

## Claire

It's only a few hours later when Tereshan and I drag ourselves out of bed. I know it will be another long day for both of us.

We get ready for warrior training. I'm not willing to take a day off now that I know things are moving more quickly.

Today, there is a different group of omegas, so we run through the same drills again. Tereshan has the ones from the battle yesterday work with the omegas.

I'm still sore from yesterday, but I push hard, Tereshan putting me through my paces again today. I can tell that even with his Alpha genes, he's sore after yesterday's battle as are all of the ones that were in the battle. That must be why Tereshan had them work with the omegas. It's a lighter workout for the warriors.

"Come on, Claire. I know it's hard, and I know you're tired, but these are the times when you will lose in a fight. Dig deep. I need to know that you can keep fighting," Tereshan says. I understand why he's

pushing so hard, so I keep fighting. For us, it truly is life or death.

Finally, he calls an end to training and I fall to the ground, exhausted.

Tereshan comes to stand over me. "You make me proud, Claire."

He holds out his hand to me and pulls me to my feet.

"Nice job, Luna."

"Well done, Luna."

"You're an inspiration, Luna."

The warriors and omegas are watching me again and I can tell that their feelings about me being their Luna are changing. Their initial surprise and concern about me being an omega is shifting to respect and pride.

But most important to me, is the look of absolute pride on Tereshan's face. He's the one I want to make proud.

As we walk inside to get breakfast, he looks at me.

"I wanted to take Damara out tonight to shift, but

we need to have that meeting at Keegan's. I'd like for you to join me. As the Luna of this pack, it would be appropriate. Plus, you see things I don't, and you have a way of saying just the right thing at just the right time."

"Of course I'll join you. I'd be happy to."

"Good, I need to see what requires my immediate attention, I need to call some of the packs to tell them about tonight and I need meet with Heath and Selah. I'd like for you to join me for that meeting, too."

We're getting food and it feels so much like we're partners, discussing our day and what we need to accomplish. It reminds me of my breakfast meetings with Feena, only now, Tereshan and I truly are leading the pack together.

When we sit down, Dane, Feena and Jesiah join us. I look around realizing that this will become our normal morning routine. We'll meet, discuss what needs to happen for the day and then go get it done. It feels good.

Tereshan assigns Dane to prepare for tonight's omega training, planning to have the omegas from yesterday's warrior training train tonight and then

get a day off. They will rotate in groups of three for now. He tasks Jesiah with continuing with the library and making sure the patrols are able to get enough downtime to eat and sleep.

Feena and I talk about ordering weapons to train the omegas. "What about bows and arrows?" she asks.

Tereshan looks over. "Bows and arrows?"

"Yes, they are another good weapon for those of us that aren't very strong. I actually was quite adept when I was young," Feena says.

"You never told me that," I say, feeling offended that this didn't come up in our last timeline.

I feel Tereshan's hand on my back. "Things are improving for the better in this timeline, little mate. This is a good thing."

He looks at Feena. "Order bows and arrows as well. You can work with Dane at night to help train the pack on how to use weapons."

"Oh..." she begins.

"Sounds like a great idea," Dane says before she can answer.

"Good, then it's settled," Tereshan says.

I reach over and cover Feena's hand with mine. "If you're truly not comfortable, then we'll figure something else out."

"No, it's fine. It'll be fine," she says blushing and looking away from Dane.

When we're done eating, I tell Tereshan that I'll meet him in his office in an hour to talk to Heath and Selah.

Feena and I go to order weapons. In truth, I thought it would be simple. I mean, how hard can it be to buy knives, hammers, axes, bows and arrows. Turns out, it's not as easy as you'd think. There's weight and size considerations, hand grips, you name it, I had no idea it was something to think about.

Because of that, the hour flies by and I have to leave Feena to finish ordering on her own. Thankfully by then, she only needs to order axes and the bows and arrows which she already has knowledge of.

When I get to Tereshan's office, I knock.

"Come in."

When I open the door, he frowns at me.

"You never have to knock, Claire, unless I'm in a meeting with someone from outside the pack."

"How did the calls go?" I ask, leaving the door open for Heath and Selah.

"Mostly good. The ones I knew would attend, are attending. The ones I was unsure about, the ones that sided with Roman, are questionable."

He sighs. "I need to deal with him soon. Too many people are noticing that he's absent, wondering where he is."

"Feena said he's angry, threatening anyone that brings him food, or trying to persuade them to let him out." I tell him.

"Sounds like he's as desperate as Franco."

"We're missing something important. When is Keegan coming to test the soil?" I ask.

"If we aren't attacked again, tomorrow. Then, barring any problems, they are going to start planting next week."

There's a knock on the door and Heath and Selah poke their heads in. Tereshan stands.

"Come in, have a seat," he says, gesturing for them to sit.

They do, looking nervous, so I smile at them. "Have you had breakfast?"

"Yes, Luna, thank you," they both say.

They sit down, huddled together on the love seat.

I sit in a chair across from them and Tereshan pulls a chair over so he's sitting right beside me.

"Your Luna and I wanted to talk to you about how you started to work for Alpha Franco. I've already spoken to Heath, I know what he was doing and why, what I want to know from both of you is how? How did Alpha Franco get to you, why were you the ones he chose to do this? Is there anyone else that he approached?"

They look at each other and I know instantly that Selah, especially, is afraid.

"You won't get into trouble. We aren't here to discipline you. We need to figure out how and why Alpha Franco is trying to get this pack. If he used you to try and kill Tereshan, we need to know what it was that brought him to you," I say, trying to help calm her so she'll talk to us. I suddenly realize that

she is the key. She is the one that Franco approached. Heath was only helping her.

"You need to tell them, Selah. Things are different now. Things have changed since Alpha realized that Luna Claire was his mate," Heath says, taking her hand.

He turns and looks at us. "I told Alpha that I hated this pack, that I hated how my mate and the other omegas were treated, so I'm as much to blame as my mate is for what happened, probably more so. But she is the one that he approached," he says turning back to her.

She looks at him before turning to us. "Alpha Franco threatened to kill my sister."