

Claire

I decided that I would mark Tereshan. Damara told me that the risk is all his, not ours. I will be able to feel his emotions, maybe even hear his thoughts more clearly, but if he rejects us, it wouldn't be any worse for us than it was before. However, for him, it would be devastating.

When he exposed his throat to me, I knew I had made the right decision. I've never seen an Alpha submit like Tereshan just did to me. It makes me feel special, loved, wanted.

Damara is beyond excited and while I would have taken a few extra moments, trying to soften his skin and slowly sinking my teeth into his neck, she snaps her teeth into him like a viper.

Instantly, I feel his body tense, his arms around me, pulling me closer to him, holding me as Magnor growls loudly. I taste the blood in my mouth as Damara milks her venom into his neck and I feel the first part of our mate bond snap into place.

I'm flooded with Tereshan's emotions. Appreciation, respect, adoration, admiration and I'm surprised to feel love. Real love.

Not only am I flooded with his emotions, but also his strength. It flows through me, through us, making Damara stronger, making me stronger.

He holds my head against him as Damara pushes her venom

into his body.

"Yes." He says, softly, his voice catching.

'Yes.' I hear him say again and I realize that he said it the second time in his mind, not out loud.

When Damara is satisfied that Tereshan smells like us, she pulls her canines out of his neck. She leans forward and licks the wound, sealing it closed.

I sit up, looking at Tereshan. He reaches up, stroking my face with the back of his knuckles.

"How does Damara feel?" He asks me.

"She's feeling pretty proud of herself." I tell him. "And stronger. We felt your strength flow into us." I tell him.

He smiles. "Yeah? Good. Magnor is feeling pretty smug that we're wearing your mark, just so you know."

"What about you?" I ask him.

"I am very, very happy." And I know he's being truthful. I can feel it.

I sit back, frowning, before pulling the oversized shirt that Feena got me up.

"Claire?" Tereshan asks.

Once I can see my ribcage, I know I'm right. "Look Tereshan. All those bruises from earlier are gone." I say, looking up at him. Me marking him has healed me.

His eyes flash to mine then back down to my body. Slowly, as if he's worried he'll upset or hurt me, he reaches out and moves my shirt, pulling my shorts down to look at the areas that were covered in bruises earlier today and now are completely unmarked.

"I had no idea it would help you heal." He says, looking at me and smiling brightly.

"Me either. But I feel better, and Damara feels stronger too."

"Strong enough to shift?" Tereshan's voice has deepened, becoming growly and his eyes have darkened.

"I'm not sure, Magnor." I say, knowing he has pushed forward. Damara pushes forward too, wanting to see her mate.

"I'd like to try." She tells him.

His hand comes up, stroking our face. "Tomorrow, my love. We will try tomorrow."

She leans forward, rubbing her face against his. The scruff of Tereshan's face is rough against ours, but she doesn't care.

"Tomorrow, my love." She tells him, before pulling back.

I sit up, not sure I feel comfortable laying on Tereshan.

I see that Tereshan's eyes are still dark. Magnor continues to stroke my face. "Sleep well my mate. I love both of you."

"I love you too, Magnor." I tell him.

Even though he's sitting up, he taps his chest for me to lay

against him. I do, tucking my face against his neck. His strong arms go around me and Magnor begins purring, the vibration flowing into my exhausted body, pulling me into a deep sleep.

When I wake the next morning, I realize that Tereshan hasn't moved. I'm still tucked up against him, his arms are still around me, he's just scooted down so that he's in more of a reclined position.

"Oh!" I say, ready to crawl off of him.

"You don't have to get off of me. I like having you sleep on me." He says.

"Ummm, I have to go to the bathroom." I tell him.

"Mmmm, okay." He says sleepily, kissing my forehead before opening his arms. I quickly realize that my legs are asleep from being in the awkward position of straddling him all night.

I feel his hands come to my hips, lifting me up and off of him.

"Do you need help getting to the bathroom?" He asks me.

"No." I say, sliding off the bed and nearly collapsing to the floor.

His hand reaches out to grab me before I can fall, holding me against the bed.

"Claire..."

"I just need a minute." I say as the pins and needle feeling of

the blood flowing back into my legs intensifies. Before I have a chance to move, Tereshan's out of bed, carrying me to the bathroom.

"Tonight, we're going to sleep more normally so you don't have this problem in the morning." He says.

"Good idea." I tell him.

"Are you good?" He asks as I stand wobbly by the toilet.

"Yep." I say, not feeling confident, but not wanting him to watch as I pee.

"I'll be right outside." He says and he already sounds much more awake.

I go to the bathroom then wash my hands and face before coming out to the bedroom.

"What time is it?" I ask him.

"Five am. Our usual wake up time."

"What time did we go to bed?" I ask him.

"Two am."

I groan. "No wonder I'm so tired."

"I would tell you to go back to bed, but I want to check on Keegan. And while he's here, we may as well talk about the alliance. We didn't even get to that last night." He stops, looking at me.

"Of course, that will very much depend on how he feels

about me this morning after realizing that I just slept with his mate in this timeline."

That wakes me up.

"Holy cow! I didn't even think about that. It's been so long that it didn't even phase me, but for him..."

"It was just yesterday morning that I woke up with his mate naked in my bed..." He says with a sour look on his face.

"Okay, well, maybe I should take the lead on the conversation." I tell him.

He frowns. "Why?"

"Uh, because I'm YOUR mate and I accepted you enough to mark you. He'll definitely buy it that we have some things to work through before I allow you to mark me."

"That's a great idea." He says.

"Stick with me, Alpha." I say, winking at him.

He growls low, pulling me to him. "I plan to 'stick with you' for the rest of our lives, my little Luna." He tells me. "And I like you being playful with me. I hope you do it more often."

I smile shyly, looking down. "I'm trying."

"I know, and I really like it." He says.

We get dressed and head downstairs, not sure when we'll see Keegan.

We needn't have worried. As soon as we walk into the dining

room Keegan stomps up to Tereshan and punches him in the face.

“You touch my mate again and I’ll kill you.” He snarls.