

Chapter 149-1

I decided to go to my brother’s rooms to borrow his kitchen. I didn’t want to get in the way downstairs again, but my Mate will be home soon and I wanted to make him his favorite cookies.

Michael is standing in the doorway, which seems to be his favorite place in every room. I hear Robbie come into the main room and approach, but Michael doesn’t move to allow him in.

“Uhh… excuse me,” he says, to the guard, but still, he doesn’t move.

“Princess, would you like me to allow Alpha Robert entry?” he asks and I stop, blinking at him and making a face. I can’t believe he just asked me that as we are standing in my brother’s kitchen.

“I guess?” I say, unsure how to respond in this situation.

“You don’t have to,” he tells me flatly with absolutely no emotion. “I can send him away if you wish.”

“You’re in MY house,” I hear Robbie say from behind him and it makes me giggle.

I turn around to put a pan of cookies in the oven. “It’s fine,” I tell him, still giggling.

Robbie walks in and takes a seat on a stool at the island, sighing. “Mom and Dad want me to talk to you. Apparently it needs to ‘come from her darling brother’” he tells me, putting quotes in the air with his fingers. “We need to figure out how to respond to the article that was published.”

I sigh, looking up at my brother who is looking at me like I might break is he says the wrong thing. “I just want to ignore it. It’s embarrassing.”

“Why are you embarassed?” he asks, tilting his head in question.

“It’s… it’s just…” I start to say, but I quickly become uncomfortable. “Everyone knows I was just left in the woods.”

Robbie’s face softens as he looks at me, the look on his face urging me to continue. He pulls out the stool next to him and I take a seat. “I spent so much of my life trying to prove that I’m good enough to be in the pack. Now I’ll have to spend the rest of my life proving that I’m good enough to be queen.”

“Molly, that’s not what’s going to happen,” he says, putting his arm around me and kissing my head. “Lily is willing to be public now. Benjamin thinks that trying to hide her, with the whole kingdom knowing she’s a witch, will put her in more danger. I think you should select a journalist and sit down for an interview with Seth and all of the parents. It gives you the chance to control the narrative.”

I nod, thinking about what he’s said. Truly, it’s not a bad option. “Is Lily really alright with this, or is she just pretending to be because there’s no other options?”

“That,” he says, standing up to grab a beer out of his refrigerator, “I do not know. I’ve not spoken with her, but I do know she’d do anything if it made your life easier. She feels so much guilt about the spell.”

“I know,” I tell him, looking down at my hands, clasped together and resting on the counter.

I hear the cap of the beer pop off and him pouring it into a glass. “You don’t, though. Not the full extent of it, at least. She told me on your birthday that it hurt her to see us together and to see you next to Seth, because you’re so small, and it’s her fault. There are a lot of things that have been hard for her when you are around.”

“I don’t call her Mom,” I say softly and he nods. “And I am much closer to Benjamin,” and he nods again. I sigh, sitting back on the stool, looking at his face.

“It’s nothing you can change,” he tells me sincerely. “She’s not upset about it, and doesn’t blame you at all, but it IS hard for her. But she also told me that she knows it’s her own fault that your relationship is this way.”

I take a deep breath, steadyng myself to tell my brother the whole truth. “I’m uncomfortable having magical abilities. I didn’t know magic was actually real, and then I found out that I’m a witch. I just associate her with the magic, and it makes it even harder.”

“Oh, I know,” he tells me with a smile. “I think she knows it, too. It’s just…”

Suddenly, I feel a sharp pain in my shoulder and I reach up to grab it. As soon as I do, it’s gone, with the weird feeling left in its wake.

“What’s wrong?” Robbie asks and he’s at my side in an instant.

I look up to him, noticing Michael directly behind him. “Seth’s hurt again.”

“Let’s go,” Michael says, offering me his arm but I shake my head. I go to the oven and pull the cookies out, thankfully they were almost done, and turn the oven off before going back to him and taking his arm. Robbie comes downstairs with us, Toby and the other guy joining us along the way.

“I can’t come in, kid,” he tells me as I walk in the room. “I’ve got to be available to the pack if anything happens. Want me to send Mom and Dad?”

I shake my head. “No, I’ve got these guys. If anything happens, you’ll need them more than I will.”

He nods once and Michael closes the door, locking it tightly and stands in front of it and looking at me. “Have you had anymore pains, Princess Molly?” he asks me.