

Chapter 17-3

I'm trying to hide my fear, but Seth must be able to feel it through the bond. “Hey. You’re mine. This doesn’t change that at all. But I need to keep you safe, OK?” He says, pulling my bottom lip down that I was absentmindedly chewing on.

“I won’t say anything.” I agree, still pretty scared and confused, but deciding to trust him.

“Not even to your brother. If we need any help figuring this out, we can pull your dad in, but not until I try to work it out myself, ok?” he asks and I nod. “He had 3 sons, and I don’t believe any of them ever shifted. Maybe he had siblings that they just didn’t know about and the eyes carried down that line still. You’re safe with me though.” he tells me, pulling me close and kissing my temple. “How's your hand?”

“It’s ok. The pain isn’t completely gone, but it’s tolerable.” I tell him, happy that he's changing the subject.

“Good. Do you want to go upstairs for breakfast with our families?”

“I, uhh... I’m not sure.” I tell him in a whisper.

“Hey, what’s wrong, Love?” he asks, pulling my chin so I’m looking at him.

“I realized last night that I’ve cooked here for the last time. I knew when I met you that I’d have to leave, but I thought I’d have a little bit of time. But with this” I say, gesturing to my injured finger. “I’m done, and I didn’t even realize it until it was too late.” I tell him, trying to hold back tears.

“Oh, Molly. “ He says and wraps me into the biggest hug. “I’m sorry.”

“I know I need to go talk to Oliver so that they can get everything sorted, but I’m just having a really hard time admitting it. I’m so happy I met you, but I don’t want to leave my pack.” I saw, whispering the last part. “I feel terrible for feeling like that though.”

“It really is unfair that she-wolves are expected to drop everything as soon as they meet their mate and leave their packs. You’ll be leaving for the palace though- if that helps any. And I’ll get you anything, I mean absolutely anything that you need to make you comfortable.” He tells me and I just nod in understanding. We lay together for a while before I decide that I can handle going upstairs and it would be nice to see my mom.

“OK, let's go upstairs.” I say and Seth smiles and releases me, jumping out of bed and rushing over to my side to help me up. He takes my ice pack from my hand and goes to put it back in the freezer. He comes to help me stand, but once I’m standing, he wraps his arms around me and just holds me for a few moments.

“My parents love each other, I know this. I saw them hug and kiss on occasion, but that was more than the kingdom ever saw. I was told it was because Royals couldn’t behave that way. I don’t want that though. I want the whole kingdom to see us together and know how much love there is. I want our kids to walk into a room and see us kissing and it be completely normal. I want what your parents have.” Seth tells me, releasing me just enough so I can lean back and look up at him, but still keeping a firm grip on me. “Your dad is always holding your mom. I don’t even know how many times I’ve seen them kiss in just the few days I’ve been here. There’s no doubt in anyone’s mind how in love they still are.”

“They’ve always been like that. It was embarrassing when I was little, but I really appreciate it now. But I grew up watching my dad dote on my mom, so I’ve got some pretty big expectations now.” I tell him with a smile.

“Good. I look forward to exceeding every expectation you have of me” he says and leans down for a kiss. “Let me help you get dressed, OK?”

“Ok. But there’s no time for any shenanigans, sir.” I tell him and he gives me a look of shock.

“I haven’t any idea what shenanigans you’re referring to. I’ve been a complete gentleman.” he says. I reach my arms above his neck, and gently pull him down so his face is within my reach and kiss the tip of his nose, then release him and walk to the closet.

I grab some jeans, a black shirt and gray cardigan. I walk back to my bed and grab the first aid items for my finger and take them into the bathroom where there's better lighting. I open the cream Sofia said to put on it but before I can get any out, Seth is there, taking it from me and taking my hand in his. He’s attentive and gentle as he carefully cleans and wraps up my finger, exactly as instructed, before slipping it back into the splint so I don’t bend it. “Feel ok?” Seth asks.

“Yeah. Thank you.” I tell him looking down at the mess I’ve made of my hand. He walks out and I put some moisturizer on my face and follow him back to the bedroom where he's already in jeans and is pulling a black shirt over his head. I walk to the dresser and grab a black bra and panties and manage to get the bottom half on myself, but with my finger bandaged I can’t hook the bra. I smell him walking behind me and feel his hands run across my back as he takes it from me and hooks it, running his hands down my sides to rest on my hips. I reach for my jeans and he takes them from me, gently pushing me back to sit on the bed as he kneels in front of me and helps me put them on. Pulling my good hand to help me stand back up, Seth releases me and gently pulls the jeans up, over my thighs and then hips, his fingers brushing my skin softly the entire way up. He stands in front of me and buttons and zips the jeans for me before leaning over to grab the tshirt and guiding it on, being ever so careful with my injured hand.

“You’re always taking such good care of me,” I say softly. “It’s hard to believe you’re the future King of All Wolves. You’re not nearly as ferocious as I’d have assumed you to be. You’re so kind and gentle.” Seth pulls me towards him and holds me close.

“Only for you, my love. Only for you.” he says and kisses the top of my head. “You’ve only seen me around you, and our families. I think you’ll find you don’t care for ‘Prince Seth’ when you actually see me around the rest of the kingdom.”

“Is that why I thought you were mad when Albert was here, and when I showed you and that Alpha around the kitchen?”

“Maybe. I was also a little mad both times.” He says with a shrug. “I didn’t like you excitedly walking off with another man. And I was mad you’d hid medicine from me when it would help you.”

“I’m sorry.” I tell him, feeling admonished.

“It’s OK, Love. We just have to get to know each other and get used to each other. I didn’t like seeing you walk off with another man. He was so close to you, and I wasn’t.” He says, pulling me even closer to him. And I pull at his shirt, signaling him to lean down so I can kiss him.

“We should head upstairs soon,” I say and he nods and releases me. I walk into my closet and slip on a pair of black flats and put in one earring, but find I’m having trouble reaching the other. “Umm, Seth, I’m sorry. Do you think you can do this for me?” I say, holding out the earring.

“Uhh, I’ve never done this before.” He says with a look of horror on his face.

“You just poke it through the hole and then pop the back on.” I tell him with a dramatic showing of how to put the back on.

“Will it hurt you?” he asks, timidly reaching for the earring.

“No! My ears have been pierced for years. Here, I can put the earring in, I just need you to put the back on.” I tell him and do as I said, turning my ear towards him so he can put the back on. He steps forward and tries. He seems flustered but finally it goes on.

“Thanks!” I tell him with a smile.

“That’s it? Are you ok?” he says concerned.

“Seth, I’m fine. It’s just an earring.” I tell him with a giggle as I reach for his hand. Seth pauses and looks down at our hands.

“You’re sure you want to hold my hand? People will see, and they’ll talk. Pretty soon the whole kingdom will know.” He asks me.

“Good.” I tell him with a smile.