

## Chapter 142: Test

Tereshan

After taking my mate as many times as I think she can handle, I finally get her back to our room. Apparently, I need to have a spare set of clothes for both of us in my office.

I wore my little mate out, so I tuck her into bed, mind linking Feena to leave a tray of food in the room for her. I take her gift and move it off the bed. I'll give it to her later.

I open my mind link to Dane who has been knocking on my mental door for hours.

'Alpha, did you forget that we were going to test Weston's skills tonight.'

'I was busy,' I say sheepishly, jumping in the shower to wash the scent of sex off of me before going to find him.

"Yeah, the entire pack heard how 'busy' you were," he snorts. 'I take it the baby conversation went well?'

'Do you and Feena discuss everything?'

'Isn't that what Betas and mates do, Alpha?'

I grunt. 'I guess they do. So, how did he do?' I ask, changing the subject.

'He's stronger than I am, that's why I was trying to get your attention. I need you to spar with him.'

That pulls me up short.

'He's stronger than you?'

'Yep, and very, very skilled. I think he was an Alpha.'

An Alpha who lost his mate and his wolf. I think about the time that I nearly lost Magnor. The loneliness was almost unbearable. If I lost Claire and Magnor now? I would lose my mind.

'Where is he now?' I ask as I hear a quiet knock on the door. I open it to see Feena with a plate of food. She looks at me, then at Claire, nodding. She sets the food on the bedside table for when she wakes up.

'He's here with me. He just finished eating, but he says he's willing to go another round or two.'

'One round, because I'm famished and your mate just brought food to my mate, making my stomach growl.'

He snickers in our mind link.

'I'll be right there,' I tell him.

I head downstairs, ignoring the smirks from my pack members. I wasn't really paying attention to how loud Claire got, just enjoying making her body respond so positively to mine. Apparently, Dane wasn't kidding that everyone heard. I don't care, but I know Claire will be embarrassed.

I find Dane and Weston at a table, waiting for me.

"Weston, I hear you gave my Beta quite a run for his money. Ready to show me what you've got?"



"Absolutely."

"Are you good so soon after dinner?" I ask. I'd rather not have him throwing up all over me and the ground.

"Yes. I ate light, thinking you might want to test me tonight. I'll eat more later."

"Okay, then, let's go."

We head outside and I notice that some of the warriors begin milling around, wanting to watch.

"Some of the patrols saw us after weapons training. News travels fast in this pack," Dane says as we get into position.

I take a defensive position and gesture at Weston. "When you're ready."

He takes a deep breath and then he's coming at me. Dane is right, he's not only an experienced fighter, but he has expertise and control, skill and speed. He's good. Damn good.

I begin sparring for real very quickly, needing to see just how good he is. After about 45 minutes, I finally get him pinned. If he hadn't just eaten before our fight, I doubt I would have taken him down this quickly. I'm the strongest Alpha in our area, and Weston is nearly as strong as I am.

When we stand up, I look at him. "You realize you're an Alpha, right?"

"I didn't, but I guess I am."

"Does that change anything for you? Being in my pack?"

Having Vivienne as a mate?"

He stops, looking at me. "It didn't change anything for you, having an omega for a mate. And no, I have no pack to speak of. An Alpha can only be an Alpha when they have a pack to lead."

"I didn't mean any offense about Vivienne. She's wonderful. She'll be a great mate. I just know a number of Alphas that would reject their mate if they found out that she was an omega." I tell him, not mentioning that I was one of them not so very long ago.

"She's mine," he says, as Vivienne comes running up to him.

"How did you do?" she asks him, smiling lovingly up at him.

"He nearly kicked my butt," I tell her.

I look at Dane. "Did we fill that Lead Warrior role?"

"No, Alpha, not yet. Jesiah hadn't found anyone that he felt could take on the role."

I turn and look at Weston. "It's the best I can offer you. I'm not demoting one of my ranked members just because you're an Alpha."

"I wouldn't want you to, and it's more than I expected. Thank you, Alpha."

"You're welcome," I say, walking inside.

I open my mind and feel that Claire is still asleep.

I grab food and head to my office. I need to talk to Keegan.



He answers on the second ring.

"Tereshan, what can I do for you?" he asks.

"Two things, Keegan. First, I have marked my mate, and she will be going into heat within the week."

"Congratulations! Zoey and I are very happy for you."

"Thank you. Before she goes into heat, I'm having her Luna ceremony. It will be two nights from tonight. I'd like to invite you and Zoey to attend."

"We'd love to, thank you."

"And the second thing. I think I figured out what Franco was looking for on my land, but I can't be sure yet. I was hoping I could get you to come dig down into the farming land, deeper than you did the first time."

"What am I digging for, Tereshan?"

"Gold."

I hear his intake of breath.

"What makes you think you have gold on your land?"

"Remember that quartz I found? One of your guys suggested that I have it made into a jewelry set for Claire. I did. The quartz was clear, except in one area where there were flecks of gold. The jeweler also suggested that there might be diamonds as well. Do you remember me telling you that the water was rust colored?"

"I do," I can hear the disbelief and awe in his voice.

"He said that could be gold runoff. I haven't mentioned any of this to my pack yet, I wanted to see if I could get confirmation from you first that I may have gold on my pack lands."

"It would make sense. Except, we need to figure out how Franco discovered it."

"Yeah, and if he did, then my guess is that Roman knows too, and if he does, I still have big problems."

"You most certainly do. I'll be there tomorrow with some of my guys."

"Thank you, Keegan. I'll see you soon."