

32. How could she

"How could she do this?!"

"She WILL be punished!"

108

"We are going there right now!"

23

I hear a mixture of all of their protests and nasty things said about my aunt. The last one came from Dante and before I know what's going on I see Dante going to get up to leave the room.

1

"NO! Dante please wait!" I run up and grab him.

"What Grace?!" he whirls around to look at me and I took a step back now nervous. I feel James coming up behind me and he places his hands on my hips, ready to throw me behind him if necessary. I can practically see the whole plan in his head.

28

But Dante would never hurt me.

"What Grace?!" Dante repeats, "You have been free for weeks! And you knew this whole time we were still out there! You knew who did this to you! How can you still be trying to protect her after everything she has done to you?! She is my mother and I still will never forgive her for this! Hell I can't even forgive myself," he chuckles bitterly,

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"but you, you want to stay here, and act like everything is fine now that you are free. Well it's not Grace. Nothing is fine at all about what happened. You should not forgive my mother, you should be over there giving her the death sentence right now. And you sure as hell shouldn't be forgiving me. I gave up. The only one in our family who deserves any type of forgiveness is Adeline. She is probably out on the hunt right now looking for you again! How can you condemn her to a life of looking for a sister that is happy while she still hunts and get upset every time you aren't the girl they find with the rogues. She acts like she has no feelings, but she does. I hear her cry every time she comes back empty handed. How can you put her through that any longer?" he stops and takes a deep breath. The room is so silent you could hear a pin drop.

154

I have tears running down my cheeks. Dante has never been angry with me. Not in the years we were best friends did he ever raise his voice to me. He is deadly serious right now and I know he has a point but I can't face her or my family.

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For them to hear what happened would be worse than them to just continue to believe I am gone. I don't want them to suffer.

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Never mind what Aunt Molly will do when she finds out. The rogues were supposed to kill me that night. I was supposed to be gone forever, no chance of coming back.

"Gray," Dante takes a deep breath, "I know what happened is awful, and everyone who stopped looking for you is to blame along with my mother and those rogues. But you can't keep walking around this house, with James and everyone here and act like you can move on from it, without dealing with the cause of why you were taken in the first place" he looks around at all my friends,

56

"I think it is great that you have found a home with them, you have friends and you can build an actual life here. But you will never be able to move on from what happened until you confront the cause of what happened" and with that he walks out the door and gently shuts it behind him.

40

Tears are running down my cheeks and as I turn and look at James he has a conflicting look on his face. Between wanting to give me what I want, and what he believes is best, agreeing with Dante.

3

"Is that what you think too? That I should go back?" I whisper while looking down. James cups the sides of my face while using his thumbs to wipe away my falling tears.

1

"Baby you know I would never make you do something you don't want to," he hesitates, "But I think you should take into consideration everything Dante has said. Your family is still out there. Is it fair for them to mourn you while you are alive and healthy again? Is it fair for Adeline to spend her whole life looking for a sister who is no longer in danger?" he is looking into my eyes trying to gauge my reaction and sobs crawl their way up my throat and I start full on crying.

186

James pulls me into his chest and rests his chin on my head. I fist my hands into his shirt as he comfortingly rubs my back as I cry into his shirt.

3

It makes me sad because I know the answer.

They deserve to know.

Adeline deserves a normal life.

1

And Aunt Molly deserves any punishment given to her.

213

I have to go back.

64

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1

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