

## Chapter 177: Alpha

Tereshan

It immediately becomes apparent which of the pack members are fighting because they have to, and which are fighting because they want to. Dane and I quickly begin attacking the ones who are attacking by choice. The others in our group begin neutralizing the ones fighting because they have to, holding them captive until we can begin to convert them to my pack, taking me as their Alpha. For now, I want to find Roman. It's time for him to die.

I've just faced off against Roman's Beta when I feel my tether to Weston break. He just rejected me as his Alpha, which means that he and Holden are starting to convert the pack members and are creating his new pack. I don't have time to worry about that as I face off with the Beta. He's a big guy, I'll give him that.

'I'm bigger and stronger,' Magnor snarls in my head.

I leap at the Beta, shifting as I do. He may be a big guy, but just like Roman, he's lazy. I doubt he's kept up his fighting skill. Magnor takes him down quickly, leaving him for Dane to finish off as I race toward the packhouse. As I run, Roman's pack members half-heartedly attack me. Magnor knocks them aside, doing his best to knock them out or put them out of commission until the rest can round them up and keep them contained.

I race into the packhouse, instantly feeling the depravity of the place. I'm not sure what kind of relationship Roman and Ivy have, but if it's possible, this packhouse feels even more depressing than the brothel did.

I sniff the air, searching for Roman. I didn't see him on the battlefield. Fucking bastard sent his pack to their slaughter and is hiding. Well, I intend to sniff him out.

I'm shift and begin searching through the house, finding women shackled to walls and the floor. Most are naked or in a minimal state of dress. I begin ripping the shackles out of the walls and floor, tossing sheets or towels at the women.

"Who are you?" one of them asks me.

"I'm Alpha Tereshan. You're safe now," I tell her.

"I don't feel safe," she says, huddling with another girl.

"Stay inside. They are still fighting outside, but your Beta is dead. Do you know where Roman and Ivy are?" I ask.

"No," they say, just as I hear Dane calling out to me.

"Alpha!"

"Up here," I call out, finding another towel to give to the women.

He rushes in and stops when he sees the women huddled on the floor.

"That fucking asshole Roman," he snarls making the women's eyes go wide.

He turns back to me. "Alpha, Holden said he thought he saw Roman and Ivy sneaking out of the fence and running away."

"Coward," I snarl, turning to go after him.

"Alpha, you may want to deal with what's going on downstairs first," he says.

"What's going on downstairs?" I ask.

"Weston has converted everyone that we captured from Roman's pack. He's their Alpha now."

I grit my teeth, knowing this can either go well, or very badly.

"Let's go," I say, turning to head downstairs.

"What about us?" one of the women says.

"If Roman is gone, you are welcome to come outside, but I don't know if the fighting is over. There's a new Alpha here now."

A couple of the women begin to whimper. However, when I turn, they follow me, needing to feel the protection that Dane and I are offering them after so long of being mistreated.

I walk outside and see that Dane is right. While some of the pack members are dead, most are kneeling or submitting to Weston.

"Alpha Weston," I say, walking outside, looking around and taking in the scene. My pack members are on alert and subtly they move to stand closer to me. The motion doesn't escape Weston's notice.

"Alpha Tereshan, the pack is secure, and they have all accepted me as their Alpha."

I nod, watching him carefully.

"Do we need to fight for the pack Weston?" I ask him.

He looks at me. "Do you intend to take over this pack, Alpha Tereshan?"

I frown, looking around. "I have my own pack, I don't want this one," I say.

"Good, because I intend to take over as this pack's Alpha," he tells me.

I look at him, confused. "You want Franco's old pack?"

"I do, are you going to challenge me for it?" he asks. There's a confidence in him. I can tell that he doesn't want to fight me, but he will if needed. Whatever his history, he was definitely an Alpha before he ended up at my borders.

"No, I never intended to take over this pack."

"Good, I didn't want to fight you," he says, turning to look at Holden and then out over the group. "Does anyone else want to challenge me for the position of Alpha?" he asks turning back to Holden. If anyone would challenge him, it would be Holden.

I look around and while the pack members are nervous, having their third Alpha in under six months, no one challenges him."

"Then, as your Alpha, my first act will be to assign a Beta," he turns to Holden again, putting his hand on his shoulder.

"Will you, Holden, agree to be my Beta and retake your position as this pack's Beta?" he asks.

I can feel the instant excitement in Franco's pack. Holden was well respected.

"It would be my honor and privilege, Alpha," he says, lifting his neck and submitting to Weston.

"Thank you, my friend," he says as the pack cheers.

When the cheering dies down, Weston looks at me.

"Then, as my second act as Alpha, I'd like create an alliance with you,

Alpha Tereshan, as well as Alpha Keegan," he says, extending his hand.

I look around once more before stepping forward and shaking his hand, sealing our alliance.

"We'll need to meet with Keegan. I can't speak for him."

"Of course, I'd like to officially instate the ranked members of my pack first. I plan to do that in the next week, then I'd like to meet with both of you together. I know the two of you are interested in the land between our three packs. I'd like to look at dividing it up and rather than having you purchase your portion, I'd like to barter. My pack needs work so we can raise money and my pack needs food."

Another cheer goes up and I realize just how hungry the pack members here are.

"I have someone that can make the border changes legal in the human world and draw out our new pack lands. I'll invite him to the meeting. I'm assuming you'll be coming back with me to get Vivienne?" I ask, knowing that Claire will be sad to see her go. However, if the alliance works out as well as I'm hoping, they'll have plenty of opportunity to see each other.

"Yes," he raises his voice so the pack can hear him. "And when I return with your Luna, I'll bring food."

Another cheer goes up around the pack.

"Alpha Weston, you will need to make arrangements for some of the pack members that have been mistreated," I say, gesturing to the women hovering inside the packhouse.

It's Holden that steps up. "Ladies, you know me. You know what I stand for. I believe in Alpha Weston. He will be a good Alpha. He will

not mistreat you or allow your mistreatment to continue. Come, accept him as your Alpha."

They look at me.

"It's your decision," I say, looking at Weston. "I don't believe that Alpha Weston would force you to remain here if you do not want to."

"No, I will not. Alpha Tereshan is a good Alpha. You would be safe in his pack as well. The decision is yours," he tells them.

Most of the women choose to stay, but a couple want to come with me. They don't want to live in the place that has been their torture for months.

We settle the pack members, making sure that the packhouse is safe and that none of Roman's followers survived. We collect the dead and prepare their bodies to be burned. When we're done, it's too late to head home.

We make a fire and Weston and I hunt for food for the pack members. It's obvious that most of them are starving. Roman's Beta didn't look thin, so they must have been feeding the ranked members and letting the others forage for themselves without the ability to leave the pack.

While we hunt, we sniff out the trail that Roman and Ivy used to escape. I shouldn't be surprised that he ran, Roman knows he can't defeat me. But it's a cowardly move on his part. I wonder if he was always a coward that covered it up by being a bully.

The next morning, Weston addresses his pack while my pack members and I prepare to leave.

"I am going to get your Luna. I will be back in two days' time with food. Beta Holden, your first official act as my Beta is to tear these despicable fences down," he says and once again the pack cheers.

When he's ready, we shift and head towards home.