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Chapter 21-2

"I want to," I begin quietly, not daring to meet his eyes. "I'm just nervous. I don't want to do anything wrong."

"Oh, Molly. You have become so precious to me, so quickly." He tells me, gently rubbing his hands on my arms. "There's nothing that you could ever

do wrong. You were made for me, you're my perfect mate. I know you're nervous but you have no reason to be. I crave your touch more than anything in this life."

I nod at him and chance looking up to see his face. I can see how much he truly cares just from the way he's looking at me and it eases my nerves a bit. I try to unbutton his jeans but find that I can't do it with my finger. He reaches down to unbutton them and I move my hands but he quickly grabs my hands and puts them back. "Please, don't stop. I'll help you, but please don't stop touching me." he says and gently holds my hands in place. I nod and he releases me, reluctantly. I do as he's requested and continue, unzipping his jeans and pushing them down his hips so they fall to the floor. He steps out of them and kicks them away, grabbing my hands so he can pull me towards him.

As we stand there in an embrace, he rubs his hand up and down my back in comfort. "Do you feel the bond?" he asks me, but before I can answer him I continue. "I know you have wolf hearing and smell like a wolf, but did you get the part of your wolf where you can feel the bond, or do you just believe we're mates because I've told you we are?"

"I can feel it, but I don't think I feel it the same way that you do." I tell him honestly. "I knew when I was outside and saw you up in the window the first day that you were my mate. I don't know why, but I just knew. I want to be around you, I can't sleep well without you, but I don't think I feel it as intensely as you seem to." I tell him and I feel him reach and unhook my bra, pulling it off, his fingers touching me leaving trails of warmth.

"I like it when you touch me." I say, more quietly than before, feeling shy to admit it. "It's comforting, but it also feels warm. Like wherever you've touched was touched by fire- but in a good way. I don't know how to explain it." I tell him and he reaches down to my underwear, guiding them down my hips and legs and helps me step out, leading me to the bathtub.

"Mind your finger" he tells me as I step in and sit down, careful to keep my hand up. He releases me and reaches to remove his boxer briefs. I'm not as uncomfortable as I was before, so this time, I don't turn away. He looks up at me and c***s an eyebrow.

"I'm trying." I tell him and he nods, removes the last of his clothing and steps in, sitting down opposite of me. Wolves aren't generally shy about being naked, as everyone shifts back and it just is what it is. It's nature, and it's natural. But this is my mate, and I've not really been naked around anyone as I've never shifted. This is probably really frustrating for Seth, but the man is being quite patient with me. He reaches out and grabs one of my feet and starts to rub it.

"I knew you were my mate because my wolf told me. I knew there was something special about your smell, but Altair was the one who told me what it was. Then, when I smelled you on your dad, it was Altair again who knew immediately, and I lost control." he tells me. "I crave your touch. If I'm next to you, my wolf is demanding that I touch you. If I smell you, my wolf is demanding to find you. When I felt you get hurt, Altair almost forced a shift while I was in the middle of a meeting. It's always my wolf who knows. I really think you have a wolf in there who is just confused and needs help. I think that's the little wolf who was in your dream, Altair is sure it is." He tells me so seriously and I don't know how to respond.

He's probably right-just because I can hear and smell like a wolf. Those aren't genetic traits, those are wolf traits. "But I don't know how to reach her. I'd never seen her before last night, just the eyes."

"I think she's been watching you. Something was holding her back, but that's letting up and she's able to get through a little more." He says after a moment. "Maybe if you see her in a dream again, just ask her. It can't hurt to try."

"What could possibly be holding her back though?" I ask, afraid of what his answer could be.

"It could be magic, Molly." he says and looks to meet my eyes. "Altair is sure that's your wolf. The only thing I can think of that would contain a wolf inside is magic, and that's something that wolves don't understand."

That's the problem, though. "I've already been checked, well, to see if there was magic holding back my memories." I start to tell him, realizing he doesn't really know these things about me. "When my dad found me he thought I was just too scared to tell them where I'd come from. After a while though, they realized that I truly had no memories before waking up under a tree in the woods. I was out there a few days," I tell him, trying to hold back my tears. "I was alone, and scared. I knew my name was Molly- no middle name, no last name- and that was it." I tell him, a few tears escaping. Seth notices my tears and reaches for my right hand, pulling me into his lap and in his embrace. He doesn't say anything though.

"After a few weeks, I think, they realized that I wasn't just too scared to tell them and I really didn't know. They found a witch that lived not far from our lands and she came to check me. She was nice, but she looked so sad and it made me sad. She said there wasn't magic holding my memories back." I tell him, afraid to speak the rest. "That's why I was so angry when I got back. What if there is magic holding my wolf? Or what if she lied?" I say, tears escaping freely now. "Why would someone lie about something like that, though?"

We remain like this for a while, Seth just holding me, comforting me. I'm slightly nervous to be so close to him right now, completely naked and crying against him, who is also completely naked. It's comforting though, like we complete each other. Being with him calms me, I feel how much he cares.

"Molly," Seth says, breaking me out of my thoughts, "If we were able to find out who you are- who you were before you were found- would you want to know? If your biological parents are still alive, would you want to meet them?"

"I don't know Seth, but I doubt it's possible, but I'd like to know where I came from." I say, snuggling into him just a little bit more for comfort and he wraps his arms around me tighter. "Mom and Dad tried to find where I came from before they adopted me. They didn't want to do an adoption if I had a family that loved me. I didn't though." I tell him, whispering the last part.

"They gave you a family who loves you, though" he tells me and kisses my temple. "Now you get to start your own family to love you, with a mate who loves you" he says as he reaches for my chin, pulling my face towards his and placing a gentle kiss on my lips.

"You really love me?" I ask, "Even though I'm not going to make a good queen?"

"My love, you're going to make the absolute best queen. The Kingdom is lucky to have you, but not as lucky as I am." He tells me, his eyes burning into mine. "I love you more than I ever dreamed possible, Molly. Truly."