

## Chapter 73-1

“DINNER’S READY!” we hear Della yell across the yard and all the kids immediately drop what they’re doing and take off running to her, the two older boys emerging from inside the house and joining them. We turn and make our way as well. Honestly, I’m starving. Everything today happened so quickly and neither of us had lunch.

“Princess Molly! Sit by me!” Stevie says and scoots down to allow me to sit on the end next to him. I happily oblige and Seth sits across from me next to a little girl. She looks up at him, towering over her as they are sitting and her eyes widen.

“You’re big,” she says to him, though she doesn’t seem afraid like Stevie had been, though being locked in a cell may have helped cause the fear.

“You’re small,” he tells her with a sly smile and she giggles at him. “What’s your name?”

“Jenny,” she tells him with a wide smile. “I’ll be four next week!”

“Wow! Four?!” he tells her, acting surprised and causing her to giggle more. “Are you the youngest?”

“Yes, sir,” she says but is interrupted.

“It’s PRINCE Seth,” Della calls out to her.

Little Jenny’s eyes become even wider. “Are you a real prince?!”

Seth nods to her. “I am. And Molly is my Princess.”

“You’re not a real princess,” she says to me, frowning.

“I’m not?” I ask her, confused as to why she thinks that. “Why not? Prince Seth is my mate.”

“Princesses wear pretty dresses,” she tells me, as if it’s the obvious answer and it makes me smile.

“I have pretty dresses,” I tell her. “I couldn’t walk out here to see you if I had worn one, though.”

Little Jenny seems to think about that for a moment and nods her head curtly. “I guess that makes sense. But don’t you want to wear pretty dresses all the time? I want to.”

The little girl next to Jenny looks at her sister and rolls her eyes. “Not everyone likes dresses, Jenny.”

I laugh out loud at that. “I’m sorry,” I tell her. “I don’t know your name.”

“I’m Eleanor,” she informs me.

“Eleanor is right,” I tell her. “Sometimes I like to wear pretty dresses, but not all the time.”

“What does a princess actually even do?” Eleanor asks me.

Della looks absolutely outraged at her daughter. “Eleanor! That is inappropriate.” I hear as she sounds horrified, though Alex appears to be stifling a laugh.

“Honestly, I’m not exactly sure,” I tell her and make a face. “I’ve only been a princess for a few days. I think it’s mostly just wearing pretty dresses.”

“That’s not true,” Seth says with a smile. “Princesses find problems in the kingdom and how to fix them. So far, Molly has demanded and been helping to make new laws to protect kids.”

I can’t help but blush a little bit at Seth bringing this up. I hear Alex as he’s bringing over some bowls of soup to the table. “You are?”

“Umm, yes,” I tell him.

“Did you tell Benjamin?” he asks me, tilting his head. “He’ll be so happy to know that.”

“Umm… no, I didn’t,” I tell him and I clasp my hands and look down at them in my lap. “I don’t think he’ll be very happy about it, actually.”

Alex looks at me, a look of complete confusion on his face. “Why wouldn’t he? He’ll be very proud that you’ve already started work on something so important.”

I look back down at my hands, afraid to see his face. “Because I’m working with King Peter on it. He’ll be enacting and taking credit for it as we’re concerned some packs will be upset about it. He didn’t want that to fall on Seth and me.”

“What exactly is in it?” Della says, taking a seat between Stevie and two of the older boys as Alex sits down between Eleanor and their other son.

“We’re still working out the specific details,” I begin to tell them and look at Seth, unsure if I should tell them. He looks at me and nods encouragingly. “Essentially, the plan is to make it illegal to murder any wolf before they shift.”

Alex looks at me with a look on his face that I’m not exactly sure what it is. Pride, maybe? “That will make him so happy.”

They pass out bowls and we begin to eat. Stevie looks up to me. “Do you want to pass that law because the King killed Benjamin’s sons?”

His comment causes me to stop and I look up at Seth, whose eyes are as wide as I assume mine are. I knew he was terrified at the Falls when he found out that the King was there, but I didn’t think about why. I guess everyone out here knows, though.

“Yes, it is.” I tell him quietly. “They were my brothers.”

“If they were your brothers,” the older boy next to Alex begins, “then is Benjamin your dad, too?”

“Yeah,” I tell him with a small smile. “He is.”

Alex looks at me and smiles, but he doesn’t say anything. I haven’t really decided what to say to the kingdom about my parentage. I’m well known as Alpha Randal and Celeste’s adopted daughter. There’s absolutely no denying that publicly, but it would also be difficult to deny being Benjamin’s when anyone sees my eyes. Perhaps that is causing some of the issues between us, because we both know it’s going to require a complicated explanation.