

Chapter 44-2

I don't think so, just get here as soon as you can. We have a lot to tell you. Please stay calm when you get here.

Son, what is going on?

Just get here, with Sofia. And bring Rob, too. Have his beta watch the pack.

Alright, we'll be there soon.

Lily comes in with a thermometer and takes Molly's temperature. She frowns and looks up at us, but doesn't say anything. We all know it's not good.

I can warm her. I hear Altair say and at this point, it's the best bet we have. I take my shoes off and pull off my jeans.

"Celeste, help me move her and cover her back up." I say to her as I remove blankets from Molly, clearing the bed the best I can. Everyone looks at me with confusion as I walk out of the cramped room to have more space and I shift, coming back in and climbing on the bed. Altair curls up and Celeste realizes what I meant. She lifts Molly up and allows Altair to lay behind her, gently placing her back and bringing the blankets back to cover her.

Molly lays right where she's placed, not moving at all. Her breathing is shallow and her heart is beating so slowly as she lays there on Altair as he tries desperately to warm her. Celeste comes to sit back on the bed and places her hand on Altair. We look at her quizzically, unsure what she's thinking.

"I don't think this is your fault," she tells him quietly. "Your mark is right, this is something else."

It's comforting to know that someone in the room doesn't think this was my fault, because while no one has said it, their faces have betrayed them. It's not time to place blame, though. I just want Molly to wake.

We lay like this for an hour or so. No one moves and no one says a word, we all just stare intently at my mate waiting for any indication she's ok. Finally, Lily moves forward, clearly terrified to be near Altair and checks Molly's temperature again with a shaky hand.

"She's a little warmer," she says and I feel my heart swell a little at the thought of being able to help my mate through this.

I catch the scent of my parents and look up, noticing Randall seems to have smelled the same. He looks at Altair and we give no indication of getting up. He sighs, resigning to his fate, and walks outside to meet them. Benjamin begins to walk out but Celeste stops him.

"It's probably best if you let him tell him before he sees you," she tells him.

He sighs deeply. "You're probably right. He's not likely to hurt Molly, but he may still try to kill me."

"We won't let that happen," she says to him and I see his shoulders relax a bit. There's got to be more to the story than either of them have told us, but now isn't the time for me to find it.

"She's WHO?!" I hear my dad shout from outside and I realize Randall must have jumped straight into the story for time's sake. It's a few more minutes before the door opens to reveal Sofia and my mother.

Sofia walks straight over to Molly and takes her temperature and turns her head to check her mark, though she inspects it more closely. She shines a light on it and runs her hand across a few times.

"Her temperature was about 8 degrees lower an hour ago. Seth shifted into his wolf and it has helped a lot," Lily tells her and she nods.

"Why doesn't everyone leave us so I can speak with the Prince?" Sofia suggests and everyone heads to the door, except for Benjamin.

"Sofia, she's my daughter!" he exclaims at being dismissed and looks dismayed at the thought of leaving her.

"I know Alpha, but I need to know exactly what happened and she'll be furious when she wakes up to know you were all here for that conversation." Sofia tells him. Alpha? Does she know him? He shakes his head but finally exits the room, with a deep sigh.

"Can you shift back so we can talk?" Sofia asks, but I'm hesitant to move. "I need to know what happened, exactly. You can climb back in and hold her, keep your skin against hers. It will still help her to stay warm."

She helps to lift Molly so I can get out of bed. Altair stalks behind her and we shift back. She's listening to her heart, a worried look on her face.

"Her heart slowed as I carried her back. It's picked up a bit lying on Altair, but it's still not right." I tell her as I walk back over and get in the bed next to my mate, pulling her tightly against me and kissing her head. "I marked her, and then she lost consciousness."

"Am I correct in assuming this was not a royal marking ceremony and more of the wolf way?" she asks, trying to say it politely.

"Yes. You know you can smell me on her," I tell her and she nods. "She was fine, she... enjoyed herself. I didn't notice anything that would give any indication that I had hurt her. We finished and she told me she was cold, I wrapped her in a blanket and could feel her temperature dropping. I think she may have had a seizure, and then she just lost consciousness. It happened so quickly."

"Nothing else weird stuck out to you about anything at all this evening?" she asks and I shake my head no, brushing Molly's hair back from her beautiful face. I see the outline of her hand under the blanket though and remember an important detail.