

Chapter 176: War

Tereshan

The day has arrived for us to attack Roman. We've talked about this and discussed every possible way to try to keep his pack members alive. We all assume that Roman will give the Alpha command to fight to the death.

Since Weston is also an Alpha, we discussed that he could potentially get some of the pack members to accept him as their Alpha. It's not ideal, it means there will be two Alphas in my pack and nothing good can come from that.

Weston has assured me that he does not want my pack, that he would only do this to protect Roman's pack members, but it makes me uneasy. I don't fully know his background and there is something off about his history. My pack is also filthy rich now. Any Alpha who takes over this pack would become instantly wealthy and powerful, or the promise of a lot of money, changes people.

But, in the end, the choices were to agree to let Weston take some of Roman's pack members as his own or kill them. I'll deal with the aftermath of Weston becoming a true Alpha when this battle is done. One battle at a time. And if the worst happens, if I don't come home, between Weston and Keegan, I know my pack will be taken care of.

We divided our warriors into two teams. I'm leading one with Dane and Weston is leading one with Holden. Jesiah and Jacoby are staying behind to guard Claire and protect the pack. Keegan will be close and will cover if anyone tries to attack our pack while I'm away.

We've congregated outside to say goodbye to our pack members and

mates. As I look around, I realize this is the first time I've ever seen this much emotion in my pack. Pregnant women are being comforted by their mates, who are cooing at them and letting them know that they'll be home soon. Others are holding each other or giving last minute encouragement before we leave.

I turn to Claire. She's about to lose the fight with her tears, I can feel it. My own throat is tight knowing that I'm leaving and may not be coming home. I've been in many battles in my lifetime, but none that I dreaded as much as this one. The thought of losing my mate, even in death, is incomprehensible.

"Then come home to us," Damara purrs in my mind.

Claire looks up at me and the movement starts the trek of tears rolling down her cheeks.

"Come here," I say to her softly, pulling her against me and holding on tight.

I pull back slightly, lifting her head to look at me. "I'm strong, Magnor is strong. Roman's pack doesn't want to fight, they are being made to fight. We're going to do our best to save as many as we can, then I'm going to kill Roman and come home to you. You and our little Salvatore," I say.

"Salvatore?" she asks.

"I've been thinking about names. It means savior and that's what you and he have been to me, my saviors. I never would have known how good life could be if it wasn't for you. I never would have understood that the loyalty you get from your pack is far greater when you treat them with love and respect instead of filling them with fear. You have saved me in more ways than I can count, and I wanted our pup to always represent what an amazing woman his mother is," I tell her.

Now, the tears are running freely down her face. She swipes at them, but they just keep coming. She looks down, rubbing her hands over her protruding belly.

"What do you think, Salvatore? What? You like it, too? Oh good," she looks up at me, smiling through her tears. "We both like it."

I chuckle, the pain in my heart growing as I kneel in front of my mate. "You be good for your mother today, Salvatore. Don't give her a hard time. You're getting very big in there and your mother is a small woman. I'll be home as soon as I can."

I lean forward and press my mouth to Claire's stomach. I swear I feel my son move to be closer to me, so I whisper to him. "I love you, son."

I stand, pulling Claire to me and taking her mouth in a desperate, needy kiss, one that will have to get me through however long it takes for this to be done and for me to return to her.

"Take care of yourself and our pup. Look after the pack. Call Keegan if you need anything at all. He'll be here every day looking out for you and the pack while I'm gone," I tell her before ripping myself away from her and turning.

As I stride away, I lift my head to the sky, howling for the pack to join me. It's time to go start a war.

Weston POV

As we leave Alpha Tereshan's pack lands, there is a level of excitement inside me that I don't quite understand. I have been getting flashes of déjà vu again, just like I did when I was with Vivienne in the mating house. Quick images and flashes of a battle, fighting, and death. I'm confused by my emotions, the excitement of it.

I'm not confused, however, about the sadness that is gripping my heart

at leaving my mate. Vivienne, like many of the women in the pack, is pregnant with my pup. I hate the idea of leaving them, going into a battle where I may not return. I've done what I could to make sure that she and our son will be taken care of if something happens to me. Holden and I have become close friends. He's promised me that he will look after both of them if I die in this battle.

As we begin to run, I think about the possibility of becoming an Alpha, a true Alpha. Something about that feels familiar, comfortable. Alpha Tereshan feels confident that I was an Alpha, and it makes sense that I would have had my own pack. If that's true, then the Alpha in me would be excited to become an Alpha again. Was I a good Alpha like Tereshan, or a terrible one, like Roman? I've heard the stories from the pack about the change in Tereshan, so perhaps, even if I was terrible, I could be better now, if I were to ever become an Alpha again.

Today, my job is to disconnect the electric fence. My team is going in on this side of the pack and once we give the signal that the fence has been disabled, Tereshan and his team will attack from the other side, and we'll meet in the middle.

I haven't rejected Tereshan as my Alpha. I will only do that if and when I need to save pack members. Holden was there when Tereshan helped Lorenzo accept him as Alpha, so he can help me override whatever Alpha command Roman has given the rest of the pack.

I quietly move to the box that houses the wires which feed the electricity to the fence. I had found it on one of our reconnaissance missions and while I don't remember how, the wires all make sense to me.

Holden passes me the wire clippers and I begin cutting the wires in the proper order that no alarms will go off alerting the pack of a problem. When it's done, I nod at Holden. He walks to the fence, holding his hand up to it first, checking to make sure that he doesn't feel the

electricity. When the hair doesn't go up on his arm, he taps the fence quickly. Nothing.

He nods at me and begins cutting through the fence, creating an opening where we can easily get inside quickly. I'm not sure if it's because of the electric fence, but Roman doesn't have patrols over on this side of the pack, so it's easy for us to prepare.

When we're ready, I mind link Tereshan, letting him know that we're in place. He tells me to start entering the territory quietly, taking out anyone that we come across. On our side, there are very few individuals, and my entire team is able to enter without anyone seeing us.

We've just started walking toward the center of the pack, when Magnor's howl of battle echos into air. The answering howl from every one of the wolves in our pack is instantaneous and then we're off, racing to the fight.