

Chapter 20

Seth

It felt like hours, but it was only a few minutes, as our sweet girl shifted on the bathroom floor. I held her hand through it, just as I did for her mother, not knowing what else to do for her. Molly constantly pushed her hair back, lying down next to her and whispering that it would be OK, that she could do hard things. It's the same thing she told herself during her first shift, but this time, I wasn't sure my baby really could. It was awful, just as it was the night that Molly first shifted. The pain was probably worse for her, but Cora had no idea what was happening and was frantic.

I sit on the floor, watching my mate lay next to the small pup curled up on the damp towel whimpering as she softly strokes the gray fur. The gray fur covers her entire body, except for the one white paw and the bright green eyes. Her wolf looks just like

her mother's, who looks just like her father's. I sigh. There's no chance of ever hiding who she belongs to. The Ulf genes run deep.

I hear the door to our home open and close and smell Lily as requested, but also Benjamin. Altair is on such high alert that he forces me to shift, greeting my mate's biological parents with a growl as he tries to block Cora from view.

"I'm sorry," Lily says, stepping back into Benjamin. "I thought you wanted me."

"I do," Molly says, placing her hand on Altair. "It's alright. We probably need him, too. Neither of them will hurt her."

We sit, looking at the two at the door before Altair finally relents and moves to the side, allowing them to see the pup.

"Is... is that Cora?" Benjamin asks, his eyes wide.

Molly nods, not moving from her place on

the floor. She sniffles, looking up at them. "She just started crying. Seth came back and then... she just shifted. I don't know what's going on."

Lily walks right in, completely ignoring Altair from the side of the room, unconcerned with anything but the two girls on the floor. "How unusual," she says, kneeling next to my mate. "How very special."

Benjamin walks in, looking at me. "You can shift back. No one is going to do anything to hurt her. Either of them."

Thankfully, that's all Altair needed to hear and he releases control back to me, allowing me to shift.

"I've never seen this before," Benjamin says, looking over the women. "There was once a rumor that Celeste shifted quite early, but I don't know how much truth there was to it."

Molly nods, looking up at the matching eyes. "She did, but she was a teenager."

And she was in danger."

"Was Cora in danger?" he asks.

Molly shakes her head, but then she stops.

"I don't think so. I was asleep, though."

I can feel guilt begin to tighten around her and it hurts me that she feels that way. "

She was asleep, Love," I remind her. "You checked on them, and they were asleep before you went to bed. Toby said no one came in or out of the room."

"Toby?" he asks.

"Her security," Molly tells him. "He's the head of her security."

"And we trust him?" He asks.

Molly nods slowly. "I do. I did. I... I don't know."

I can feel how scared and small she feels right now, and it kills me. She felt so scared and small when we first met. Like she wasn't good enough, but she's grown and

flourished since. It's been so long since I felt her feel this way. I just want to take this feeling from her.

"We do," I speak up, not wanting her to take this on herself. "I selected him for Molly's detail, but he asked to move to Cora's. I vetted him myself. A good man, a good warrior. He's dedicated to both of them. We told him to keep everyone out, but he's the one man I'd trust with this... development."

Benjamin nods and pats my shoulder, indicating that it's good enough for him.

Lily sighs, stroking the fur between the small wolf's ears. The small wolf. She's so young she can't even tell us her wolf's name. "I don't sense any magic," she says softly. "This is all wolf stuff, and that's something that I don't know."

"Seth, let's get you some pants, son," Benjamin tells me, indicating for me to follow and it's so odd, so out of place. I

realize he's trying to talk to me without my girls. Lily is kneeling on the ground holding Molly's hand as they both try to comfort my little wolf.

I walk down the hall, Benjamin following me, and he closes the door to the bedroom behind us. "I've never heard of a wolf shifting early without there being mortal danger," he says and I nod to him, knowing the very same. "I didn't want Molly to worry, not this close to giving birth to the new one. Something had to have scared Cora enough that her wolf lept forward. Now, I think it's possible that having magic allowed for that more easily, but still... something happened."

"I trust Toby," I say, knowing in my bones that he's a good man, a good guard.

Benjamin nods, looking in drawers until he finds a pair of sweatpants that he tosses at me. "I'll have Lily see if she senses any magic in him when we leave. Where's Andrew?"

"I had my mom come get him and take him for the night when we realized she was shifting," I tell him and he pauses. "He's safe. Dad wouldn't do anything to the kids. They're his grandkids, too."

Benjamin nods at me with a sigh. "I know, son. I know. But right now, the only thing I am sure of is that you and Molly didn't do anything and that Lily and I didn't. If you say he's safe, then I'm going to trust you, but something happened."

I take a deep breath, trying my best to ease my fears. I know my parents weren't involved. My dad made plenty of bad decisions in his younger years, but they were always to protect his family, and the kids are his family.

We walk back to the bathroom and I find Molly still curled up on the floor, this time sound asleep, her hand still on the little pup.

Lily turns to me, a sad smile on her face. "I

told her to sleep, that I'd watch out for anything. She's so exhausted, though, that she may have slept through anything."

I nod, realizing that she's right. "The new pup is very strong. It's been exhausting her. The herbs you have help her with sickness, but it doesn't help her energy."

"No one can tell her that we think this," Lily says, reaching out for my hand. "If she slept through something it would wreck her."



4

Comments



11

Vote



Get Bonus (Ad) >