

Claire

I've never seen Alpha Keegan look more like a deadly Alpha than he does at this moment. He's covered in blood, and he turns to the group.

"Anyone else want to disparage my Luna or otherwise insult me in my own packhouse?" he snarls.

I had seen Zoey's mortification when Alpha Parker had announced to the group that he had slept with her and her sister. I know she was hoping that the truth of her situation would remain hidden.

However, she shows her strength as an Alpha wolf and a Luna when she stands, walking to Keegan and putting her hand on his cheek, turning his face to hers.

She doesn't say anything, she doesn't need to. Just her touch and her presence are calming him.

"Alpha Keegan, perhaps we can move to another room while we add Alpha Parker's body to the pile outside. You and your mate should get cleaned up. I can continue the meeting with the Alphas here, until you get back."

I look at Tereshan. I have no idea how this turn of events may impact this timeline. Alpha Keegan was never violent in the past. Of course, he never found his mate either. And, Keegan may have become a farmer, but he's still an Alpha. He just reminded anyone here that may have forgotten that.

Keegan looks at Tereshan and then at the room. "My apologies, but I will not allow anyone to say anything negative about my mate. Anyone who cannot be civil should leave now," he says, grabbing Parker's body and his head and dragging the body out of the room.

His Beta walks in. "Alphas, Luna, please follow me," he says inclining his head to me.

We are moved to something that is more like a conference room than a dining room. As everyone takes their seats, the omegas come rushing in to set the table for dinner.

Alpha Nicholas scrubs his face. "Why do I have a feeling that Alpha Keegan's animosity toward Alpha Franco is related to more than just the attack yesterday?" He lifts his head, looking at the room. "Not that it matters, an attack cannot go unpunished. But...."

"That is not our story to tell, Alpha Nicholas," I say, not wanting to discuss Zoey's situation, especially when she's not in the room.

"Of course, Luna," he says.

"There's something I don't understand. The alliance between you and Alpha Keegan shouldn't have bothered Alpha Franco. So why did he attack? I mean, I get that he's losing some money having your pack cut out, but not enough to warrant an attack and risk losing the supply to his stores. Alpha Adam and I have an alliance and he never once balked," Alpha Elio says.

"As I mentioned before, I don't believe that this was about attacking Alpha Keegan's pack. I believe the true intention was to attack mine," Tereshan says.

"But he didn't?" Alpha Nicholas asks.

"No, because I didn't pull my warriors out of my pack to help fight. My Beta, my new Beta and I were on Keegan's pack lands, as he mentioned, and we were able to ensure that the battle went our way."

"I feel like I'm missing something. This doesn't make any sense to me," Alpha Noah says.

Tereshan looks around the room. I do too, none of

these Alphas fought against us in the last timeline, but some didn't help us either, Alpha Noah being one of those.

"Alpha Franco has been trying to infiltrate my pack and has tried multiple times to initiate a hostile takeover for a year. He has used one of my omega/warrior couples, he used my previous Beta, he used my previous Gamma female and there may be others, I just don't know who yet."

"Why? Why would he go to those lengths? He's fought you outright before and lost. We all know that," Alpha Adam says.

"I'm still trying to figure out his reasons. But that is not why you are all here tonight." Tereshan says just as a freshly showered Keegan comes in with Zoey on his arm.

Keegan looks around the room. "My apologies again for disrupting dinner. I know this room isn't as comfortable, but it will have to do for tonight," he says, tucking Zoey into a chair beside me and moving to stand beside Tereshan.

I reach out and squeeze Zoey's hand, showing her that I'm here for her. She squeezes it back and smiles at me.

"As Alpha Tereshan said, there is a specific reason I invited all of you here tonight." He looks at Zoey and something passes between them.

Keegan turns back to the room. "Alpha Franco took advantage of my mate and her sister. They fled their home when their pack was attacked. They came here knowing that our packs existed. He took them in under the guise of helping them, then forced them to become sex slaves. He sold them to other Alphas and people he wanted to impress."

He grits his teeth and looks at Zoey again. "It was Alpha Tereshan and Luna Claire that got my mate and her sister out of that situation, took them in, and that is ultimately how I found her."

He looks back at the Alphas. "I tell you this because even without the attack yesterday, I would be cutting my ties with Alpha Franco, and that is the reason for this meeting tonight. Alpha Elio," he says, turning to Elio. "You sell directly to the packs."

"That's correct."

"That has worked for all of you, and it is what I am proposing tonight. I will no longer sell to Alpha Franco. He and his pack can starve for all I care. But my battle with Alpha Franco should not impact all of

you."

"So, we would buy directly from you?" Alpha Noah asks.

"Yes, I've already started making plans to build a market at the front of my pack lands, closer to the entrance so anyone can come in and buy food," Keegan says.

"What about Alpha Eason? I know Alpha Parker asked about him, and I understand why Alpha Franco isn't here, but where is Eason?" Alpha Noah asks.

"Greasy Eason?" Alpha Nicolas asks.

The other Alphas all turn to look at him. "What? That's what my omegas call him. The man's an Alpha and doesn't bathe. He deserves the nickname."

I feel Zoey's hand squeeze mine. I glance at her out of the corner of my eye and see her teeth clenched tightly together. Alpha Franco sold her to Alpha Eason as well.

"Alpha Eason is working with Alpha Franco. I believe that he is the one that has been supplying the rogues that were attacking the packs. It's possible my previous Beta was also part of that, which is one of the reasons that he's currently in my cells."

Tereshan says.

"That fucking asshole is responsible for the rogue attacks?" Alpha Adam asks.

"I'm still getting information, but there were too many rogues attacking, someone had to be bringing them in and my intel says it was Eason, working for Franco."

Alpha Adam turns and looks at the room. "I'm with Alpha Keegan and Alpha Tereshan. Cut Franco out and buy direct. I never cared for that prick Franco anyway."

The Alphas' vote is unanimous. Franco and Eason are going to be cut out of the food supply.

I look at Tereshan. He nods, letting me know that whatever happens because of this, we'll deal with it.