

Claire

Oh, how I miss having an Alpha body. This body is stiff, sore, bruised and aching.

'Suck it up. We're stronger than some of the other omegas in here. Marking Tereshan and Magnor has made us stronger. They don't have the same opportunity,' Damara says in my head.

'You're right, Damara. Thank you for reminding me.'

When the next shift comes in, I make sure that everyone knows what is needed and I head up to our room.

"Luna, may I ask where you are going? Alpha tasked me with ensuring your safety, so I need to know where you are at all times," Jesiah says coming up to me.

"Hey Jesiah. I'm going to my room to shower then I'm going to the office to do some work for Tereshan."

"Would you like me to stand outside your door, Luna?" he asks.

"Are you concerned about someone attacking me, Jesiah?"

"I just want to be diligent, Luna. This is only the second task that Alpha has given me. The first was to escort you to Zoey and Amelia's room. That barely seemed like an assignment at all. Now that he's off pack lands, I want to make sure that you are safe."

"Thank you, Jesiah. I'm pretty sure that I'm safe in my bedroom, but if you want to guard the top of the stairs, that would be fine."

He stops at the top of the stairs, and I begin walking toward our room. I stop, turning back.

"By the way, Jesiah, no one has searched this area for the hidden treasure, in case you're interested." I tell him, seeing his eyes light up with excitement before I turn and head to our room.

I shower and change, putting on some of the new clothes that have come in. I've noticed that the omegas are wearing new clothes today too. It was a great idea of Tereshan's. It's already changing the feeling in the pack.

I walk back to Jesiah, who is looking disappointed.

"Nothing?"

"No, Luna."

"It was worth a try," I tell him as we begin to walk to the office.

I can hear the phone ringing as we walk up. It stops and almost immediately starts ringing again. As I unlock the door, it stops and starts ringing again. I look at Jesiah and walk to the phone. Just before I pick it up, it stops. I turn, ready to move away and it starts again.

I look at Jesiah and answer the phone. "Alpha Tereshan's office."

"Where the fuck is he? Put him on the phone," a familiar

voice snarls.

"Hello, Alpha Franco. I'm afraid Alpha Tereshan isn't here at the moment. May I take a message?"

"Who the fuck is this? How do you know my name?" he snarls.

I look up at Jesiah who has closed the door and come to stand near me. He shakes his head. He doesn't want Franco to know that I'm Tereshan's mate.

I put the phone on speaker, putting my finger to my lips. It's so reminiscent of last year when Tereshan was here for Franco's angry call, that I feel a ping of sadness, missing him.

"You must be the Luna," he says, and his voice is a syrupy sneer.

Jesiah has his phone out, presumably calling Tereshan.

"That's right. I'm guessing your little mole, Ivy, told you that."

"Ahh, Ivy. That woman knew her place. You, however, don't seem to know yours. Put your Alpha on the phone."

"I'm sorry Alpha Franco. You must not have heard me the first time. He's not here. Is there something that I can help you with?" I ask, knowing he's pissed because of the alliance with Keegan.

"You tell your mate that I know what he did. If he thinks he can cut me out he's wrong."

Jesiah walks over, waving his phone at me.

'What?' I mouth to him.

'Conference call.' He mouths back.

"Alpha, if you feel strongly about speaking to Tereshan, I'm sure I can try to call him and get him on this call with us. You seem very distraught with our alliance with Alpha Keegan. I don't know why our pack's alliance with another would concern you but let me try to get him on the phone."

"Of course, you don't understand why it's important. You're nothing but a fucking omega!"

"I may be an omega, Alpha, but I understand that an alliance with Alpha Keegan benefits our pack. It does nothing to you, except eliminate your ability to try and infiltrate our pack. However, I will warn you, Alpha. My mate will tear you to pieces if you try to retaliate."

"You're nothing more than a silly, stupid omega," he says.

"On the contrary Franco, you'll find that my mate is extremely intelligent. And she's right, if you try to retaliate, I will end you," Tereshan's voice comes through the phone, having connected via conference call.

"You fucking bastard!" he screams. "You cut me out."

"I did, and I did it with a smile on my face. My alliance with Keegan is strong. Don't piss me off, Franco. I'm not an enemy that you want to have," Tereshan says.

"You're making a mistake, Tereshan. You'll regret this!"

Franco says, slamming the phone down.

"Dane, Jesiah, double the patrols. Franco is likely to attack and soon. Claire, I don't have to tell you to get to a safe room if the pack is attacked. Tell me you'll get there."

"I will, Tereshan." He and I both know what happens in the safe room. He saved them last time, I will save them this time if it comes to that.

"Be on alert, everyone. Lock down the packs," Tereshan says. "Claire, keep your phone with you at all times. I want to know if you're attacked, and I want to know what is going on."

"Okay, Tereshan."

The rest of the day, the pack is on alert. It's not the right time yet for the first attack, but that doesn't mean that Franco isn't more desperate in this timeline.

It's late afternoon when Keegan's pack is attacked. This time, Tereshan doesn't send additional warriors from our pack. We keep the larger numbers here, guarding our borders. I hear that the group attacking Keegan is small, so I'm pretty sure that Franco planned to attack us, but when our warriors didn't leave, he couldn't risk it.

"Keep them alert, Jesiah," I tell him, having come outside to sniff the air and check the feeling in the pack.

"Yes, Luna."

I walk back inside, finding Feena. "Make sure the safe rooms are easily accessible. We don't know if or when they may

attack," I tell her.

"Yes Luna."

I hold my phone, standing near the back doors, watching and waiting until the early hours of the morning.

I jump when my phone rings. "Tereshan?"

"Claire. Is everyone safe?"

"Yes. They didn't attack. Jesiah has kept the patrols and warriors diligent."

"Good. We've killed the intruders here. I know they are Franco's men. He sent them to slaughter."

"Just like last time," I say because that's exactly what he did last time.

"Yes. We need to be constantly diligent, Claire. He's acting more desperate, or maybe taking his pawns out of play earlier in this timeline is making things move faster, but this attack didn't happen as quickly in the last timeline. Stay on guard. I'm headed home."

"Be careful, please," I tell him.

"I will, and Claire? I love you. I just wanted you to know that."

When I hang up, I realize that things are changing between me and Tereshan. It started in the last timeline, but the situations that happened then aren't the only things that are moving faster in this timeline.

My feelings for Tereshan started changing before and seeing

him as the Alpha he was always meant to be is softening my heart to him more quickly than I would have imagined.

I turn in the quiet packhouse, everyone either asleep or on guard duty. I walk to my old room. There is very little here that I consider mine, a couple of pictures of my family, and some small toys from when I was a child. I collect my things, and the last of my clothes, and I carry them to my new room.

If we're going to survive, it has to be together, and if we're going to be together, then that means that I have to not only accept my position as a Luna, but also Tereshan's mate.

And the first step is to completely move into the Alpha suite.

Our room.