

Tereshan

I feel better after talking with Claire, not only about what it means to mark her, but also about waiting to have a pup. She seems excited about having my pups and it only makes me want to figure things out faster so that we can begin our life together.

When we do finally settle down, finally put all of this behind us, I want to be the best mate, father and Alpha I can be.

It isn't long after our talk that we need to get ready for tonight. I called Keegan and he agreed to uninvite Alpha Eason, but I know he's not the only one we have to worry about.

I pick out the dress I want Claire to wear tonight. This is an important meeting and I need her, and I too look like a power couple. She may not be wearing my mark, but I'm wearing hers and if we look like we're partners, it will make a statement.

Thankfully, when Claire comes in, she doesn't balk at me. She takes the dress and puts it on, putting her hair in a high ponytail. Elise helps her with minimal make-up. It's a subtle change, but it makes Claire

look like a Luna, strong and confident.

"Effortlessly beautiful," Elise says as they walk out of the bathroom.

Claire looks at me, wanting my approval. All I can do is smile at my mate. She is nothing if not effortlessly beautiful.

"Are you ready, Claire?" I ask her.

"Yes."

I give her my arm and walk her outside to the waiting car. Jesiah is in the driver's seat. I open the door for Claire and get her settled before going around the car and sitting beside her in the back.

"You know that your Luna is your first priority tonight, right Jesiah?" I ask.

It's why he is our driver. As the Gamma, his first priority is always to ensure Claire's safety.

"Yes, Alpha. No one will harm our Luna tonight without getting through me," he says.

They'll have to get through me first, but I don't say that. I don't expect a fight tonight, but I'm not going into a room with a bunch of Alphas without

preparing for the possibility.

When we arrive, Keegan and Zoey are waiting to welcome us. Zoey looks beautiful. I can see that Keegan understands the value of looking like a power couple as well. His usual jeans and boots have been replaced with a suit and tie, and similar to me and Claire, their outfits are color coordinated, showing that they are together.

As we walk up, Zoey looks at Claire.

"Luna Claire," she says, inclining her head.

"Luna Zoey," Claire replies, before reaching out to hug Zoey.

I shake hands with Keegan before turning to Zoey. "Being mated suits you."

"Thank you, Alpha."

"Alpha Keegan, you dress up very nicely." Claire says to him, making him blush a little.

"He does, doesn't he?" Zoey says, admiring her mate.

"We have hors d'oeuvres and cocktails inside. Help yourself. When everyone is here, we'll move into the dining room." Keegan says.

"Who's here?" I ask as Jesiah walks up.

"Alpha Nicholas and Alpha Adam. Both are friends of mine." I nod. They were the ones that helped us get food to our pack last time during the war.

"Let's go say hi, Claire." I say, putting my hand on her back.

As we walk in, the next car is pulling up. This is going to be an interesting evening.

Similar to my birthday, I walk around introducing Claire to anyone that hasn't met her.

"Do you know what this is about Tereshan?" Nicholas asks me.

"Yes, but it's probably better to discuss it all as a group," I say, not wanting to have to repeat this story several times tonight.

"I heard there was an attack on Keegan. Is that true?" Alpha Adam asks.

"Yes. That is true and it is the ultimate reason for this meeting."

When the other packs arrive, there are thirteen packs represented. Alpha Parker was tentative, so I'

m a bit surprised that he's here. He's the other one that attacked our pack in the last timeline.

"Alpha Tereshan. I would have thought your Beta would be here tonight," he says, coming over to me as we move into the dining room.

"No, he's not here," I say, watching him.

"No one has seen him in over a week. Aren't you concerned?" Parker asks me.

"Not in the least," I say, steering Claire to a chair and subtly putting myself between her and Parker. Once she's settled, I turn back to Parker. "I'll let him know you were asking about him."

"Have him call me. He's not answering his phone," Parker grumbles.

"I believe he lost it." I say, turning away to dismiss him.

As I move to the head of the table to stand beside Keegan, Jesiah moves to stand near Claire.

Once everyone is seated, Keegan begins.

"I've brought all of you here tonight to discuss a very concerning turn of events." Keegan begins.

"Why are two of the packs not represented here?"

Parker interrupts him.

"We'll get to that, if you would be a little patient, Parker." I say, shutting Parker down.

Keegan is known as a soft Alpha. I used to think that as well. His pack is built with farmers, not fighters. But what I've learned over time is that strength isn't always seen in muscle. Keegan controls the packs' abilities to survive. He is the major producer of food in our area. I know firsthand that without that food, your pack will suffer and slowly die. If you look at strength from the ability to decimate the other packs, Keegan is the strongest Alpha in the room.

I nod at Keegan to continue. "Yesterday, Alpha Franco attacked my pack."

Parker is on his feet. "That's a lie!"

"The dead bodies of Franco's pack members are outside for anyone to see. We waited to burn them until after this meeting for just that reason."

Parker's lips curl in anger, but he sits down. Jesiah has subtly moved to stand right behind Claire. From the corner of my eye, I see her take her steak knife and slide it off the table and into her lap. I know she can feel my pride in her fighting spirit.

"Alpha Tereshan and I entered into an alliance, one that does not hinder your packs, but did make it so that he would buy directly from me, rather than from Franco's supermarkets. There were some other agreements made, but again, none that would impact any of you."

I watch as the Alphas in the room look at each other. Alliances are not uncommon for one reason or another.

"Because of my alliance with Alpha Tereshan, Alpha Franco attacked my pack. Thankfully, Alpha Tereshan's part of the alliance is protection, and he was on my pack lands when the attack occurred. Alpha Franco's pack was defeated with no casualties on our side."

"Why would Alpha Franco attack your pack? That doesn't make any sense." Parker continues.

"It does if his intention was to divert my warriors to Alpha Keegan's pack so that he could attack mine. Alpha Franco has been trying to take over my pack in multiple ways for over a year." I say.

I see realization flash in Parker's eyes. He knows that I know about him and about Roman.

Parker stands again. "Why would you even listen to

them? One of these Alphas," he says sneeringly, "is a farmer and the other took an omega for his Luna."

"She is the strongest Luna I've ever met." Zoey says, surprising all of us.

"Says the whore," he snarls.

Keegan has him by the throat and in the air before I can flinch.

"I would be very careful of the next words to come out of your mouth, Parker. That is my Luna you're talking about." Alpha Keegan's voice is deadly calm.

Parker, apparently not realizing the severity of the situation he is in, looks down at Keegan. "Yeah, I rode her and her sister like the fucking whores they are."

Alpha Parker's sneer is still on his face when his severed head hits the floor.