

Chapter 142-1

Benjamin called everyone together. As we stand outside of the cabin, I’m shocked at just how many people are here. There’s easily 60 people, possibly more, all with looks of concern on their faces as to what they felt, and why their acting Alpha called them together.

“You all remember my daughter, Molly,” Benjamin says to everyone, putting his arm around me. “She’s now Princess Molly, and she has been working on ways to help us form an actual, recognized pack. What you felt tonight was just that.”

People look around at each other, shocked looks on their faces, but some look quite happy about the change.

“I was banished from my pack previously,” Benjamin continues. “So many of you followed me out here, but as I was previously banished, I will not be your Alpha. This is Alpha Albert. You may remember his parents. His father was previously my Gamma. Albert is a fine man, the man I handpicked to guard my daughter after she was marked by the Prince and now, I’m proud to introduce him to you as your new Alpha.”

Shocked whispers spread throughout the crowd. One man steps forward, anger evident on his face. “Why weren’t we all consulted about this?”

“Prince Seth and I decided we needed to act quickly,” I speak up, hoping to alleviate some of the tension rising. “In forming an actual, recognized pack, your Alpha will now be able to feel when the borders are breached. This is the quickest way to help you all and keep you safe.”

“We’ve never met this man before,” I hear from the back.

“He’s a good man,” I tell them as kindly as I can, willing them to believe me and see him for who he truly is.

“As I said,” Benjamin speaks up, “He’s the man I trusted with my daughter’s safety when she left for the palace. I trust him with my daughter, and I trust him with my pack.”

“I know you don’t know me,” Albert says, trying his best not to look nervous. “I do care, though. I want to help protect everyone. I want the pack to grow and succeed.”

Benjamin nods and I can’t help but smile at how hard Albert is trying to make them like him. “The pack is in danger. She-wolves have been kidnapped. I’ve been here when there were attacks to take children. They came after us while we were just trying to celebrate my birthday. I know that the crown neglected everyone out here, but it was a mistake that the Prince and I are trying to fix now. Truly, we just want the best for everyone.”

“Benjamin is our Alpha,” one man yells angrily and I take a deep breath, preparing myself to try to explain the situation as kindly as I can.

“No,” Benjamin says loudly, surprising me. “I was banished and it was justified. I could never ask that of my daughter. I will remain here as a member of the pack, and I am more than happy to help Alpha Albert with anything he should need, but I am NOT your Alpha.”

There are murmurs throughout the crowd and I finally find Alex standing towards the back. He looks shocked, and a bit angry.

“Albert will be staying with us here until we get a house built for him,” Benjamin declares, a finality to his voice. “Should you need anything, we will be right here.”

The crowd disperses and I can see Seth and Gus off in the distance, getting just a bit closer. Once everyone is gone I give Benjamin a hug and walk away towards Seth when I feel a hand grab my arm roughly.

“This was my pack,” an angry Alex tells me. I look up to meet his eyes and truly, the look on his face is terrifying.

“They need someone new,” I say to him, trying my best to pull my arm away, but his grip is too tight.

Seth is at us in an instant and he quickly reaches out, grabbing Alex around his throat. “Let. Her. Go.” he growls out. As soon as Alex has released my arm Seth turns so that he’s placed between us, Gus standing right next to me now.

“It’s been decided,” I say, trying not to let my voice waiver as Seth throws him to the ground. He places his arm around me and leads me away, anger rolling off of him in waves.

“We knew he would be mad,” I say softly once I’m sure we’re a safe distance away from Alex.

“He doesn’t get to touch you,” Seth says, his free hand balled into a fist. Suddenly, he stops walking and looks at me, looking me over. “Are you alright? I’m sorry I didn’t ask before. I just wanted to get you away.”

“I’ll be fine,” I tell him, my voice barely a whisper. “It’s a little sore, but nothing bad.”

We walk silently back to Lunar Falls, passing through the cave and back to the packhouse. Seth helps me into the bathtub, holding me and cleaning me from the long day before helping me to dry off and tucking me into bed.

I awake to find my mate already up and getting ready for the day. He’s wearing blue slacks with a white shirt with his hair pulled back. He looks amazing and I smile at him as he puts his shoes on.

“What did they say when you told them you were coming?” I ask.

He smirks at me, holding in a chuckle. “I didn’t tell them. I decided to surprise them. I find I get more information when I’m able to do that.”