

Chapter 121-1

We approach the SUV that we had arrived in and find Stephen, Lydia and Daphne waiting for us.

“Thank you, truly,” Stephen says with a bow and reaches his hand out to Seth to shake his hand. Seth takes it, but pulls him into a hug.

“Next time,” I hear him say, “Just tell me. This went on too long, and too many people got hurt.”

Stephen glances over to me, and I can see the guilt on his face. “I’m sorry, Seth. Truly. The baby?”

Seth shakes his head. “It’s still early, he’s probably fine. Her wolf is too exhausted to heal her bite, though. The doctors should be able to patch her up, and she’s the toughest wolf I know.”

I smell my parents and Benjamin and turn, forgetting all about eavesdropping on Seth and Stephen’s conversation.

Dad walks up and hugs me gently. “How bad is it?”

“There’s been worse,” I tell him with a shrug. “It is really sore, though.”

“I’m sure it is,” he tells me. “It was a vicious bite. I tried to get over to you when I saw, but I was too far. Thank the Goddess for your mother.”

I nod, looking past him to see her. She isn’t her normal self. She looks haunted, and my heart breaks a little for her.

“She hasn’t killed before,” Dad says quietly, making sure she can’t hear him. “He was a terrible man, and he deserved it, but it’s weighing heavily on her.”

I nod in understanding. I don’t know if I’d be able to take a life, but at the moment I saw someone coming for my mate, I didn’t hesitate. If I had killed him, I’m sure I’d be in the same state Mom is.

Benjamin walks up and holds his hand out to my dad. Dad reaches in his pocket and places the keys in his hand, no words are exchanged between them and Benjamin walks off, unlocking the SUV and putting all our bags in it.

“Is everything alright there?” I ask dad and he nods slowly.

“I think we’ve all reached a place where we realize that you are more important than any spat between us. He’s even been open to being around Peter,” Dad tells me. I had noticed that he willingly sat next to him at dinner, but I wasn’t sure how deep it went. “I don’t think he’ll ever be able to forgive him, but I think he’s willing to set his anger aside if it involves keeping you safe.”

Seth walks up and puts his arm around me gently. “Are you ready?”

I nod to him. “Yeah. I’m ready to be at home and safe.”

Seth leads me over to the car and opens the door for me, climbing in behind me. He pulls me over to the middle and smiles. Dad opens the opposing door and my mom climbs in.

“We’re riding together?” I ask.

Benjamin turns around from the front and looks at me. “None of us wanted to leave your safety to chance, so we decided we’d all get you home together. Peter and Audrey are only staying to make sure that the new Alpha gets settled in.”

I reach over and grab my mom’s hand, squeezing it tightly. “Thank you,” I whisper.

Mom lays her head on my shoulder. “It hurts, but I’d do it again to keep you safe.” I don’t know what to say, so I just lean my head over on top of hers and I’m asleep before we even get out of the driveway.

I wake up in pain, groggy and unsure where I am. “Hey,” I hear Seth say, gently rubbing my leg. “How are you feeling?”

“Not great,” I tell him honestly. “It really hurts.”

“We’re almost home,” he tells me with a small smile, but I can see the concern on his face. “They’re waiting for us. As soon as we get there we’ll have them get to work on it.” He lifts a hand and touches my forehead gently with a frown.

I see my mom look at my dad through the rear view mirror, both concerned.

“I have a fever?” I ask quietly and Seth nods slowly.

“It’s not too high, but we need to get it taken care of,” he says.

I sigh, placing my hand over my stomach. My mom notices and reaches over, taking my other hand in hers. “It’s OK, Molly. It’s to be expected, given the injury.”

“OK,” I whisper, but it very much does not feel OK.

We continue the ride in silence until we finally arrive at the palace. Seth throws his door open and immediately reaches his hand out to me, helping me stand. He leads me up the stairs, not a word or thought about anyone else, and takes me immediately to the medical area, where a whole team of people are clearly waiting for me.

“Princess,” a nurse says, leading me to a room and closing the door behind her. “I understand the injury was to your shoulder, correct?”

“Yes,” Seth says quickly. “A full bite. Her wolf is exhausted and unable to heal her. She started running a fever around two hours ago.”

“Yes, Prince Seth,” she says. “I can help you undress and get this gown on so the doctor can access it better.”

“I’ll help her,” Seth snaps, stepping between us and he bends down, untying my shoes.

The poor nurse looks shocked and blinks a few times at what she’s seeing. I can’t help but smile at her reaction. “It’s fine. I’ll be changed in just a moment.”