

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."