

## Chapter 161: Appointment

Tereshan

The morning after I make the announcements, I leave Claire sleeping. I kept her up half the night showing her how excited I am that she's pregnant.

I send out a group of men to make sure the brothel is empty and to set up a perimeter around the building to prepare for our burning ceremony tomorrow night.

I've just gotten into my work when Weston comes in.

"Alpha, do you have a moment?"

"Absolutely, come in."

"I wanted to let you know that I walked the tunnels yesterday. I have some ideas that I wanted to run by you, but before I do, I wanted to show you this," he says, dumping a bunch of hoses on my desk.

"What is this?" I ask, my nose flaring as I smell the scent of gasoline, oil and other machine smells on the hoses.

"Well, I don't remember it, but apparently, I have some knowledge of machinery in my past life. When I saw those machines at the other end of the tunnels and realized that some of them were what had created the tunnels, I decided to make sure they are no longer operational. I literally pulled fuses and hoses so that the machines won't run. If Roman tries to dig any more tunnels, he'll find that his equipment is

no longer functional."

The longer Weston talks, the more I'm smiling. "Damn, Weston, I like you."

He barks a laugh at that. "Well, the other idea I have, is to booby trap the tunnels."

"I'm listening," I say, sitting back. Weston really was meant to be an Alpha. His mind works like one. It makes me wonder if he had a pack at some point in his life.

"The way I see it, we could do it three different ways, depending on the lethality you want or if you want the ability to capture those that are coming in through the tunnels. We could have an alert system, we could set a trap to capture them, or we could set a bomb and basically bury them alive closing off the tunnels."

I sit back, his ideas are good ones and while I like the idea of the bombs, I'm not sure that his pack members are willing participants in his attack on our pack.

"What do you know about bombs?" I ask him.

"Enough to know how to build one," he says.

I frown. "And you have no idea what you did in your previous life?"

He shakes his head, worry crossing his face. "But it doesn't seem like I was a good man, not with the knowledge that I have. So, honestly, I'd rather leave the past in the past."

"Fine by me. Can we place the bombs and have them

available if we want to blow the tunnels, but set the traps with alarms? I'd like to capture some of the spies and see what we can find out about what's going on in Roman's pack."

"That was my thought too, Alpha. I'll get started on it."

"Thanks, Weston."

When he leaves, a sleepy looking Claire comes in. I immediately pull her into my lap and Magnor begins sniffing her again.

'Seriously? You just sniffed her this morning.' I say to Magnor.

'She smells good.' Magnor says, unapologetic.

"How'd you sleep, baby?" I ask, mind linking the kitchen to bring some food for her.

"Good, once my mate had his fill of me," she says, smiling.

I lean in, growling softly against her ear, making her shiver. "I will never have my fill of you."

"Promises, promises," she says suggestively, looking at me through her lashes.

"Something on your mind, little mate?"

She turns in my lap, straddling me and running her hands over my chest. "You," she says.

She leans in kissing me, and I deepen the kiss, only pulling away when there is a knock at the door.

"I'll take care of that later," I say, nipping at her neck before calling for person to come in.

Elise comes in, wheeling a cart of food. The moment the scent hits her nose, I swear my mate turns green.

She's off my lap and running to the bathroom before I hear her retching.

"Get it out of here," I snap at Elise, moving to help Claire.

"Did I do something wrong, Alpha?" Elise asks tearfully, wringing her hands.

I moderate my voice, so she knows I'm not mad at her.

"No, your Luna just has a bit of morning sickness. Something in the food didn't smell right to her. Can you get the cart out of here and open the window for me please?"

"Yes, Alpha," she says as I walk into the bathroom and pull Claire's hair back.

"Well, that was super sexy," she says as she spits into the toilet before standing up and flushing.

"Are you okay, baby?" I ask.

"Yeah, but I think I understand why Keegan said eggs aren't allowed in their packhouse."

She gags, just talking about it.

"Stay in here for a minute. I have Elise opening a window. Is there anything you would like to eat?"

She shakes her head. I make a note to ask the doctor today about food she can eat in the morning. I don't want Claire to go without eating, she's too tiny and if our pup is large, she will already struggle with this pregnancy.

I check to make sure the food scent is gone from the room before I let Claire come out. Elise brought water and some crackers for her. That doesn't seem to bother her.

"I've seen some of the other pregnant females eating crackers in the morning. They said it helped, so we always have a supply on hand," she tells Claire.

I pull Claire back into my lap and watch as she tries the crackers. When she nods, I look at Elise. "Stock up on crackers. We have several females that have been in the mating houses recently, let's make sure we have enough crackers for all of them, just in case they have the same reaction."

"Yes, Alpha."

I rub Claire's back, watching as she slowly eats her crackers and drinks her water.

"What time is our appointment?" she asks.

"We should head over soon," I tell her.

"Let me go get changed and I'll be ready to go."

Instead, I scoop her up and carry her upstairs.

She giggles at me. "I can walk, Tereshan."

"And I can carry you, Claire."

She shakes her head but doesn't argue.

When she's dressed, we head over to the pack hospital. Magnor and I are full of excitement, hoping to know if we're having a boy or girl.

"I don't think the doctor will know yet," Claire says, picking up on our excitement.

"You don't?"

"Zoey said she didn't know yet when I saw her, and she's farther along than we are."

"That was before you went into heat. I bet she knows now."

"True, we'll see what the doctor says."

Claire was right, the doctor said another week or two, so I schedule an appointment for next week. The doctor also said that Claire is healthy, the baby's heartbeat is good, and he thinks she was pregnant before she went into heat.

"It would have had to have been very recently before you went into heat, a week or less," Dr. Baron says.

"Damara practically went into heat the day I marked Claire. I barely had time to get her Luna ceremony completed," I tell him.

"That happens in Alpha couples. The females are instinctively drawn to mate and create an heir. Males, of course, are drawn to that as well, but it's the females that drive the reproductive process."

I snort, feeling Magnor do the same in my head. "Our mate

certainly did "drive" our mating process,' he snickers.

'Says the wolf that couldn't keep up with her,' I say.

'I'll be happy to practice until I'm perfectly capable of keeping up with my mate,' he says.

'Let's get through this year with a happy, healthy pup and mate and the elimination of Roman and Ivy, then you can practice all you want,' I tell him.

"You'll also probably feel more tired, Luna. You're small, and our Alpha is large, so I expect that you will start to show earlier than others. A few more weeks if I had to guess. And, because of your size, I'll want to see you more often, especially as your pregnancy continues. Rest when you feel the need to rest. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that warrior training is out," he asks, looking at me.

"We already discussed that," I tell him, looking at Claire.

"But I can continue with weapons training, right?" she asks.

"Yes, as long as you are careful. If it feels uncomfortable, especially as you progress in the pregnancy, don't do it."

"Thanks, Dr. Baron," she says as we leave.

"I'll see you next week, and I've already heard that eggs are off the menu going forward."

He's watching Claire so he sees her swallow what must be bile. He nods.

"Well, I know it probably doesn't feel like it, but it's a good sign. Your baby is growing and hopefully, it won't last the

entire pregnancy.”

“But we have a lot of females that went into heat, doc, so not only will you be busy, but eggs are probably off the menu for a while.”

He chuckles at that.

I’ve just gotten Claire back to the packhouse when I get a mind link from Jesiah.

“Alpha, I need you at the northwest border right away.”

“What is it?” I ask him, immediately worried about Claire and an attack.

“It’s Beta Holden, Alpha, and he’s barely alive.”