

## Chapter 49-1

Seth returns to the cabin, walking into the bedroom, surprised to see me up and dressed.

“You really are ready to get out of here, aren’t you?” he says with a sympathetic look on his face and I just nod in return.

He walks over and goes to put my shoes on me, but I smile at him and hold my hand up, reminding him of my healed hand.

“I keep forgetting,” he says with a smile and hands them to me.

“You’ve had to help me since we met,” I point out with a smile. “You’ll get used to it.”

“I’m happy to, though,” he tells me gently. “You know that, right?”

“I know,” I say, as I finish tying my shoes.

“You all have a good talk?” Robbie asks Seth.

Seth looks at him seriously and nods. “I think we’ve come up with something. I’m comfortable with it, but I’ll need to talk to Molly about it.”

“What’s going on?” I ask them, neither of them offering an answer.

“It’s nothing you need to worry about right now,” Seth tells me and reaches his hand out to me. “Let’s just worry about getting you somewhere you’re comfortable, OK?”

I start to answer him, but I’m hit by another memory.

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Alex is carrying a tiny me through the woods, letting me lay my head on his shoulder as I cry.

“Your daddy’s just upset, Molly,” he says to me gently and sets me down on the ground. He kneels in front of me and takes my tiny hands in his. “It’s not your fault. Nothing is. Do you understand?”

“No, Uncle Alex. I don’t understand,” I tell him, confused about everything. “Is Jason OK? Why didn’t he come back with us?”

“Oh, Molly,” he says and I can see tears in his eyes. “They hurt him very, very badly. Promise me if you ever see those men again that you’ll run the other way as fast as you can.”

“I will,” I tell him seriously. “I’m very, very fast!”

“I know you are, I know,” he says, scooping me up into his arms again. “Let’s get you back home.”

“Is Daddy going to give me away because I was bad?” little me and big me feels my heart break into a million pieces at her innocent question.

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“I’ve got you, Love,” Seth says, gently cradling my face.

My lip quivers and I sniffle. “Can we leave, please?”

“Yes, let’s go,” he says, helping me to stand. He looks down at me, confused. “Are you taller?”

I shrug at him. “I don’t know, but I think I have more muscle now.”

“I really think you’re like a whole inch taller,” he says at me in disbelief.

Robbie walks over, standing next to Seth and looking at me. “You’re definitely taller,” he says to me. “Someone could have warned me your eyes had changed color, too.”

I giggle at him a little. “I think my hair will be curly, too.”

Robbie walks out of the room and Seth takes my hand, leading me to the door, but I stop and pull him back. “Do I look OK?” I ask him, so self conscious about the facts that I’ve changed so much.

“You look amazing, Love,” he says to me, kissing my head.

“I don’t want to talk to anyone,” I tell him quietly, looking towards the door hesitantly.

Seth nods at me. “They know. They should leave you alone. Benjamin did insist that one of his men walk us to the cave, though.”

“I have an Alpha and a Prince with me,” I say, rolling my eyes. “Who would even try anything?”

“I think it just makes him feel like he’s helping, but I’ve been assured he’ll leave you alone,” he says and leads me towards the door.

I feel so nervous walking into the room and fix my eyes on the old, beaten up, wooden floors. No one says anything as Seth gently leads me to the door. We stop and I realize he’s trying to help me put my jacket on, so I cooperate and move to zip it, but he never lets go, zipping it up and pulling me to him. He places a kiss on my forehead. “Let’s go,” I hear him say gently as he releases me and the door opens.

“You’ll link your father when you arrive safely?” I hear Benjamin ask Seth.

“Someone will,” he says to him. “I think we’ll let Molly try to link her dad if she’s up for it.” and he places his hand on my lower back, leading me out and closing the door behind us.

I realize when I walk out that Robbie is outside, carrying the backpack that has our things in it.

“You’re coming with us?” I ask him, excited.

“Of course!” he tells me and throws his arm around my shoulders. “I’m not letting you guys have a party without me.”

We start towards the cave and are greeted by an older, blonde haired rogue man- the same one we had met that first day when Seth and Robbie went to find the witch... my mother. He looks at us but when he sees me, he bows.

I look at him and it hits me, “Uncle Alex?” I ask him.