

Chapter 16

Peter

I sent Calvin to bed and now find myself in John's office late at night with him and Daisy. They have been kind, especially upon finding that we lied and wasted their time. We knew exactly who we were searching for.

"You need it to seem real so they won't move her," Daisy says, and I nod. "That poor young man. He's been through so much, and now he can feel her."

"Her pain," I correct her. "It's terrible."

John nods in agreement. "I'll put out feelers for the girls among friendly packs."

"I know exactly where the older girl is," I tell him, potentially putting my plan in danger. "Tell them you saw her in the woods here and see what you can find out about Ada."

"Of course," he says with a nod. "I assume she's safely kept where I think she is."

I shrug. "Most likely. The King is aware of the situation." Let's be honest. John knows exactly where she is now. I've never left anything at a pack a day in my life. He knows why we crossed

over from Lunar Falls.

"If it comes to it, you can count on us for protection," John tells me firmly.

"Thank you, friend. We'll leave in the morning to get to Silver Moon and get out before nightfall. We'll camp in the woods at the Northern Woods Pack."

"There are rumors of a pack of rogues trying to form within Silver Moon," John warns me.

"s**t," I sigh. "Nothing can be easy."

She chuckles. "He's not going to be happy that you're there."

"We'll go through and I'll have Calvin check out the woods after we're out," I tell them, but John looks confused. "Calvin is technically a rogue, so he can cross over without it feeling different."

"I don't know much about it or how friendly they may be, but don't let him get killed before he finds the girl," he warns me.

"You'll have to let me know when you find her," Daisy tells Calvin, straightening his messy hair.

"Yes, ma'am," is all he says. The woman is no doubt smothering him, but he's polite enough to let her fuss over him.

"This would be a safe place to settle down with her, even if you don't take the job," she tells him. The implication is there, but she's not said too much. This pack would accept them and protect her, just as Calvin would.

He nods and gives her a sad smile before he gets into the car. We're near to the border when he turns to me. "You look nervous."

"They won't be happy to see us," I tell him. "They're going to assume we're there to check on the pack and lying about the mate. Look desperate and approach every shewolf you see."

He nods, but I can see it's the last thing he wants to do.

"Don't forget, this entire search is to find Ada. Everything we do will help us find her."

"What's in it for you?" he asks me, staring off into the trees as we drive past.

"Nothing, Calvin," I tell him, hoping he'll believe me. "I'm doing this because I am the reason you were locked in the woods. I'm doing what I can to make things right."

"Do you want Dorothy as the Alpha?" he challenges.

I sigh. "That's not for me to decide, but Seth. He is the king now."

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+10 Points

It's sometime later before he finally speaks again, but it sends a chill down my spine when he does.

"I'm going to kill her brother. Even if he isn't hiding her, she wouldn't have run if it weren't for him."

"He isn't," I say gently. "She told you she doesn't know who has her, remember?"

His hands ball into fists, and he's silent for the remainder of our drive.

The packhouse here isn't huge, but it's still fairly nice. No Alpha or Luna is outside to greet us, but an Omega.

"Welcome, sirs," the young man stammers nervously. "If you'll follow me to the Alpha's office."

He leads us inside and down a hall, knocking and then opening the door for us. Alpha Romeo is seated at a desk facing the door and looks more irritated than usual.

"Who is this?" he asks, tilting his head toward Calvin.

"As I explained in the email, this is Calvin, Queen Molly's brother," I remind him. "We're here to search your pack for his mate."

"I suppose you'll need to search through the woods in the North?" he challenges me, but it's Calvin who speaks up.

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"I would like to meet with your pack members and see your dungeon," he says firmly.

Romeo looks angry. "Absolutely not."

"I am not going to travel across the entire

Ad

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kingdom only to have to do it again to check the dungeons," he states, his resolve still strong.

Romeo glares at us, so much so that the Omega behind us steps outside the room.

Calvin steps forward. "I would hate to have to bring the Queen out for this."

"Later," Romeo growls.

"Right now," Calvin states. "Unless you have something to hide."

Romeo's breathing becomes ragged from anger as he stands, grabs keys from his desk, and stomps past us. Calvin did well, and I pat him on the back as we follow the Alpha to a stairway that leads below the house.

The dungeon here is everything you would expect when you hear the word. It's rock walls and rusted bars, and the room is damp. Calvin plays it well, but I realize that he's not acting. He's actually searching for Ada. He approaches each dark cell and sniffs, unbothered by the smell of filth permeating the air.

There's a shewolf who is very ill he links me, his back to Romeo.

I know, but unfortunately, he's within his rights at the Alpha.

His back stiffens at my response, but he doesn't say a word as he turns and leaves the dungeon.

"Really thought you'd find her there?" Romeo asks with a bark of a laugh.

"I'd like to check every shewolf at every pack until I find her."

"What was your plan if my prisoner was your mate? Call your sister when I don't release her."

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He's pushing him, and you never know how Calvin will react to him. Unfortunately, his response isn't helpful to the situation.

"No, I'd just f*****g kill you and take her," he says, taking a step toward him so they are inches apart and releases his aura.

"So, if we could see the rest of the pack now," I chime in, clearing my throat.

"My Luna will deal with it," he says, dismissing us with a wave of his hand. "I don't have time for this shit."

He's not even out of sight when Luna Reba appears, smiling nervously at us. "This way," she instructs. "I assume you'd like to see the Omegas, too?"

"Yes, please," Calvin nods, and we follow her throughout the packhouse, sniffing in every room before she leads us outside. She doesn't say anything. She doesn't give us a tour or explain where we are going. We just follow her blindly, hoping for the best.

She leads us into a school, letting Calvin see all the teachers and other staff before we go to the training center. Everything is immediately halted as we enter, but no one says anything. It's so strange. There's nothing, not even someone speaking to the Luna, and I haven't seen anyone's

eyes glass as if they're linking.

Calvin walks through each row of warriors before turning and walking out the door, waiting for Reba to show us the next place. A few more buildings, and then she takes us back to the packhouse.

"That's everyone," she says, crossing her arms. "You two can leave now."

Calvin is the first to turn and get into the SUV, though I'm right behind him. This has been the strangest trip I've experienced here. Typically, Romeo has a lot to say. None of it is ever good, but the man never shuts up. Now, though, it just doesn't make sense.

"I think maybe you scared them, demanding to see the dungeon," I muse.

He shrugs. "I wasn't going to pass it up. What if she was there?"

"No, you did the right thing," I say, not wanting him to think I'm upset. "You did very well. I need you to do something for me tonight, something I'm unable to do."

"What's that?" he asks.

"I want you to cross into the woods and see if a pack is forming near the border. John mentioned it, and I wasn't going to, but everything there just felt off."

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He nods. "Yeah. If there are more wolves there, I want to see them."



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