

Chapter 174: Strategy

Tereshan

I'm starting to feel like I'm running a damn dating pack! It's not that I'm unhappy that people are finding their mates in this timeline, I really am. But it feels like every time a new person crosses my pack lands, they find their damn mate.

And now, my mating houses are almost constantly filled and what I jokingly started to call a baby boom is seriously turning into just that. At this rate, half of my omegas will have to work in the nursery just to keep up with the number of pups that are going to be born.

It's less than a week after we captured Lorenzo when two more alarms go off in the tunnels. I had talked with Dane, Holden and Lorenzo about the best way to handle these guys. First, I made sure that Claire was nowhere around. If Roman is trying to get information on her, he won't get it. Then, I had to determine if they were mated, which they were. So, Lorenzo was right, Roman was more careful with who he sent this time.

Using Holden's interview tactics, I found out that they had also been given the Alpha command not to leave their pack. They asked about Lorenzo, but I made sure that they didn't see him or Holden. The less knowledge they have about my pack the better.

After holding them in my cells for a couple of days, I had Dane set it up that they could 'escape' and get back to their mates.

Weston reset the traps, finding new ways to trigger them, just in case the two mated males had to tell Roman how to get around them. I also had Weston show me the bombs. After speaking to Lorenzo and

interviewing the two mated males, I'm even less inclined to kill the members of Roman's pack. He may not care about his pack members, but I do. Most of them aren't choosing to attack me.

My favorite time of day is at night when I can curl up in bed with Claire and our pup. Once her stomach popped out, it's like I can't get enough of her and him. I know it sounds crazy, but I feel like he grows a little every day. Every day my hand covers a little more of him in her stomach.

"Dr. Baron told me that he can hear our voices and if you talk to him, he'll recognize your voice after he's born," Claire tells me one night as we're lying together and I'm running my hand over her stomach.

So, I begin telling my mate and my son about my day while we lay in bed together. My little mate is so patient with me and Magnor. I can't seem to get enough of the feel of my son in my hand and Magnor can't get enough of our son's smell mixed with Claire's. Between the two of us, we're all over her at night. But my sweet mate just giggles, snuggling against us, making both of us feel whole and bringing a sense of peace to the constant turmoil in my head.

Two weeks after the mated males 'escaped' from my cells, Roman sent his Gamma after Claire. He came through a different tunnel than the others had, maybe thinking they weren't all full of traps. Based on what Holden and Lorenzo told me about this guy, there is no way we are letting him go. His brother had challenged Roman and when it came time to beat them and leave them for dead, he hadn't needed Roman's Alpha command. He had injected his own brother with silver and left him to die a painful death.

Since I had no plans to release him or bring him into my pack, I let Lorenzo and Holden help me interview him.

Weston and I had dragged him to the cells and when Holden arrived, I

watched the guy's eyes go wide. Good. Holden is our ace in the hole. It doesn't seem like Roman and his pack realize that he's still alive. Either no one went looking for him or no one said anything about his body having gone missing.

"How the fuck did you survive?" he asks Holden.

"Arthur, we have some questions for you," Holden says to him, ignoring his question.

"That's Gamma Arthur to you," he snarls at Holden.

"You're not my Gamma," Holden tells him, and we began our 'interviewing' process. I knew of Roman's tactics from before. If you refuse to answer, we beat you up, leave you unable to heal, interview you some more, beat you some more. If you do answer, I kill you more quickly. I haven't had to use these tactics in this timeline, I haven't needed to, until now. But that doesn't mean that I don't know how or that I won't hurt someone who is coming after my mate, my son and my pack.

I brought Lorenzo in when I was sure that Arthur was lying. As soon as Lorenzo walks in, Arthur snarled.

"Traitor!"

"A traitor to the man that killed my brother and forced me and many other family members to let their family die? I don't think so," he stands back, letting us know what the truth is and what is a lie to the best of his knowledge.

In the end, Arthur broke. They all do, eventually. It took nearly a week, but he let us know that Roman is trying to get intel to attack. Just like Lorenzo said, his goal is Claire.

She's two months into her pregnancy, and she's definitely showing. If

anyone was to breach my borders, and see her, they would know that she is carrying my child. If that information got back to Roman, Claire would never be safe.

After disposing of Arthur's body, knowing that Roman would have felt the tether to his pack mate snap, I call Dane, Jesiah, Weston and Holden into my office. Since Jesiah is now Claire's guard, she comes with him. As soon as she enters the room, I pull her into my lap and wrap my arms around her protectively.

I bury my face in her hair a moment. This time it's me, not Magnor, taking a deep breath of her lemon scent, loving how the scent of blueberries is becoming stronger every day. When I feel calm, I look up and address the room.

"As you know by now, Arthur was Roman's Gamma. He's dead now, and we got the intel we needed from him before I killed him," I say, feeling Claire lean into me. My sweet mate isn't a killer. But that's why we're better together. I can be the person who is deadly to those who threaten our pack, while she is the heart of the pack, helping our pack to grow and become the wonderful place that it is.

"Arthur confirmed that Roman's goal is Claire. As of right now, they don't know that she's pregnant, or at least it doesn't seem so. Arthur didn't say anything about that."

I kiss my mate's head, unable to even think about what Roman would do to her and my son if he got his hands on her.

"Weston, I want you and Holden to begin switching out with Jesiah to watch over Claire. I want two of you on guard duty at all times. And I know I'm asking a lot, but I also need you to think about whether or not you can set the bombs in a way that won't kill the intruders."

He lets out a long breath. Then, he looks at Claire calculatingly. "Just a

thought, Alpha, but what about Jacoby?" he asks.

"What about him?" I ask.

"Well, he's the best of the omegas with his hammers and axes. I saw him kill a rabbit in one throw the other day. He's deadly accurate. I know he's an omega, but he would take the job of watching over our Luna very seriously and I think he's up for the job. That way, Holden and I can switch out more frequently and I could use Holden to help me look at the bombs."

He looks at Holden. "They're your people. If anyone is going to help me find a way to save them in a bombing, it's you."

"I don't really know anything about explosives, but I'm willing to give it a try. You're right, there are only a few of the pack members that I'd be happy to see dead in a pile of rubble, Roman and Ivy being at the top of that list."

"They'll be coming soon. I want to be ready," I say and look to see Dane watching me.

"What is it? I know that look, Dane, you have an idea."

"Well, I'm just wondering, Alpha. If we know that Roman is coming for Luna and at this point, he's sent three scouts trying to get information about her, why aren't we taking an offensive role? Why aren't we attacking him?"

I look at Dane and I'm not sure what my face looks like, but I sit back in my chair, stunned. Claire turns around and looks at me. I know the reason. In the last two timelines, we were attacked. I've just been waiting for it. But why? So much has changed in this timeline, why not that?

"That's a really good fucking question, Dane. Why aren't we attacking

them?"