

## Chapter 12-2

"It's royal protocol. We're selected by the Goddess to lead the wolves, we couldn't possibly reject the mates that she has gifted us." King Peter explains and honestly, that makes some sense.

"I was asking the boy," my dad says and he looks like he could snap and murder someone.

"Alpha Randall, the explanation my dad gave is true. But if a royal rejects their mate, they are unable to assume the throne. Since I am an only child, that would leave the throne going to my uncle, who would ruin wolves. We suspect he may be involved in kidnapping and selling she wolves, but we don't have any rm proof of such yet." Seth nishes.

"Molly, kiddo, what did he do before you guys got here today?" Dad says, still looking only at me.

I look up at him and as much as I've tried not to, I begin to cry. My dad pulls me to his chest and envelopes me in a giant hug.

"What. did. You. do. To. her." and I realize the voice coming from my dad is his wolf, and not his own.

Seth must also realize, because he steps towards my dad and says "Sir, I'm sorry. I made some poor choices before. I felt I should tell her about them in an effort to be honest, but it hurt her more than I realized it would." He's dumb, but he's brave to admit any of this to my dad.

"And what were these poor choices?"

"I. Sir, I'm sorry. I realized 4 years ago when Rob and I were at training that Molly was my mate." My dad snaps his head over to look at Seth, and then down at me.

"I wasn't aware the two of you had ever met." he says with confusion.

"We hadn't." Seth continues "I realized when she would send gifts for Rob. I could smell her on the things she would send. But once I knew, I didn't do the right thing."

"Seth. What were you thinking?" King Peter roars. "Your mate is sacred. Why didn't you go to her immediately? What about the girls you dated? You had a girlfriend when we left to come here!" I hear him say and at that, I nally jerk away from my dad.

"You left that out of the version you told me." I say to Seth and I can feel through the bond how terribly he feels about the whole situation, but I'm too mad to care.

"I didn't want to hurt you any more, Molly. I'm so sorry. For everything." he says to me, but my dad steps in between us.

"Randall, take your daughter home. I'm going to have a chat with my son. I'll see to it that this is all sorted out." the King says to my dad. I thought my dad was the scariest man when he was mad, but I am terried of the anger coming from the King right now.

"Just follow this path to get back." My dad says, gently turning me around and escorting me away. "Pete, you know that if your son was any other man in this kingdom he'd be dead, correct?"

"Of course," he responds. "I can promise you he'll treat her better than that in the future."

And with that, my dad and I walk away in silence. Dad and I are nearly back to the packhouse before he says anything to me. I'm thankful for the silence, and the distance between Seth and I now. The effects of the bond really complicate your feelings when your mate is an i\*\*\*\*.

"Are you ok, kiddo." he chances asking me.

"I think so", I tell him, but I'm honestly unsure.

We get back to the packhouse and he opens the door for me, closing it behind us and heading to the Alpha oce, undoubtedly to tell Robbie of the situation. I'm not sure what to do but I head up to my parents' room to nd my mom. She's not there, but I don't want to have to search and I'm sure she's with Queen Audrey.

I take off my shoes and jacket and climb into the middle of my parents' bed like I did when I was a kid and scared. When my dad rst found me, I instantly knew I was safe with him. I remember waking up under a tree and just wandering around, hiding when it got dark and sleeping under another tree. The worst was when the rain came. I was cold, and hungry, and then wet, so when Dad walked up and picked me up his warmth was a comfort. He carried me back to the pack house and up the stairs to this room.

My mom was waiting for us with dinner and helped me take a warm bath. They gave me some of Robbies' pajamas and tucked me into bed between them. I was thankful, because I was still so cold and scared, but I knew I was safe there, tucked between them.

But now I'm in their bed and alone and, while it's still comforting, it's not the same. But I feel safer and nally let myself cry and feel all the emotions I've been trying to hold in. It's not even been an entire day since I've met Seth, but he's really done some damage. I'd convinced myself he was kind, and if he rejected me that he would be kind about it. I thought I'd prepared myself for that moment but I was wrong. I don't know how long I'd been there, but I hear the door open and smell my mom. She doesn't say a word but just climbs into the bed and pulls me into her arms and lets me continue to cry.