

Chapter 45-1

I awaken to a beautiful night sky. There’s just a sliver of the moon showing, but millions of bright stars lighting up the meadow. My meadow. I sit up and look around, realizing I’m on the other side of the creek now, and my wolf is sitting next to me.

“Hi,” I tell her cautiously, afraid to touch her again after what happened last time.

“Hi, Molly!” she says to me brightly, her ears perking up.

I look at her with an excited smile, barely able to believe it! “You can talk?! And you know my name?”

“I can now. And of course I do. I’m your wolf, Sage.”

“Sage,” I say, feeling butterflies at knowing my wolf’s name. “Does this mean that you’ve broken the spell?”

“Almost. Part of that is up to you though, Molly.”

“Me? Lily said that it was up to you. I’m confused.”

“That’s what she meant to do, but she was dealing with some powerful magic. I don’t know if I want to break the spell. I think you should decide.”

“Why wouldn’t you want to break the spell? Don’t you want to be free from it, and with me?”

“I’ve always been with you, always. I’ve been able to see everything you’ve done, and everything that has happened to you. You don’t remember everything though, and there are things that will hurt you if you do.”

“I’ll be OK,” I tell her, not really understanding what could be so bad that she would think I wouldn’t want her to be with me.

“Possibly, but it may change how you feel about some people, and you’re so happy now. Maybe it would be better to not know and keep things how they are.”

“I don’t understand, Sage.”

“Let’s just sit here and think about things for a while. You’re safe. Our mate is taking care of you.”

“Ok. We can just stay here a while.”

I lay back down in the grass, looking up at the stars. Sage comes to curl up and lay right next to me, touching my side and I lay my hand on her head and scratch her ears. My wolf! I’ve waited too long for this moment, a moment that I truly didn’t even think was possible.

“Was it hard to watch me?” I ask her. “I can’t believe you watched my whole life, but you couldn’t reach me.”

“It was terrible, Molly.” she says, lifting her head to look at me. “I wanted so badly to be able to help you, especially when you were hurt. I couldn’t do anything though.”

“But if we don’t break the spell, you’ll still be locked away,” I say to her, confused.

She sighs. “But you’ll be happy. I don’t know if you will ever be truly happy if you remember everything. Lily made a mistake. I can’t break just one spell, I have to break them both.”

“I don’t understand.”

“I know, and I can’t tell you. You have to decide. You can choose not to break the spell and be happy with people who love you, or you can choose to break it and know all the secrets and how people hurt you.”

“Will it change how I feel about Seth?” I ask her, unsure what the right thing to do is.

“No,” she says confidently. “Seth is probably the only person who won’t be affected by it. He just loves you, with no secrets or strings attached.”

I nod and think some more. There’s so many pros and cons to either that I can’t even list them all. I’ll remember this though, this day that I finally met my wolf, Sage. I can’t live the rest of my life knowing that I chose to lock her away forever because I was scared of knowing the truth.

“We have to break it, Sage.” I tell her softly.

“If that’s your choice, it’s what I’ll do,” she tells me. “Go back to sleep and when you wake up, it will be done, Princess.” I giggle at her calling me Princess, though I guess I truly am now. “When you wake up it will be loud, do what Seth taught you. The memories will start to come back soon. I’ll be there with you, though. Just remember that it wasn’t your fault.”

“What wasn’t my fault?” I ask her, concerned.

“I can’t tell you that, Molly. It’s going to hurt, but we’ll get through it.”

I look up at the stars, finding my favorite constellations. I find my favorite star. It’s just MY star now, Altair. I wonder why his wolf is named after that star, or how wolves even get their names. I have so many questions to ask, but that can wait. I feel my eyelids get heavier and I finally drift off to sleep.

I’m warm, too warm. I wiggle, but I can’t move, and it’s so disgustingly hot. I crack my eyes open and see Seth next to me, holding me tightly. He looks terrible. He’s clearly not shaved in some time and he looks exhausted, but he’s in bed holding me.

“Hi,” I begin to say. Suddenly, my head begins to fill with noises of congratulations and the word princess and I think I’m going to pass out. I put my hands over my ears but it doesn’t help and I finally remember what Sage and Seth told me.

“Put them in the boxes, Love,” I hear Seth over everyone. “Put them in boxes and close them like you did with your dad.”

I take a deep breath, and another. There are so many voices, and so many boxes, but I try. It takes what feels like an eternity but the noises finally stop.