

Chapter 71-2

“So...” Seth says, rolling onto his side and pulling me up against him, placing his hand on my stomach, grinning widely. “What was Lily saying about lots of grandkids?”

I can’t help but giggle at the excitement on his face. “Benjamin’s wife, the boy’s mom. She came from a family of herbalists. There’s something that helps with pregnancy. Lily said she could get it for me when we need it.”

“Clearly it works,” Seth says with a chuckle. “I’m not sure I’ve ever seen a family with more kids than Alex.”

“I think we can aim for a few less than him,” I say and he kisses my temple.

“How was your talk with Benjamin? I could feel your emotions all over the place”

“I... I don’t know.” I say and take a deep breath. “He’s upset that I’ve forgiven your dad. He’s upset that it took me so long to come back to see them. He’s just upset in general.”

“It’s only been a few days,” he says, looking bothered.

“I think he sees it as being his side, and your dad’s side. It’s like he’s forgetting that I have my own side. I HAVE to have your dad in my life, and it’s weird to be in that position. It really hurts that he hasn’t considered that.”

“What did he want you to do? You can’t just refuse the throne.”

“I don’t know. I didn’t ask him. He told me today that he had considered before sending me away that we would be mates.”

“He what?!”

“Yup,” I say dryly, trying my best to hold back my tears. “It’s like I’m two different people. Like I was the Molly that was a little girl here, and the Molly who woke up in the woods, scared and alone. The Molly I am now finally knows the girl I was, but it’s like I just watched her life. I don’t know how to explain it.”

“It’s OK, Love. I think I understand what you’re saying.”

“I spent so much of my life thinking that I was unwanted and it’s hard to just let those feelings go suddenly. I felt so alone for so, so long.”

Seth pulls me completely into his arms, pulling my face against his chest. “You’re not alone now, though. You’re mine.”

“I know,” I sniffle into his chest. “I used to have dreams that I was just a little girl, back in the woods, all alone. I tried so hard, for so long after Dad found me to not get into trouble because I thought they would send me back into the woods.”

“Molly,” he says, and kisses my forehead.

“It’s just easier to forgive your dad, because it didn’t leave the lasting trauma that abandoning me did.”

“Molly, we’re going to find a therapist when we get home, someone you can talk to. You never should have had to deal with being abandoned, or watching your brothers die, or having to be mated to the son of the man who murdered them.” he says, kissing the top of my head and gently playing with my hair. “None of that was ok, and I’m so sorry that it’s not something I can fix for you.”

I’m not sure how long we lay there, with Seth just holding me close. He’s right, none of it was OK, and I probably do need to talk to someone. Forgiving Peter was easy, because it was the only choice to move forward. Seth had marked me, there was no backing out. Forgiving Benjamin and Lily though, that’s harder, because I don’t have to. I could walk away and not look back, but I don’t think that’s what I want, I just don’t know how to process how I’m feeling. I give up trying to work out my feelings and snuggle into Seth.

I wake up in the meadow, Sage sitting next to me. I note that it’s still night time here, but I’m sure I just fell asleep during the day.

“Is it always night now?” I ask her.

“It is here, now that I’m free.”

“Is that why it was always sunny before? When I would see you in my dreams?” I ask her, finally understanding something.

“Yes. Wolves need the moon, and we couldn’t have it then,” she tells me. “You should shift in the meadow. It’s where he marked us. It may help with the pain.”

“I was hoping to see my parents,” I tell her, sadly. “I’ve never gotten to spend a full moon with them.”

“I know, but this will not be a fun shift,” she says, and I can feel my heart break. “You need to be with our mate, in the meadow. Don’t you feel stronger when you’re outside?”

I think about that for a moment. “I feel happier,” I admit to her. “I’ve never thought about if I felt stronger, but maybe.” Sage just nods and sits next to me.

“You were harsh with Benjamin,” she says simply.

“I know,” I say, my voice barely a whisper. “It just made me so angry that he asked for a pardon. It felt like he was trying to use me. It sounded like he has more information about the wolves disappearing, but won’t help unless I give him his pack back.”

“You need to control your temper when it comes to him.”

“I know,” I tell her, thinking about why I can’t control my anger with him, and only him. I’ve never been one to have outbursts of anger. If you had told me yesterday that I’d issue a royal command I’d have told you it’s something I would never do, but I did, because I was so angry.

“He hurt you, Molly. He sent you away and didn’t want you around. You now know why, but you didn’t for so long, that it’s hard to let go of how that made you feel.”

I know she’s right. “I think I always thought that they were bad people, that if they really had just left me for someone else to find, they couldn’t be good.”

“Not everyone is good or bad, especially with wolves. You are viewing things as black and white, when they are not. Our mate has killed. Your dad has.”

“You don’t know that,” I tell her, shocked she would even suggest it.

“Their job is to protect, and I’m sure that both of them have killed. No one is completely bad, just like no one is completely good.”