

## Chapter 37-1

“Your parents are headed to us.”

“We should probably go inside so you can meet my other parents then,” I say, surprised that my dad has lasted this long not charging in.

“Do you want me to tell them to stop?” He asks, helping me stand.

I chew my lip for a moment thinking. “I don’t mind if they’re here, but we should ask Benjamin before they get to the border.”

Seth nods at me as I take his hand and we walk to the door. “You ready?” I ask him.

He takes a breath and looks down at me with a smile that makes my heart skip a beat. “It can’t go worse than when I met your other father.” and I can’t help the giggle that escapes me.

I knock on the door twice and Lily answers it. “You don’t ever need to knock, Molly. This is your home. You’re always welcome.”

I’m not sure how to respond to her, because while it may have once been my home, it doesn’t feel like it right now. Maybe once the spell is lifted it will. I just offer her a weak smile and we step inside the home. “Umm, this is my mate, Seth. Seth, this is my mother, Lily, and my father, Benjamin,” I say and he steps forward, shaking my mother’s hand, then moving across the room to where my father is standing up to greet him.

Both men are visibly tense as they get closer to one another, finally shaking hands with one pump of their arms, no doubt testing to see who has the stronger grip. They release their hands and Benjamin goes to sit down, motioning for us to sit on the couch with him. I slip out of my jacket and Seth does the same. I take them from him, hanging them on the rack Lily had used earlier, and quickly move so that I can sit in between them when Seth does something that leaves me absolutely stunned.

“Sir,” Seth begins, “I’m sorry for the actions of my father. There’s nothing I can do to change what happened, but I can assure you that I won’t let any harm ever come to Molly.”

“That’s very big of you, Seth.” Benjamin tells him with a look of surprise on his face. “You two were just children when everything happened. You had nothing to do with any of it. My only concern now is Molly’s continued safety.”

“Mine as well.” Seth tells him as his eyes glass over again. He sighs deeply, pinching the bridge of his nose. “Sir, Molly’s parents... umm, adoptive parents,” he awkwardly corrects himself “well, they are worried about her and even though I told them I am with her and she’s alright, they’ve decided to come as well. They’re very near the border now. Will this be a problem?”

Benjamin chuckles and Lily just smiles. “It brings joy to my heart that they would be willing to break our treaties to make sure sweet Molly is alright. I’ll send men to escort them up here.”

I didn’t realize how nervous I was about them coming until he said that and I felt the weight of my fears lift. I don’t know why I thought my parents would stay there. I knew better than to make that assumption.

“I’m sure you have many questions for me,” Benjamin says to Seth, but Seth just shakes his head.

“Today is about Molly. I want her to ask any questions she has, to find the answers she’s needed for so long. She filled me in on your conversation already. Anything I need to ask can wait.” Seth tells him.

Benjamin looks surprised, but not in a bad way. “I’m impressed, son. Perhaps you’re not like your father much at all.”

“Lily,” I begin to say, unable to keep my curiosity at bay any longer, “will you tell me now about how to lift the spell you placed on me? I damaged my finger pretty badly and we’re hoping that my wolf can help it heal.”

“I need you to understand that hiding you required a complex spell,” she begins and I start to feel worried about things just from the tone of her voice. Seth must feel it through the bond because he gently places his hand just above my knee and squeezes it gently for comfort. “I didn’t want to block your wolf, but in order to block the magic and change your looks and scent, it had to be done. The spell can only be broken by your wolf if all the criteria is met.”

“What is the criteria for her wolf to be able to do so?” Seth asks her.

“I don’t see your mark on Molly yet, is that correct?” She asks.

Seth nods at her inquiry. “My wolf was concerned that marking her could cause harm to her wolf.”

Lily smiles at us. “Good, I’m glad he sensed that, because it would have.” I bite my lip, feeling ridiculous that I was ever upset he wouldn’t mark me. “You must mark Molly outside, touching the earth, under the light of a new moon.”