

## 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."