



## Chapter 130: Oskar

Tereshan

I haven't had enough time to strengthen my pack, not the way I want to, not the way Claire did when she was Alpha. But I have something she didn't, years and years of experience fighting.

As soon as Magnor shifts and races out of the packhouse, I begin tearing into every wolf I don't know. You're a friend or foe, there is no in between.

I see Dane and Jesiah racing out from different directions, running into the fight. I'm thankful that I have good warriors, good fighters, but I'm still worried about Claire and the other omegas. Jacoby has become good at throwing his weapons, but I wish we'd had longer to prepare.

I see Greasy Eason fighting against my warriors and Magnor begins to race over to him.





'Watch out for Oskar. You know he likes to blindsides us.' I tell Magnor, just as he tunes in, and we hear the pounding of paws beside us. Magnor hits the ground just as Oskar leaps, flying over top of us. Magnor is on his feet and lunging toward Oskar who takes a second too long to get back up, having planned for the impact against Magnor's body that didn't occur. Magnor's teeth snap, grabbing hold of Oskar's flank and ripping a chunk of flesh away.

Oskar roars his anger and pain, turning and snapping at Magnor's face, but Magnor dances away from him. The two wolves circle each other, looking for an opening. Oskar lunges first, snapping at Magnor's front leg, but Magnor grabs a hold of his neck, just missing his spine. Magnor shakes his head viciously from side to side, tearing another chunk of flesh out of Oskar.

As Magnor is spitting the flesh from his mouth, Oskar leaps on top of him, snapping, trying to get hold of his neck or spine. Magnor throws himself on his side, sending Oskar rolling off of him. Both are on their





feet quickly, although Magnor is on his feet faster, lunging again. This time, Magnor grabs his front leg, biting down and hearing the bone snap.

Oskar howls in pain, and when Magnor releases him, he limps back, still ready to fight, but severely injured. This time, he stands still as Magnor circles him. Oskar must know that he's going to die, there's no way that he can win this fight.

I'm about to go in for the kill when I hear Claire's cry.

"Nooooo!"

Magnor whips around, just in time for me to see Claire throwing a knife. It whizzes past me, sinking into a smaller wolf that was sneaking up on me. I recognize it as Ivy's wolf as she falls to the ground. In the moment of distraction, Oskar takes his opportunity, and leaps, latching on to the side of Magnor's neck. While his teeth puncture our neck, sending blood flooding down our throat and into our stomach, he doesn't crush my windpipe.





Somehow, he is able to pin Magnor underneath him, holding him to the ground. Magnor begins slicing at him with his back paws, scratching huge wounds into his stomach and chest, but still Oskar doesn't let go.

His growl of anger and fury is right beside our face, and I make eyes contact with him. Because of that, I see when his eye turns from anger to surprise a moment before I see the blade at his throat.

"Tell the Moon Goddess that Magnor and Damara send their regards," my mate says, before slicing his throat open, sending a spray of blood all over Magnor and onto herself.

As he collapses, dead beside me, I shift back, pulling Claire into my arms.

"Are you okay, are you hurt?" I ask her.

"I should be asking you that," she says as I hear the howl of retreat.

The wolves around us begin to race off of our pack lands. I force myself to my feet, Claire







at my side, and I see him. That fucking bastard Roman. Just like in the last timeline, he stops at the border and turns to me, pointing two fingers at his eyes and then one at me. He's watching me.

I snarl a warning at him and he smirks before taking off.

"How did he get out?" Claire asks me.

"Someone let him out. I'm guessing it was our mole." I say, coughing up blood.

"You need to sit down. The battle is won for today. You need to give Magnor some time to heal you," Claire says to me.

"I'll be fine, especially when I have you near me," I say, sitting and pulling her into my lap.

Dane comes running up. "Alpha, are you okay?"

"Yeah, I just need to heal. We need to get rid of the bodies. Franco's and Ivy's." I say, looking to where Claire killed Ivy's wolf, but when I look, I see that her wolf is gone.





Ivy got away again.

Oskar POV

I jolt awake, ready to fight, but instead, I'm in a beautiful field with flowers and sunshine. I can see butterflies floating on the breeze and hear the sounds of small critters moving around in the grass.

I stand up, looking around. Wasn't I just in a battle, a battle I was losing?

I take a few steps and realize that I have no pain. I look at my flank where Magnor just ripped my flesh away. My leg is whole. I look down, gently putting my broken leg on the ground and realizing that it is no longer broken.

"You're healed, Oskar. You won't have any pain here."

I look up and see a woman, dressed in white robes, shrouded in light.

"Mother," I say, bowing my head to the mother of all werewolves.





Her hand comes to my head, her fingers running through my fur.

“Oskar, you were one of my strongest wolves, my fiercest fighters. Unfortunately, you were paired with a greedy human that only wanted money and power.”

While I know she’s right, I feel obligated to defend my human. “Franco wasn’t always that way,” I say.

“No, he wasn’t, but he has been for a very long time. Longer than even you know,” she says.

“What do you mean?”

“It’s a long story, but I gave Magnor a choice, a choice to choose his mate over his human. To make his human an omega for a year so he could see what it was like to live under his rule. A year later, I gave Damara a choice to continue in her death or give her mate bond with Magnor another chance. In both instances, the wolves chose their mate over their human. And in both of those instances, your human killed or was directly responsible





for their deaths.”

“I don’t understand,” I tell her.

“Magnor and Damara are in their third lifetime, living this same year. It’s their last chance, and I hope that they will make it this time, that they will finally come together as they were meant to be,” she says.

I bow my head. “I never found my mate.”

“No, you didn’t. And that was because of your human. Your mate has always been close to you, but your human set things in motion that kept you from finding her. In Magnor and Damara’s first timeline, she died because of your mate. In the second, she lived, but you and she died before you could find her. If I’m being honest with you, I would have expected your human to reject her anyway, wanting someone stronger than an omega for a mate.”

I growl, angry that I was never given the chance to meet my mate, never to lay eyes on her.







“Even though your human’s heart is tainted, yours has always remained pure, Oskar. So, I’m willing to give you the same choice that I gave Magnor and Damara. You can choose your human or your mate. However, in your instance, you will be paired with a new human, someone you don’t know.”

“But how will that work? Don't they have their own wolf?”

“They did, but when their mate was killed, at the hands of your human no less, the wolf chose to leave his human, wanting to leave the worldly life and stay here with me and his mate. That was his choice.”

“But won’t the human remember his wolf?”

“No, but you will remember. You will know. You will keep your Alpha genes, but you will not be in the body of an Alpha human. You will have to decide if choosing your mate is worth losing your Alpha status.”

She looks at me, her hand stroking down my face. “Of course, as an Alpha wolf, who knows what you could achieve with the right





human pairing. In the end, Oskar, it is your decision. If you want to stay here with me, I am happy to have you. But if you want a chance to meet your mate, to have a life with her, I will give you that chance.”

I look around. “What about Franco?”

“Franco will go where humans with no wolves go. He will not be here, and I will not give him access to my lands.”

“I would never see him again?”

“If you choose the new human, you will never see Franco again, not even in the afterlife. It is a big decision, Oskar. You are welcome to take your time and decide.”

I think about it. All I ever wanted was my mate. I loved Franco for a long time, but the Moon Goddess is right, his mind and his heart turned. He didn’t care about me, or anyone else. All he cared about was money and power.”

I turn, looking up at the Mother of us all.





“I choose my mate.”

“A good choice, my child,” she says, and her hand passes over my eyes, sending me into darkness.





## Chapter 131: Survivors

Claire

I help Tereshan to stand, the gash in his neck and his blood loss has him leaning against me as he gives Dane instructions.

“Alpha Tereshan.”

We turn and see Beta Holden, his hands up.

“I called the pack to retreat. I’d like to take my Alpha’s body and bury him properly.”

Tereshan pulls away from me, standing on his own, showing no weakness in front of a possible threat. He not-so-subtly pushes me behind him.

“I’m not here to hurt your mate. I know Francine was....I know who she was. I just want to take my Alpha and go back to my pack lands.”

“I saw that Roman escaped,” Tereshan says.







Beta Holden nods. "That was Alpha Eason's job, to get Roman out while we fought you and your pack."

"Roman will kill you," Tereshan tells him. We both know it's true, even if Holden doesn't.

"My Alpha and my mate are dead. Honestly, death is the kindest thing that could happen to me right now," he says.

"Take your Alpha, bury him, and watch your back. If you change your mind and need a place to live, it doesn't have to be my pack, but there are other packs that would take you in."

"Thank you, Alpha." He grabs Alpha Franco's body and swings it over his shoulders.

"I never considered you an honorable man, an honorable Alpha, but I see I was wrong about you," Holden says, looking up at Tereshan.

"You weren't wrong about me. It took me finding my mate and learning a lot of hard lessons to make me into the man I've become





today.”

He nods, heading out. Tereshan doesn't move as he leaves, protecting me in case he turns.

When he finally crosses the borders, Tereshan relaxes and stands out of his fighting stance, turning to Dane.

“Find out how many of our warriors are injured. Get them inside and make sure they get medical attention.”

“Yes, Alpha,” he says before jogging off.

Tereshan turns to me. “I want to tell you that you should have stayed inside, but of course, I knew you wouldn't. I didn't and in the end, it's takes both of us,” he says, taking my hand.

“Together, right?” I ask him.

A ghost of a smile spreads across his face and his hand strokes my cheek. “Definitely together.”

For a moment, the sounds of chaos and





craziness fall away. “We survived the first battle. It takes several months for the next one to occur, at least, it has in the past. It will take time for Franco’s pack to reestablish an Alpha,” I say.

Tereshan frowns. “That’s true.”

I smile reaching my hand up and gently cupping his bloody face. “After we make sure that everyone is safe, we figure out how Roman got out and you are healed, it’s time for you to mark me, Alpha.” I say, smiling smugly.

He growls possessively, pulling me to him. He knows I’m right. Now is the best time for us become a fully marked and mated pair. And since I believe that is the only way we will survive in this timeline, I intend to make sure it happens.

“Oh, my little mate. How do you make my heart soar when there is so much death around us?” he asks.

“Not our death, Alpha. We will survive.”





“Together,” we say at the same time.

“Come on, let’s go check to make sure the other safe rooms are unbreeched and that everyone in your group is okay.”

As we walk, he turns to me. “How did they do?” he asks me.

“Jacoby is very proud of that belt you made him, and man is he good with those hatchets.”

Tereshan smiles. “He really is. He was very proud to get the belt from me, but he deserved it.”

“Yes, he did,” I say as we step into the back of the packhouse. There is shattered glass everywhere.

Tereshan frowns. “How many were there?”

“Seven. They broke through just as I was about to go into the safe room. They chased me and that’s how they ended up attacking our safe room,” I tell him.

When we get there, Jacoby is standing guard







at the broken door. They've moved it so that it offers them some protection.

"Stand down, Jacoby. It's just me," Tereshan says, before helping them all out of the room. He pats Elise on the head as she passes, making her beam with pride.

"Nice job, all of you. You protected your Luna, I'm very proud of you."

They all stand a little straighter at that. "See, I told you we'd make our Alpha proud," I say.

We go to the other safe rooms, using the secret knock to let them know it's us and it's safe to come out. Once everyone is out, the omegas begin to clean up the mess.

"Claire, I need to go down to the cells. I need to find out how Roman got out and who let him out," he says.

"I'm coming with you," I tell him.

"That's not necessary."

I look at him. "Together, remember?"





“Let me wash some of this blood off first,” he says, going into a bathroom beside the kitchen area. While he scrubs his arms, chest and face, Feena comes rushing up to me.

“Is Dane alright? Is he hurt?” she asks frantically.

“No. Well, he might have gotten injured, but he’s healthy enough that he’s in charge of clean up outside,” I tell her.

“Thank you, Luna,” Feena says, rushing outside to check on Dane.

Tereshan comes out of the bathroom and takes my hand. “Let’s go see what happened.”

We’re almost to the cell doors when Lucy runs up to us.

“Alpha! Luna! Have you seen Jesiah? I haven’t seen him. Is he okay? Is he injured?”

“I’m right here, Lucy. I was just coming to find you,” Jesiah says, jogging up to us.

Lucy turns, racing into his arms and kissing





him.

I look up at Tereshan.

“My mate and I still mark and mate first,” he growls, making me smile before turning and heading down the stairs into the cells, tugging me along behind him.

As soon as he opens the door, we smell it. Blood.

“Bryson.” I say, worrying that he was caught down here, alone when the rescue mission occurred.

Tereshan pushes me behind him again as we descend the stairs. He looks right and I follow his gaze to see the door of what must have been Roman’s cell practically ripped off its hinges.

He turns left and we’ve barely taken two steps when he stops.

“Bryson?” he calls out.

“Hey Alpha, I think I found your mole,” Bryson says.





## Chapter 132: Chaos

Tereshan

I had been so focused on the upcoming battle that I hadn't paid much attention to anything else, not the call from the jeweler saying Claire's jewelry was ready for pick up, not the call from Eric saying he had information for me and not Bryson, sitting in the cells.

As I descend the stairs and the scent of blood fills my nose, I regret not making time for him. I believe him that he didn't want to betray me and knowing how strong my bond is to Claire, without even having my mark on her, I can only imagine how strong it will be once I mark her. There's isn't much I wouldn't do for her now, if I had the choice to leave the pack to make her happy, I'd probably do it too.

When I call out to Bryson, it's with a heavy heart. He was trapped down here, unable to fight. But when he says he thinks he found my mole, I race to his cell. There, lying on







the floor is Tucker. He must have used the chaos of the battle to come down here. Beside him are the keys to the cell, but when I look, Bryson's cell is still locked and he's sitting on his cot.

Tucker's neck has been snapped. He's laying at an odd angle on the floor.

"What happened?" I ask, keeping Claire tucked behind me. I don't completely distrust Bryson, but I don't trust him either.

"Tucker was spouting off about how he got Alpha Eason onto the pack lands. That's who let Roman out, in case you're wondering. Roman didn't waste any time racing up the stairs and making his escape, Eason right behind him, but Tucker had to come over here and taunt me, talking about what a great fuck Ivy is, telling me I was always a pussy, that I was your little fuck-boy."

He shrugs. "He was always an asshole, and I may have released Ivy and left the pack, but I never betrayed you. Not like he did. So, when he got close enough, forgetting that I used to be a Gamma and I'm fast, I pulled him





against the bars and eventually got my hands on him, snapping his neck.”

I look down, kicking the keys. “Why didn’t you let yourself out? Why didn’t you run?” I ask him.

He looks up at me. “You’re my Alpha. This is my pack. I know I was wrong. I deserve the punishment. You didn’t let me out. Until you do, until you decide I’ve been punished enough, I’ll take my punishment,” he says, making me feel even more guilty for putting off his release.

Claire moves around me, looking at Bryson.

“What do you want, Bryson?”

He smiles sardonically. “Well, Luna, I’ve had a lot of time to think about that. After everything that Ivy did to me, after all the mental games, I just want to become part of the pack again. I want to prove that I’m worthy of being a member of this pack. I know I’ll never be a Gamma again, but that doesn’t mean that I can’t contribute something. I’m strong, I’m a good warrior. I’





ve heard the conversations about the omegas training. I'd be willing to help them get stronger, or whatever else you want me to do."

I bend down, picking up the keys. "I'm still not sure what I'm going to do with you, Bryson, but I'm releasing you."

I toss him the keys. "But know this, if you ever betray me, if you ever release another prisoner from my cells again, I'll kill you."

He walks to the door, putting the key in the lock and turning it. "There's only one person that I would have done that for, Alpha, and that was my mate. Since I no longer have a mate, there's no worry of that," he says, stepping out of the cell.

"Your room has been given to Jesiah. I'll have to find you a room on the omega wing," I tell him.

"I'll take whatever room you give me, Alpha," he says, making me feel like a complete jerk. But I have to remember what he did, why he's down here. He made the choice that put him





here.

“Okay then,” I say, and I feel Claire’s hand go into mine. She feels my guilt over not letting Bryson out sooner. I look down at my little mate and smile at her. I can’t wait to mark her. I want to know what she’s thinking and feeling all the time.

‘Feena, do we have a spare room on the omega wing?’ I ask her in the mind link.

‘Yes, Alpha. When do you need it prepared?’

‘Now. It’s for Bryson.’”

‘I’ll take care of it,’ she says.

We walk up the stairs, entering the room off the kitchen. There are omegas everywhere and the floor is already nearly clear of glass.

“Nice job, everyone,” I say, meaning it. The smiles from my omegas just reinforce how much I need to remember to encourage and appreciate them and all of their hard work.

I hear a gasp a moment before I hear a tray







fall to the floor, glass shattering. I turn to see Nita, her hand covering her mouth as she looks at Bryson, her eyes wide.

I look at Bryson, seeing that his eyes are wide. "Mate?" he asks frowning, as if it's a question.

Nita races from the room, nearly colliding with Feena as she passes her.

Feena watches her then turns to us. "What happened?"

I look at Bryson, whose mouth is opening and closing like a fish out of water.

"How? Why?" he stammers.

"Apparently, Bryson just found his second chance mate." I say.

Feena turns to look in the direction that Nita ran.

Now her eyes go wide. "Nita?" she asks incredulously.

"Nita." Bryson says reverently. Then he





shakes his head.

“No. NO! I don’t want another mate. I’ve suffered enough! Why would the Moon Goddess do this to me?” he yells racing out of the packhouse in the opposite direction of Nita.

“That didn’t go well at all,” Claire says, frowning as she watches Bryson race off into the woods.

‘Alpha, we need you at the border,’ a patrol says through the mind link.

I sigh. ‘What is it?’

‘We have an unconscious rogue just outside our pack borders.’

‘Unconscious?’

‘Yes, Alpha, and he doesn’t smell like the battle. I’m not sure what happened to him, but he needs help.’

‘I’m on my way,’ I say, looking at Claire.





“There’s a rogue at the border, I need to go see what’s going on.”

“I’m coming with you,” she says, taking my hand.

I smile, not wanting to argue. I mind link Dane to find Bryson and let him know I’ll meet with him when I get back.

When we get to the border, I see the rogue, looking around dazed, but the moment I smell him, I recognize his scent.

I snarl racing forward, taking him by throat and lifting him off the ground.

“Why do you smell like Oskar?” I growl.

I watch as the rogue’s eyes darken. “The Moon Goddess sends her regards to Magnor and Damara.”





## Chapter 133: Weston

Claire

I'm pretty sure my jaw drops when Oskar says nearly the same words to us that I said to him.

I step up beside Tereshan, but he uses his free hand to keep me back.

"Oskar?" I ask.

"Yes, Luna." He looks from me to Tereshan.

"Tereshan, put him down," I say.

"Claire...."

"You don't have to release him, but I want to know why Oskar is in this body," I tell him.

When Tereshan sets the rogue down, Oskar looks at me. "The Moon Goddess works in mysterious ways, wouldn't you say? One might say that she allows you to choose your own destiny, if only you make the right







choice.”

“And what choice did you make?” Tereshan snarls.

“A new beginning, one where I hope to find my mate,” he says.

“How are you in this body?” I ask him.

“Weston is my human,” he says. He’s being careful in his choice of words. I’m guessing his human has no idea what's going on.

“And what does Weston remember from his life before now?” I ask, trying to be careful too, but also trying to figure out what's happening.

“My human has no memory of his previous life, only that I am his wolf, and your mate is holding us by our throat for no reason.”

“Oh, there’s a reason,” Tereshan says, pulling Oskar to him and getting in his face.

“Nooooo! Alpha, please!” We hear a familiar voice behind us, just as Oskar’s face relaxes





and his eyes close. He takes a deep breath.

“Mate!” he says, reverently.

“Oh for fuck’s sake, not again!” Tereshan snaps, nearly making me laugh out loud. However, Vivienne’s terrified voice as she rushes in between Tereshan and the rogue takes all the mirth out of me.

“Please, Alpha, don’t kill him. I’ll make up for whatever he did. I’m sure he’s sorry. Please don’t kill him,” Vivienne begs.

“Vivienne...” I can practically feel the ice in Tereshan’s heart for this rogue melting, knowing that he is Vivienne’s mate.

“Please Alpha,” she drops to her knees, putting her hands in a prayer position in front of her face, looking up at him. “Please don’t kill him. I’ll do anything.”

Tereshan sighs, scrubbing his face with his free hand while I go to Vivienne, and try to pull her up to her feet.

“Vivienne, Tereshan won’t kill your mate.” I





say, turning and giving him a look like he better not.

“He just needs to know what’s going on,” I say.

As soon as I have her on her feet, Weston or Oskar, I’m not sure which, pulls her to him, wrapping his arms around her as best he can while Tereshan still have a hold in his throat.

Tereshan releases his him and Vivienne turns, the two of them holding on to each other.

“Hello mate,” Weston says softly.

Vivienne pulls back and looks at Weston shyly. “Hello.”

Weston looks up at Tereshan.

“I’m sorry, Alpha. As my wolf told you, I don’t remember anything before today, before waking up just now. I opened my eyes, and you were here.”

I can feel Tereshan’s agitation at everything





that is happening around us, two sets of mates finding each other, both of which are unexpected and at the worst possible time.

“Why don’t we go inside, Tereshan. We can talk to Weston and he and Vivienne can get to know each other better,” I say.

“Yeah, fine. But if you attack anyone in my pack, I’ll kill you. I don’t care how much Vivienne will hate me,” Tereshan says, but I can feel the lie in him. He would never do anything to make Vivienne hate him. He might throw this rogue into the cells, but he won’t kill him.

Weston wraps his arm around Vivienne, looking at her and kissing her nose in such a sweet way that I look at Tereshan.

‘Do you think that Franco was her mate all along? I mean, his attack is what killed her in the first timeline. And his attacks are what kept him from getting close to her in both timelines. She could have been his mate and he would never have known.’ I say to him in the mind link.







‘Honestly, I have no idea. But I think that asshole Franco would have rejected her. If not, he might have put her in that fucking brothel! I feel like the world is tilting on its axis right now. What the fuck is with all the mate bonds?’ he asks, and I can tell he’s feeling frustrated.

I stop, pulling him to a stop with me, reaching up and caressing his cheek. “It will be okay, Tereshan. We’ll figure it all out.” I say softly, wanting to soothe his frustration. It’s been a very trying day.

He sighs, leaning into my hand and letting his eyes fall closed before turning his head and kissing my palm. “And this is why we are the perfect team. This, dealing with people, is your arena and mine is the battle. Although, it’s been a long day and all I really want to do is get some sleep. We still have a lot of our own plans to make before the next battle, which hopefully won’t happen until closer to our birthdays. By then, there’s no way we’ll fail.”

“My love, even if the battle comes tomorrow,





we will defeat them, as long as we're together," I say.

"Fuck, I love you," he says, picking me up.

"Good, because I want your mark on my neck, Alpha. And I want it soon."

His mouth is on mine in an instant, his tongue plunging into my mouth, dominating mine, claiming me. My arms and legs wrap around him, and I get lost in my love and desire for my mate as I feel the same emotions flowing back from him.

Tereshan pulls away from me, growling loudly.

"What Dane?" he snarls, not looking away from me.

"Alpha, you asked me to bring Bryson to you."

I don't look away from Tereshan, running my fingers through his hair at the nape of his neck. I can feel his body shiver at my touch.





“Dane, work with Feena to find a room for Weston. If Vivienne chooses to stay with him, that’s up to her. Put a guard on his door. Find a place on our side of the house for Bryson tonight, Tereshan and I will talk to him in the morning.”

“Yes, Luna,” he says, and I see him and Bryson walking away from the corner of my eye.

“Something on your mind, my little Luna?” Tereshan asks.

I look at my mark on his neck, reaching down to stroke it with my fingers. “It’s time, Tereshan. It’s time to make me yours. It’s time for me to wear your mark.”

“Finally!” he says, taking my mouth in a passionate kiss again, as he walks me into the packhouse and up to our room.





## Chapter 134: Mating....

Tereshan

I take a split second while I'm walking Claire up to our bedroom to mind link Dane.

"You're in charge. Short of another pack war, don't bother me."

"Happy marking, Alpha," he says, before I cut the mind link and return my focus to my mate. This time, I intend to make sure that it's good for her.

I walk us into our room, still kissing her, still dominating her mouth with my tongue. I've explored every inch of this body over the past few weeks. I know what makes my little mate, shiver, what makes her moan and tonight, I plan to find out what makes her scream in pleasure.

I walk into the bathroom, turning on the water in the shower before setting her on the counter. Still, I don't release her mouth,







ripping her clothes off her body before extending my claws and slicing through the shorts I put on earlier before going into the cells.

When Claire pulls away, gasping for air, I move to her neck, kissing, licking and nipping my way down her throat. She lifts her chin, giving me full access to her soft, sensitive throat. When I get to her marking spot, I lick and suck on it until she's moaning, her legs tightening around me, pulling me even closer to her.

I flick my tongue over her sensitive marking spot once more before pulling back.

"Time to wash the smell of blood and war off of us. When I make you mine, I only want the scent of lemons in my nose, and for you, only blueberries." I say, licking the seam of her lips and taking another taste of her sweet lemony flavor.

"Yes," she says on a breathy sigh.

I carry her to the shower, her legs still wrapped around me. While she holds on to





me, I let the water run over her hair before pouring shampoo into my hands and massaging it into her hair and onto her scalp. When I'm done, I lean her head back, rinsing all the shampoo out before grabbing conditioner and running my fingers through her hair, pulling the conditioner through it.

As I do, she leans forward, kissing my shoulder, moving toward my throat before licking her mark on my neck. The sensation makes my already hard cock twitch and throb even harder. I know she can feel it pressing up against her. Thankfully, she doesn't seem frightened of it or me anymore.

I step under the water, rinsing her hair as she continues her assault on my neck. When I'm done, I put my hands on her hips and lift my chin, exposing my throat to her, just as she did to me. She's my mate and she is the only person in the world that I will be vulnerable for.

I moan loudly as she nips and lick her way up my throat before biting my chin.

"You're turn," she says, looking at me.





I turn, putting my hair under the water and grabbing the shampoo for her. She takes it in her hand and washes all the caked-on blood out before grabbing more shampoo and washing it again.

When she's done, I set her on her feet and in what has become a more normal routine, we begin to wash each other. Her greedy hands are everywhere, and as the soap rinses off of me, her mouth replaces her hands on my chest and my stomach, moving lower.

"Claire, tonight is about you," I say, wrapping my hand in her hair.

She looks up at me before flicking her tongue over the tip of my cock. "Tonight is about us," she says before taking me in her mouth.

I slap my hand on the wall of the shower.  
"Fuck, Claire."

I look down at my sweet little mate, whose eyes are looking back up at me.

"You are so fucking sexy."





I gently grab onto her hair, holding her head as I slide myself inside her warm mouth until I hit the back of her throat. Instantly she moans, nearly making me blow my load right there.

“Claire...” I growl warningly at her.

Instead of heeding my warning, she sucks on me, taking me in until I hit the back of her throat again and then in a surprise move, she pushes forward, taking me into her throat.

“Oh, fuck, Claire.”

I can feel her gagging around me, the sensation making my cock throb even harder. She pulls off of me, gasping for air.

“Come here,” I growl at her.

She shakes her head. “I want your blueberry taste in my mouth.”

This time, she doesn’t hesitate, she sucks me in, sliding me down her throat.

“Claire!” It’s all the warning I can give her







before my orgasm rips through me, my cum shooting into her mouth, while she sucks on me, her tongue pressing against the underside of my cock while she continues to suck me off.

When I finally come down, my body drained, I look down and see a very self-satisfied look on her face. She takes her thumb and wipes the side of mouth, licking it clean as she looks up at me.

“Yum.”

I scoop her up into my arms, shutting off the shower.

“My turn,” I say, carrying her into the bedroom and laying her on the bed.

I take her mouth in a possessive kiss, tasting myself on her tongue. I kiss her until she begins to moan. Then I start to make my way down her throat. I lick and suck on her marking spot, feeling her pushing her hips against mine. My canines come out and I scrap them over her mark, but I’m not rushing this. I have all night and I intend to take my





time.

I move down her body, cupping her breast and sucking her nipple into my mouth. My canines are still out and they slice into her breast making her gasp, but as I suck on her nipple, she arches up into my mouth. I move my hand to her other breast, plucking her already hardened nipple as I swirl my tongue around the one in my mouth.

“Tereshan,” she whimpers softly, her hands in my hair.

I pull off her nipple with a soft ‘pop’.

“Mmmm, I love when you say my name like that.”

I move over to the other nipple, my canines having retracted so I can really suck her nipple into my mouth.

One hand moves to her other still-wet nipple as my other hand moves between us, sliding over her clit, making her jerk before moving between her thighs. She’s soaking wet for me, and I need to taste her.





I begin kissing my way down her body before pulling one leg over my shoulder. I look up and see her desire-filled eyes looking back at me.

As I watch her, I slide a finger inside her. She gasps, her eyes nearly rolling back into her head, but she forces herself to stay focused on me. I begin sliding my finger slowly in and out, watching her reaction, wanting to make sure that my sweet mate never forgets our marking night.

I hold her gaze as I slide the second finger inside her, beginning to stroke her a bit faster as her hips begin to push against me, wanting more.

“Faster, Tereshan,” she begs.

“Is this what you want?” I ask, moving my fingers faster and harder inside her before adding a third finger. She arches even more, breaking eye contact, and I dive between her thighs, sucking her clit in my mouth and tasting her sweet lemon taste.

“TERESHAN!” She screams as her body





begins bucking against me. I use my free arm to pin one leg against the bed and I lick and suck her sweet lemon flavor like a man possessed. Fuck she tastes so good.

I feel her body clamp down on my fingers, but I don't stop, I don't want to. I'm overcome with desire for my mate, drowning in the taste of her, a taste that I will never, ever get enough of.

I bring her up and over three more times before I finally pull off of her. My face is slick with her sweet juices as I move over her. She's panting as she looks up at me.

"Are you ready, my mate? Ready to be mine forever?"

"Yes, yes I want to be yours."

I line myself up at her entrance and only now do I truly understand her fear. Even though I've stretched her out more than I ever have, she's still so small. I'll never fit, not without tearing her.

I feel a wave of fear go through me. I don't







want to hurt her. I don't want her to think that I don't love her, that I don't care.

She takes my face in her hands. "I was made for you, remember?"

"You were right, Claire, I'm too big for you."

"You were made for me, Tereshan. We both know this first time will hurt. I'm ready for that. I want you inside me. I want to feel you stretching me."

Fuck I want it too, so desperately.

"Make me yours, Tereshan," she says, lifting her hips and just pushing the head of my cock inside her.

"Make me yours," she whispers again.

I grab hold of the headboard, holding tightly so I don't push too hard or too fast and I slowly begin to push inside her.

I feel the headboard give way under my grasp and I grab another part of it, forcing myself to go slowly, my claws coming out and





puncturing the bed as I use every ounce of strength I have not to bury myself inside of her and tear her.

When I reach a thin barrier, I look at her, she already has tears running down her face.

I lean down, kissing her cheek. "I have to thrust hard. Once, until I'm all the way in and then I'll let you adjust. I have to break your hymen."

"Do it," she says tearfully.

"I love you, Claire," I say as I reach down and take her mouth in a possessive kiss once more.

As soon as I feel her relax, I thrust into her, burying myself in her tight, warm body.





## Chapter 135: ...and Marking

Claire

I feel like my body is being torn in two. Maybe it is. Tereshan tried to distract me, he took his time, and then he kissed me until I lost myself. That is until he thrust inside me, and I swear I could feel my body ripping apart.

True to his word, once he was inside me, he stops, resting his head against mine.

“I can smell blood. Are you okay?” he asks me.

I nod, not able to speak yet, the pain still too recent. My throat has clamped closed.

Tereshan begins kissing my tears.

“I love you,” he says, then kisses a tear.

“I love you,” he says, before kissing another teary spot.





He does this over and over as he kisses my tears away. Then, as my body adjusts to his size, and I can breathe again, I realize I want him to move, not fast, but I need something, some kind of friction.

I slowly move my hips, feeling him pull out of me and then as I push against him, feeling him slide back inside me.

“How are you feeling?” he asks, holding still, letting me move and set the pace.

“Better,” I say.

“Let me know when you want me to start moving again.”

“Now is good, just...slow.”

He’s at a better angle so he’s able to pull out more and slide in. After a couple of times, I begin to love the way he feels inside me, stretching me, but also like scratching an itch, rubbing a spot that needs to be stroked, rubbed.

“Faster,” I say and he lifts up, looking at me.







“Yeah?” he asks as he begins to move faster.

“Yes, oh yes.”

“Fuck Claire, you feel so good.”

“You’re starting to feel really good too,” I tell him.

I’ve had enough orgasms now to know that my body is moving toward that blissful pleasure. Somehow, this feels even better than anything else that we’ve done. I love the feel of him inside me, it’s still foreign, but having my body wrapped tightly around him, feeling him possess my body this way, is a whole other level of pleasure.

I reach up, wanting to be closer to him, pulling him to me and taking his mouth in a passionate kiss. I kiss him until he pulls my leg up and somehow, he is able to get even deeper inside me.

I pull away from the kiss, gasping and arching.

“Tereshan.”





“Yes, my love, say my name.”

His words are slurred and when I open my eyes, I see his canines are out again.

“Yes,” I say, knowing that I’m so close to being his.

“Say it again,” he says, moving even faster inside me.

“Tereshan,” I gasp.

And he begins thrusting so hard and fast and I can do nothing but hold on to him. When I feel like I’m on the edge of my orgasm, I lift my head, turning to give Tereshan access to my marking spot.

Just as my body falls over the cliff and into ecstasy, I scream his name and his canines sink into my neck. Instantly it’s like flares going off behind my eyes. My body jerks and contracts so hard, it’s only his strength that holds me in place, I scream as I feel his venom flooding into my system, smell his scent mixing with mine. The feel of his teeth in my neck the final part of the bond





snapping into place has my body spasming in the longest, strongest orgasm I've ever had.

I feel my canines extend and Damara pushes forward, snapping her canines into Tereshan's marking spot, remarking him and claiming him as ours again.

He roars in pleasure as I feel his body jerk inside me, shooting warm ropes of cum into my body, coating my insides.

As our bodies come down, he pulls his canines out of my neck and I do the same, both of us licking the wounds to close them.

He runs his nose over mine, purring loudly.

"You're mine now, little mate. No one and nothing can ever take you from me now."

He slides out of me, lying beside me and curling up around me, pulling me against his chest.

"Goddess, Claire, I knew you were sweet and kind, but now, feeling your emotions, feeling your love, it's like nothing I've ever felt





before. You, my sweet little mate, are now the addiction that I could never live without.”

I lift my head up and look at him. “I love you, Tereshan. If you had asked me a couple of years ago, I would never have thought that we’d be here. But I love you more than anything in the world,” I tell him, letting my love flow through me.

He growls softly, pulling me to him and wrapping himself more tightly around me. I fall asleep, but soon enough, I’m awake. I want more. Tereshan has awakened something in me and even though I’m still sore, I want to feel him inside me again.

His hand begins stroking my back. “I could definitely get used to being awakened with these thoughts on your mind,” he says, looking down at me.

“But aren't you sore?”

“Yes, but I want you inside me again,” I say honestly, letting him feel the ache that has started deep inside me again.







He takes my hips, pulling me on top of him. “You control the pace in this position. You’ll be able to take me even deeper, and if it’s too much, we’ll try a different position, but I want to see my sweet little make taking her pleasure while riding my cock.”

I bite my lower lip, feeling greedy at the thought of having him even deeper inside me than before. I straddle his hips and he helps to guide me I move over him, hovering over the tip. I look up at him, feeling powerful as I watch desire flare into his eyes as I slide down his cock, until I’m seated on top of him, having taken him inside me fully.

“Proud of yourself?” he asks, but I can hear the burning desire behind the tease.

“Almost,” I say as I begin to move.

His hands come to my hips, guiding my movements. “Lean forward, put your hands on the headboard.”

I do as he says and find that this position gives me the leverage I need to move, and it has the added benefit of adding friction to my





clit.

I begin to move, loving the feel of him, loving that I can watch his face as I move. He lifts his head, taking my nipple into his mouth, starting to slowly lick and flick then slowly sucking harder, nipping me. His hand comes to my other breast, gently tugging and twisting and I begin to feel heat pooling inside me again.

“Tereshan,” I cry, and I start to move faster, bouncing on him so he lays his head back, using his hands instead.

“You’re so fucking beautiful riding me like this, Claire.”

I whimper, feeling the orgasm getting closer. His hands come to my hips, moving me even faster.

“That’s right, my little mate, come all over my cock.”

Just as he says it, I feel the pleasure rip through me, my head falling back as my inner walls clamp down on Tereshan, making him





growl loudly, the bed shaking.

I continue grinding down on him until I feel him thrust upward hard, his hands pushing my hips down on him at the same time as his body begins to jerk.

I watch as my mate empties himself inside me once again before collapsing on top of him.

“Better?” he asks chuckling.

“For now,” I say, before falling into blissful sleep, with Tereshan still inside me.





## Chapter 136: Mates

Tereshan

I took my mate once more in the night and again in the morning. She wanted more, but I know her body can't take any more, at least not yet. Damara feels stronger, but I need to prepare for Claire's heat, and I need to know how fast her body will heal before I make love to her again.

This morning when I get up, after listening to my little mate scream her pleasure again and holding her until she fell asleep, I head to the shower, letting her stay in bed. I have a lot to do before she goes into heat, and she needs to be well rested before that. Once she goes into heat, neither of us will be getting a lot of sleep.

I get ready and head to training, everyone turning to look at me as I walk out.

"Problem?"







They all begin to cheer and hoot at me.

I shake my head at them, but I can't stop the smile that spreads across my face. I notice that Weston is at training today and Dane has him paired with Vivienne. I'm a bit surprised, but glad that I don't see a mark on either of them yet.

After training, I walk up to Weston. "I want to talk to you today, but I have some other things to do this morning. Let's plan to meet over lunch." I say to him.

"Yes, Alpha."

"Can I come too, Alpha?" Vivienne asks me.

I look at her then back at Weston. "I'll leave that up to you, Weston."

He nods and I head inside to find Feena. I ask her how long it will take for her to put together a celebration dinner for Claire's Luna ceremony and also about food for the mating house.

"I already have the food for the mating house





set aside, Alpha. The food is ready to thaw, or quick and easy food like fresh fruits and vegetables and lots of water. I'll make sure the house is stocked."

"Thank you. What about the ceremony?"

"I can be ready in two days, Alpha."

"Two days," I agree, thinking about the things I need to do to get ready for her ceremony. I want her officially in place as my Luna before she goes into heat.

"How is Nita?" I ask, knowing I need to deal with the other mate bond from yesterday.

"Honestly, not good. She's pretty shaken and from what Dane said, so is Bryson."

"I'll talk to Bryson. Let me know if you think I need to talk to Nita. Also, Claire is still asleep, I'd like her to stay that way as long as possible. But later, I need to run out and get the jewelry set I had made for her. I'd like her to have it for her Luna ceremony."

"Don't forget a dress, Alpha."





I look at her a moment. “Shit, yeah, I’ll get that too.”

“Perfect.”

I go back to our room, seeing that Claire has curled up around my pillow, her face buried in it. I go over and kiss her head before quickly showering. I change and head to my office, mind linking Bryson to join me.

He arrives shortly after I do with food.

“Feena said you haven’t eaten breakfast,” he says by way of greeting.

I move to the table, Feena having sent food for both of us.

“Talk to me,” I say as I begin to eat, noting that he’s mostly moving his food around his plate, not eating.

“What am I going to do, Alpha? We already know that I’m terrible with mates. Ivy did a number on my confidence and trust in the mate bond. How will I ever overcome that?”

“I don’t know the answer to that. But what I





will say is don't reject your mate until you get to know her. Give her a chance. I won't say that her life has been harder than yours, but I will say that her life hasn't been easy, especially recently."

"What do you mean?" he asks.

"I'm only telling you this because it's common knowledge in the pack. Nita is one of four women that Claire and I rescued from the brothel, not including the two from a few weeks ago. Zoey is Keegan's second chance mate, her sister Amelia, and Jessie...Jessie is a child that came from Zoey's decimated pack. Lucy, Nita and Sadie, Selah's sister, are the other three."

Bryson leans forward, putting his head in his hands. "That's why she ran from me? Maybe it was also because I'd just come from the cells, but it was also because she's terrified of me. Almost as much as I am of her."

He scrubs his hands over his face.

"I'm not saying it will work out. What I'm







saying is, don't just arbitrarily reject her. Talk to her. She's not Ivy, she'll never be Ivy, not after what she's suffered. And you aren't the same type of man that she met in that brothel. I know you well enough to know that you would never hurt a woman, definitely not your mate, no matter how much she hurts you."

He sits back, taking a small bite of food before nodding. "I'll try and talk to her. I'll see if she'll even meet with me. Maybe Feena could sit with us. She seems comfortable in her omega position."

"I think she's happy to be working at something that isn't the work she was being forced into before."

Bryson growls low at that. "I'm glad that asshole Franco is dead."

"Me too, but Roman and Ivy are still a problem, and I'm assuming Eason will be a problem too."

When we finish eating, I walk Bryson to the door. I open it just as Claire reaches up to





knock.

"Oh...I thought I heard voices," she says.

"I was just leaving, Luna. And congratulations," Bryson says as he passes us.

"Thank you, Bryson," she says, watching him walk away.

I take Claire's hand and pull her into my office. She turns to me and smiles. "You didn't wake me for warrior training."

I stroke my fingers down her cheek. "I thought you needed your sleep."

"That's not all I need," she says, pressing herself against me.

I lift her up, her legs wrapping around my waist, her arms circling my neck as I press her against the wall. "Greedy mate. I give you multiple, fantastic orgasms and all you want is more."

"Are you complaining, Alpha?" she asks, her voice deep with desire.





“Only because I want you to heal. I don’t want to wear your body out this week. Next week will be brutal. If you tear too much, it could put too much pressure on your body next week. I just want to be careful and look after you.”

She’s been kissing my throat and my jaw as I’ve been talking. “How long are you going to make me wait?” she asks me.

I pull back and look at her. “If I didn’t know better, I’d say you’ve started your heat already.”

“No, I just want you. I had no idea it would feel like that, like this. I can feel your emotions so much stronger now. I can feel your love for me, your desire for me and it’s melding with mine, mine and Damara’s.”

“Hmmm, that’s a good point. Magnor and Damara need to mate. That may help with your need, my greedy Luna.”

“I’m pretty sure I’ll always want you like this, Tereshan.”





I take her mouth in a rough, passionate kiss. I press my hardened length against her, and she begins to rub herself against me.

I pull away, holding her face away from mine. “Not yet. You know I want you. You can feel it. But I want you to rest today. Tonight, I’ll give you what you want, what we’re both craving.”

She looks down and I swear her bottom lip pushes out.

I reach up, running my thumb over her swollen lip. “No pouting.”

“Tonight’s a very long time from now,” she says. She’s definitely pouting.

I pull away from the wall, carrying her to my desk. With one motion, I swipe the contents of my desk onto the floor before laying Claire on top of it.

Thank the goddess she’s wearing a dress. I lift it up, shredding her panties, holding her onto the desk when she begins to squirm. “I already had breakfast, but I’m hungry little







mate.”

I pin her legs to my desk before diving into the sweetest taste in the world. My mate’s greediness is nothing compared to mine. I open my mind to her, letting her feel how much I crave her taste, her smell, her love. I lick her, taste her, tease her and suck on her clit until she’s hoarse from screaming.

When I finally stop, she’s panting, breathless and exhausted on my desk. I help her up, pulling her dress down.

“Now, I have to go out for a bit. Be a good girl while I’m gone, and I’ll reward you tonight.” I say, kissing her, swiping my tongue into her mouth, possessing her and showing her what’s in store for her when I get back.

“I can be a very good girl, Alpha,” she says coyly when I pull away.

Who the fuck is this little temptress?

“I know you can,” I say, smacking her ass as we exit my office.





## Chapter 137: Need

Claire

I wake up alone, curled up around Tereshan's pillow. I can feel him so much stronger now, and my need for him, my desire for him is unlike anything I've ever felt before.

'It's all four of us,' Damara says.

'What do you mean?' I ask, rolling around in the bed like I'm trying to cover myself in his scent.

'You are. Magnor and I haven't mated yet. Our desire to mate is stronger than yours with Tereshan. We've been waiting for over two years. You'll feel better after he and I mate,' she says and begin purring at the thought. My back arches and I feel hot desire rolling through me.

"I need to find Tereshan," I say out loud to no one.



'Shower first. We smell like sex,' Damara says.

'We smell like him,' I say, but I head to the shower.

When I walk out of our room, I realize my senses are heightened.

'Being marked and mated to an Alpha has helped our senses become closer to what they were when we were in his body,' Damara says.

The feel of strength and power running through me only makes me want Tereshan more. I follow his scent to his office. I'm thankful that Bryson is leaving. I realize that I should care more about what they were talking about, but once Tereshan pulls me into his office and I'm surrounded by his scent of blueberries, I want nothing more than him.

I know he's right that we need to wait, my body is still sore. But it doesn't seem to care. If being in heat is worse than this, I'm in for one crazy week.





After he pins me to his desk and tastes and licks me with his very talented tongue to both of our satisfaction, bringing my sharp need for him down to a dull ache, I feel like I can focus. At least for the moment.

“Work with Feena while I’m gone. I want to make sure that the mating house has everything in it that you want and need. If this is any indication, you won’t last a week before you’re in heat. I want to have your Luna ceremony before then, Feena’s working on that too. And tonight, after weapons training, we’ll take Damara and Magnor out and let them mate. Magnor says that should help you. Damara is feeling a strong need to mark and mate with him as well.”

“Damara basically said the same,” I tell him.

He leans in, meaning to give me a sweet peck on the lips, but I grab him, pulling him to me and sliding my tongue inside his mouth, attempting to dominate the kiss until he takes over and reminds me that he’s the Alpha.

He growls softly as he pulls away. “Maybe we’ll let Magnor and Damara out before







weapons training.”

Damara begins purring loudly. Tereshan chuckles, rubbing his face against hers. “Soon, my love. Very soon.”

Damara’s purr only gets louder. Tereshan’s eyes are black with desire, and I can only assume that mine are the same. I want him again already.

He grabs my hair, pulling my head up to look at him. In the past, I would have been frightened by the move. Now, I arch against him, loving his dominance.

“I have to leave for a bit, and you will not dissuade me, my little temptress. We have things to do. When I get back, I want to talk to Weston and Vivienne. I’d like you to be with me, but not if you’re going to be distracting me like this.”

“You could ease the ache inside me before we meet with them,” Damara’s voice is stronger than mine. Yeah, we need to let her mark Magnor.





Tereshan looks at me a long moment before stepping back and grabbing my hand.

“Change of plans,” he says, pulling me toward the back of the packhouse and into the forest.

“You won’t be able to focus on anything until Damara has her mate. Shift.”

His tone is all dominance, with maybe a little frustration mixed in. I’ve messed up his plans for today, but I don’t care. I’m his mate, I should be his priority.

Somewhere in the back of my mind, I realize this is Damara’s greediness for her mate, but it’s so intertwined with mine, I can’t tell them apart.

I watch Tereshan as I slowly strip off my clothes, his eyes are nearly black by the time I’m done, Magnor pushing forward.

“Run, little one. When I catch you, I’ll finally make you mine,” Magnor’s deep voice says.

Damara doesn’t hesitate. She shifts. As her





paws hit the ground and she takes off, we hear Tereshan's clothes tearing apart with Magnor's shift.

She begins to run full out, giving her mate a good chase, forcing him to show that he's worthy of her. Just like Tereshan, Magnor is stronger and larger than we are, but Damara is agile, and her smaller size gives her access to bushes and trails that are too small for Magnor.

They've been running for over an hour when Magnor leaps, grabbing Damara by the scruff of her neck and pinning her to the ground.

'Got you, my little mate,' he says, lining himself up at her entrance as she arches against him. He holds her by her neck, pinned to the ground while he mates her. And just like Tereshan, once isn't enough.

'Once will never be enough with you, my love,' Tereshan's voice drifts into my mind, distracting me from our wolves' mating.

"Thank you for changing your plans. I can already feel the difference in Damara, which





means I'll be able to function the rest of the day,' I tell him.

'You never have to thank me for taking care of you. Damara needed this. Magnor did too. They've waited a long time to finally be together. I should have thought of that.'

'You can't think of everything, my love,' I tell him as Magnor finally lifts off of Damara. He comes around and licks her face as she submits to him, giving herself fully to him.

'Damn, your wolf is as sweet as you are,' Tereshan says as Magnor begins purring at her and she scoots on the ground, trying to get closer to him. He lays next to her, laying his neck over hers as she wraps around him as best as she can.

'Magnor says he wants to let her rest for a bit then they can mark each other. After that, you should be feeling a whole lot better,' he says.

"Do I still get my reward if I'm a good girl today?" I ask, coyly. The haze of desire may be gone, but the need for my mate still lingers.







“Today and every day, my little temptress,” he says.

When Magnor finally gets up, Damara finds the spot where she wants to leave her mark on his neck, sinking her canines into the spot near his shoulder. He continues to purr at her as she licks the wound then turns his head and marks her.

The final bonds snap into place and I can feel not only my love for Tereshan and his love for me, but also Magnor and Damara’s love for each other. It’s almost overwhelming, the strength and depth of our love for each other.

Now, I think I finally understand what the Moon Goddess wanted us to achieve. We needed to be fully bonded, needed this level of connectedness. Without it, we were never going to defeat our enemies.

Now that we have it, there is no one that can defeat us.





## Chapter 138: Epiphany

Tereshan

After showering again and making sure that Claire was settled and is truly feeling better, I finally head out. As I get in the car, I dial Eric's number, wanting to return his call.

"Alpha Tereshan, finally. I was beginning to think you were ignoring me," he says by way of greeting.

"I was dealing with a pack war."

"I hadn't heard. I hope your pack is safe," he says, the teasing tone gone from his voice.

"Yes, but Alpha Franco is dead."

"Well, that certainly changes things."

"What things?" I ask, as I navigate the road to find a parking spot.

"Well, first, you wanted to know about the brothel. I finally dug up the information. He





found a private investor, a human, who thinks he invested in a nightclub. Obviously, he's never been there, or he'd have realized it is no nightclub."

I think for a moment as I pull into a parking spot. "Contact him. Let him know that Franco is dead and that he now owns a brothel, not a nightclub. They are illegal and it's basically forced prostitution, so I'm guessing he'll want to get it off his books sooner rather than later if he's a wealthy investor."

"I had the same thought, except without Franco being dead. That actually gives me a good excuse to call him, letting him know that the loan is now in default, and he owns an illegal prostitution ring."

"Offer him a decent price to get out of it but underbid it's worth. He'll most likely want out quickly. Let him know I can pay cash by the end of the week if he's willing to sign today."

"Will do. And so, on to the land. That's now a problem since Franco is dead. Not only is





that land behind yours owned by Franco, but the pack border you asked about? That was his too. Who is Alpha now?"

"I haven't heard that they've battled it out yet. But, my previous Beta, Roman Dowry, is going to attempt to take over. I'm guessing he will." I say, knowing Roman will win.

"Is he any good with money?" Eric asks.

"Nope, he's a lazy sack of shit," I say.

"Do you still want me to try to buy that land? If so, I can put in the request now, from an anonymous buyer so it's on the books before the 'new' Alpha takes over. If he doesn't know it's you and doesn't care about that land, he may be willing to sell it."

"Put in the offer. I may end up having to kill the new Alpha depending on who takes over. If so, the land will become mine anyway."

"Will do. And your final ask, about the machinery? My only guess is that Alpha Franco planned to build on that vacant plot of land."







“That doesn’t make sense. I haven’t seen any of the machinery that I’ve heard about and if he’s that in debt, I’d think I’d have seen it.”

“Who knows, now that there will be a new Alpha, they may sell off all that machinery.”

“True, but somehow, I doubt it. If Franco was willing put himself into that much debt, there is a reason. Keep digging on that and let me know about the brothel. I want to put that place out of business by the end of the week.”

“I’ll be in touch later today.”

I hang up and walk into the jeweler.

“Alpha Tereshan, I have your jewelry right here.” The jeweler says, walking to a desk behind the counter and pulling out a velvet box. He brings it to me and opens it.

“It turns out that your quartz was a perfectly clear quartz. The rock you brought me was large enough that I was able to make the necklace and earrings nearly the same color. In addition, there was extra, and I hope you don’t mind, I took it upon myself to make





your mate a special pair of earrings. It's not uncommon to find bits of gold inside of quartz. And in the quartz you brought, I found some flecks, so I made her a pair of gold quartz earrings."

My head whips up at him. "Gold?"

"Yes, Alpha. As I said, it's not uncommon to find gold mixed in with quartz."

I think about all the chunks of quartz that I saw at the riverbed.

"Would it be worth anything?" I ask him.

"Well, that depends on how much you find, obviously. But in this piece, it wasn't a significant amount, so that's why I just included it in the jewelry rather than wait to see if you wanted it extracted. I could do that, if you want."

"No. No, this is fine. It will make a wonderful, special gift for my mate. Can you wrap the gold quartz separately? I'll give that one to her tonight."





“Sure thing, Alpha.”

As he wraps up the earrings, I look at the set. The earrings are a smaller version of the heart that makes up the pendant. The hearts were my idea, I wanted to show her that I love her. Using the quartz that we found together is perfect. Throwing in a little gold just makes it extra special.

When he comes back, he hands me the wrapped box and then takes the set.

“I’ll wrap this one up for you too, Alpha,” he says turning away.

“If you find any others, I’d love to work with them. This was fun.”

“I have some of my pack mates searching for some for their mates. I’ll send them your way.”

“Alpha, if you don’t mind me asking, do you have a mining operation on your pack lands? I hadn’t heard that any of the packs mined for jewels, but quartz is often found near other jewels, such as diamonds.”





“Diamonds?”

“Yes, Alpha. I actually looked to make sure that the quartz was truly quartz and not a diamond since it’s so clear.”

“How would I know if I had diamonds?” I ask him.

“Well, if you aren’t mining, it’s possible that some might wash into the riverbed where you said you found this quartz. It’s called alluvial mining. You would have to sift through the sand or clay at the bottom of your riverbed. It’s a similar method to how people mine for gold, if you remember the old Alaskan gold rush.”

“Would the diamonds make the water rust colored?” I ask.

“Not necessarily, but, if you have more gold, like what I found in the quartz, that could do it.”

He hands me my purchases and I pay for them, walking back to my car.







I immediately call Eric. “Alpha, I’m still waiting for a reply from the investor.”

“Find out if the equipment that Franco was buying could be used for mining.”

“Okay, mining for what?”

“Gold, diamonds or both.”





## Chapter 139: Stunned

Claire

After showering again, I head downstairs to meet with Feena. Damara is finally settled, and I can actually think about something other than my hormones.

“Hey Feena, how can I help you get ready?” I ask.

She turns, giving me a knowing smile. “How are you feeling?”

“He told you?” I ask, surprised and a bit embarrassed that Tereshan told her about me and Damara.

“He told Dane, who gave me the head’s up that your schedule today was pushed back a few hours. I take it letting Damara mark Magnor has made things easier for you.”

I can feel Damara in my head. She’s purring in her sleep.





“Yeah, I was not going to get anything done until she marked her mate. I guess she decided that she’d waited long enough.”

“Well, while we’re on the subject, I have everything ready to take to the mating house. Do you want to join me? Then you can look around and we can set it up how you want it. You’ll be there up to a week, so now is a good time to make sure it’s the way you want it. I understand that once you’re in heat, you won’t care about anything other than mating, and several mates have come back saying they wished they had paid more attention before they went into heat.”

I take one of the baskets that she has ready to go and sling a bag over my shoulder.

“Let’s go.”

I’ve never been to the mating house, but I’m excited to see it. I know that it’s tucked away from the patrols but set deep enough into our territory that it’s protected from attacks.

As we walk, I look at Feena. “How are things with you and Dane, if you don’t mind me





asking.”

Feena looks at me, blushing slightly. “You’re my Luna, you can ask me anything.”

“But this is private. If you don’t want to talk about it, you don’t have to.”

She nods. “You probably know more than anyone, other than Dane about what happened to me with Roman.”

“Yes, in the first timeline, I tried to be there for you when you needed me, but it was never enough.”

“So, you know how he treated me. I didn’t have any sexual experience before that, so it’s all I know. Those years of abuse are all I have to go by. I know Dane says he doesn’t care, but the thought of being intimate with him terrifies me. Sometimes, even if he touches me, even if it’s gentle, I panic and pull away. He never says anything, but I see the hurt in his eyes.”

“You marked him, Feena. Has that helped?”







“Yes, it has actually. I always know how much he loves me. But in some ways, it almost makes it harder for me. I can feel how he doesn’t care about my past. It doesn’t make him look at me any differently. He just loves me.”

“And that makes it harder because you look at yourself differently.” I say.

She stops, looking down. “He was my fated mate, Claire.”

I gasp, my hand coming to my mouth. If I thought what Roman did before was awful, it just got so much worse.

“I rejected him so I could be Roman’s sex toy. I forced him to reject me, so he wouldn’t feel it. But he never left me, he never gave up on me and even now, he still wants me.”

“You rejected him to protect the rest of us, Feena. You were selfless and gave yourself so the rest of us wouldn’t be hurt. You made that choice, one that I will always be thankful for. But Dane made his choice too. He chose to wait for you, the only woman he’s ever





loved. So, maybe give it some time, Feena. It hasn't been that long. You can't wipe away three years of abuse in a month. Dane has been patient all this time. Now, he at least knows you're safe, and you've marked him. He'll continue to be patient. It sounds like you are the one being impatient with yourself."

We arrive at the house and Feena turns, hugging me. "Thank you, Luna. You really were made for this role. I'll think about what you've said."

I smile. "Good and thank you. I hope to always do what's right for this pack and our pack members."

We walk inside and I put the basket and bag on the floor, as I take a look around.

"It's a one bedroom, with an ensuite bathroom." Feena says.

"Why does all the furniture look new?" I ask.

Feena looks at me, then smirks. I'm not sure I've ever seen Feena smirk.





“What do you know about mates in heat, Luna?”

“Ummm, Tereshan said that I’ll only want him, and he’ll only want me.” I tell her, blushing.

“Yes, well, your scent will basically put him into a rut and you won’t be any better. Alpha told me your bed needs to be replaced and that was from him marking you. Imagine what this place will look like after a week of him being in a rut and you constantly at him to mate.”

My eyes go wide. Tereshan destroyed not only our headboard but also our mattress last night.

“So, every time someone goes into heat, we have to replace the furniture?”

“Yep. And honestly, I’ll be surprised if this place is still standing after you two are here. Alpha is strong and Damara seems to be greedy already. I can’t even imagine what she’ll be like when she goes into heat.”





I look around, wondering if it's true. I just can't imagine all this furniture getting destroyed.

"I've added another refrigerator outside. This one gets smashed nearly every time someone is here. Thankfully, females don't go into heat but twice a year and that's if they don't have pups. Which reminds me. I know Alpha said he bought lots of condoms. He hasn't given those to me, so I brought some others that we have so we can put them around the house. You'll most likely need all of these and the ones he's got though."

My stomach drops.

"Condoms?" I ask.

Feena is busy putting things into the refrigerator and setting fruits and vegetables in baskets hanging in the kitchen for this purpose.

"Yes. I understand he doesn't want you to get pregnant right away. He's worried about the war. Although, maybe he's not as worried about that now that Franco has been killed."







She continues to talk but I'm barely listening.

I look down at my stomach. Tereshan didn't use condoms last night. Neither of us even thought of it, and Damara and I were so greedy, wanting our mates, that Tereshan and Magnor happily obliged, multiple times.

"Claire?" Feena says, having stopped what she was doing, a frown on her face. "Is everything alright?"

"Feena, we didn't use condoms last night. We didn't even think about it."

