

Chapter 148-1

I wake up to the smell of my brother in the next room. I’m not sure when they switched over, but I’m glad he’s here now. After using the restroom, I walk out and find him still asleep on my couch. I don’t want to wake him, so I reach into my mind and find the link to Michael.

I’m so sorry. I’m not sure when you went to bed, but I didn’t want to wake my brother. Can you walk me down to the kitchen?

No apologies are necessary, Princess. Toby will be there shortly. He will be with you this morning.

I quickly dress in jeans and a white shirt, pulling on a chef’s jacket and kitchen shoes. I leave a note on the coffee table for Robbie so he will know where I am and then wait at the door, opening it quietly as soon as I smell Toby approaching.

“Good morning, Princess,” he says with a slight smile, though he seems a little confused.

“I’m sorry. I didn’t want to wake my brother,” I tell him. “I swear, I only opened the door once I smelled you were close.”

“Quite alright, ma’am,” he tells me and turns, but he stops. “I believe I’m taking you to the kitchen this morning. I was under the impression you were to only eat in your home while the Prince is away.”

I giggle at him. Michael must have sent him in blind. “Yes, but I’m not eating. I’ll be working in the kitchen today. I can assure you that Seth will not care.”

“Yes ma’am,” he says and leads me downstairs. “The prince asked me to let you know that he’s returning home today. He should be back later this evening.”

“Good!” I say with a smile. Michael was nice and all, but Toby seems much more relaxed to be around me. “Was everyone alright after the incident last night?”

He furrows his brow, looking at me for a second. “I’m sorry, Princess. I didn’t expect you to ask so I did not check this morning. Two men were injured severely, but they were receiving medical attention last night. I can check on them, if you would like.”

“I would, thank you!” I say, opening the door to the kitchen. “I should reach out to their mates and see if there is anything I can do.”

“Oh, guards don’t have mates,” he tells me, stopping me in my tracks.

I stop and look up at him, grabbing his arm so he will not continue to walk. “I’m sorry? Come again?”

He chuckles a little at me. “The Royal Guard, none of us have mates. It would be too risky. Should we come across our mate, we reject them.”

“What?!” I exclaim, shocked to learn of this and even more shocked that he’s saying it so casually. “That’s terrible!”

“Not at all,” he says with a bow. “I’ve dedicated my life to protecting you and your family.”

“Oh,” I say and he smiles at me a little. “So you don’t have any goals for your career, or after. Just protecting me.”

“Princess, my ultimate goal is to become the head guard for the little princess,” he tells me with a smile and bows.

I can’t help but return his smile knowing that there are good people who want to protect my special girl. “How much do you know about her?”

“I know she’s special and will need more protection. It sounds challenging, and I like a challenge,” he tells me, opening the door for me. “I know she may not have a wolf, but may have magic. I assume she will have a small wolf, like you, if she has one.”

I give him a sad smile. “My wolf is so small because of the spell that was placed on me. It’s why my human form is so small, too.”

He frowns at that, shaking his head a bit. “I am sorry, Princess. It has all worked out, though.”

“It has, Toby,” I say, giving him a genuine smile. “It truly has.”

“I shall be back here, Princess,” he tells me with a bow and I continue into the kitchen, walking up to a station and looking around.

I smell Oliver as he walks up behind me, causing me to smile at the familiar scent. “Where did they find your guards?!” he asks me and I giggle, turning around to give him a hug.

“I don’t even know,” I tell him. “They just keep appearing.”

“Well, I’m going to need you working down here the whole time you’re here if they’ll be joining you,” he tells me with a mischievous smile. “I think I prefer the grumpy one, though.”

“Toby is substantially more friendly,” I say, nodding in his direction with my head. “What am I doing today?”

He pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to me. “You good to handle chopping for prep? I think I’ll have you making pancakes after if you’re good with that.”

“Whatever you say, boss,” I say, looking over the list of items to chop.

Oliver stops and wrinkles his nose at me. “I don’t like that you’re calling me boss, Princess,” he tells me with a dramatic bow.

“Oh, stop it,” I say with a giggle, walking away and heading to the refrigerator to grab the items needed.

I pull out the required vegetables and move back to the station. My knives are at the palace now, so I go to the office and grab an old set I had that was left here. It’s been a while since they were used, so I sharpen them, making sure they’re in tip top shape before I get started.