

Chapter 21

Molly

"Hey, wake up," Seth says, nudging me awake gently.

"What?" I say, confused as I feel the cold, hard floor beneath me. My eyes rip open quickly as I remember how I got here.

"s**t, s**t," I exclaim. "How could I fall asleep?"

Seth places his hand on my back. "Lily was here with you. She didn't leave until I came back. I've been watching for any sign, but Cora hasn't shifted back yet. Let's go to bed so you're comfortable and I'll wake you when she shifts."

"I can't believe I fell asleep, after all of this."

"You're growing a very strong wolf, Love," Seth tells me, helping me up. He places a kiss on my head. "Your body is exhausted

and it doesn't stop just because something else is going on. It's alright, Love. I'm right here to help."

Seth releases me to bend down and scoop up the little pup who snuggles into his chest and I can't help but smile. Even as a wolf, she loves her Daddy so much.

He guides me down the hall to our bedroom and I pause as I open the door, smelling Andrew. I look inside and see the kids' cribs set up in our room and turn, looking at my mate in confusion.

He shrugs. "I don't know," he says, running a finger down our sleeping son's cheek. "It just made me feel better to keep them close. Oliver and Michael moved them in for me and Mom just put Andrew in his bed. Come on, get in bed."

I do as I'm told, climbing into bed as he pulls the blanket back, still holding the wolf in his other arm so gently. "You're a good dad," I say softly, watching him be so calm

at a time like this.

"And you're a good mom," he says, kissing my head. "That means taking care of all the kids, including the one not born yet. Get some sleep."

I nod, pulling the blanket to my cheek and promptly falling fast asleep.

I wake to the sun peeking through the curtains. With a yawn and a stretch, I roll over and see Seth, sound asleep with Cora sleeping on his bare chest. What the hell? He was supposed to wake me when she shifted back.

As I look more closely, I see that Cora is also completely bare, not even a diaper, and I realize that he must have fallen asleep before she shifted back and didn't feel it. I move to the changing table in the corner and grab a diaper from it, looking through a drawer for the emergency pajamas I usually keep there.

I cross back and lean over, trying to scoop Cora from his chest without waking him, but I fail. His hand quickly grabs my arm, squeezing painfully as his eyes open. When they land on me, he immediately releases me before looking down and seeing the human child on him instead of a wolf.

"I'm sorry," he says, glancing at my arm as I rub it. "I didn't even feel her shift."

I nod to him, taking her off his chest. I sit back down on the bed and lay her down, trying not to wake her to get a diaper on her, but I fail at not waking her, too. I sigh, putting her in the sleeper as quickly as I can.

"Try nursing her," he says from beside me. "I'm sure she's sore. Maybe it will help."

I nod, knowing that he's got a point. Neither has been nursing very often, though, but especially Cora. I sit back, moving my shirt over and giving her access as she quickly

latches, taking my finger in her hand as she suckles.

Seth sits up, looking down at her with a smile on his face, running his finger on her cheek. "It's like nothing even happened," he says softly, kissing my temple. "I love you."

"I love you," I tell him, wiggling to adjust the pillows behind me and leaning back. He gets up and goes to the bathroom, exiting the room after.

"You alright now, sweet girl?" I ask, watching her soothe. I can remember every bit of pain from my first shift, but she had no idea what was happening... or did she? My wolf was always locked away and I realize that I don't know when wolves meet their wolf. Are they always there, or do they come later?

Seth returns, carrying my favorite water bottle and I smile at him. "When did you meet your wolf?" I ask, taking a sip.

"What do you mean?" he asks, walking over

as he hears Andrew stir.

"Like, was your wolf just always there? Or does it come later? I really don't know."

He stops, furrowing his brow as he thinks, and reaches down to lift Andrew out. He walks back over and sits on the bed, placing Andrew between us.

"I've never really thought about it," he tells me. "I think he was always there, but I didn't know who he was. I can remember learning he was my wolf, and his name was Altair, but he was there before then."

"How old were you?" I ask as Andrew crawls over, trying to get to my other breast, causing me to laugh a little. I wouldn't be interested at all if he didn't see his sister.

"When I knew he was my wolf? Maybe 10? I had always just assumed he was, though."

I sigh. My poor girl probably didn't even know she had a wolf, or what was happening. Did she even understand after

she shifted?

"I know, Love," Seth says to me, almost like he can read my mind. "But she knew we were there with her."

I nod, holding my girl tight, hoping with everything that I have that she knew it was going to be alright because we were there.



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