

## Chapter 40-3

“It seems he’s come around now, though,” he says and I nod in agreement.

“We had a few issues, but when I hurt my finger he came running as soon as he felt it. We talked a lot, and he’s been the one taking care of me and helping me with everything.” I tell him and he just nods, not saying anything and seeming to understand my feelings without me having to tell him. “Since my wolf was always stuck on the other side of the creek, do you think that’s where we should go tonight? I don’t want to mess up my one shot at fixing my finger.”

“I think it couldn’t hurt, but I think your wolf was trying to help you all this time,” he says, taking my injured hand in his and looking it over. “Some mates have a bond so unusually strong that they’re able to do things other wolves can't imagine.”

“How do they know if their bond is that strong?” I ask, curious as to where he’s going with this.

“Molly, we made difficult choices when we hid you, and one of the hardest was to change your scent. I truly thought you’d never find your mate. We’re fated at birth, but we don’t find them until we’re older,” he tells me and I listen to him intently. “Seth found you, somehow. And he knew you were his mate, even though the scent on you now is not your true scent. He still knew. I have suspicions.”

I gulp. He’s right, and he doesn’t even know the entire story. “Seth had actually found me sooner, kind of. He and my brother were roommates at Alpha training four years ago. He smelled me on some cookies I made my brother and figured it out then,” I tell him and he seems confused. “It goes back to the part where I told you he tried to find someone better. We hadn’t met, and no one else knew.”

“Molly, will you do something for me tonight?” he asks me and it seems an odd time to make requests from your daughter.

“What do you need?” I ask him, unsure where he’s going with this.

“It’s not for me, but for you,” he tells me and I’m confused, but I nod and continue to listen. “Tonight, before he marks you, have him shift into his wolf and lick the injured finger. I know, it sounds weird, but there has to be a reason that your wolf was doing that. It may be nothing, but if he can heal you, that will help to take off some of the pressure on him marking you.”

“I’ll try it,” I tell him. “It would be nice to take healing me off the list of things riding on this and only leave fixing my wolf, unlocking magical abilities and returning 5 years of memories. No pressure.” I tell him with a sarcastic tone and a giggle.

He chuckles at me, and puts his arm around me. “I know, there’s been so much happening in your life and so quickly. If you want to wait a moon cycle, or even two, just know you’re welcome to stay with us as long as you’d like. Most of the rogue wolves would be honored to help protect you while you’re here.”

His offer is generous, and he’s right. It’s only been a few weeks and I’ve found my mate, my biological parents, and a whole new life I never knew of. I’ve got two families, my soon to be father-in-law murdered my brothers that I didn't even know I had, and I’m fulfilling a prophecy. It really wouldn’t hurt to take some time to think things through before rushing into this just because it’s the new moon. He’s given me quite a bit to think about today.