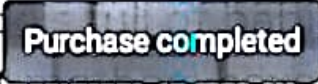


## Chapter 185: Settled

Tereshan

After getting a bassinet from the hospital so my son had a place to sleep the first night and after curling up with my mate, off and on while waking every few hours to feed our son, and after rushing back to the hospital when I realized I had no diapers, wipes or ANYTHING for my son, I finally got about two hours of sleep. If today is the day that Roman decides to attack, I'm doomed.

Against my better judgement, I order diapers, wipes, clothes and lots of baby furniture online. At this point, it will no longer be a secret that our pack es, but hopefully enough of our pregnant mothers have their babies before Roman and Eason attack. I let Dane and Jesiah know that no one is allowed onto our pack lands with my permission. They will have to make arrangements to pick the packages up at the pack border.

Our borders continue to be tested by Roman and Eason's scouts and Weston's are as well. The morning after returning home, I carry the bassinet down to my office, and after making sure that Claire is settled, I call Weston.

"Alpha Tereshan, how is your Luna?"

"She is out of the hospital. She's not completely recovered, but she is healing."

"Vivienne will be thrilled to hear that. She was very worried about Claire. She wanted to come, but after speaking with

Alpha Keegan, I knew it was a bad idea."

"You're welcome to come visit now. You and Vivienne could meet our son."

"I'd like that. Now, I assume you're calling about the border probes."

"Probes? That's an interesting way to put it," I say.

"I'm not sure they are real attempts to gain entrance to our territories," he says.

"Why do you say that?"

"There are only a couple of them. These are more like scouts, testing our borders. They haven't been able to get past our patrols, as far as I can tell. I've spoken to Dane and also your patrols and they feel confident that no one has crossed the borders."

He takes a breath. "However, I have noticed an increase in the scouts coming at the borders that are NOT part of our joined area, specifically where I removed the electric fence. That portion of my pack lands isn't easily patrolled, and we've found several scents in that area. I'm increasing our patrols, but I've also set traps, for Eason's men."

"What kind of traps?" I ask.

"The kind that human hunters use to catch large prey. The kind that will snap your ankle in two if you're in human form and your leg in two if you're in wolf form."

"The nasty kind," I say.

"It was that or bombs and I didn't want to risk injuring my

patrols."

"How is the pack doing? Are you getting enough food?"

"Yes, we're good and thank you for paying my people early. It has helped a lot."

"Good, so back to our attacks, you think I need to check my eastern border, the one that doesn't connect with yours?"

"I would. The river isn't far from your pack borders, right?"

"That's correct."

"If it were me, that's where I'd come in. We have too many patrols protecting our lands that join together."

I look at Claire. I hate that fucking river. I've never had a chance to teach her to swim. If we survive this, I'm going to build a pack pool and teach our pack members to swim.

"Thanks for the head's up. I'll add some more patrols over there as well."

"No problem. So, my mate wants to know when we can come visit?"

I look at Claire again. "Soon!" She says loudly enough for Weston to hear, and he chuckles.

"She needs another day or so to heal. Damara got weak protecting our son. Maybe this weekend?"

I can hear Vivienne in the background, excitedly asking Weston if they can come.

"Looks like we'll be there this weekend," he says.



Over the next couple of months, Claire and I settle into a routine with Salvatore. I have the contractor build a nursery in the room next to ours and put an adjoining door to our bedroom. Then, I have him do the same thing in Dane and Feena's room, Jesiah and Lucy's room and several others.

Not surprisingly, the pack goes through their baby boom. Lucy went into labor a few days after Claire got out of the hospital, having a little boy. Feena went into labor a few weeks after that, and then Nita. Dane made a point of telling me that I better teach my son to keep his hands off his daughter.

We got notice that Vivienne had her son and others in our pack, including some of the women that were in the brothel, had their babies. It has gone a long way to healing this pack and showing the incredible differences that have occurred in this timeline.

The nursery was completed just in time for us to begin using it for Salvatore. That was another thing I forgot to get furniture and supplies for, but thankfully, Feena remembered so we were prepared when the ranked members started having babies but still needed to be away from them to work during the day. When Nita went into labor, Elise took over the nursery and when Nita came back, there were so many babies that Elise stayed on, and we had to bring several other women in to help.

The school was finally built, and we moved the education of our omegas from the library into the school. Weston began sending his omegas as well and very quickly we had a full group of people to teach. Dane made the great suggestion to include weapons training as part of their standard education, so rather than having an evening training in addition to

school, it became part of their day. Once a week, Jacoby comes in to teach axe and hammer throwing and twice a week, Feena teaches them how to shoot bows and arrows. The other two days, Vivienne and Claire split, teaching the omegas how to throw knives.

The alluvial mining and phytomining process have become a huge success. Not only is our pack getting rich, but Alpha Elio has been able to expand his farmland, increasing the food supply to the packs, Alpha Nicholas and Alpha Adam have been able to expand their pack lands and rebuild their packhouses, Alpha Keegan has expanded his farmland and increased the amount of food for the packs and 'specialty' items he makes for our pack and Alpha Weston has been able to start rebuilding his pack.

We got his mating houses built just in time. After our alliance gathering and the multiple mates that found each other, he needed them. So, while Keegan and I have had our first round of a baby boom, Weston is just starting his. It'll be a few more months before he starts to see what Keegan and I are seeing in our pack. Life, happiness, family. It's incredible. My pack has never been as cohesive, as much of an actual pack, as they are now.

Alpha Nicholas came by to see the mining process and introduce some new people he wanted to bring onto the work shifts. When he did, I instantly noticed a difference in his scent.

"Alpha Nicolas, that's a nice mate mark you've got on your neck," I tease.

He reaches up to touch it, his eyes going unfocused with the memory. "She finally agreed to mark me. She hasn't let me



mark her yet, but I think it's working. She knows that I want her, knows that I won't hurt her or mistreat her. I think it's only a matter of time before she finally lets me mark her."

"Congratulations! Hopefully, soon, you and your pack will join in on the baby boom that is taking over the three packs here."

After getting Nicholas's men set up on the mining system, and introducing him to our son, Claire and I say goodbye, asking him to give our best to Emine.

That night, like most nights, I make love to my mate. I waited as long as the doctor told me I had to after she delivered Sal, but as soon as he said Damara had completely healed her, I haven't been able to get enough of my mate. Her lemon scent is back, so strong, and I just have to taste her, feel her, touch her, hear her soft moans as they turn into her screams of pleasure. No matter how many times I have her, it's never enough, I always want more. I will always want more and more of my sweet mate.

I curl up around her, feeling her happiness, her contentedness after our love making, and I fall asleep listening to the sweet, soft sounds of our son in the next room. Life couldn't be any better.

The next morning, I'm awakened by the howls of alarm. Roman and Eason are here.