

Chapter 120: Cells

Tereshan

I leave Claire on the sparring field, and I mind link Dane to join me when he can. I'm going to start with Tucker then move on to Roman. I'm still not sure what to do with Bryson.

Before I even get there, I can hear Roman yelling, banging on the cell bars.

"Is he like this every day?" I ask the warrior on duty.

"Every day, Alpha. Gives me a fucking headache."

"He's giving me one too and I haven't even been down here," I tell him drolly.

"What about Tucker? How has he been?" I ask.

"Quiet, mostly. He yells at Roman to stop making so much noise periodically, but that's about it. Hasn't given us any trouble."

"Thanks."

"Do you need me to come down there with you?" he asks.

"No, but Beta Dane will be showing up at some point. Let

him through."

"Yes, Alpha."

I head down the stairs. Since I can hear him, I know that Roman is to the right. I turn left, heading toward Tucker's cell. On the way, I pass Bryson. He's sitting on the cot in his cell, his head in his hands.

I stop and look at him. "What am I going to do with you, Bryson?" I ask softly.

"I don't know, Alpha. But if it makes you feel any better, being in here with him," he nods his head in the direction of where Roman is screaming and carrying on, "is like being in hell."

A hint of a smile ghosts my face before I pull it back.

"Dammit, why'd you have to betray me?"

"I'm sorry, Alpha. I truly am. I believed her when she said we would finally be together as a real couple should."

I nod. "I'm not here for you today. I still haven't decided what to do with you."

"I understand," he says, and it makes it harder because I think he really does understand what he did, how much his mate truly lied to him and the terrible position he put me in.

I turn, heading to Tucker's cell. As soon as he sees me, he's on his feet.

"Alpha!"

"Tucker, you injured my mate."

"Yes, Alpha. I didn't know she was your mate, I thought she was merely an omega that was trying to escape."

"Things have changed since you've been in here, Tucker. The omegas are learning to spar. We're building a library so they and anyone else that wants, can learn to read. The abuse that has been allowed in this pack for so long is unacceptable. Anyone that is caught abusing another pack member, no matter their rank, will be banished or killed, depending on the severity of the crime."

I see the momentary flash in his eyes. I know how he feels about the omegas. I also know that he thinks that if I don't see it, I won't believe he did it. I remember that very well from sparring with him in the last timeline. He's a sneaky fucking bastard.

"There will be no second chances. There will be no option for the cells. You abuse any one of my omegas and the choices are death or banishment from the pack."

I watch as the reality of what I'm saying sinks into his thick skull.

"You have the choice to leave the pack now, if you don't think you can abide by those rules," I tell him.

"No, this is my pack. I'm staying."

"Okay. You should also know that Alpha Keegan is building some farming areas on our land and his omegas will be here as well. The same rules apply, Tucker."

He scoffs. "We're taking up farming, Alpha?"

"We're in an alliance with an Alpha who farms all the food for the packs, Tucker. Part of that alliance is to provide this pack with specialty items that other packs won't get."

"I bet Alpha Franco won't like that."

I reach through the cell bars, grabbing him by the front of his shirt and pulling him to me.

"What do you know about Alpha Franco?"

"What? Nothing! Nothing at all. I just...he owns the grocery stores. I know that."

"He'll no longer be receiving food from Alpha Keegan. So that 'farmer' you were just joking about, could quite possibly decimate Alpha Franco's pack. As I said, you're free to leave this pack if you choose."

I release him and stand back. "Are you working for Alpha Franco?" I ask, Magnor coming forward and pushing out his Alpha aura. "Tell me the truth!"

Tucker yips, his wolf lifting his neck, exposing his throat to Magnor. "No, no I don't work for Alpha Franco." He says hurriedly.

I hold him there another minute before I release him, Magnor pulling back.

"I suggest that it stays that way." I say, pulling out the keys and opening the cell door.

"Go get washed up and then check in with Jesiah. He's our new Gamma and is running the patrols."

"Yes, Alpha."

He passes Dane on his way to the stairwell.

"I won't be sorry to leave your fucking loud ass," he yells to Roman as he runs up the stairs.

As I pass back by Bryson's cell, he calls out to me.

"Alpha, Jesiah took my position?"

I stop and look at him. "Yes."

He nods. "He's a good choice, a good warrior. He'll make a good Gamma."

"He already is," I say, continuing down the hallway to where I can hear Roman.

"It's about fucking time, Alpha. I can't believe you made me wait so long to talk this out. I mean, I know you've been angry with me before, but this..." he gestures around the cell.

"You're lucky I haven't killed you for betraying the pack, Roman." That brings his attention back to me.

"Your life is dependent of what you tell me and whether or not I believe you."

Dane hands me a chair that he pulled from down the hall. I sit while Dane leans against the wall behind me.

"You raped Feena, multiple times." I state it as a fact. It's the easiest lie to catch him in.

"Rape is an ugly word, Alpha. She agreed to everything I asked."

Dane snarls behind me. I raise a hand and while I can still feel the anger rolling off of him, he quiets down.

"She agreed because you threatened to rape the other omegas if she didn't, right?"

He turns, running his fingers through his hair and begins pacing.

"They're omegas. It's what they are made for, Alpha. You should know, your mate is one," he says which sends me flying against the cell walls.

Dane rushes up behind me, holding me back.

"Don't speak of my mate again, or I will kill you."

He watches me closely until Dane pulls me back. I yank

my shirt down, running my fingers through my hair before sitting back down.

"Fine, we won't talk about the obvious. So, yeah, I didn't think it would be a huge issue to sleep with the omegas. I don't know why you made that a rule anyway. But you said they had to be agreeable. I found a way to make Feena agreeable. Technically, I didn't break any of your rules Alpha."

"Threats and coercion do not make a woman agreeable you piece of shit." Dane says.

"What the fuck are you even doing in here, Dane?" Roman asks him.

"That's Beta Dane to you, Roman," I tell him, and watch in satisfaction as his eyes go wide.

"You gave him my position? Are you fucking kidding me?"

"Yeah, and you want to know what's amazing? Shit's actually getting done in the pack now." I say.

"Un-fucking-believable."

"So, how long have you been working with Franco against me?" I ask, switching topics and watching him closely. It's quick, but I'm ready, and I see it, the flash of surprise before he wipes it away. Damn, he's good. No wonder I never questioned him in the first timeline. I

didn't even know to look for a problem.

"What are you talking about? You're my Alpha, you've always been my Alpha."

"Why is he so desperate to get this pack?" I ask.

"How the fuck would I know?"

"Who's the delivery guy that was asking about you?"

He shrugs. "Johnny? What about him? He delivers shit, we talk, so what."

"He's one of Eason's men, right."

There it is, that flash again, just as quickly as it's there, it's gone.

"I never asked what pack he was from."

"Why does Franco want my pack?" I snarl, Magnor coming forward to push his aura over Roman. I watch as Roman and Tripp fight the Alpha command. Magnor pushes harder. Roman may have forgotten, but Magnor is the strongest Alpha wolf alive.

Finally, Tripp yips in pain and exposes his throat. "He needs money."

"What does that have to do with my pack?" I snarl.

"I don't know."

Magnor pushes forward again, snarling loudly.

"I don't know! He just said if I gave him information on your whereabouts that he would pay me for it."

I lean forward. "So, a man who needs money is going to pay you for information about me and you didn't think that was odd? You betrayed me for money, is that what I'm understanding?"

When he doesn't answer, Magnor pushes all his strength forward. "IS IT?!"

"Yes! Yes, I betrayed you for money."