

Chapter 38-1

“Hello Randall, Celeste. It’s been a long time.”

“Hello, Benjamin.” I hear my dad say. I hadn’t really realized they had known each other.

“Please, come in.” Benjamin says, stepping to the side to allow them to enter. “As you can see, both Molly and Seth are here, completely unharmed.”

My mom looks directly to me, waiting for my verification that I am, in fact, completely unharmed as he said. I nod to her and a satisfied look appears on her beautiful face.

“Robert wouldn’t tell us anything, just that you had crossed to meet your biological parents.” Dad says to me and I nod. “And we were correct in our guess?” and I nod again. Dad just sighs and pinches the bridge of his nose, unsure what to make of the situation.

Mom looks around and her eyes land on Lily. “Are you able to help her?” she asks her, a hint of desperation in her voice.

Lily looks at me, and then back to her. “I have told the kids what needs to be done to try,” is all she says and my mom looks displeased.

“You came into our home and lied to us,” mom says to Lily with a scowl, taking a step closer to her. “You told us there was no magic.”

Lily meets her eyes, unafraid and unwilling to back down to my mom's anger. “I had to protect my daughter.”

“Your WHAT?” my mother hisses at her and rapidly looks between Lily and myself. “How could you just leave her? She was just a tiny child, so small and scared.”

“The king would have taken her from you if you had known.” Lily snaps at her, taking a step towards her.

“We never would have told him!” mom yells, throwing her hands in the air.

Lily looks absolutely furious. “You and your mate assisted in the murder of the boys! You would have turned her over to him in a heart beat!” she yells at my mom and I can feel my chest tighten with anxiety.

“ENOUGH!” Seth bellows out at them, standing quickly, unwilling to listen to them fight any longer. “None of this has anything to do with the present. I’m taking MY MATE outside to give you all a chance to say whatever it is you need to and when we return I expect her feelings to be taken into consideration when choosing your words.”

Seth offers his hand to me and I quickly take it. He lifts me to my feet quickly, placing his hand on my lower back, and leads me outside grabbing our jackets as we exit. Once the door closes behind us he turns me to him, helping me into the jacket and placing his hands gently on my shoulders.

“Are you alright, Love.” he asks me gently, lifting a hand to wipe a tear that had escaped.

I try to contain them but I can’t as my lip quivers. “Hey, it’s OK. Their issues have nothing to do with you.”

“They have everything to do with me.” I tell him between sniffles.

“Nothing is your fault.”, he tells me, leading me away from the house over to a tree nearby and sitting on the ground, patting next to him for me to take a seat as well. “Their problems are their own. And while you’re the subject, it’s not your fault at all. They all love you so much, they just want to protect you and I think they all feel like they failed.”

I nudge Seth’s legs apart and sit between them, my back to his front, and he wraps his arms around me tightly, kissing the spot on my neck where his mark will go. “The new moon is tomorrow.” I tell him, unsure how he’s feeling about everything now.

“I know.” he says quietly in my ear, bringing his hand up to gently graze my neck. “I’m nervous to mark you now. There’s so much riding on it, and I don’t want to mess anything up.”

“I’m ready.” I tell him, simply.

Seth leans his head on mine and breaths deeply, his breath falling in sync with my own. “What if I messed things up? I tried to replace you. I decided you weren’t good enough before I ever even met you. I was a fool, and you may be the one who pays the price for it.”

“It will be alright, Seth. If it works, that’s wonderful, but if it doesn’t, that’s OK, too.” I tell him, gently rubbing his arm. “I love you. I’ll be happy if the only thing that happens is that I’m really yours. Getting my wolf, and apparently magic, is just an added bonus.”

“I never did a thing to deserve you, Molly. The goddess blessed me with you,” he tells me.

We sit there for a while, just being together and looking up at the sky. The sky is clear and the stars are so bright this evening. It’s so peaceful, except for the occasional sound of someone shouting from inside the house, thankfully not quite loud enough to make out what’s being said.

“I never asked them my birthday.” I whisper, mostly to myself. “I’ve never known my birthday. I’ll finally know how old I actually am.” I feel Seth tighten his hold around me for comfort.

“You were such a beautiful baby,” he tells me and I can feel his smile in his words.

“I’m nervous you won’t like the way I look if the spell lifts,” I tell him, admitting a fear that I didn’t even know I would have until tonight.

“I love you no matter what you look like,” he tells me, kissing my head. “But I know you’ll be absolutely beautiful, just as you are now.”

Our peaceful moment is interrupted, yet again, by the sound of shouting. “Should we wait for this to end or just go home?” I ask him and I feel his body stiffen.

“Molly,” Seth starts cautiously. “You can’t go back to the Falls tonight. You can’t go back until you bear my mark.”

“What?” I say, irritated at being told what to do. “Why the hell not?”