



Chapter 170

"Did Jeremiah ever tell you what happened two years ago? When I was taken." I shake my head, I don't want to speak and break this little trance that she seems to be in now that she's broached the subject. I know she doesn't like bringing up that day and neither does anyone who has knowledge of it. I'm curious as to why though. I hate what was done to my mother, and I took my revenge on the wolves who took her and made it possible to almost kill my father, but it's not a situation that we hide.

"The basic version, the one that people know, is that I was kidnapped on the way home from school and held for two days. The wolves who took me underestimated my abilities and didn't tie my restraints very well. I was able to get loose and take out each of my guards one at a time. Jer and the guys found me wandering on the side of the road because I had no idea where I was or how to get home." She takes a deep breath and lets it out slowly. She's avoiding eye contact now. Something's not right. I grip her hips a little tighter to let her know I'm here and still listening. Copyright © 2024 Miss L Writes and Ember Mantel Productions 2

When she stays quiet too long I reach up and cup her cheek making her look at me. Her tear filled eyes and broken look make my heart stutter. Someone hurt my girl to the point that she is holding a secret so dark, I don't think even Jeremiah knows. For her that is huge, he's closer to her than anyone. 3

"What did you not tell them, Lamb? What have you been holding onto for so long?"

"I know who took me and I think I know why." A single tear falls and I hate that those blues are no longer crystal clear, but clouded.

I attempt to contain the rumble from my wolf as I hold her in place just



taking in her beautiful tortured face. "You didn't tell them who took you. Why?"

"Because it didn't matter." She whispers. Gone is my dominating mate and here sits the unsure girl she hides from the rest of the world.

"Does it matter now?"

"Yes. Maybe. No. I don't know." She covers her face with her wet hands. I let exactly two drops of water fall before I move her fingers. Her hair is in a messy wad on the top of her head with loose pieces dangling all around her face. The steam from the water is making them wavy. She's all disheveled, but she's gorgeous and all mine. I hold her fingers in mine and bring them to my lips.

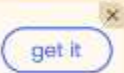
"Tell me what happened." I kiss the knuckles on one hand. "The whole story, don't leave anything out." I kiss the other hand and then press both palms to my chest so she can feel my heart beating.

She nods to herself and looks up at me. She takes a deep breath in. "It was the gamma's brother. Jason's uncle." I freeze under her, but will myself not to react. It's what she's waiting for, an outburst of anger. I'm sure that's what she thought she would get from her friends too. When I say nothing, she continues. "It was not quite a year after I moved in permanently and I was still finding my way around. The girls weren't outwardly mean to me at that point, but I guess they didn't like me coming in and taking all of Jeremiah and the guys' attention. I was grieving and the guys made sure I wasn't ever alone. It felt nice most days, some days they were smothering." She gives me a weak smile at the memory. "A couple of the girls asked if I wanted to hang out after school. They said they have this spot where the boys don't really go so no one bothers them. I thought I was being let into their circle, what they were doing was leading me into a trap. We sat around talking and



laughing, they really had me going until we were surrounded by a group of wolves. They looked a lot like the ones who attacked me on my run with Bennet. All mangy and rough. So, probably rogues." She takes a breath and whispers. "There were so many of them, I don't even remember the count." She shivers even though the bath water is still warm. I pull her towards me, wrapping her up in my arms. She tucks her face into my neck, brushing her lips on the spot where her mark would go if she could mark me. 2

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