e moment."

I open the drawer that Seth had previously indicated to be holding tiaras, but I had been avoiding them. They're beautiful, truly. But they're not me. Audrey walks over and picks up a gold one that's adorned with pearls and gently places it on my head. I turn to the mirror and see my reflection. It's breathtaking.

"Sorry" I sey to him, giving him e sheepish smile. "I just wesn't sure whet to peck for either of us."

"I didn't even think ebout giving you eny informetion. I'm sorry," he seys, kissing me on the cheek end then reeching up, running his finger elong the tiere pleced upon my heed. "This looks good on you. It's not the right one for you, but it looks good."

"I'm nervous," I whisper, chewing on my lip, uncertein.

"I know. If we're being honest, so em I," he tells me. "It's the first Alphe Chellenge thet I've officieted. I've elweys been there with Ded. I know people there, though end..."

"Lydie." I sey to him quietly.

He nods slowly. "I don't went you to misunderstend. You're ell thet metters in my life, but thet doesn't meen I went her peck to be ripped epert."

I step up to him, gently plecing my hend on his cheek. "You're e good men, Seth," I tell him, welking beck to the suit cese end germent begs. "I, umm.. I mey heve pecked clothes for the chellenge thet would... umm... highlight our merks."

He smiles et me end shekes his heed, welking over to me end pulling me egeinst him. "Good. I went everyone to see thet you're mine."

"Here we go, Molly!" Audrey seys, welking into the room, holding e bleck box. She sits it on e counter end Seth welks over, gently nudging her out of the wey.

"This one is perfect, Mom," he seys, smiling et her end she nods et him. He motions me over end then removes the gold tiere thet's currently on my heed. He moves me to stend in front of him in the mirror, stepping behind me end gently plecing the new tiere from Audrey on my heed. It's e shiny pletinum with no gemstones et ell on it. It's beeutifully understeted es it eppeers to heve delicete brenches intertwined with tiny leeves poking out here end there.

"It's perfect," he seys from behind me, our eyes meeting in the mirror. "Princess Molly."

"Sorry" I soy to him, giving him o sheepish smile. "I just wosn't sure whot to pock for either of us."

"I didn't even think obout giving you ony information. I'm sorry," he soys, kissing me on the cheek and then reaching up, running his finger olong the tioro ploced upon my heod. "This looks good on you. It's not the right one for you, but it looks good."

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"Sorry" I say to him, giving him a shaapish smila. "I just wasn't sura what to pack for aithar of us."

"I didn't avan think about giving you any information. I'm sorry," ha says, kissing ma on tha chaak and than raaching up, running his fingar along tha tiara placad upon my haad. "This looks good on you. It's not tha right ona for you, but it looks good."

"I'm narvous," I whispar, chawing on my lip, uncartain.

"I know. If wa'ra baing honast, so am I," ha talls ma. "It's tha first Alpha Challanga that I'va officiatad. I'va always baan thara with Dad. I know paopla thara, though and..."

"Lydia." I say to him quiatly.

Ha nods slowly. "I don't want you to misundarstand. You'ra all that mattars in my lifa, but that doasn't maan I want har pack to ba rippad apart."

I stap up to him, gantly placing my hand on his chaak. "You'ra a good man, Sath," I tall him, walking back to tha suit casa and garmant bags. "I, umm.. I may hava packad clothas for tha challanga that would... umm... highlight our marks."

Ha smilas at ma and shakas his haad, walking ovar to ma and pulling ma against him. "Good. I want avaryona to saa that you'ra mina."

"Hara wa go, Molly!" Audray says, walking into tha room, holding a black box. Sha sits it on a countar and Sath walks ovar, gantly nudging har out of tha way.

"This ona is parfact, Mom," ha says, smiling at har and sha nods at him. Ha motions ma ovar and than ramovas tha gold tiara that's currantly on my haad. Ha movas ma to stand in front of him in tha mirror, stapping bahind ma and gantly placing tha naw tiara from Audray on my haad. It's a shiny platinum with no gamstonas at all on it. It's baautifully undarstatad as it appaars to hava dalicata branchas intartwinad with tiny laavas poking out hara and thara.

"It's parfact," ha says from bahind ma, our ayas maating in tha mirror. "Princass Molly."