

## Chapter 123: Ticklish

Claire

I'm lost in Tereshan's taste, his scent, my need for him growing stronger by the day. When he pulls away from the kiss, I'm panting.

"When are we meeting with Dane and Jesiah?" I ask, feeling dizzy.

"Now sounds good to me," he says, rubbing his face against mine.

That makes me giggle. This big powerful man wants me as much as I want him.

When I open my eyes, I see that his are on me.

"I love that sound. I'd never heard it until recently and I hope that I hear it for the rest of my life."

He rubs his face down my neck, tickling me and making me squeal and giggle some more. He nips at my neck, making me squirm as his face hair tickles me. He lifts me up, holding me to him as he continues his attack on my neck, growling low and only adding to the ticklish sensation.

When he finally releases me, I'm breathless from

laughing and squealing. He leans in and gently kisses my neck that I know is red from his beard. When he looks up at me, his eyes are filled with love. Love for me.

I caress his face before leaning down to kiss him. He lets me lead, and I tentatively lick his lips asking for entrance that he immediately gives me. Then, I'm drowning in his blueberry taste all over again.

When he finally pulls away, my arms are wrapped tightly around him, holding him as close to me as he is holding me to him.

His eyes never leave mine. "Yes, Dane?"

My head whips to the left and sure enough, Dane is standing there, looking down at his feet, but he has a big, dopey smile on his face.

"Sorry to interrupt..."

"Are you, because you cleared your throat several times trying to get my attention," Tereshan says.

My eyes go wide, and I look at Tereshan. I can feel heat flooding my cheeks. I was so caught up in the kiss that I didn't even hear Dane trying to get our attention. I can tell by Tereshan's smug look that he's proud that I was so consumed by him that I didn't hear anything else around us.

"Well, yes, you were obviously very busy, but I wanted to

talk with you about Tucker and you had asked to speak with me and Jesiah.”

“You and Jesiah first.” He says, still not taking his eyes off me.

A slow smile spreads across my face. I can feel the love he has for me flowing through him. There is need and desire, yes, but there is also pride, commitment, and happiness.

I stroke his face as he continues to hold me against him.

“We’ll meet you inside in a minute, Dane. I haven’t finished kissing my mate yet.” I say, and I watch the biggest smile I’ve ever seen spread across Tereshan’s face.

“Yes, Luna,” I hear Dane say, and I swear there’s a snicker in there, but I don’t care. I lean down and this time, I don’t hesitate. I take Tereshan’s mouth in the same possessive way he takes mine. I draw him in, deepening the kiss when I hear his possessive growl, feel the pleasure flowing through him at my initiation of our kiss, at my willingness to outwardly show everyone that I am claiming him as my mate.

When I pull back, I look at him.

“Mine.” I say softly.

“Yes, I am. And you are mine,” he says. “So, let’s go

figure out when we can safely make it official. The sooner the better."

I'm giggling again as he sets me on my feet and takes my hand to walk inside.

"Finally, I thought I was going to miss lunch," Dane says, leaning against the kitchen doorway.

"Oh please, I know very well you were taking advantage of this time to kiss Feena," making Dane jerk in surprise and Feena blush.

"I am the future Luna of this pack. What kind of Luna would I be if I hadn't caught you two kissing in the kitchen?"

"I...what...?" Feena says, stumbling over her words.

"Yeah, so, you might as well join us for this next conversation, Feena." I say, and now it's Tereshan's turn to snicker at Dane.

As we walk through the dining room, I watch as the omegas all call out to Tereshan, wanting his attention, his approval. I turn, guiding him through the throng of people that are eating lunch, giving him a chance to speak to them briefly as we make our way to his office.

I can feel pride swelling in him as his pack members seek his acknowledgement and praise. When I feel the sliver of shame go through him, the memory of who he

used to be, I take his hand, hoping to remind him that it's not who he is any longer.

"Alpha, Luna, I've finished cleaning your room already, is there anything else I can do for you?" Vivienne asks.

"In about 20 minutes, could you bring some of those delicious smelling cookies to my office?" Tereshan asks.

Vivienne's smile is huge. "Sure thing, Alpha."

"Oh and, your Luna has requested some blueberry cobbler. Can you make that happen?"

Vivienne looks at me and then back at Tereshan.

"Blueberries are her favorite," she says in a stage whisper to Tereshan.

"That's what I've heard. If you have any other ideas, let me know."

Vivienne nods and bounces off.

Jacoby is next. "Alpha, when you get a chance, can you come see the library. It looks great. Lucy has been a big help."

"I'll come by today. I can't wait to see it."

And it continues as we walk through the dining room with omegas and some warriors wanting Tereshan's attention or to speak with him later.

When we step into the hallway to his office, the atmosphere in the dining room has changed. It's subtle, but everyone is happier, knowing that their Alpha accepts them and is proud of them.

"That was a good idea. I need to do that more often," he says as we join the others.

"It's not hard to make them happy. They just need a little encouragement and to know that their Alpha appreciates them."

When we walk in, Tereshan goes to sit behind his desk, pulling me into his lap and wrapping his arms around me.

"There's a lot for us to talk about, but the most important thing, at least in my mind, is getting on the same page about our mates. Jesiah, I know things with you and Lucy are new, and that's a good thing, and as much as I don't want to scheduling mating time, we need to be cognizant that all of us want to mark our mates which will put them into heat."

Feena looks down, having turned the color of a cooked lobster. Dane wraps his arm around her shoulders, pulling her to him and kissing the side of her head.

"Feena hasn't agreed to accept me as her mate yet," he says.

"When she does, I'm afraid it can't be spontaneous." I

say, watching Feena. "Just like me and Tereshan, we will need to plan it out."

"Exactly," Tereshan says. "If you didn't see Keegan and Zoey earlier, she is now marked, meaning that she'll be going into heat in the next week. I'll be meeting his Beta tomorrow and seeing where they'll be staying. We'll work our patrols around them."

"Well, Lucy and I are nowhere near that point, so I'm not sure I need to be a part of this conversation," Jesiah says.

"You know, if you truly are serious about taking her as a mate, you should consider having her mark you. It seems to have worked for Zoey and it's worked for me. From my perspective, I have none of the risk and all of the benefit."

"Not all of it," Tereshan interrupts me. "She doesn't second guess how I feel, what the intentions are behind my words." He strokes his hands up and down my arms as he talks.

"When trust is the issue, letting her mark you could make all the difference in the world. But you have to remember that you carry the burden and the risk. If she marks you and then rejects you, it will devastate you. Think about it. But, if and when the time comes to mark her, we need to make sure that it's safe. Safe for the two of you and safe for the pack."

Tereshan sits back, pulling me against his chest. "Claire

has agreed to let me mark her. I want to do that as soon as possible, but I also can't be out of commission at the same time as Keegan or either of you. Franco and Eason will be planning an attack, and we need to be ready.

Dane looks at Jesiah and back at Tereshan. "Then we'd better start increasing omega training. Because if all three of us have to go out, it's highly likely that we'll be attacked when one of us is out of commission."