

Chapter 144: Purchase

Tereshan

I'm not complaining about my mate, truly I'm not. But I can understand why she was mated to an Alpha now. No one else could keep up with her insatiable appetite. And I wasn't joking when I said she'll be hell when she's in heat. If she's that greedy now, I'll have my hands full keeping her satisfied when she feels like a fire is burning inside her.

When I get downstairs, having left Claire to shower on her own, Dane gives me a smirk over the rim of his coffee mug.

"Morning, Alpha. You missed training this morning."

"Yeah, it got really loud here not long ago, you missed it," Jesiah adds, jumping in with Dane to tease me.

"I will never apologize for taking care of my mate," I say.

"And you never should," Dane says, watching Feena behind me. I can't see her, but I know the look of a man in love.

"I have important business to speak to both of you about, but I want to do that in an area with less prying ears. While we wait for Claire, I need to know if either of you have seen tunnels around the pack lands or ever remember seeing heavy machinery in the lands to the north of us. Maybe the patrols have said something? I'm going to review the patrol reports later to double check."

"Tunnels? What kind of tunnels?" Jesiah asks.

"I have no idea. Claire thinks we have some on our pack lands, but she's not sure where."

I watch as they both think about it.

"No, I don't remember any tunnels, but I'll make sure the patrols start watching for them." Jesiah says.

"And I'm pretty sure we'd have heard any machinery, Alpha. I can't imagine where Franco's men could be housing it." Dane says.

"I can," Bryson says, walking up.

"May I sit, Alpha. I'm sorry, but I overheard your conversation, and I may know where Franco is housing the large machinery you're looking for."

Claire walks up at that moment. "Hello, Bryson."

"Good morning, Luna," he nods to her.

"Let's get breakfast and head to my office. We can talk there," I say.

I stand, kissing the top of Claire's head, loving that she leans into me. I go to the kitchen, getting two plates of food while Claire gets a pot of coffee and two mugs.

When we get to my office, we sit around the table, and I make sure Claire is eating before I turn to Bryson.

"Tell me what you know."

He looks down, running his thumbs over his coffee mug.
"When Ivy and I left the pack, I told you she took me to some

sort of hut, a log cabin kind of place in the middle of nowhere."

I nod, letting him know that I remember the story.

"Well, I wasn't paying a lot of attention, since I didn't know where we were or where we were going, but there was a lot of machinery around that hut. Based on the smell of the machines, I'd say they had been in use recently."

He looks up at me. "I do know we left to the north, running through those empty lands."

"What kind of machines were they?" Dane asks him.

Bryson looks pained. "I didn't look too much, first I was distracted and then I was suffering from Ivy's rejection. But they were big machines, the kind that dig big holes into the ground and something that looked like a huge drill bit on the front of another machine."

"Like it could drill underground?" Jesiah asks.

"Maybe," Bryson says.

Jesiah looks at me. "If we're looking for tunnels, maybe that's what created them," he says.

"Thank you, Bryson. I appreciate the information," I say, dismissing him. I may appreciate his honesty, but I still don't trust him completely.

I mind link Feena to join us as Bryson nods, standing and leaving the office. I wait until he's gone before turning back to the group, just as Feena walks in.

I'm a bit surprised but thrilled to see that she doesn't fight Dane when he pulls her into his lap.

"What I'm about to tell you stays in this office for now."

They all nod before I continue.

"It's possible that we have gold or diamonds, maybe both on our pack lands, or more accurately, under our pack lands."

I wait, while they stare at me in disbelief before looking at Claire then back at me.

"Um, Alpha, maybe you can give us a few more details," Dane finally says.

I explain to them about the quartz and the jeweler's explanation.

"You think the rust-colored water is gold run off?" Dane asks me.

"Yes."

"And the tunnels could have been Franco digging for gold? That's why we need to find the machines?"

"Yes, and the tunnels," I say.

"The tunnels may have gold, or possibly diamonds in them."

"Did you find anything in them before?" Feena asks, looking at Claire.

"We weren't looking for them. We were trying to make sure that we didn't starve, and we didn't want to get caught, so

there was never any light used in the tunnels."

"I feel like I'm missing something, what do you mean 'before'?" Jesiah asks.

"We'll go into that another time. For now, I wanted to know if either of you had taken your mates to search for quartz." I say.

"No, with the pending war with Alpha Franco, I was worried about Feena's safety, so we didn't go," Dane says, and I watch Feena lean into him, his arms wrapping more tightly around her.

"Same, I didn't want to risk Lucy and I getting caught out there alone."

"I want to check out those riverbeds. We need to know if there is rust colored water in both of them. Remember, we don't know if it really is gold but if it is, and both riverbeds have the runoff, it means we have one hell of a gold mine under our pack lands." I say.

"Feena and I will go in the next couple of days," Dane says.

"We can too, especially since the new Alpha hasn't taken over yet and we can assume that we won't be attacked again until after that."

"I think it will be a while, although things are happening faster than I would have expected. And remember, Claire will be going into heat in the next few days. Once that happens, I need the three of you to make sure that you keep the pack safe. Roman won't know that she's in heat and he may not have taken over as Alpha, but it's better to be safe."

"Alpha, I'd like permission to tell Lucy. I'm trying to be honest and open with her, hoping it will help her to accept me. I won't tell anyone else, but I would like to tell her."

I look at Claire. "Trust is your department, baby. What do you think?" I ask her.

"I trust Lucy. As long as she's willing to keep it a secret," Claire says.

"She will," Jesiah says.

"Okay, that's it for now. Claire and I are meeting with Keegan later on and we're going to search for the tunnels while we're out there."

They're about to leave the office when my cell phone rings.

"Alpha Tereshan," I answer.

"Alpha, it's Eric. The investor is freaking out that he is now the owner of an illegal brothel, and he is willing to sell it off to you today, for half price, if you can pay cash."

"Set it up. I have some other things to do before then, not the least of which is figuring out what I'm going to do with a bunch of homeless, traumatized she-wolves. I'll get to the bank mid-afternoon to get his money and we can close before end of business today."

"I'm on it," Eric says, hanging up.

I look at the group of my most trusted pack members.

"Looks like we're going to own a brothel by the end of the business day. Feena, I need to figure out where we're going

to put these women."

"Any idea how many there are?" she asks.

"No, but talk to Lucy and Nita, they may know."

"Claire, you and I will talk to Keegan. He may be willing to take some of them in since Zoey and Amelia might know some of them."

Claire nods. "They will, I'm sure of it. I'll call Zoey now."

"Dane," I say as Claire takes my phone to call Zoey, "I need vans to transport these women."

He nods.

"Jesiah," I say, turning to him, "Weston is about to get his first real test at being Lead Warrior. I want both of you with me tonight. Pick out half of our best warriors, leave the others here, just in case we're attacked. It's possible that there will be Alphas there tonight that won't be happy that we're shutting the place down. They may want to retaliate, and we need to be prepared for that."

"Will do," he says.

"Okay everyone. We don't have a lot of time, let's get to work!"