

Chapter 35-1

“You’re the Rogue King?” I ask, my voice barely a whisper.

“I was, but more importantly, I’m your father.” He tells me with tears in his eyes. “I’m so glad you’re home.”

I’m not sure what to say as we stand there staring at each other, but finally I step forward and wrap my arms around him. He wraps his arms around me tightly and I’m not sure either of us will ever let go. “I hoped, but was never sure you’d be back here again.” he whispers to me. I feel something fall on my neck and realize he’s crying.

“You were so small when everything happened. I can’t believe you’re here, a fully grown woman.” he says, releasing me and holding me out at arms length so he can see me. “Even with the magic, you still look so much like your mother.”

“I was thinking the same thing while we were standing outside,” I tell him with a smile as we both turn to her.

“I know you must have so many questions, Molly,” Lily begins to say. “Let’s all sit down and your father can say what he needs to, then we’ll answer all your questions, alright?”

We all move to sit down in their homey living room, with worn brown furniture that’s comfortable. There doesn’t appear to be any lights, just a few candles around and a fireplace with a blazing fire inside. I look around and notice a photo of a little girl with curly, dark brown hair and dark green eyes sitting above the fireplace on a wooden mantle. I can’t help but walk over to it and pick it up, staring at it intently. “This is me, isn’t it?” I whisper, overcome with emotions.

“Yes, it is.” Lily says, walking up behind me to place her arm around my back. “This was taken on your fourth birthday. You were always smiling.”

I continue to stare at the little girl that seems so familiar. “I look so different, but I think I may have seen myself in a dream recently.”

“You remembered something from when you were little?” She asks me, slightly confused.

“No, it was a dream, well I thought it was,” I begin to tell them. “My mom said it was a place in my subconscious, but I didn’t really understand it. I was in a field and when I looked in the water I saw my reflection, but it wasn’t me... exactly. It was my face, but I had curly hair and dark green eyes. Like yours.” I say, looking up to meet my father’s eyes.

He simply nods at me. “Part of the spell your mother placed on you disguised your most obvious traits- your hair and eyes.”

“Will they change back to that?” I ask them, but neither of them answers me.

“Come sit, Molly. There is a lot that needs to be said.” My father tells me, patting the couch next to him for me to sit.

I unzip my jacket and pull my hat off my head, stuffing it into the pocket. I slip out of the jacket and Lily takes it from me and hangs it on a rack next to the door. I sit next to him and clasp my hands together, placing them in my lap. I look over at him and can’t help my smile as I realize he’s sitting the same way.

“How much have you heard about the Rogue King?” he asks me.

I shake my head. “Not much. I’d never heard anything about you until a week ago, when I started having dreams of a little wolf with dark green eyes. My mate wouldn’t tell me anything, and when we told my parents they didn’t give up much information.”

He nods his head slowly. “That makes sense. Your mate is Peter’s son, and your parents had your pack fighting on his side. Years ago I was an Alpha and had my own pack in the Kingdom. I was married and we had three sons. What wasn’t common knowledge though, was that my wife was not my mate. I was 25 and hadn’t found her, and needed to produce an heir. We had an agreement and a nice relationship. She eventually met her mate and he was kept secret because of appearance.

I wanted to begin business dealings with the humans next to our pack. We were a bit closer to the town than most packs are to humans and it made sense for us. The king was adamantly against this though. Eventually, after I persisted and went ahead with my plans, Peter stripped me of my title and the pack was excommunicated. We were shunned to the rogue lands, though some packs accepted some of our members who were caught in the crossfire of the fighting between Peter and myself. Lunar Falls was one of those packs.

I lived out in the rogue lands with my wife and sons and was out hunting one day when I came across a cabin and found my mate- your mother. I was astonished to find that my mate was, in fact, not a wolf, but a witch. I remained married to my wife, in name only, to care for our sons, but I was deeply in love with Lily. She became pregnant with you, and we built this cabin. You were born in this very room.” He says and smiles at me and then glances over at Lily.

“We were very happy, but I didn’t want you to grow up in dangerous rogue lands, and we began to try to coordinate and form a pack out here with the rogues. It went really well and we were about to build a town and move closer together when we received knowledge of a prophecy that changed it all.” he continues.