

Claire

I already hate it here. It smells like sex and fear and desperation. Of course, Ivy has to make it so much worse by looking at me as if I'm going to be tortured tonight.

When Alpha Franco steps in front of us, I'm ready to run like Tereshan told me. However, he holds my hand and rather than feeling concern through the bond like I expected, I feel arrogance.

"My reasons for being here are my own. I've purchased three of your women for the night so unless you want to refund my \$25,000, I suggest you get out of my way."

Ivy comes over, running one hand over Franco's shoulder and putting the other on his chest. "Alpha Tereshan asked for a training room."

That gets his attention, and he looks at me with the condescending air I've gotten used to in three timelines. "I'd heard you'd taken an omega as your Luna. Let's see what's on the agenda for tonight," he says, snatching the bag out of Tereshan's hand.

He pulls out the lingerie, the vibrator, the collar, the wrist cuffs and the leather straps. There are some other things in there that I don't really understand, but

Tereshan obviously knew what he was doing.

"Well, looks like you're in for a fun night, girlie. Oh, sorry, I mean Luna. I don't expect that you'll be walking out of here tomorrow morning," He says, looking at me lasciviously. "Too sore," Franco says to me before stuffing the items back in the bag and handing it back to Tereshan.

"I suggest that you make sure you know how to properly please your Alpha, because if he decides you're not worth his time, you'll end up here, and training in this house isn't nearly as gentle," he says before stepping out of our way.

"Have fun," he says before walking off.

"This way," Ivy says, continuing to walk us through the brothel. I'm thankful that Tereshan didn't want me to act confident. I'm not sure I could have done it. This place is terrifying.

Ivy walks us down a hallway where I hear the sounds of something smacking flesh. I can hear a woman yelp, but nothing more.

Tereshan is pushing calm into me, but it's not helping, my fear of being here is off the scale. In this body, I'm powerless, not nearly strong enough to escape whatever situation I could be forced into. I understand now exactly why Tereshan has the rules he has for me. If someone were to think that I was working here, they could do

whatever they wanted to me, and no one would stop them. No one except Tereshan.

When we get to the room, Ivy opens the door. The air is a bit fresher here, made so only because the scent of fear and desperation is replaced with harsh cleansers. I'm pretty sure nothing will get rid of the scent of sex in this place.

"Have fun. I'll send the girls right in," Ivy says, closing the door as she leaves. As soon as she's gone, Tereshan pulls me to him.

"How are you holding up? I can smell your fear. Do you want me to get you out of here? I can have Jesiah come meet you?"

I hold on to him, taking deep breaths of his blueberry scent, letting it calm and relax me.

"No. These women are forced to live here. I can manage one night."

He rubs his fingers through my hair, massaging my scalp and helping me to relax even more. "I don't know how I ever thought you were weak, Claire. You're one of the strongest people I know."

When a knock comes at the door, he steps away from me. "Ready?"

I nod and he calls for the women to come in.

Three women walk in. They are barely wearing any clothes, mostly it's silk, lace and strappy lingerie and very high heels. I immediately recognize Selah's sister, they look very similar. The women look at me, and I see regret in their eyes before they look at Tereshan and incline their heads in submission.

"Alpha. How may we please you?" one woman says. She seems to be taking the lead.

"Let's start with introductions. I'm Alpha Tereshan, this is my mate, Luna Claire."

They nod to him and barely look at me, as if they already regret whatever they think is going to happen in this room tonight.

They introduce themselves, Lucy being the one taking the lead, then wait for instructions.

"Ladies, I've purchased you for the entire night. However, I did it under false pretenses. I know you won't trust me, so my Luna is here to talk with you. All I ask is that you tell us the truth of anything you know. I'm also willing to get you out of this house tonight, give you protection in my pack, if you wish to leave."

Now they do look at me, then back at Tereshan. Tereshan looks at me and nods.

"What my mate says is true. We know that Alpha Franco owns this brothel, and we know that some, if not all of

you are here against your will. We want to help, but we also need information. Alpha Franco has been trying to infiltrate our pack, using people such as Ivy to get to my mate and take him out so he can take over our pack."

All of their lips curl when I mention Ivy. Yeah, I know how awful she is to work for.

"What kind of information are you looking for?" Sadie asks.

"You're Selah's sister, right?" I ask her.

She jerks, surprised. "How did you..."

"You look just like her. She's a member of our pack and we told her we were coming tonight and would get you out if you agreed. Her mate, Heath, is among the warriors that are waiting to get you to our pack. Tereshan made sure you were one of the girls assigned to him."

"Although, you were selected, as I expected you would be. Your sister was one of the people Franco used to get to me. He did that by threatening you," Tereshan adds.

"So why should we believe you then. We know what happens to traitors. And no offense, Alpha, you don't exactly have a reputation of being kind, especially to your omegas," Lucy says boldly.

"That's why my mate is here. I don't expect you to trust

me at all. And you're right, I wasn't kind to you or anyone that I was with, but I plan to change that, and I have already changed that in my pack."

"So, again, what kind of information are you looking for?" Nita asks.

"It seems as if men will have conversations in front of you without really caring that you overhear. As an omega..."

"Former omega," Tereshan interrupts me. I turn and look at him. He just raises his eyebrow at me.

I sigh. "As a former omega, I know that people rarely pay attention to you, as if you are a decoration or furniture in the room. You are there, but not a threat. So, we want to know if you've heard of anything that might have made you wonder. Anything that would make you think that something was off, or that Alpha Franco was desperate.

The three of them look at each other.

"Oh, and I want to make it clear that even if you don't have information, it has no bearing on us getting you out of here if you choose to leave. We just need some insight, something to let us know why Franco is after our pack."

"I'm surprised he let you in, if there's that much animosity between you," Sadie says.

"I paid a lot of money for you three. He would have had to refund that to kick me out," Tereshan tells her.

"That's what I heard," Nita says, snapping her fingers as if she just remembered something.

I move to stand beside Tereshan, still feeling the need to have him close. The move doesn't go unnoticed by the girls. I'm guessing they have to constantly pay attention to signals from those that they are with, and my move lets them know that I trust Tereshan.

"What did you hear?" Tereshan asks, sitting on a love seat, pulling me into his lap and wrapping his arms around me. "Ladies, feel free to have a seat. We have some time, we're in no rush."

They sit around us, on other love seats.

"I heard Alpha Franco talking to Alpha Eason, something about the brothel being fully leveraged and he can't draw any more funds from it."

"Wait, this place is in debt?" Tereshan asks, astonished.

"I got the impression that he owes more than this place makes," Nita says.

I turn and look at Tereshan. "What is it?"

Tereshan looks thoughtful. "You saw how busy it was downstairs?" he asks me.

I nod.

He looks at the girls. "It's always this busy, right?"

"Yes."

He's about to say more, when his face jerks to the door.

"You three, get undressed. Lucy, get on the bed, on your back. Sadie, stand by her head, Nita, get on the bed beside her," he says, lifting me off his lap.

"Claire, take off your dress," he says as he pulls his shirt off, tossing it at me.

"Get on the loveseat and cover yourself with this, but don't put it on."

He grabs the bag and quickly rushes to the bed, looking at Lucy. "Spread your legs and start moaning."

She does as he says while he moves Sadie where he wants her and gets Nita in position.

"Louder, Lucy," he says, and she begins moaning loudly, saying 'yes alpha' over and over. The other two seem to understand what is happening, but I don't.

Tereshan turns and looks at me. I see and feel the regret in him.

"I'm sorry baby," he says a moment before I feel pain slice through my gut.

I only have a moment to wonder what happened when the door flies open and Franco walks in.