

Claire

I watch as Zoey's eyes go wide, the tray falling from her hands as she says the words we all want to say. "Mate."

Unfortunately, not everyone is happy about who their mate is, and Zoey has not had it easy. Rather than racing into the arms of Alpha Keegan, who is a good and kind man, she races from the room, her sister two steps behind her.

The room has gone silent and Alpha Keegan, unaware of the spectacle he's created moves to go after her.

I pull away from Tereshan, who, true to his word, has been by my side all night. I stand in front of Alpha Keegan, trusting his kindness to stop him from running me over.

"Alpha Keegan, I think it would be better if we went somewhere more private." I say, Tereshan coming to stand beside me. I'm not sure what he would have done if Keegan had tried to push past me, but thankfully, he didn't.

Keegan stops, focusing on me and then looking up to where Zoey was standing a few minutes ago.

"Yes, I think that would be a good idea."

I look at Tereshan. "Come with us, Alpha." He says and I see Tereshan's eyes go unfocused. I turn, seeing Dane's doing the same before he nods.

Tereshan takes my hand and escorts us to a private room. When we enter, I realize this is the room that Tereshan

made into a library in the last timeline. I'll talk to him about making it again. The pack loved it.

"Alpha Keegan, please have a seat."

He does and a moment later, Dane comes in with a bottle of liquor and three glasses.

"Thank you, Dane." Tereshan says, taking the tray from him and moving to sit beside Keegan.

"Why did she run?" He asks softly, the hurt in his voice apparent.

"Alpha Keegan. Zoey just came to our pack today. She's had a hard time of it. She and her sister ran from their pack and have been on their own for a while now."

Tereshan hands him a glass with something that smells very strong. He downs it in one shot.

Tereshan raises a glass to me, asking if I want one. I shake my head, no.

Keegan wipes his mouth with the back of his hand, looking ragged.

"What aren't you telling me?" He asks.

I look at Tereshan. "It's not our story to tell. But, Alpha, it's not a nice one." I tell him.

He looks at me, pain in his eyes. "I've been waiting for my mate for nearly 20 years. I had given up hope that I would find her. Instead, I did what any good Alpha would do, I mated myself to my pack."

He looks at me, leaning forward. "I'm telling you right now, there isn't much that she could tell me that would change my mind about wanting her." He says and I can see and feel the sincerity in his words.

"Let me go talk to her. I know she's frightened. She doesn't know you and well....as I said, there is a story there that isn't mine to tell." I say to him.

Tereshan comes and takes my hand. "One moment." He says and a few moments later, there is a knock at the door.

Jesiah is there. "Alpha, you needed me?" He asks.

"Please escort your Luna. Make sure that no one bothers her or harasses her. If they do, shut it down and let me know about it immediately."

"Yes, Alpha." He says, coming to stand beside me.

"Tereshan, is this necessary?"

He gives me a look. Franco has been trying to infiltrate our pack, if he finds out about me, he'll come after me. It's the best way to get to Tereshan.

I nod, he's right.

I turn to Jesiah. "Okay, you're with me." I say and walk out of the room.

I find Feena and she takes me to the room where Zoey and Amelia are staying. When I get there, I knock on the door.

Amelia opens the door, and I can hear Zoey crying.

"Oh, Luna. What are you doing here?" Amelia asks me, trying to close the door to hide her sister.

I step into the room, seeing Zoey sit up on the bed. She wipes her face. "Luna, did you need something?" She asks me.

I walk over to her, taking her hands. "Zoey, I think I know why you ran just now. I understand your fear, more than you know. But Alpha Keegan is a good man, a good Alpha. You should give him a chance. Tell him about what happened to you."

She's shaking her head before I finish. "He'll reject me. He should reject me. I'm damaged goods. No Alpha wants a Luna that has....."

Her voices catches and she begins crying again. I take her in my arms and hold her as she cries.

When she sits back, I try again. "Alpha Keegan has been waiting for his mate for a long time. I know that you have had it rough since the death of your family and Alpha Franco took advantage of you. But you're an Alpha female, aren't you?" I ask her, knowing I'm right.

She looks up at me, surprise in her eyes. "How did you know?" She asks me.

"You act like one." I tell her. "And Alpha Keegan deserves a mate who would do right by him. Someone who would appreciate the kind of man he is. He's not your typical Alpha. He's a good man. Give him a chance. At least, get to know him before you make a decision."

She looks at me, then looks at her sister. "Can Amelia come too?" She asks.

"Of course. What you say in front of others is up to you."

"What's the worst that can happen, Zoe?" Amelia asks her.

"He could reject me." She says, sniffing.

"And you would survive it. I've...known people that have been rejected. It's hard, but they survive. And if Alpha Keegan surprises me and rejects you, you still have a place here, with us."

She looks at me. "Why are you so kind? I've never known another Luna that was so kind."

"Everyone deserves a second chance." I say, thinking of Tereshan and how much he's trying to show me that he's changed.

"Give Alpha Keegan at least one chance." I say to her.

She nods, getting up and going to the bathroom to wash her face. When she comes out, she still has tear streaks down her face, but there is resolve in her eyes.

"Okay, let's go." She says, lifting her chin.

I take her hand, getting Jesiah as we leave the room and heading back to the future library.

When we walk in, Alpha Keegan is instantly on his feet.

"Alpha Keegan, may I introduce you to Zoey and her sister, Amelia." I say.

He comes over, taking Zoey's hands in his.

"Zoey, it is very nice to meet you."

"Alpha Keegan. It is very nice to meet you." Zoey says.