

## Chapter 155-1

I wake in the meadow and I can't help but smile as I breathe in the crisp night air there. It has been quite some time since I've been here, a true rarity since I became pregnant. My wolf is overworked and I've truly missed her. I look around the meadow and find her lying near the creek that runs through it and I smile again at the sight. She even looks tired, but then again, I probably do, too.

I rise and walk over to her, taking a seat next to her on the large rock and gently pet her head. "I've missed you."

"I've been here," she tells me. "I haven't missed anything. I'm just so tired."

"I know," I tell her with a smile and continue to pet her, sitting there in companionable silence for a while.

Eventually, Sage lifts her head to look at me, moving a bit so she can nuzzle my stomach. "It's almost time," she tells me and while I've known this, it seems more real when my wolf is telling me.

"Do you know when?" I ask her, feeling nervous at the thought of them finally arriving.

"No," she says simply. "That's for the Goddess to decide."

I lay down on the rock next to her, her face resting on my pups and, eventually, we both drift off to sleep.

"How do they know she's here?!" I hear Benjamin say, outraged, and I feel more of the same pains in my stomach as earlier, but this time, I realize it's not from the pups moving. This time, it's more intense. I take a deep breath, hoping it's nothing and it will just pass.

"I don't know," Michael replies quietly. "We moved fast. We've been here long enough that there shouldn't have been a scent left to follow."

"Alex," I hear Seth say and his voice sounds furious. "I know you don't want to think that he would truly betray you, Benjamin. He has though, and I think it goes deeper. He's probably been working with my uncle the whole time."

The tightening in my stomach happens again and this time, it really hurts. I take a deep breath, hoping it will pass quickly as Seth opens the door to the bedroom. Our eyes meet and the look in his can only be described as panic. I nod to him, realizing he had felt my pain and knows that it's time.

He takes a deep breath and crosses the room, gently placing his hand on my stomach. "They know you're here. They have been attempting to cross the border. This is probably the worst time", he tells me with a small smile.

"Can Sofia get here?" I ask, feeling really scared and Seth just shakes his head.

"It will be alright, Love," he tells me, leaning down to kiss my head. "We'll figure something out. I'll be right back. I'm going to get Lily."

I nod as he stands and walks out, pulling the blankets up towards my face. We're not safe here, but we never really were safe, were we? They had stopped, and it just seemed like it, but they were just waiting and planning. There's nowhere left to go, though.

"I can't fight when they arrive," I hear Seth say. "I can feel her pain. I won't be able to concentrate, not until after they're born and it stops."

"It could take hours, dear," Lily tells him. "Let your men know to link someone else. You go take care of Molly and let the men you trained handle it. Everything in life has been hard for her. Don't let this be, too. Just be with her and let someone else handle this problem."

I can hear Seth sigh at her words. "The only other person here who can link outside of the territory is Molly."

"Then I'll call Randall," Benjamin says. "It's not the most convenient, but I'm sure we can come up with a way when I tell him the situation."

I don't hear anyone say anything else as the pain comes again, feeling more intense than the last one. The door opens and Seth and Lily walk in.

"We need to time them," Lily says, looking down at her watch. "There's a woman who has helped deliver some babies out here. I can call for her, if you'd like."

Lily looks so sad for me, like she knows the situation is too dangerous, so I just shake my head. "Maybe it'll all be over soon and Sofia can get here," I say. Seth looks like he wants to protest, but he instead sits on the side of the bed next to me, placing his hand on my hip.

"Would you like some tea? Or maybe some water?" she asks and I just nod as the pain finally passes. "Alright, Molly Dear. I'm going to get that and look around for some soft blankets to wrap these pups in. Yell when the next contraction starts so I can time it."

Seth nods to her as she exits the room, leaving us alone. "I'm sorry, Love," he says to me, his worry clearly painted on his face. "I shouldn't have taken you into the woods. They backed off and we all just got too relaxed."

I reach over and place my hand on his, rubbing my thumb across his knuckles. "It's not your fault. This isn't anyone's fault. Maybe they'll be stopped, or maybe they'll just back off."

He looks at me, a sad smile on his face. "You always hope for the best. It's one of my favorite things about you. Dad will be reaching out the neighboring packs to request men to join the fight quickly. We are telling them that we think you are in labor. I know you'd like that to be private, but we need them to move as quickly as possible."