

Chapter 73-2

“But you didn’t grow up here, did you?” he asks.

“That’s enough talk of that, Ezra,” Della interrupts sternly. “We’re lucky to have the Prince and Princess with us tonight. Eat your dinner, no more questions.”

All the kids look down and eat their dinner and I look at Seth who gives me a small smile, but seems unsure.

You haven’t considered that we’ll have to explain my parentage, have you?

Nope.

We’ll figure it out. It will be fine.

I take a bite of the corn chowder and it’s absolutely amazing. It’s sweet, and creamy and smoky from being cooked on the fire. Jenny hands me a biscuit and tells me to dip it in and try it and she’s right. That somehow makes it even better.

“Della,” I say and she looks at me nervously. “This is absolutely amazing. I don’t know how much time we’re going to have, but I’d love it if you could teach me how to cook on the fire. It just adds more to the flavor. Seriously, it’s so good.”

“I’m so glad you like it!” she tells me, beaming. “I’ll be honest, I was nervous to cook for a princess who is also a chef.”

“You shouldn’t be,” I tell her, taking a few more bites. “It’s honestly one of the best things I’ve eaten.”

We all continue to eat our dinner. Jenny drips a little bit down her dress and tries to wipe it, but is struggling to do so. Seth takes the napkin from her and helps her clean it up as she just beams at him.

“Thank you, Prince Seth,” she tells him with a giant smile on her face, looking up at him. The little girl is clearly smitten with him and it makes me smile to watch, because I’m pretty sure he’s smitten with her as well.

“Molly,” Alex asks, drawing my attention from the sweet interaction between my mate and the little girl. “How long are you planning to stay?”

“Honestly,” I begin to say, looking to Seth who just shrugs at me. “I’m not sure, but if we’re imposing, please let me know. I just want to meet some of the other wolves out here, see what the main needs are and what we can help with. Obviously, some of the houses we passed need some repairs, but I don’t want to just throw on a new roof and ignore any other needs that may be.”

“You’re no imposition, we’re happy to have you both,” Della says.

“Like Della said, we’re happy you’re both here. I can take you to meet the families in the houses we passed tomorrow and if you’re good to stay another day, we can go north the next day.”

Seth speaks up. “Thank you, Alex. That sounds like a good plan to start with. You all have clearly formed some type of pack here. I assume all the rogues aren’t in it?”

“You’re correct,” Alex says, placing his spoon on the table. “We’re all fairly close, except for Benjamin. He’s out a little bit farther to the east. We’re the farthest to the North Western side. All the others are in between us. There are plenty of other rogues outside of our area. They generally leave us alone, though.”

“You’re Benjamin’s Beta, right?” I ask him and he nods proudly. “What about his Gamma? I’ve not heard anyone reference him.”

“That was Albert’s father, who is a part of your current pack,” he says, a hint of sadness to his voice. “They decided to join another pack when given the chance. They didn’t want to bring Albert out here.”

“I didn’t realize,” I say, getting lost in thought. “That would explain how he’s been able to work his way up so easily. It’s in his genes.”

“Oh, yeah,” Alex says with a nod. “I’m sure he’ll work his way up as high as anyone will let him go. His father is a good man. Truly, the only reason he left for another pack was because he was worried about raising kids out here.”

“I guess I can understand that,” I say to him. “You all seem to have done OK, though. There’s so much love and happiness here. Speaking of- didn’t you say that Della’s parents live with you all? I didn’t run them off, did I?”

“Oh, not at all, Princess,” Della tells me and I grimace at her formality. “They help keep the children of those guarding the perimeter at night. They had just left when you arrived, but they’ll be so excited to meet you tomorrow at breakfast.”

“Is there anything I could help with for breakfast? Or learn?” I ask.

She stops to think for a moment. “Have you ever made bread on a fire?” she asks. I shake my head at her.

“Oh, goodness. If you want to learn, I can show you in the morning,” she says and I become super excited. “Your mother is actually the one who taught me. Would it be alright if I invite them for breakfast as well?”

“Of course!” I tell her, excited at the chance to learn something new. “I’d really like that.”