

Chapter 98-1

I take a seat and read one of the books about the history of witches, though it's written by a human, so it's most likely wildly inaccurate. There's a soft knock at the door and as it cracks open, I can smell Audrey entering the room.

"Good morning, kids," she says brightly, coming to sit in the other chair next to me. "It's so nice to finally see you in here, Molly."

I smile at her, closing the book. "Thanks. It's nice to be here, I think..."

"Peter and I have met with the office staff and they have been informed of the plan and the changes that will come," she tells me and while she's smiling, I can sense the sadness and see it in her eyes. "It doesn't make sense to set up the office across the hall, so I'm going to show you my office. We'll have you moved into this one so you have the back entrance once the change is official."

Seth nods to her, barely looking up from the pages spread out over his desk. "Seth, are you listening?" she asks.

"Yes, Mother. You're moving Molly's office here. You want to show her yours. I'm listening," he says, seeming very irritated and still not looking up.

She looks at me and rolls her eyes with a smile, standing as she does. I follow her cue and stand, but it doesn't feel right to just leave. I chance walking around the desk to tell Seth goodbye, even though he seems deeply interested in what he's working on. As I approach him, he immediately looks up at me and takes my hand. Leaning down, I kiss him and he pulls me closer to him.

"I love you," he says, breaking the kiss and releasing me.

"I love you," I whisper, feeling slightly embarrassed that his mother is still in the room and watching us. I stand and walk towards her to leave, and she just beams at me.

We exit the room, closing the door behind and I follow her down a fairly long hall. "It makes me happy to see how much he loves you, Molly. Truly."

"He's so short with other people," I say quietly, not sure where anyone is and if they can hear. "It's so odd that he isn't with me."

"It's because he loves you," she tells me, looking over her shoulder, giving me a smile. "I've never seen him be that kind to anyone. I was always worried about how he would treat his mate because he's a real ass to everyone else."

I can't help but laugh at that. "Well, you have nothing to worry about. He's been amazing to me since we met."

We stop at a door and Audrey puts her hand on the handle to open, but she stops and turns to me. "We can do whatever you want in your office. I'm just showing you this so you can get an idea of what you need in it. I know it's not your style. Just look past that."

I smile and nod. I had already considered that I wouldn't love how it was decorated, but I'd never tell her that. She opens the door and motions for me to enter first. I step in and notice quickly that everything is so bright. The walls are white, and everything is trimmed in gold. She, like Seth, has a sitting area but all the furniture in hers is white and pale pink. Her desk and chairs are white and it's nice. It's just very... clean.

"You don't have to lie and tell me that you love it," she says lightly, walking past me as I look around. "I won't lie to you. Your home at the Lunar Falls Packhouse looked like a dungeon."

I laugh a little at this. "I know," I tell her. You should have seen it before dad remodeled it. But there was no window, and I was with Omegas most of the time, so I didn't want anything fancy if anyone came over."

She nods at me, taking a seat on the light pink couch. "That makes sense. You seem to be very considerate, Molly."

"I try," I tell her as she motions for me to join her, and I oblige. "I just started observing everyone carefully when I started to not fit in and, well... I just realized some things."

"That's partly why I asked you to join me today," she tells me and I start to feel nervous. "You don't NEED to see the Queens office. It looks almost exactly like Seth's does now, just smaller and I didn't luck out with a fireplace. The men required those."

"Sounds like Seth," I say and she smiles and nods.

"I wanted to talk to you, and just make sure you're OK," she says, taking my hand. "You looked pretty... shocked... when we left you guys. I imagine this is all a big change for you, and pretty overwhelming."

I nod, not trusting my voice to give her an audible answer. She doesn't grant me any grace though, and waits for an answer. "It's just been a really big change, and really fast," I whisper.

"I know. It felt so quick and overwhelming for me when I met Peter. One moment you're getting to know your mate, having a lovely time, and then suddenly you're marked and you're a princess," she says, almost sadly.

"Seth told me how to control the link before he marked me," I tell her and she smiles. "He said you'd mentioned before how difficult that was for you."