

## Chapter 171

"Thanks," I said, trying not to let my jealousy shine through. I didn't like the thought of another man gaining the attention of my wife. But I also knew that I could trust Silver and I had to believe nothing was going on between the two of them. I pulled her along with me, keeping my arm protectively around her body as we made our way inside. I wasn't surprised that the first person to greet us was Mariah.

She rushed towards us, her eyes wide and never leaving Silver.

"Is it really you?" Mariah asked, hesitantly.

Silver grinned and held her arms open for Mariah who ran into them.

"Thank the Goddess," she breathed. "I was so worried about you."

"I'm okay now," she assured her. "I'm home."

Home.

I loved the sound of that word on her lips; I knew she wasn't just talking about the palace. She was talking about me as well. I was her home. The crown pack was her home. The friends she'd made were now her home.

"She's had a long day. She needs to recover. I'm going to bring her to our room," I told Mariah, who stepped back upon hearing my words.

"Of course. I'll make your favorite soup and have a maid bring it up to you later," Mariah told Silver.

"Thank you," Silver said politely.

The girls hugged before Silver went with me up the stairs and into our bedroom. As soon as the door was shut, Silver rested her body against mine and I could see the utter exhaustion in her eyes.

I wrapped my arms around her, needing to ensure myself that she was truly okay. I hadn't meant to rush her away from everyone, but I needed to be alone with her. I needed to feel her warmth and touch. I needed to see for myself that she was truly unharmed. "Did he hurt you?" I asked, keeping my tone low and my lips against her ear.

She trembled from my nearness, and I couldn't help but smile at the effect I had on her body.

"No," she whispered. "Not physically. Some of the guards did though. He was angry with them for it. He told them specifically not to hurt me, but they didn't listen."

"I will kill every last one of them," I promised. "You won't have to worry about a thing."

"I'm not worried," she said softly. "They tried to break my spirit and make me not trust you. But it didn't work. I would never let them break me and turn against you. I would never betray you, Elliot."

"I know," I whispered as I ran my fingers up and down her spine. She relaxed into me as she gazed into my eyes.

"He wants me to join him," she told me. "But I told him no. I won't do anything to hurt you, physically or mentally."

"You don't have to reassure me, Silver," I told her, pressing my lips to her cheekbone gently. "I trust you," I added in a whisper as I trailed my lips down the nape of her neck. She sucked in a sharp breath as I reached that sweet spot my mark should be.

Why hadn't I marked her yet?

I let my tongue glide across that spot, and she shivered from the sensations provoked across her body. I could see goosebumps forming on her flesh and it made me grin as held her tighter. I peppered soft kisses along her collarbone and rose my lips up her chin and across her cheeks once more before I found her juicy and plump lips.

She moaned as I made contact with her mouth and that gave me the access I needed to slide my tongue between her lips. Our tongues danced with one another and her breathing grew heavy as she fought to keep up the pace of my kisses. She turned her body, so she was facing me, and her arms instinctively wrapped around my neck as she pulled herself closer to my broad body.

She moaned again, melting in the embrace and deepening the kiss as lifted her into my arms. Her legs were wrapped around my waist, and I brought her to the bed. I wanted to make this woman mine if it was the last thing I did. She was mine in every sense of the way, except for one.

I wanted my mark on the nape of her neck. I wanted the world to know that she belonged to me. I let my wolf push himself forward as I broke my kiss from her lips and trailed down the nape of her neck again. He was ready to claim what was his; mate or not, she belonged to us. "Mine," my wolf growled out loud just as our canines sunk deep into the nape of her neck, marking and claiming Silver as ours.

"Forever mine," I whispered as I licked the mark, sealing it closed.

## Chapter 172

### Silver

Everything happened so quickly that I barely could grasp what was happening. I was eager to get away from everyone and just be with the man that I loved. The man who had fallen in love with me deeper than I could ever imagine. My loving husband and Alpha. I wanted to be with him in more ways than I could count. As he kissed down the nape of my neck, I couldn't help but shiver from the electricity that coursed through my body from his touch.

As his lips found mine and his tongue glided across my bottom lip, I parted my lips to grant him access. My tongue tangled with his and they danced in a beautiful rhythm until he broke the kiss and started to kiss down my neck again. I moaned at the sensations he provoked across my body. "Mine!" He spoke in a grave tone that almost didn't seem like his.

I opened my eyes to look at him, but his face was buried in my neck, licking, kissing, and sucking, every corner of me.

"Forever mine," he whispered; his tone returning to his normal loving sound just before I felt something sharp piercing my flesh.

My entire body went rigid in his arms when I realized it was his canine.

He just marked me.

He put his mark on me, and he didn't bother to ask me yet. I started to tremble in his embrace as he deepened his canines. It wasn't as painful as I thought it would be. It actually kind of felt nice; at first, the pain was sharp and made me wince in displeasure. But then I felt a rush of emotions and desires coursing through me and all I wanted was to be with him in

the most intimate way possible. It was like something inside of me was craving him and itching to get out.

I knew it had to be the wolf that was locked away inside of me. If what the Moon Goddess told me was true, my wolf wanted to get out and be with her mate. She's the strange sensation I had been feeling inside of myself this entire time.

She wanted him, and I wanted him... yet I was so infuriated and hurt that he did this without consent that I couldn't even look at him. I felt sick to my stomach.

He branded me as his and he didn't think a conversation was worth having.

He retracted his canines and licked the wound until it was closed. Then he peppered soft kisses along my neck and just as he was about to bring his lips to mine once again, I turned my head.

His eyes flew open and for a second, I saw the yellow of his wolf still peering through, but they quickly settled and returned to his normal shade when he saw the look on my face.

"Silver...?"

"Get off me," I said through my teeth, tears brimming in my eyes and causing my vision to become blurry.

He quickly did as I asked and scrambled off me; he looked confused and also a little hurt.

"I..." he tried to say but I held my hand up. My hand was trembling, but not in a good way. In this kind, way, that means I'm desperately trying to keep myself together and not lose my cool on the man that I love.

"How could you...?" I asked, my voice cracking at the end. I hated myself for sounding weak and broken, but I couldn't help it.

Why did he think that was okay?

He stared at me for a moment, and then as if he realized what he had done, I could see the realization on his face as he quickly got to his feet and stepped away from the bed.

"I... I'm so sorry, Silver. I didn't mean to...I just..." he stopped talking, unsure of what he was trying to say.

"You marked me without my consent, Elliot," I said, wrapping my arms around my body like I was trying to keep myself together. "This was not supposed to happen."

"I'm sorry," he breathed, staring at the ground. "But I couldn't wait another day for you to be mine..."

"I was already yours!" I all but yelled. "I have always been yours. Didn't you know that already?"

"I wanted everyone to know that you are mine," he said, his tone low and almost threatening. "I wanted my mark and scent all over you. I can't explain it, but it's been driving me crazy..."

I understood what he meant because, in some strange way, it's been driving me crazy too. I always envisioned the day I would be marked differently. I thought that it would be a mutual discussion, and it would be in the middle of a passionate endeavor. He would mark me, and I would mark him... I would have my wolf, and she would take claim of her mate just like his wolf would take claim over me.

But now that vision was gone because he went ahead and did it without asking me. My wolf couldn't be a part of this vision because she wasn't fully here yet. I couldn't mark him back yet... my wolf was feeling left out and that's why I was feeling so hurt. I was hurt on her behalf for missing out on something so special.

## Chapter 173

### Silver

"Baby, please don't be mad at me," he said, lowering himself to his knees in front of me. "I love you so much and I just wanted you to be mine... officially."

"Was marrying you not enough?"

"Not for my wolf," he said sharply. "He needed something more. Something more permanent."

"And you didn't think discussing that was necessary?" I asked, my voice cracking again as I held back a sob.

He cupped my face with his big and strong hands, forcing me to look at him.

"I should have... I was wrong about that. I'm so sorry, Silver. I swear, I didn't mean to. I got caught in the moment and then-"

"And then you marked me..." I whispered. "I don't have a wolf, so I can't mark you back..."

He raised his brows.

"Is that what you are worried about?" He asked me, seemingly puzzled. "Marking me? You don't have to mark me back. The bond will still work either way."

I shook my head as tears spilled from my eyes.

"You don't understand. I wanted to mark you too, Elliot. I wanted you to be mine just as badly as you wanted me to be yours. I wanted us to be in

this together, but you went ahead and did this without me..." He seemed confused by my words.

"Silver, you don't have a wolf. You couldn't mark me even if you wanted to."

I pulled away from his hands, watching as they dropped to his sides; he looked so defeated and I hated that I was the one putting that look on his face.

"I do have a wolf," I whispered.

"I'm sorry, what?"

"When I spoke to the Moon Goddess, she told me that I do have a wolf. She's been kept away because of my magic. It's too strong for her right now and until I can defeat my brother and inherit his magic, my wolf will remain hidden. But she's there, Elliot. She's inside of me. She watched you mark me and she was unable to participate. She is heartbroken and I'm crushed for her..."

He let out a breath I hadn't known he was holding until I finished speaking. He sat back on his hind legs and looked utterly defeated.

"I... I didn't know," he whispered, staring at his hands. "I'm so sorry... I didn't know..."

"No, you didn't," I whispered as more tears fell from my eyes. "Because you didn't bother to ask me. You chose to do this on your own and not consult me about it first. If you had told me, I would have told you not yet because I wanted to wait for my wolf."

"Silver..." he croaked.

"I know," I whispered. "You're sorry. But that doesn't change anything."

I stood up, ready to leave the room, but he stood up quickly, blocking me from the doorway.



"Elliot, let me leave," I demanded, folding my arms across my chest.

He shook his head.

"No," he said stubbornly. "I won't let you leave yet. Not until you hear me out for a second."

I sighed and relented, a part of me not wanting to leave him anyway.

"I love you, Silver. I will love you regardless of anything. You are my entire world and I'm proud to call you mine. I'm proud to see my mark on your neck. I know you had a different vision for this, and I'm sorry that I did this in the way that I did. But I'm not sorry to claim you. I'm not sorry to brand you as mine. My wolf is content now and that makes me happy. I know your wolf feels left out, but she doesn't have to because whether she is here or not, she is ours as well. My wolf didn't just mark you, but her as well. He might not have met her yet, but he's already in love with her and that's a crazy feeling for me to have. I just found out she existed and I'm already crazy about her because she is a part of you. So, you can hate me and be angry with me all you want... but I would mark you right here and right now all over again if I could."

Tears spilled out of my eyes.

"You mean that?" I whispered.

He stepped closer to me, wrapping his arms around my body and holding me close to him.

"Yes," he told me gently. "I meant that with every fiber of my being. I love you, Silver, and I love your wolf. Please, don't push us away..."

I wrapped my arms around him and brought my lips to his.

"We love you too," I whispered. This conversation couldn't be prolonged any further and I knew now that I was marked, he could feel my every emotion. Eventually, he was going to ask me about what I remembered. He needed to know that he was in danger. "You need to know something."

He kissed my forehead and gazed down at me.

"Tell me."

I swallowed the lump in my throat.

"You are in danger, Elliot. My brother is after you and your sister. He wants revenge because your father is the reason his adoptive mother is dead. He's after revenge."

## Chapter 174

### Elliot

I already had a feeling that her brother was after me. But the question still remained as to why. I didn't understand what I did personally to him or these rogues. But I had a feeling Silver did know, and she was hesitant to tell me.

"Hey," I said, taking her arms and pulling her back towards the bed so I could hold her. Her face was pale, and she had tears in her eyes. I wrapped my arms around her and held her close to me, not ever wanting to let this woman go. "Tell me what it is he wants with me and my sister."

"He wants to get revenge, Elliot. Your father is the reason his adoptive mother is dead. We were separated at birth because of your sister's prophecy," she explained.

I furrowed my brows together. I was very little at the time of her prophecy, so I don't remember much of what happened back then. But I do remember

them hunting down the child my sister saw in her prophecy. I'm not sure what happened after that though; it seemed like the case got dropped. My father never brought it up again and I never bothered to ask.

"When she had that prophecy, my birth mother panicked and switched me with another baby at the hospital," she explained, much to my surprise. "There weren't any boys born at the time so she couldn't switch my brother. But she took someone else's baby; the Alphas..." My heart hammered in my chest with each word that she spoke. Could it be true that her mother switched her with the Alpha's baby to protect her?

Then, what did that mean for the Alpha's baby? What happened to her?

"They didn't know what to do with my brother, so they left him in a cave. Thinking it would be better for him than the certain death that was waiting around the corner. Afterward, they took Alpha's baby and jumped off a cliff. Later, they were found, and it was assumed that the baby they were holding when they died was the baby your sister prophesized about."

"They sacrificed the Alpha's baby?" I asked, dumbfounded.

Tears filled her eyes as she stared at her hands.

"Yes," she whispered. "It should have been me..."

"No," I said firmly, grasping her hands in mine. Her gaze lifted and she met my eyes, tears glistening behind her gaze. "This is not your fault. No one should have died, but specifically not you. You are not the destruction my sister saw in her prophecy."

Tears slipped out of her eyes and down her cheeks. I wiped them away with my thumbs as I held her face in my hands.

"You are not to blame for any of this, Silver," I told her, pressing my forehead against hers and inhaling her scent deeply.

She let out a shuddering breath before she nodded slowly.

"What happened to your brother?" I finally asked as I looked into her eyes.

"He was later found by a rogue," she explained. "She raised him as her own. Then, your father put a hit on rogues and his mother ended up in the crossfire. She died..."

I dropped my hands from her face and stared at her for a moment. Neither of us said anything. It was now making sense as to why he was so hellbent on getting revenge against my family. Not only was it my family that caused his birth family to commit suicide, separate him from his sister, and abandon him in a cave, but it was also my family that got the only woman who cared for him, the one he thought of as his mother, killed.

How could I blame him for wanting revenge?

"What are you thinking about?" She asked.

"I think he has a valid reason for wanting me dead," I told her.

Her eyes widened.

"No, he doesn't," she said quickly; now it was her turn to grab my face with her hands. "None of this was your fault. It was your father's fault. He should have stopped after he killed your father."

I jerked away at the sound of that; I always suspected that something like this was the case but hearing her say it and confirm my thoughts was almost too much for me to handle.

"Are you saying he was the reason my father died?" I asked my tone hard and coming out much colder than I meant it to.

Her gaze shifted downward as if she just realized what she just said and then she gave me a curt nod.

"He changed your father's scent, just like he did with mine. His Beta thought he was a rogue and killed him," she said softly, her eyes shining with remorse.

## Chapter 175

Elliot

I sighed and lowered my gaze as well, feeling defeated.

She wrapped her arms around my body and held me close.

"I'm so sorry, Elliot," she whispered, her face buried in the nape of my neck.

"It's not your fault," I assured her. "I don't blame you for any of this, Silver. I love you deeply."

She smiled against me and then lifted her gaze to meet mine.

"I love you deeply," she whispered. "I don't exactly know what he's planning on doing though. It's all happening so fast."

I nodded in agreement.

"You said he wanted you to join him? Is he planning on capturing you again?" I asked her.

She frowned.

"I'm not exactly sure. He didn't say anything since he took my memories and threw me into the forest. I'm assuming he wouldn't have let you kill me though. You don't think he's watching me, do you?" She asked.

I was worried about something like that happening, but I have the best Gammas and pack security in the world. There's no way he was able to get into this pack to watch Silver. Then again, he was able to take her in the first place. The thought left an unsettled feeling in the pit of my stomach.

"Let's not think about it right now," she said, sensing my unease. Now that she was marked, I was able to feel her emotions as well and I knew she still felt uneasy as well. Neither of us wanted to think about it though.

It was getting late in the evening and we both had an exhausting day. She brought her lips to mine, and I kissed her back, brushing my tongue across her bottom lip and wanting access to her mouth. I needed to ensure myself that she was truly okay and that she was mine. My body was on high alert and all I wanted was to strip her naked and make her mine all over again.

As if she could read my thoughts, she pulled back slightly so she could lift her shirt over her head. My eyes darkened at the sight of her; she wasn't wearing a bra and her eyes sparkled with passion.

"I was about to take a shower," she said, slipping off the bed. I watched her as she swayed her hips towards the bathroom door and then she paused to look at me from over her shoulder. "Are you going to join me?"

I smiled, unable to get off the bed fast enough. She squealed and laughed as I lifted her into my arms and carried her the rest of the way into the bathroom. I kissed down the nape of her neck, sucking on her mark as I slammed the bathroom door shut behind us.

It didn't take us long to strip off all our clothing. While we waited for the water to heat, I sat her on the counter, her legs wrapped around my waist, and I kissed her as if my entire life deepened on it. She moaned into my mouth as I bit her bottom lip, sucking on it like it was a sweet piece of candy.

I could smell her arousal, and it made my manhood stiff as well. It was begging for entrance as it pressed against her core eagerly. I lifted her off the counter and brought her into the shower. The water soaked our naked bodies, and we continued to kiss until neither of us could breathe. I finally pulled back to give her a minute to catch her breath.

I grabbed the soap and lathered it in my hands. I began rubbing my fingers down her body and she sucked in a sharp breath from the contact. I loved the effect I had on her body, and I couldn't help but grin at her hardening nipples as my fingers washed and explored her breasts. She closed her eyes, leaning her head against the shower wall as I massaged her breasts and ran my fingers down her torso until I reached her core.

Her eyes opened as I pushed my fingers inside of her.

"Oh, Goddess..." she whispered.

I brought my lips to hers and kissed her sweetly at first, but then I deepened it and kissed with a hungry passion.

She groaned into my mouth as she nibbled on my bottom lip.

"Mark me again," she whispered against my lips. I raised my eyebrows at her. "I want to be connected to you. Please... Elliot. Mark me."