

Claire

When Zoey bursts into the room, we all stop and turn to look at her. She looks just as exhausted as Alpha Keegan does. They both had rough nights.

He stands, going to her, but she steps past him, turning to me.

"I'm so sorry, Luna. My apologies, Alpha. Please forgive him."

"Do not apologize for me, Zoey." Keegan says through gritted teeth.

"What are you trying to do, Keegan? Have me thrown back out on the streets? They took me in, barely knowing anything about my sister and me. And that was AFTER I woke up in bed with Alpha Tereshan. I told you, something changed in him overnight." She looks at Tereshan.

"I don't understand what happened, but something did." She says quietly.

"My eyes were opened." He says, coming to stand behind me.

"Is anyone else hungry? I'm hungry and I need coffee, desperately." He says.

I turn and look at him over my shoulder. "Let's go to our office. We can have some breakfast and coffee sent up and then we can talk." He says.

"I'll let Feena know. You go change your clothes. I don't like

smelling blood on you." That makes him smile and he leans down, kissing my nose.

"Yes, my Luna." He says, making me blush.

He turns to Keegan. "Please join us. We have much to discuss and hopefully, based on what I've just told you, you understand the importance of creating an alliance between our packs."

Keegan steps up beside Zoey, wrapping an arm around her waist. "No matter what happens between us, I will never forgive Alpha Franco for what he did you and your sister." He looks back at Tereshan.

"I would like to speak about an alliance."

"Oh good. I'll tell Feena to bring five plates and plan to stay for a while." I tell him as I begin to guide them out of the room.

I notice that Zoey pulls out of his embrace but continues to walk beside him.

"Why is that?" He asks.

Tereshan begins to laugh. "Oh Alpha, you've met your match with Feena." He says before walking off toward the stairwell and our bedroom to change.

I mind link Feena, asking her to join us.

'Luna, I haven't had a chance to prepare. I was expecting to have a week to prepare.' Feena says, sounding panicked.

'Feena, you know Alpha Keegan, better than most. Think on

it while you're getting the food ready. Oh, and you know he'll want something sweet.' I tell her.

'Oh yes. When I realized he stayed the night, I had the kitchen staff make cinnamon rolls with cream cheese icing. He'll love it.'

I get them settled in our office, just as Amelia brings in coffee. I watch the silent conversation between the sisters before Amelia pours the coffee and hands it to Keegan and me.

"Thank you, Amelia. Zoey, are you comfortable here with us? Or would you like Amelia to join us?" I ask, knowing the two share a special bond and are very protective of each other.

Keegan watches her and she turns to look at him before turning back to Amelia. "I'm good, Ame. I'll come find you later."

When I hear Tereshan coming down the hall, I pour another cup of coffee for him and begin walking to the door as he walks in. "If I didn't love you before, I definitely would now." He tells me, taking the cup and downing it.

"Geez, you're going to burn your mouth and throat!" I tell him.

"I did, but it's healing. I needed the caffeine."

We sit across from Alpha Keegan and Zoey, Tereshan making another cup of coffee for himself.

"So, Alpha, Luna, do you happen to know what kind of sugar this is?" He asks, sipping his coffee and looking over the rim

of his cup at us.

Well, that hasn't changed in this timeline.

"Madagascar sugar." Tereshan and I say at the same time, laughing.

"It's your favorite." Tereshan says.

"It used to be." He says quietly, looking at Zoey. She is looking down, but I see the blush creep up her cheeks.

Just then, Feena comes in with a cart of food. We all get up and get a plate before sitting down to talk over breakfast.

Feena is perfect, as I knew she would be. She made nearly the same deal with Keegan that we did last year. I jumped in about the honey and then we began talking about our specialty jam.

Talking about the garden reminds me. "Would you do me a favor, Alpha? Before you start plowing the fields, would you test the soil?"

He stops, looking at me. "What am I testing it for?"

"I don't know." I say. "But you found something in the last timeline. I just never had a chance to speak with you about it. But you said you knew why Alpha Franco wanted our pack."

"We need to know why he's after us. Maybe then, we'll have a better chance of fighting him this time."

Zoey frowns. "This time? Have you fought him before?"

Tereshan looks at me.

"I'm sorry, it's not my business." She says hurriedly.

"It's not that." Tereshan says, waiting for me to decide. I know he trusts my judgement when it comes to assessing others.

I look at her a long moment, before I begin to tell her the story. The longer the story goes on, the wider her eyes get.

When I'm done, she looks around the room. "Well, that's...." Then it's like the lightbulb goes off her mind.

"That's why you were so different yesterday? You were like a completely different person. As crazy as that story is, it makes perfect sense." She says.

"Yes. For me, the night before happened two years ago. And since then, I have fallen madly in love with my mate." He says taking my hand and kissing my knuckles. Now it's my turn to blush.

"So, what are we going to do about Franco?" Keegan asks.

"We need information. We need to know what he's after. He's been trying to infiltrate my pack through various people. So far, we've blocked him from my warrior, although Claire and I need to dig deeper there." He says, looking at me.

"We've stopped his access through Roman. Ivy is now a wildcard since Bryson released her and ran off with her. And potentially, Bryson was our mole. Dane isn't convinced, but we never did figure out who that was in the last timeline. So, we may or may not still have a mole or moles as yet

undiscovered.”

“Wow, he really does want your pack?” Zoey says.

“He does. And he won’t be happy with our alliance.” Tereshan says to Keegan.

“Tough fucking shit.” He says and I don’t ever remember hearing the gentle Alpha curse. “He fucked with my mate. He’s lucky I don’t kill him.”

Zoey reaches out, gently touching his arm and I watch as he takes a deep breath and relaxes.

“Thank you, Zoey.”

“What can I do?” Zoey asks, turning back to us.

“Well, that very much depends on if you are staying in our pack or moving to Alpha Keegan’s.” I tell her.

She looks at Keegan and then back at me. “That has yet to be decided. But Keegan did offer for Amelia and I to go see his pack lands, see what he’s doing on his land.”

“His pack is very different than the normal pack. I told you, it will take a special woman to appreciate him and the pack he has created.”

“I need to get back today, but I would like you and your sister to come with me.” He says to Zoey. “You’ll have your own room, of course. I just...I’d like to have you close and I’d like for you to give me a chance.”

She turns and looks at me and Tereshan. “Would it be okay if Amelia and I went to Alpha Keegan’s pack?” She asks.

"Definitely. And, Keegan, Dane and I will be coming by tomorrow to go over your patrols. Roman ran them in the last timeline. I want to make sure there are no holes in our protection detail and if there are, I want to fill them."

"Don't forget the lookouts." I tell Tereshan.

"Right, you started a lookout program. Your omegas loved it." He tells Keegan. "Which reminds me, we're starting omega warrior training tomorrow. Your omegas loved that too. When Dane and I come by tomorrow, we can work out a schedule for having them join our training classes." Tereshan tells him.

"Warrior training?" Keegan asks.

"The omegas in our former pack loved training. It made them feel like they could contribute more to the pack." Zoey tells him.

"And, it strengthens them, allowing them to shift more often or for some, maybe for the first time since their first shift." I add.

Keegan looks at Tereshan. "Well, Alpha, we have our work cut out for us, don't we?"

"Call me Tereshan and that we do, Alpha."

"Tereshan. Call me Keegan."