

Chapter 152: Luna Ceremony

Tereshan

I was worried that Damara would go into heat during Claire's Luna ceremony, but true to her word, she held out. Not that I think she has a whole lot of say in it, but I know she's feeling the pull of her heat already.

I stood on the stage in front of our pack, walking my mate through the words that will make her the official Luna. After she says the words that will seal her as our pack's Luna, I slice my hand, letting my blood drip into the ceremonial cup. Then, I gently slice hers, my strong mate never once flinching.

I raised the cup to my lips, sealing us as the leaders of the pack, before handing it to her and feeling Damara's power and love flow through me and the pack. Then one by one, every member of the pack comes to the stage, pledging themselves to the two of us as their Alpha and Luna.

Lucy and Nita officially join our pack, as does Sadie, Selah's sister. I had invited the rogues to the ceremony, as well. Many of them had decided to join us and watch. They had been given showers and food while Claire and I were getting ready for tonight and I know they must be exhausted, but for many, they aren't packless by choice. Tonight gives them an opportunity to meet not only my pack, but some of Keegan's pack members as well.

I was excited for Claire to see Zoey. When I welcomed them

earlier, I knew exactly why Zoey wanted to talk to Claire. And as soon as we approach them, Claire sees it too.

"You're pregnant?" she says, rushing into Zoey's arms, hugging her.

"I am. Keegan didn't want to wait and honestly, neither did I."

"I'm so happy for you. Do you know if it's a boy or a girl?" Claire asks as the two of them walk arm in arm toward the packhouse where we are having a celebration feast.

"How about you, Tereshan? Are you still planning to wait until after this year?" Keegan asks me.

"No, maybe I should, but no. Now that she's mine, I want to see her stomach getting large with my pup." I tell him.

"I know that feeling very well. Hopefully, our children can grow up together and become friends, strengthening an already strong alliance for generations to come," he says.

"I'd like that, and I know Claire would too," I tell him.

"By the way, I'm not sure what's going on with that land behind us that you were wanting to purchase. I know the money isn't an issue, but I was thinking, if it comes up for sale, or the opportunity arises when you can purchase it, I'd like to go in with you. I could use more farmland, especially since I started buying off Franco's supermarkets." Keegan says.

I turn and look at him. "You did?"

He gives me a smug look. "I did. Just a couple, nothing that will raise eyebrows. But Roman's not as smart as he thinks he is. Holden isn't letting them go, but I found a couple that Roman put up for sale and I snatched them up quickly."

"Holden is smart. I hope he survives this timeline. I know the battle for Alpha must be coming soon. I just hope that Claire is done with her heat by then. My pack is stronger and so is yours, but I still need to be in that fight when it comes."

"Agreed. Let's hope that Holden wins the battle. I think things will be different if he takes over as Alpha."

"I agree," I say as we walk inside.

I stop, taking a moment to watch as my mate says hello to our pack members as Keegan moves to be with Zoey. The energy and excitement in the air is tangible. Everyone loves Claire. I can't blame them, she's the most amazing, loving and kind woman I've ever met.

I see a smile start to spread across her face and I know she hears my thoughts and feels my love for her. I had Feena leave a space in the middle of the dining room for dancing. Now, when Claire turns and looks at me, I walk to the center of the room, crooking my finger at her to join me.

When she does, I take her hand, kissing it. Without looking away from her, I address the room.

"If no one minds, I'd like to have the first dance with my mate and our new Luna, Claire Colton."

I see her eyes flash with the new name. She hadn't considered that she would take my name, but it's pretty

standard once the Luna ceremony is completed. Someone starts the music, and I take Claire into my arms.

"I don't know how to dance," she whispers.

"Stand on my shoes," I tell her, and she does.

Slowly and without making too wide of a step, I begin to slowly dance us around the room. The room could be empty for all I know or care. This woman, this amazing woman, my mate and Luna, is in my arms.

"I love you so much, Claire. I don't know how it took me so long to see what an incredible person you are."

"Tereshan," she says, and I feel her love for me, flowing freely through the bond.

I clench my teeth, unwilling to show weakness in this room of people, but knowing that such an incredible woman finds me worthy of her love makes me feel humble. I want to drop to my knees in front of her and thank her for loving me.

'Save that thought for later. Damara loves that idea,' Claire's sweet voice flits into my mind, making me smile.

'Tell that little temptress that I'll be happy to as long as she continues to be a good girl tonight.'

'Oh, she has very high expectations of how you're going to reward her,' Claire says in my mind, making me laugh out loud.

The entire room goes silent. I'm not sure I've ever laughed out loud before, or if I have, it's been many, many years. The

song ends and I lean down to kiss my mate, careful not to start something that Damara will want me to finish. Then I look up at the room.

"Let's celebrate!"

It's another early morning before the party ends. Most of the rogues left after dinner, exhausted from months, and in some cases, years of the torture and torment they have suffered. Not long after dinner, Keegan danced with Zoey then they also headed back to their pack lands, Keegan wanting to make sure that Zoey didn't overdo it, even though she was rolling her eyes at him.

"I know he's going to be overprotective after what happened to his first mate, but really, it's one night," Zoey complained good naturedly to Claire as they were leaving.

"I'm with Keegan. I want my mate and our pup safe and healthy, always. Better to be safe," I say, watching Claire smile at me.

"Are you...?" Zoey asks, looking at Claire's stomach.

She shrugs. "It's possible, but Damara is already acting like she's in heat, so either way, I'm sure I will be next week at this time."

"Ohhhh!" Zoey said, getting excited. "We'll have our babies together! It will be so fun!"

I can feel Claire's excitement at being able to share this experience with another woman who is going through the same thing.

They hug again before Keegan and Zoey take their leave.

After saying goodnight to the last party-goer, we head up to our room. I help Claire out of her dress, undoing the pins from her hair and letting it drop down her back.

Then I turn her around, seeing her in only her necklace, earrings, panties and heels. Hot desire flashes through me and I'm not sure if it's mine, hers or both of ours.

I bend down onto my knees, pulling Claire's panties down. Her hands go into my hair as she watches me, and I see them getting dark as Damara pushes forward.

"I was a very good girl tonight," she says, purring at me.

"Yes, you were, and it's time for your reward."

I take my mate several times, until Damara is satisfied and then a few more until Claire is satisfied. When we're both sated and exhausted, I curl up behind her, tucking her body against mine, already feeling that her body is warmer than normal.