



Chapter 14-1

Soa eventually comes back to the exam room and nishes stitching up my nger. Completely disregarding me she looks at Seth. “Don’t let her get it wet. Or bend it too much tonight. It will remain numb for a while but once it wears off she’ll need one of these every 4 hours.” she tells him, handing him an orange bottle of medicine that he accepts from her. “I’m concerned about the amount of blood she seems to have lost” she adds, while looking at my chef’s coat with a pretty good amount of blood now staining it. “Lots of red meat and leafy greens for dinner tonight and give her these after she eats. No alcohol tonight.” she adds the last part directly to me, sternly.

“Thanks Doc.” Seth tells her as he takes the vitamins from her. “What time should I have her back tomorrow?” He asks.

“Let’s say 1ish. Ice it tonight, but none in the morning.” She says and turns to me. “I mean it. Do not try to cook. Do not wash your hands. I had to use something different this time because it’s so deep. Please just do what you’re told this time.” She says to me, almost pleading.

“You told Seth everything. I doubt I could do anything to mess it up if I wanted to.” I say, a little irritated that they’re both treating me like a child.

“I’ll take care of her and have her back at 1 tomorrow. Thank you.” He says to her and he goes to help me stand. I realize I’m a little light headed, but I’m too afraid of the reaction of either of them to say anything. I hold on to Seth’s hand and he doesn’t seem to notice my unease as he leads me out.

As we go to leave, I trip a little going down the stairs. “What’s wrong?” Seth asks me quickly.

“I’m OK, just a little light-headed from the blood loss. I’ll be OK after I eat and take the vitamins”, I tell him. He looks down at me then abruptly leans down to lift me again. “Honestly Seth, I’m ne. This is highly unnecessary.” I exclaim at being carried again.

“Maybe I just want to hold you” he says as he starts walking back to the packhouse and doesn’t even bother to glance at me. Realizing that it’s a lost cause, I lean my head on his chest. We reach the packhouse and an Omega opens the door for us to enter. We’re almost to the stairs when we hear someone calling “Seth, why are you ignoring my links?” and I realize it’s the King. Seth turns, still holding me in his arms, and when King Phillip sees me I can see his irritation quickly leave. My dad turns the corner and as soon as he sees me he comes running to us quickly.

“What happened?” he says, his voice dripping with concern.

“I’m OK Dad, I just cut my nger.” I try to reassure him.

“That’s a lot of blood for a small cut on your nger,” he says suspiciously.

“I didn’t say it was small.” I return with a shrug. “Seth took me to Soa, I’m all stitched up.”

“I’ve got her medicine and vitamins for her to take after dinner. Who do I speak with to make sure she has plenty of red meat and leafy greens for dinner?” He asks my dad.

“I’ll take care of that,” dad says. “Your dad needs you for urgent business. Why don’t you take Molly to her room and meet us in Robert’s oce? I’ll have Celeste come down and stay with her.” My dad tells him. Seth nods and continues to the stairs, still holding me close to him.

“How long have you been ignoring your dad?” I ask him curiously.

“It doesn’t matter,” he tells me. “Whatever it is, I was dealing with something more important”, he nishes and looks down at me with a slight smile that makes my heart utter.

We reach my room and he nally places me on the ground to stand, but he keeps a hand on my arm and when I go to walk he places one on my lower back. We go inside and I head to my kitchen sink, pulling out a big stainless steel bowl and a bottle of peroxide. I place the bowl in my sink and begin to ll it with water, dumping the peroxide in as well. Seth just watches me and doesn’t say a word. This is how I’ve always gotten stains out of my jackets. I go to unbutton my top but realize I’m more hindered than I thought I would be by the way Soa wrapped my nger. Seth silently walks over, pulls my hands away and undoes the buttons for me so that I can slip out of the jacket and put it in the bowl to soak.

Seth grabs me and lifts me to sit on the counter. My confusion must have been evident as he kneels before me. “You won’t be able to untie your shoes.” he says, reaching for my foot and removing them for me before he stands back up in front of me, between my legs and cups my face gently with his hands. “I was so scared. I could feel you were hurt but I couldn’t nd you.” he whispers to me.

“I’m sorry.” I tell him. “I’m sorry you can’t link me.”

“I don’t need to be able to link you, it’s OK. I just need to know where you are. We’ll gure out what works for us, OK?” he asks and I nod before he brings his lips down and meets mine. “I don’t think I’ve ever been so scared. I don’t ever want to feel that again.” he says and releases me, walking away and down the hall. I’m not sure where he’s gone to but then I hear the water in my bathroom turn on. I’m about to climb off the counter when Seth comes back, sees me and rushes over to grab hold of me. “Just wait for me. Why get hurt when I’m right here to help you?” He asks.