

Chapter 167: Alpha Meeting

Claire

Tereshan and I greet Alpha Adam and Alpha Elio when they arrive. I know Alpha Elio doesn't remember me from the last timeline, but he and I got to know each other very well. He's a reserved Alpha, but a shrewd businessman. And he was smart enough not take Ivy as a mate in any timeline.

We all walk into the conference room that was set up for this meeting. My head is spinning with so much going on. I need to focus my attention on the main topic for this meeting. The gold, that and the grocery stores, but that's Keegan's department and a later discussion. Tereshan is going to kick it off with a bang.

"Alphas, thank you for coming to meet with me. I know this is a strange request and after our last meeting at Alpha Keegan's pack, I'm sure you have some trepidation about the purpose of this meeting."

"Since I have no intention of insulting either of your Lunas, or Alpha Emine, I'm not too concerned about leaving here with my head still attached to my body," Alpha Elio says causing the others to chuckle.

Nicholas had introduced Emine to both Alpha Elio and Alpha Adam when they arrived. I can see that she's nervous, but in true Alpha fashion, she's still here.

"Good to know, because the three of you are here because

Alpha Keegan and I feel as though we can trust you, and what I'm about to tell you requires a significant amount of trust."

"Excuse me, Alpha. But before you continue, may I ask why I am here, if this is about trust? You've only just met me."

"That is true, Alpha Emine, however, your actions speak volumes to your character, and I have no doubt that you are nothing like your brother. However, if you still hold a love for your brother, you may be better off leaving now."

"I have no love for the bastard who stole my pack and tried to sell me into the sex trade."

"Wait, you're Greasy Eason's sister? You mean, he really did have a sister?" Alpha Adam asks.

"I am his sister, although I would never choose to claim him as a relative."

"He really is a nasty piece of work," Alpha Adam says before turning back to Tereshan.

"So, what is this big announcement that you want to share with the select few Alphas that you trust?" Alpha Elio asks, getting to the point.

Tereshan drops the chunk of gold onto the table in front of them.

"What is that?" Alpha Nicholas asks, picking it up. "Is that..."

"Gold," Emine says shocked, looking up at Tereshan, then at me.

"Yes," Tereshan says.

"Where did you find it?" Alpha Adam asks, waiting impatiently for Nicholas to finish before looking at the chunk of gold.

"On my pack lands," Tereshan says, and everyone stops to look at him.

I watch as the Alphas all begin calculating.

"You said at the last meeting that you hadn't figured out why Franco was attacking you. That," Nicholas points to the gold, "is the reason?"

"I intend to show all of you just how far Alpha Keegan and I believe it extends, but based on what he and I have discovered, three quarters of my pack lands sit on top of a literal gold mine," Tereshan says, and the room goes quiet.

Alpha Adam hands the rock to Alpha Elio who begins looking it over.

"Why are you telling us this? I understand the need for trust now, but why are you even telling us?" Elio asks. "You could have mined for gold and become rich without anyone finding out until after you were well into your mining process."

"True, but I don't want to destroy my pack lands just because it's sitting on top of a pot of gold. And this is where you all come in. Alpha Keegan and I have talked of alternate ways to mine for this gold without me destroying my pack lands. Will it be as fruitful? No. Will it take longer? Yes. But what it will allow me to do is maintain my pack lands, as is, and

also offer an opportunity to you and your pack members.”

“You have our attention, Alpha,” Adam says, sitting forward.

“I don’t have the numbers that I need to mine this gold the way I plan to. In addition, Keegan is going to do his own sort of processing for me, which he will explain to you shortly, but I need bodies, men and women who are willing to work, to help me mine and process this gold. And I’ll pay them which in turn brings money into your packs.”

“How many bodies are you talking about?” Nicholas asks.

“I don’t have an exact number yet, but I’d guess around 50 from each of your packs, if you have that many to spare.”

I watch as their eyes go wide again. Fifty is a large number, even for our pack.

“Perhaps you’d better start from the beginning,” Alpha Elio says, sitting back.

Tereshan steps back, gesturing for Keegan to stand up and discuss his plan. He tells them about how he has already started the process of phytomining and how he is planning to start the alluvial mining in the two riverbeds that have gold residue.

When he finishes, he sits down, and the room stays quiet.

“So you see, gentlemen, this is why you are here. I need people who I can trust and who are also willing to become rich alongside me,” Tereshan says.

“Are my rogues, eligible to assist?” Emine asks.

"If you are willing to take responsibility for their actions until such time as they choose a pack, then yes," Tereshan tells her.

"Then, I'm in," she says.

Nicholas turns to her. "You haven't even seen what the scope of the work will be."

"Doesn't matter. The rogues don't have a pack, we don't have work, we have no way to make a better life for ourselves other than joining a pack. This will give them choices, it will give all of us choices about how we want to live our lives," she tells him.

I watch as something passes between them.

"My pack is in too. I'm not sure I have 50 people to spare, but once I see what we're talking about, I'll have a better idea of who might be able and willing to work." Nicholas says.

"I'd like to see what we're talking about before I agree," Elio says.

"Me as well," Adam says.

"Well, then, let's take a tour of my pack lands," Tereshan says.

They stand and Tereshan comes to me. "Did you want to come, or do you want to stay?"

I can tell from the bond that he wants me to stay here and not over-extend myself. I'm perfectly fine with that plan. I

can help set up for dinner.

"I'll stay," I say turning to Zoey. "I'm guessing they will be gone for a couple of hours. Would you like to stay here with me?"

Keegan kisses her head. "Rest while we're gone. I'm guessing we'll be up late tonight, love," he says to her.

I see Emine watching the interaction thoughtfully before turning to leave.

"Alpha Emine, I'm sure Luna Zoey would be happy to talk with you about her experiences with the mate bond, if you were interested. We could meet after dinner or even tomorrow morning," I tell her as Zoey walks up.

"I'd be happy to," Zoey tells her.

Emine looks at the two of us. "I'd like that. What I'm seeing here is very different than the life I was raised in, the bonds that I grew up seeing. I'd like to know more about how you've built trust with your mates."

"I can talk about my mate all night long, so you may have to tell me to shut up," Zoey says laughing. "Oh, and Keegan said you want to come see the rogues in our pack. You should plan to do that after we leave here. I'm sure they'd be happy to see you."

"I'd like that, thank you," she turns, looking at Nicholas. "Alpha Nicholas brought me, so I'll have to speak with him about when he needs to return."

I snort. "Please, that man is happy to just be spending time

with you. If you wanted to go to a foreign country to try the food, he'd figure it out," I tell her.

He looks up, catching her watching him. His smile is tentative, but hers becomes wide as she turns back to me.

"You know, Luna, I think you might be right."