

Chapter 165: Emine

Claire

The day of the Alpha meeting, I wake early to help Feena and Lucy prepare for the afternoon and evening with the Alphas and their mates.

"The rooms are ready Claire, we have the food started for dinner and the snacks are ready for when everyone arrives," Feena tells me.

"What about lunch for Alpha Nicholas and his mate? I don't even know her name," I say.

"We have lunch being prepared and I thought it would be a good idea to plan to have all the rogues join you for lunch, so Feena has them making enough food for everyone," Lucy says.

"I wonder...." I say, thinking out loud.

"What dress to wear? If it will rain today? What day you'll deliver your child? Give us a hint about what you're wondering about, Luna," Lucy jokes with me. She's been a great addition to our group, and she found out yesterday that she is indeed pregnant. So, it's likely that we'll all be going through our pregnancies together.

"Well, when Alpha Nicholas first told me and Tereshan about his mate, he said he thought she was an Alpha. He told Tereshan that she is Alpha Eason's sister." They both growl

at that.

While the conversation is upsetting, the fact that both of them now have wolves strong enough to growl out loud speaks volumes about the work that Tereshan and I are doing with the pack. Everyone is getting stronger.

"So, I'm wondering, if she was acting as their Alpha, and because all wolves respond to hierarchy, I wonder if she could help the wolves that haven't regained their human side yet. I wonder if she can help them to shift. Tereshan tried, but he's not their Alpha. If she is or was, maybe they will respond to her."

"How many are left?" Lucy asks.

"Three. They are the ones whose mates were there the longest."

"If she's their Alpha, or they recognize her as their Alpha, it's possible that they may want to join her pack," Feena says.

"A good point. And maybe that's something I can say to help convince her to give Alpha Nicholas a chance. From everything I've seen and everything I've heard from Keegan, Alpha Nicolas is a good man."

Alpha Nicholas and his mate arrive a little before noon. I had expected him to arrive with some warriors, as is common, but instead, it's just the two of them. I wonder if that was to help her feel more comfortable, only having him in the car with her.

Tereshan and I walk outside to greet them.

Alpha Nicholas gets out of the car and before he can get around it, his mate has opened the door and stepped out. She has the skittish look of someone who is looking for the nearest escape route.

"Hello, and welcome to our pack," I say, stepping forward. "I'm Claire, the Luna of this pack." Tereshan stays back, watching her.

She turns to me. "You have my rogues here?"

"We have some of them, the rest are in Alpha Keegan's pack. You'll meet him later. The rogues staying here have all been invited to join us for lunch, but I was hoping we could speak briefly before that. However, if you're hungry, we can eat now," I say, trying to be accommodating.

She lifts her nose in the air, sniffing, before answering.

"We can talk first," she says.

"Alpha Tereshan, Luna Claire, may I introduce my mate, Emine." Nicholas says. I notice that while his hands twitch, wanting to touch her, he is using restraint. He's probably lucky she agreed to come at all. I hope seeing the rogues reunited with their mates will help her to relax.

"Emine, it's nice to meet you. Would you be willing to come inside, or would you feel more comfortable meeting out here?" I ask her.

She looks at me, a frown twitching quickly across her tanned face. She spends a lot of time outside.

"You're not an Alpha," she says.

It's a statement, not a question.

"No, I was an omega before Tereshan accepted me as his mate."

Her eyes flicker to Tereshan before coming back to me.

"You reunited my rogues with their mates?"

"WE did," I say, stressing that it wasn't just me. "We took them out to the brothel and last week everyone participated in burning it down."

She nods. "I heard about that. I'm glad that fucking place is gone."

"You aren't the only one," Tereshan says.

She focuses her attention on Tereshan. "And what's in it for you, Alpha? Why are you doing this?"

I'm thankful that he doesn't take offense at her abrasive nature. Nicholas flinches at her harsh words, but Tereshan takes them in stride. I send a wave of love and pride at him, letting him know I appreciate his patience.

He looks at me, as he answers her. "Besides being the right thing to do, I never want to disappoint my mate. I wasn't always a good man. If you are Alpha Eason's sister, then you would know the rumors about me, and most of them are probably true. But then, I found Claire. She is my everything, she has shown me how to be a better man. If I ever did anything to disappoint my mate, to feel her disappointment in me, it would devastate me. She has shown me that being a good man, a good Alpha and a good mate, brings more joy

and happiness to my life than I could have ever dreamed."

She frowns again, looking at me. "Is he serious?"

"Very," I answer her.

"What's inside?" she asks, switching topics again.

Now it's my turn to frown. I turn, looking at the packhouse, not sure how to answer. "Uh, a kitchen, a living room, bedrooms, one of which is made up for you, bathrooms, offices," I turn back to her. "Is that what you mean?"

She smiles at me. "I like you. You're honest, aren't you?"

I shrug. "I don't have any reason not to be."

"Were you worried I brought you here as a trap?" Nicholas asks her dryly.

She gives him a side-eye look. "The thought crossed my mind."

"We just freed an entire brothel of women. I have no intention of imprisoning any here in my pack," Tereshan says to her.

She tucks her arm through mine. "Lead the way then, Luna."

We walk inside and I watch as she looks around, seeing how the omegas are working and laughing together. She takes everything in as we move to Tereshan's office.

"Before you meet with your rogues," Tereshan says after everyone is seated, me in his lap, "I would like to let you know a few things."

"Such as?"

"Some of the wolves had gone feral. And while finding their mates has helped many find their humanity again, we still have a few that have not. I have tried to help them, but so far, I haven't had any luck. However, I'm not their Alpha," he says.

"But you were, weren't you? Or maybe you still are?" I ask.

"Yes, I guess you would say that I was their Alpha."

"We'd like for you to try to help them while you're here, maybe they will respond to you in a way that they did not respond to my mate," I tell her.

"I would be happy to help them in any way that I can."

"We have offered for them to become a part of our pack, or Alpha Keegan's. You'll meet him later today, him and his mate. She knew many of the women in the brothel."

"How?" Emine asks, her eyes narrowing.

"She came from there," Nicholas says.

Emine looks thoughtful. "And this Alpha Keegan knew this?"

"He did. He is one of the Alphas that I told you had his mate mark him. Alpha Tereshan is the other," Nicholas tells her.

She turns her attention back to me. "You marked your Alpha but didn't let him mark you?"

"He gave me the option. He wanted me to see that I could trust him. He wanted me to feel his emotions, hear his

thoughts so I knew the intention behind actions. Several of our pack mates have done the same. There are many of our pack members who had trust issues for one reason or another. For all of those that had the female mark her mate without him marking her, those bonds are now complete."

"It was that impactful for you?" she asks me, but Tereshan jumps in.

"Alpha Emine, you know me, or you know of me. You know what an asshole I used to be. I was an asshole to everyone, including my omegas, which included my mate. For me, there was only one way to show her that I had changed."

He rubs his hands over my stomach. "It worked and now, my mate and I are expecting our first pup," he says, kissing my shoulder.

I lean my head against his.

"Congratulations!" Alpha Nicholas says. "I thought you smelled strongly of Alpha Tereshan when I got here. Now I understand why. I take it it's a boy?"

"The doctor hasn't confirmed it yet, but Magnor says yes," he says, and Magnor starts purring loudly.

Emine barks a laugh. "Typical Alpha," she says, but there's no ire behind her words.

"You've given me much to think about. If you don't mind, I'd like to see my people now," she says, rising.

"Absolutely, I'll let Feena know," I say and turn to walk out with Emine, but not before I see Nicholas's smile.