

Chapter 71-1

Albert returned with the requested items and my dad went back to Lunar Falls with him, leaving Seth and Me here in the rogue territory. Seth helps me move the items over to the area Alex had indicated for us to stay, though moderately disgruntled about us staying in a tent.

“Honestly, Molly,” Alex pleaded with me. “My wife is going to kill me for letting the Prince and Princess sleep in a tent.”

“It’s what I want,“ I reassured him again.

“Fine,” he told me, throwing his hands up. “You can deal with her when she gets here.”

I unroll the tent and place the poles to the side and straighten everything out. Seth surprises me and starts hooking the poles together.

“You know how to put a tent up?” I ask him, genuinely shocked.

Seth looks at me, offended. “Of course I do. I’m a wolf. What did you think Rob and I did during our Alpha training?”

“You don’t know how to do your own damn laundry but of course, you know how to assemble a tent. Silly me for not realizing,” I mutter under my breath and roll my eyes. I feel a small twig hit the side of my head, no doubt from Seth throwing it at me, and it makes me smile.

We work surprisingly well together and have the tent set up in no time. I bring the items into the tent that Albert had so kindly brought back to us and place them inside. I note, however, that he also grabbed an air mattress and it makes me smile. It was probably more for me than Seth, but I’m sure he’ll appreciate it more than me.

I use the pump that’s on the mattress and get it set up, laying blankets across it to have it ready for tonight. Seth climbs in the tent with another bag and I can see the relief on his face at the sight of the mattress, causing me to giggle.

“You’re pretty amazing, you know that?” he says, kissing the top of my head.

I look around at the little area that will be our home the next few nights and smile. It’s cozy, but it will be just fine, and I think that maybe that’s what Albert meant about how they live.

“I feel really bad that they’ll have to feed us. I’d offer him money, but I know he won’t take it,” I tell him and he nods.

“He really seemed happy to have you around for a few days,” he tells me, sitting on the mattress. “I’m sure it will be OK, and I’m sure you’ll think of some way to repay them.”

“Are you mad at me?” I ask him, looking in his eyes.

He looks at me, surprised. “Why would I be mad?”

“I didn’t exactly ask you,” I say to him, unsure of how he’s really feeling. “I just kind of forced you into this. I knew you wouldn’t leave me.”

“I’m not mad at all, Molly,” he says, taking my hand and pulling me over to sit next to him. “No one is perfect, and mistakes happen. But my dad has made quite a few rather large ones. It shouldn’t be your responsibility to fix them, and you continually amaze me how you jump right in to do it, anyways.”

“I love you,” I tell him, and he leans forward and kisses me.

“What’s your long game here?” he asks and I look at him, confused. “Come on. I know you’re already working on a plan. What’s going on in that head of yours?”

“I want to figure out a way that they can be an actual pack. No more hiding out here. They’ll just be an actual, recognized pack,” he nods, but he doesn’t say anything. “but they’ll need a new Alpha.”

“I’m glad you recognize that,” he says and I nod at him.

“Mistakes were made everywhere, but he broke the rules to start with, and he just can’t be their Alpha. I’m also mad that he has water while everyone else doesn’t.”

Seth chuckles at me. “Molly, it’s the hierarchy, but you came from a wealthy pack so you don’t fully understand it. You’re a princess now, and we’re going to move to a PALACE. We have the nicest things in the kingdom, while some omegas live in a state that’s just above poverty.”

“I don’t like that,” I tell him and he tilts his head to look at me.

“Do you ever feel bad, eating gourmet food in the palace, knowing that there are other wolves out there starving?” I ask him. I don’t think I ever realized this was truly a problem, even in civilized packs.

“Honestly, I don’t,” he tells me and my eyes begin to bulge out of my head. “Molly, each pack has an Alpha, and that man runs his pack as he sees fit. Lunar Falls is a wealthy pack, run by a good Alpha who cares for all in the pack. Everyone lives a decent life there, even the lowest omega. Slavery was outlawed by my father early in his reign, but some Alphas still treat their Omegas poorly, paying them the smallest wages.”

“That’s terrible!” I say to him, shocked that this happens.

“It is. But they’re within the law,” he says to me. “It keeps their wolves dependent upon them, so they’re less likely to revolt. I’m not saying I agree with it, but they’re functioning within the law, so our hands are tied.”

“So kids just go without having all their basic needs met?” I ask him, heartbroken to learn this. “I never knew other packs could be so horrible.”

“It’s something that I hope you decide to resolve when we take the throne,” he says, laying down and pulling me with him. “It will be a big undertaking, but you’re right, we need to, at the very least, ensure that all children have their basic needs met.”

We lay there for a moment, just enjoying being with each other. It’s been a hectic day, and slowing down to just be in each other’s presence is really nice.