

## Chapter 183: Fear

Tereshan

I race as fast as Magnor can get us to the pack hospital. We heard Damara tell us to hurry and then her mind went silent.

Magnor had howled, wanting anyone to answer what had happened to our mate. There were many answering howls, but none that could answer me.

As we race up to the pack hospital doors, Dane is standing, waiting for us.

I shift instantly, about to run past him.

"Where is she?" I yell.

"Alpha," he says grabbing hold of my arm. I don't think, I just swing. He moves, but not before I hear the crunch of his nose. His moment of surprise is all I need to rush past him.

I look around, trying to find anyone that can help me.

"WHERE IS SHE? WHERE IS MY MATE?"

I'm just about to go bursting room by room when Dane tackles me from behind. Magnor snarls, angry that he's trying to keep us from our mate and son.

"Alpha, listen to me! Your son was in distress. If you barge in there and distract the doctor, it could kill your son. Please, Alpha."

I lay on the floor, panting. "What do you mean my son was in

distress?" I snarl, trying to get ahold of not only my emotions but also Magnor's.

"When I brought Luna in, they hooked her up to some machines. His heart rate was too low. You know how their heart rates are always so fast, but it was slow, slower than Luna's. They said that Luna's body was starting to react to your son's distress and her heart rate was going up. I don't know what that means, but the nurse said they were going to have to cut him out of her stomach, so they sedated Luna. That's why you can't feel her."

"How long will it take?" I ask.

"I don't know. When we heard Magnor's howl, the doctor told me keep you out of the room. You would only be a distraction and he needs to focus on saving your son."

I nod. "Let me up," I tell him.

When he rolls off of me, I turn and see the blood on his face.

"I'm sorry I hit you," I say, rolling over and sitting up, putting my head in my hands.

"It's okay. I can only imagine how it felt for Claire and Damara to suddenly go silent and not know why."

I stand, putting out my hand and helping him to his feet. He resets his nose, and we go sit in chairs, waiting to hear the news of my son.

The pack begins to congregate, coming to wait to get news of their Luna. I alternate between pacing and sitting, unable to be still for too long. Claire is the person that keeps me sane. She is the one that calms the unrest inside me. Without her presence in my mind, I can't be still.

About an hour after I arrive, Keegan walks through the doors. He



comes straight up to me, putting his hands on my shoulders.

"Have you heard anything?"

"Nothing, and I'm going crazy. I don't know what to do, I can't Keegan. I can't...how did you even survive?" I ask, referencing the loss of his first mate and their child.

"Honestly, I don't know. But don't go there Tereshan, not yet. Claire and Damara are strong. Claire is small, we knew that, but they are both strong."

I pace some more and it's another hour before a nurse comes out to talk to me. By now the waiting room is full of our pack members, all waiting for news of Claire.

"What's going on?" I ask, rushing up to her.

"Alpha, your son had the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck. His oxygen was low, and it caused a lot of complications during his birth. We had to do a Cæsarian section on Luna, removing him from her stomach. In order to do that, we had to sedate her. We expected her to heal while Dr. Baron was working on saving your son, but she hasn't started to heal yet. We think Damara was using her energy to save your son and when we sedated Luna, she was too weak to stay awake."

"What does all of that mean? What does it mean that Dr. Baron was working on Salvatore? What does it mean that Claire isn't healing?"

"Your son's oxygen levels are nearly back to normal, and his heart rate is strong, but Dr. Baron wants to keep him overnight. We need you to make a decision about Luna. We can keep her sedated, but that means that Damara may continue to be sedated as well and Luna will have to heal like a human. The other option is to let Luna wake up and see if Damara is strong enough to heal her."



"What happens if Damara isn't strong enough to heal her?" Keegan asks, having come to stand beside me.

"She'll have to heal slowly, like a human until Damara is strong enough to heal her. She lost a lot of blood during the procedure to remove your son, that will make her weak. Dr. Baron wants to keep her here until Damara begins to heal her."

"When can I see them?" I ask.

"Dr. Baron is concerned about you seeing Luna in her current state, Alpha," the nurse says.

"He'll need to be concerned if he thinks he's going to keep me from my mate," I snarl, immediately feeling Keegan's hand on my shoulder.

"Keep a level head, Tereshan. He's only trying to protect your mate and son," Keegan says. I'm not sure who called him, but he is probably the only person I would listen to right now.

I nod, looking back at the nurse. "I'll stay calm."

She nods. "Follow me, Alpha."

I can smell the blood before we get to the room, even through the antiseptic smell. I prepare myself as the nurse opens the door to the room, walking in before me.

The first thing I see are my mate and son, one in a bed, one in a medical bassinet, both covered in wires, IVs and oxygen.

"Alpha," Dr. Baron says, turning from my son.

I walk first to Claire. She looks so fragile, more fragile than I've ever seen her look and that's saying something, given our past. Maybe it's

because she had become so healthy, or maybe it's because I care so much more about her now, but my heart feels like it is breaking seeing her like this.

"She's stable Alpha. We still have her on the sedative. Would you like that to continue, or would you like me to remove it?" he asks me.

"What do you recommend?" I ask, never taking my eyes off my mate.

"I would like to keep her sedated overnight. It will give both her and Damara a chance to rest and then we can re-evaluate in the morning."

I nod, agreeing to keep her sedated. I stroke her hair, leaning down to kiss her forehead, smelling her lemon scent. It's faint, but it's there.

"Would you like to meet your son, Alpha?" Dr. Baron asks me.

I look over at the bassinet and see my son squirming around looking very unhappy.

"Yes," I say, moving around the bed to get to Salvatore.

"He needs to eat, Alpha. We put together some formula since Luna is unconscious. If you'd like, we'll get you a chair and you can hold him and feed him."

I look at her. "Is it safe?"

"Perfectly safe, but I'll stay close in case something happens. I'll walk you through it."

I look at Dr. Baron. "He's healthy?"

"He is. He gave me quite a scare, but he's recovering quickly. I think I'll be able to start taking him off the monitors tomorrow morning."



I sit down in the rocking chair they brought in for me and the nurse helps me to hold my son for the first time.

"Hey there, big guy. You gave us all a scare. I hope you don't plan to cause your mom and I this much trouble your whole life."

I've never loved anyone the way I love my son the instant I see him. I wish I could say that I'd let myself love Claire the way I should have. I didn't, but with Salvatore, the love is instantaneous. It's like nothing I've ever felt before.

I could be wrong, but it felt like he settled, relaxed almost, when I started to talking to him.

The nurse comes over with the bottle, showing me how to feed him.

She looks at him as he starts to eat. "I think he recognizes you. That's the calmest that he's been since he was born."

Dr. Baron looks at the machines connected to Salvatore. "His vitals are definitely improving with you holding him, Alpha."

The nurse helps me to finish feeding Salvatore and then burp him before setting him back in his bassinet. When the doctor and nurses leave, I move the chair in between the two beds, putting one hand on my son and holding my mate's hand with the other.

I mind link Dane that I'll be staying the night in the hospital. Then I sit back, clearing my mind as best I can without Claire to help me and begin sending waves of love through the bond to my mate and my son.