

Chapter 119-1

Seth tilts his head at his old friend, confusion on his face. Peter stands and the three men gather close, speaking quietly so that no one can hear him. Seth has a very unsure look on his face and looks around at the crowd.

“Jacob,” he says loudly, looking around. “Jacob, I need to speak with you.”

A tall, skinny boy steps out wearing a wrinkly old shirt. His eyes are wide with fear as he walks forward to Seth.

Seth looks back at me and offers me his hand, helping me stand. This young man, Jacob, reaches us without a word. “The Princess and I need to speak with you for a moment,” he tells him and leads us behind the chairs we had been seated in, off to an area away from everyone.

“Stephen does not want to assume your father’s pack,” Seth says, quietly enough that no one else would hear him. “He has suggested that you take the pack. How old are you?”

“I just turned 17, sir,” he says, looking shocked.

“Have you shifted yet, Jacob?” I ask kindly, feeling so terribly for this kid who looks shocked.

“No, I haven’t. My older brothers have, though,” he says. “They were trained. I wasn’t born from his mate, just his mistress. Our father said I was too small and didn’t want to bother with training me. My brothers are both older and stronger. They’re who you want.”

Seth shakes his head. “They are not who we want. Stephen says that you are not like your father. He assures me that you’re calmer and more level headed. He feels that you would be the best choice, and having his blood, we can name you the Alpha.”

“Sir, my brothers are bigger. They’ll be able to protect a pack. I can’t,” he says, a terrified look on his face.

“Jacob,” Seth says, placing his arm on my lower back. “Do you think Princess Molly is incapable of protecting the kingdom?”

Jacob’s eyes widen and he slowly shakes his head, unsure what to say. I’m also unsure what to say, because I’m not sure why he’s even asking him this.

“Princess Molly has the smallest wolf I have ever seen,” he says, but looking at me with a fond smile. “But I would trust this kingdom in her hands even more than my own. Your size doesn’t matter, and your size doesn’t equal the size of your wolf. Weren’t you shocked when you saw Alpha Stephen shift today?”

“Yes sir,” he says to Seth, starting to look more comfortable. “I didn’t think anyone was capable of killing my father.”

“We will have you trained, and we will have neighboring Alphas check in on your pack while that happens,” Seth tells him. “I’ve known Stephen for a long time. If he tells me you’re the best man for the job then I trust him. I can name you as Alpha now, and it will force your first shift at tonight’s full moon.”

“We want someone to lead this pack that will care for everyone in the pack,” I say, hoping that this young man will agree. There’s something about him that I can feel that tells me he will be kind and fair. “Alpha Stephen will be right next door and willing to help you, and I’m sure that many of the surrounding packs will, as well.”

“My father ruined our relationships with most of them. He was not a kind man,” Jacob tells me, concerned.

I smile at him. “Then it will be up to you to help repair those relationships. I have a feeling, though, that it won’t be too difficult.”

“The Buck Moon that your pack is named after,” Peter says, walking up behind us, “is named that because at that time of the year, a buck’s antlers are in full growth. Deer shed their antlers and regrow new, bigger ones each year. It’s time for you to step in and take your place, growing stronger than the previous Alpha.”

“OK,” Jacob whispers. “I can do it.”

Seth smiles, his hand gently rubbing my back. “As Alpha, it will be your responsibility to make decisions that are best for your pack. But I would also ask, that you make decisions best for my family as well.”

“Of course,” Jacob says, confused. “You’re the Prince of Werewolves.”

“You will not receive the traditional Alpha ceremony, so you must swear to us now that you will protect your pack, even with your life,” Seth says to him, and I can feel the energy shift as he’s officially naming this kid Alpha of the Buck Moon Pack.

“I will,” he says, his eyes wide.

“You will bring honor to your pack, and will uphold the laws in place by the counsel and the King.”

“I will.”

“You swear to protect your King and his family through the succession of generations.”

Jacob kneels down as I’m sure he can feel himself becoming Alpha. “I will, sir. I swear to give my life for your family.”

“I name you Alpha Jacob of the Buck Moon Pack,” Seth says, his words holding all authority as Peter stands behind Jacob, smiling with pride at his son as he names a new Alpha. Jacob rises but doesn’t say anything. The poor kid still looks a bit scared, but he’s holding himself higher now.

“You will shift tonight,” Peter says. “Given the situation with your father, I can come be with you, if you’d like.”

“If it’s OK, sir,” Jacob says, turning to him. “I think I’d just like to have a friend with me.”