

Epilogue 2 - Auri

Epilogue 2 - Auri

"Mom!" Syf and Freya both threw their hands around me and I held them close.

Týr stood but didn't say anything. Logan stayed seated next to him, his eyes unfocused as he looked ahead. I wiped the cheeks of my two girls and smiled.

"Come on, Vale would be mad that we cried this much over him."

Freya chuckled. "He would say we are being over dramatic about it. Or that we were thinking of other stuff so we would tear up and make him feel better."

I nodded. "We all know it was you two who made him cry most of them time."

"I...we..." Syf looked at her twin before the two of them chuckled. "You're right."

"I know, I'm right. I'm your mother."

Freya snorted. "Not looking like that you aren't. I can't believe you're de-aging. That's crazy, Mom. If I didn't see the effects in you and Hector I would say you were lying."

I tried to smile but it just couldn't get there. Admitting how much pain I went through wasn't something I was going to dump here and now. They didn't need to know. It was the same thing I tried to do with Vale. Tried to protect him and I couldn't. Tears started to well up again. Týr came forward and wrapped his arms around me.

"I'm sorry, Mom. I feel like...that I...I just..."

Swallowing down the tears, I shook my head. "Týr, you can't blame yourself. Not for any of this. So don't try. What you need to focus on is being a good Alpha, a good father,

Epilogue 2 - Auri

and continuing to take care of Harvest Moon. That's your job and your focus."

His face didn't look convinced but he ended up nodding to me. I pulled down his head and kissed his forehead.

"You got this, Týr. I won't be there because I need to help Zeke here, but I'll be around. Don't be shy. I'll be happy to help if you ever need it."

Týr laughed. "I'm not sure if the pack trusts you anymore after that stunt you pulled but I'll keep it in mind."

He seemed to understand what I was getting as, as he grabbed his sisters and they started to head back before us. Logan was still sitting in his seat, looking at the tree. I sat down in the chair next to him.

"He seemed so tiny when he came out. That day was a fucking whirlwind mess."

I chuckled. "It was. They really fucked us over."

Logan snorted. "You did die. He almost died. Then we found out he was the next Alpha King. Found out that you couldn't speak anymore. Our whole world as we knew it changed."

Nodding, I leaned back in the chair, looking up at the top of the tree. "I wouldn't change it, any of it. Maybe the ending but...everything else I wouldn't change."

There was a long pause before Logan replied. "Every time I think about our story, all I see is this strength and power in you. I see you standing there, holding our family together, and me being the fucking asshole that continued to unravel it at every step of the way."

"Logan..."

"No. I did, Auri. I did. I deserve to be there. Not him. Vale didn't deserve any of this. It was my choices. My actions."

Epilogue 2 + Auri

My insecurities. I was his father and I did nothing but let him down at every fucking turn."

I shook my head. "I'm not perfect either. Neither of us can cop out of being to blame." The surprise when he looked at me made me laugh. "Logan, I continually convince myself that it would be better if I could do things alone. That I wouldn't be hurting anyone if I just...went off and fought the entire world myself. It's literally everything that I am. I run. I run away because it's easier to do that and fight the world than to stay and have to suffer through the pain of losing everyone you hold dear." 1

I looked at him, tears falling down. "Yes, we are both to blame. We need to do better; be better. For them."

He shook his head. "You're the one who has a whole new litter to look after."

I chuckled. "From what I've seen, our eldest ones still need a helping hand. How did that happen?"

Logan sighed and rubbed his face. "You make me feel old, Auri. Just looking at you."

"If it helps, I feel old." I looked up again. "I've never felt so old and I was strung up against a wall for months without food in my fifties."

"I'm sorry. I know it's not worth much now. I know I fucked up all along the way. I know I could have done so much better..."

I shrugged. "You could have done worse."

"Auri, I'm serious."

"So am I." I looked over at him and smiled. Reaching out, I took his hand and kissed the inside of his palm. "It takes two, Logan. We were good, we had our time. We just fractured and couldn't figure out where our lives fit back

Epilogue 2 - Auri

together. And that's okay. We have...four wonderful children..." I looked back at the tree for a moment before smiling at him. "And I wouldn't change that. Because if I did...then everything we went through would have become pointless. So. We will just have to steping forward. Keep going and finding that path."

"Auri..."

I stood before he could say anything else. "You're welcome to stay at the pack house. I know Zeke said there was a room or two open since the bed and breakfast was booked out, as well as the surrounding hotels."

Logan nodded. "I'll...see. I'm going to sit here for a little while longer."

"Alright."

I turned and headed down the path to the central area of the pack. Bryan was waiting for me down at the bottom, leaning on his cane. He wrapped an arm in mine.

"Coming to spy?"

"Nope. Just making sure you don't kill each other."

I snorted. "He couldn't touch me with a broad side of a barn."

Bryan laughed and shook his head. We walked together down the path and he stopped, forcing me to stop with him.

"Are you okay?"

"You mean because of Logan or..."

His glare made me roll my eyes. "Auri, I'm serious...I know ...I know what it's like."

Looping my arm in his, I held him close. "You not only lost

Epilogue 2 - Auri

your son but lost your mate as well. I lost my son but I was warned. I knew and I tried to stop it but I couldn't. So, just like you, I will survive. I won't be happy about it, but I won't be nearly as grumpy as you are."

"Hey!" He hit his cane against my shins and I faked pain.

"Hey old man! That hurts!"

He snorted. "Old man? You little shitter. I remember back in the day when you used to be sweet and make us cake during your heats."

"I remember a grumpy asshole who didn't like when I ran around without doing any of my work."

Both of looked at one another, a light shinning in both our eyes. Bryan was right. He had been through it, albeit much younger than we were now. I knew he felt the pain of losing Vale as one of his own. Both he and Hector were close with Vale, taking him on as a son, especially after Bryan lost Orion.

Wrapping my arms around him fully, he didn't quite know what to do. "Auri?"

"Thank you. For not disappearing. I know losing Denise and Orion was so hard and you could have just removed yourself but you didn't. So...thank you."

"Auri, you would have never given me that choice anyways."

I laughed and jammed my elbow into his side. Bryan coughed and shook his head. Taking a deep breath, I looked around our little town that was turning into a city.

"Vale protected all of this. At the very least, we can do our best to make sure it thrives."

"And thrive it shall. Under Zeke. Under the next King. So long as we keep the peace Vale set out for us, we will be

Epilogue 2 - Auri

good."

I nodded. "And Papa doesn't give up within the first couple years."

Bryan shook his head. "I give him three months and he's going to come crawling back and asking for a different job. Anything by being King."

I laughed, looking back at the tree you could see even from the town square. "You're probably right. He'll make do though." I looked up at Bryan. "Because I will always be there to remind him that it was what Vale wanted."

"Oh, that's mean."

I laughed. "It's true."

"Auri?"

I hummed and looked at Bryan.

"Even after all of us are gone, me, Logan, Zeke, Lucy, AJ... all of us...don't abandon the world. It needs you. I know it does and you have to promise me that you won't just fade. I know that's what you want but you have too much knowledge and too much to offer. You could train the next Kings, take account of the history. Don't...throw away an opportunity because you think you've become some monster."

I leaned into him. "You always were a glass half full kind of wolf."

"I'm not and you know it."

Sighing, I squeezed his arm. "I can't promise much. I don't know what the future holds. But I promise...if I find the library of Alexandria, I'll write our history..."

"You fucking cunt."

I laughed and hugged Bryan. "I'll do my best. Just...stay

Epilogue 2 - Auri

with us for a little longer. I still feel like being bossed around once in a while and Hector just is too much of a golden retriever boy to do it."

Bryan laughed as well. "Alright. Thank you, Auri."

"Don't thank me, Bryan. Not today."

"One day?"

I nodded. "One day."



Comments



Vote (22.6K)

