

Chapter 160-3

There's an awkward moment between all of us as we stand there, no one really saying anything. I know it's been haunting Seth since the moment it happened, so I decided to just jump in head first.

"Allison, forgive my being so blunt," I say, and she looks at me with a serious expression on her face. "Are you alright after you were captured? I know mistakes were made, and while Seth does feel terrible about them, I just want to be sure you are alright."

"If you are asking of our pup," she says, still no expression on her face. "He was fine. Born two days after your own."

I can feel Seth's relief through our bond and I smile at her. "I am glad to hear that. Congratulations, both of you."

Peter walks up to us all. "It may be best to move the conversation inside," he says, very formally and I nod in agreement with him. "I have the conference room ready for us."

Seth offers me his arm and leads me inside, everyone else following. He leads me to a seat on the side of the conference table, taking a seat next to me as I had suggested. I was worried that having someone sit at the head of the table could cause more issues and I'm glad Seth took my suggestion to heart. Lucas and Allison sit across from us and Peter sits down on my other side.

"I am sorry for the attack that happened on you," Lucas says, looking at me. "As my mate was also pregnant, I was not in attendance for the attack. It was never supposed to be focused on you."

"I appreciate that," I tell him kindly. I note that Allison looks rather uncomfortable, keeping her hands folded in her lap. "I think that we can all come to some kind of agreement, but there hasn't been much communication. Perhaps if we understand you and your plan more, we can work something out."

Lucas takes a breath, and leans back in his chair. "Do you plan to have more children, Molly?"

His question surprises me but before I can answer, Seth speaks up. "Our twins are just a month old. We have not made any decisions yet."

"Seth, do you know WHY you were an only child?" Lucas asks him but before he can even say anything, he continues talking. "Your mother, I'm sure, read the journals. I was a spare, not truly wanted, just there in case anything happened to your father. Our mother tried to hide that truth from me, but I always knew. Father only ever spent time with Peter, he only cared about his lineage. It's good that he's dead. If he knew your daughter was born first he probably would have killed her. Your mother never had another child so that her second son would not know that pain."

Peter sighs. "Our father was terrible," he tells him. "We didn't have more children because Audrey nearly died delivering Seth. I would not ever let her risk that as our father did."

Lucas looks as if he wants to argue, but I see Allison place her hand on his leg. "My mate was concerned about the prophecy he heard and the implications that magic would have on the kingdom."

"Werewolves were created by witches, as you know," he says, but I very much did NOT know that and my face must reveal that because Lucas chuckles a little. "You didn't tell her? Of course you didn't."

Seth looks at me and takes my hand. "My mate didn't even know she had magic until just before I marked her. She doesn't use it."

Seth sighs, and pinches the bridge of his nose, but he doesn't say anything more. "Molly, I know that you have been reading through some of the journals," Peter tells me and I nod. "Far back, in some of the older ones, it was stated that witches had created werewolves as a punishment."

"Oh," I say, looking down and feeling uncomfortable. "Is this why you are afraid of magic?"

"I'm not afraid," he says confidently, making me believe him. "I just don't believe anyone with magic should be seated on the throne after creating us beasts."

"I didn't do it, though. It was, what, hundreds of years ago?" I say.

Peter shakes his head. "Probably thousands," he corrects me. "Lucas, Molly is right. She isn't who created werewolves."

"It doesn't matter," he says, raising his voice and Seth instinctively pulls my chair closer to him, placing his arm across me in a protective manner. "I'm sorry," he says upon seeing his nephews actions. "Her ancestors committed atrocities."

"As did ours," Seth says. "You read the books, same as I did. You know what they did."

Lucas looks upset by this, but he doesn't say anything against it. "I think we all come from people who made mistakes," I say to him. "The only thing we can do is learn from them and try to make the next generation better."

Lucas takes a deep breath, reminding me so much of my mate. "Your daughter was born first? Truly?"

Seth nods to him. "She was. I delivered her myself."

Lucas looks at Peter, a smug smile on his face. "If the Princess' article was correct, I believe you misinterpreted a prophecy once."

"I did," he tells him solemnly. "It has grown to be the greatest regret of my life."

Lucas looks at me with a tilted head, like I'm some type of puzzle he's trying to figure out. "How can you sit next to him? How can you just forgive him for having your brothers killed?"

"Peter regretted his actions," I tell Lucas, but look at my mate's father. "He realized the problems with what he had done, realized the pain he had caused and truly, deeply regretted it. It wasn't that hard to forgive him, then."

Seth takes my hand in his, squeezing it gently in support. "What are we going to do here, Lucas? What you have done can be considered treason."

"You let Benjamin have his pack," he says flatly. "Just form this as an official pack and let me have it."

I shake my head as Seth contemplates his offer. "No. Benjamin did not receive his pack. We instituted a new Alpha. My father is allowed to live in his home that is on the property, but it is not his pack."

"You kidnapped wolves and created a pack in an attempt to overthrow my line and take the throne," Seth says, trying to control his anger. "That is not the same."

"What do you plan to do then? Arrest me?" he asks and I can feel the anger coming from Peter next to me. "My pack would come for me quickly and we know they would certainly come after the Princess and the new little royal pups."

I look up at Allison and a look passes between us. All we both want is to keep our pups safe. "The problem at hand is that you had many wolves involved in your kidnapping ring. And what of the shewolves that were taken there? Do they even want to remain there?"

"We needed to be able to sustain our pack," she tells me. "Most of them grew to age and chose a mate. Does it help you to know we let the shewolves select their mates?"

"Not really," I tell her. "It's not like not choosing a mate and going back home was a choice available to them."

"What if we offer to let anyone leave who would like to?" she asks and that sounds a bit better.

I nod at her. "That would be acceptable. There would have to be a new Alpha named. I think we could all agree to let you remain there, but we require a new Alpha who has not been involved in the attacks upon us."

Lucas pinches the bridge of his nose and sighs before he stands up and begins to pace the floor just behind Allison. I can't help but giggle a little and he turns to me in confusion.

"I'm sorry," I tell him. "You and Seth are just so alike. It's a shame that things have ended up this way."

"To be clear, the offer on the table is that they will be named an official pack, letting any members return to their previous homes and a new Alpha that we all agree on will be named?" Lucas summarizes and I nod.

"Actually, I think it may be best for the Alpha to be agreed upon by our mates," Seth speaks up. "Allison seems to care for the pack and I know Molly will remove her emotions and do what is best for the Kingdom."

Lucas stops pacing and looks at Seth, surprise on his face. "I agree to this." He pinches the bridge of his nose again, and looks at me. "I am truly sorry for the danger you were placed in. Your father was an absolute force and a wonderful Alpha. I have no doubt that the little prince will carry those genes well."

"Thank you," I tell him with a smile.

"Can you give me 6 months to get everything arranged? I will have Allison contact you with wolves we find acceptable as Alpha," he asks and I think for a moment.

"That seems like a reasonable amount of time for this big of a change," I say, looking at my mate. "Is this acceptable for you?"

Seth nods and puts his arm around my shoulders. "I need assurances that there will be no more attacks on my family."

"Certainly," Lucas tells him. "But I want those who helped me pardoned."

"I find that agreeable," Seth says but I shake my head.

"Absolutely not," I say quickly. "We can not pardon Alex."

Lucas sits back down at the table. "The attack upon you in the rogue land was not sanctioned by me. Go after Alex for treason. To be honest, I don't care what happens to him. I just used him to get the shewolves without Benjamin's knowledge."

I nod, but that's not enough. "I also want the wolf in your pack who worked with him and led the attack. I had to deliver my pups with no doctor while hundreds of wolves were fighting outside, trying to kill my pups. My dad was severely injured trying to protect us."

"Done," he says. "I will deliver him to Blood Moon tomorrow morning. He's been locked in a cell since his return, anyway."

I turn to Peter for approval as he is the king. "Is this agreeable to you, sir?"

Peter smiles at me. "Come now," he says. "Everyone here knows that I'm just the King in name. But I do find this to be an agreeable compromise."

"Six months," I say to Allison.

She looks back at me with a smile and offers me her hand. "Six months."