

Chapter 96-1

I walk out the door and down the hall, walking in our home and slamming the door behind me. How dare he. How can he not realize that the problem isn't that he was with other women, but that he tried to replace me!

I storm through the house and land in the closet and look at the enormity of it, full of clothes fit for a Queen. I didn't want this. I didn't ask for any of this. I just wanted a mate that wouldn't reject me. I pick up a long, silk evening gown. It's beautiful, truly. It's just not me, though. None of this is.

I hear the bedroom door crack and close again, Seth slowly walking across the room. I feel trapped, not wanting to talk to him yet, but unable to walk away from him now that I'm in the closet with no way out.

"I'm sorry," he says softly from the doorway. "I shouldn't have said that."

I look around, giving up and sitting on the floor, surrounded by rows of beautiful clothes, beautiful dress still in my hands. "I never wanted this, Seth," I tell him, pulling my knees to my chest and hugging my legs. "Do you think that I don't know that male wolves f**k around? My brother has f****d half the pack by now, but the second he caught smell of his mate he stopped. He only wants her. YOU found me, and tried to find better. You searched for a replacement. You just didn't want me."

He slowly, timidly, steps across the room and moves to sit down next to me on the floor next to my feet so that he's looking at me. "I'm sorry," he whispers and reaches up to wipe the tears from my cheek. "I'm sorry for everything. I didn't fully realize what was hurting you, but I never should have said that. You're right. I did try to replace you, and there's nothing I can ever do to make up for that."

"I just wanted a mate who would want me, not one who is just stuck with me," I say, sniffing as tears flow down my cheeks.

"I do want you, Molly. I didn't realize then, but I did," he whispers, placing his hand on my knee. "I made so many bad choices, but they only hurt you in the end."

"Do you still love her?" I ask, afraid of his answer.

He looks pained as he tilts my head up to meet his eyes. "I never did, not really. I thought I did, but as I fell in love with you, I realized that it was never what I had felt for her."

"I'm just playing dress up," I whisper, looking around at everything. "I don't belong here."

Seth looks around and then back to me. "Is it the clothes?" he asks, pushing my hair behind my ear. "I'll get you new clothes. Whatever you want."

"No," I tell him. "Maybe? I just don't know how to do this? And you found women that could. I shouldn't be here."

"No, Molly. No," he says, moving to wrap his arms around me and kisses my head. "You are the most perfect wolf for this. You weren't even princess for a week when you met with a man you had seen murder your brother and demanded better from him. You expect and demand better from me, and you'll do the same with our children."

I sniffle, and he releases me, putting his finger under my chin and pulling my face up to look at him again. "I thought that you working in the kitchen was ridiculous, and you were hiding, but the truth is that you, an Alpha's daughter with no wolf still found a way to help your pack and did it, with no complaints. You could have hidden and let your dad and brother always protect you, but you jumped in and found a way to contribute. That's more than most Alpha's daughters who DO have a wolf can say. I have no doubt that when it comes time you will jump in and find ways for you to help the kingdom, because that is who you are."

"You deserve better than me," he tells me with a sad smile. "I listened to things about you that I decided were weaknesses and it turns out, it's what makes you perfect for this. You've always held your head high and never let it show. You only let it show when you talked to your brother, which is all that I ever heard. I'm so sorry that I listened to your conversations with a person you considered safe to complain to, and judged who you were based on that. Maybe it's because I don't have siblings, but he was your safe place, and I didn't understand that."

I nod, finally realizing why he was so hesitant to find me. The only thing he ever heard from me was what I was saying to my brother, who was the only person I've ever complained about pretty much anything to- just him and Oliver. I lean my head on his shoulder and he kisses the top of my head again.

"I'm sorry that I got upset when I made you tell me everything," I say to him and he wraps his arms around me.

"You wouldn't have been upset if I hadn't said that. I'm sorry that I didn't understand. Are we OK?" He asks me and I nod.

"I think so," I whisper, but make no effort to move. We stay like that for quite some time, just huddled awkwardly in the floor of the closet, Seth holding me with my head leaned on his shoulder.