

Claire

First, he accepts me, then he wants me to mark him. Now he wants me to move into his bedroom...permanently. And that's after announcing to the pack that I'm his mate and future Luna. I'm feeling really overwhelmed right now. That is, until he taps his thigh.

That was my gesture to him when he needed comfort or strength. I look up and see him watching me, offering to give me what I gave him. When I go to stand beside him, I know he's going to put me on his lap. What I'm not expecting is how perfect it would feel.

It always felt good to be close to him, to hold him and comfort him. But this feels....right. Like it was always meant to be this way. Like he was always meant to be this kind of Alpha and I was always meant to be his Luna, with him showing me this kind of care and affection. Once Magnor starts purring at me, I lean into him, relaxing against him in a way I never have before.

After Tereshan thanks Dane for being a good Beta to me and suggesting to him that he take advantage of his time with Feena, Dane stands up to leave.

Just as he gets to the door, he turns back. "Alpha, there are two she-wolves at the border asking for your protection. They said you told them to specifically ask for you, me or Bryson."

Tereshan looks at me. "That's the women I told you about. Who do we trust besides the three in here earlier?" He asks me.

"Jesiah." I tell him without giving it a second thought. He helped me in the first timeline, and he became our Lead Warrior in the second.

Tereshan nods and turns to Dane. "Get Jesiah to get them settled and interview them. Make sure this isn't a way for them to infiltrate our pack. I don't think it is, but I've been wrong before."

He looks at me. "When you meet with Feena, can you ask her to set up a room for them. They are sisters and probably scared. Put them in the same room for now."

"Yes." I say, moving to stand. He takes my hand, pulling me back to him. He pulls me to stand between his legs and we're almost at eye level this way.

"I want to talk more later, about everything. But we have so much to do, and I want to get the wheels turning so we can make sure that we survive this year. But no matter how busy I am, no matter what is going on, if you need me, you come to me. Agreed?"

I'm still afraid. Afraid that he'll go back to being his old self. Afraid that he'll yell at me or hurt me like he used to if interrupt him.

He takes my face in his hands and leans forward, pressing his lips to my forehead. "Give me a chance to prove myself. I won't let you down again." He says, pulling back and looking at me.

"So, are we agreed?"

I nod. "Agreed."

I told Magnor I'd give him and Tereshan a chance. For Magnor, I can try.

"Good. If you and Feena need a place to work, come back in here. Otherwise, I'll see you outside in an hour."

Still holding my face in his hands, he leans down again, this time, pressing his lips to mine briefly before pulling back. His eyes go dark as he looks at me.

"I love that lemon taste you have." He says, licking his lips.

I blush and turn, ready to find Bryson and get the names.

Once I get them, I find Feena and we begin calling and making arrangements for the heat and hot water to be fixed. Then we order the blankets and as with last time, they won't be here until tomorrow.

"Claire, it's time for the announcement." Feena says to me, and we begin to corral the omegas out back to watch Tereshan's announcement.

He's already there on the stage and when he sees me, he gestures for me to join him. I walk up the stage steps and when I get there, he takes my hand.

"Attention everyone!" His voice booms out over the group, and everyone gets quiet.

"Thank you all for stopping your work on short notice and coming to hear my announcements. I have several. First, I

have been a negligent Alpha, allowing my omegas to be mistreated by other pack members while I turned a blind eye. That ends today. Anyone that intentionally hurts or injures an omega will find themselves inside a cell for as long as I determine your punishment to be or will be banished from this pack."

The entire field is quiet, just like last time.

"Second, effective immediately, omegas will begin joining warrior training. Dane and I will be creating a schedule with Feena to make sure that all omegas are able to train and also continue to do their jobs."

Now there is a lot of mumbling from the warriors. Even in this timeline, they don't like the idea of omegas learning to fight.

"Problem?" Tereshan's voice booms across the field, making me jump. I'm not the only one, nearly everyone in the pack jumps.

There's a bunch of mumbled 'no' and no alpha' comments and Tereshan waits for the murmurs to die down.

"My next announcement is that, as all of you know, today is my birthday. And I have found my mate." He turns to me and all I see is love in his eyes.

"For those of you who don't know Claire, she has been a member of our pack her entire life. She is an incredible woman who always ensures that the pack comes first. She is strong, stronger than I ever gave her credit for being, stronger than anyone I've ever met before and I'm proud to say that she is my mate and your future Luna."

I'm surprised by the cheering that comes from everyone. Some are mildly clapping, you can tell they aren't excited to have an omega as their Luna. But others, like Vivienne, Jacoby, Feena and Dane are clapping loudly.

I notice that Bryson is missing. I assume he's still talking to Ivy.

"My last announcement is that Roman has been removed from his position of Beta and in his place, I have named Lead Warrior Dane as my new Beta."

That gets a huge round of applause. The warriors adore Dane, he's a good leader and a great Beta.

Dane raises his hand, acknowledging the praise.

"Tonight, Claire and I will be celebrating both of our birthdays as well as finding each other. Tomorrow, the work begins to make our pack better and stronger, together." He says, smiling at me.

"Together." I say, and my quiet voice rings out over the field.

He turns back to the crowd. "Thank you everyone. If you have any questions, feel free to come speak to us now, or when you feel you are ready to talk."

As people begin to disperse, Tereshan holds on to my hand. "Stay here. If they want to talk to me, I want you to be a part of it." He says quietly.

Many pack members come up and congratulate us. Some, I can see, are only doing it to stay in Tereshan's good graces. Others seem to truly mean it.

The line of people begins to dwindle when Dane comes jogging up. "Alpha, Luna, I need to speak with you. It's important."

Tereshan pulls me to him, and we walk away from the people lingering in the field.

"What is it?" Tereshan asks.

Dane presses his lips together.

"It's Bryson, Alpha. It appears he released Ivy and the two of them have fled."