

Claire

The next morning, I'm trying to focus on my training with Dane but all I can think about is that conversation with Tereshan yesterday. I can't believe I told him I've been having orgasms in his body. If I had been in my body, I would have burst into flames from embarrassment. Tereshan's body, however, doesn't blush, no matter how embarrassed I am, thankfully.

Dane has just gotten the better of me again when Feena comes rushing into the training room.

"Alpha Tereshan, come quick."

Her eyes are wide, and her voice is trembling. I'm up in an instant, Dane already at her side.

"What happened?"

She looks at me and something about the horror on her face makes my stomach sink.

"Just hurry." She says racing from the room.

Dane and I are right behind her as she starts talking again.

"I tried to get her to go to the pack hospital, but she refused. I think...I think she's in shock." Feena says.

"Who?" I ask as we race to the omega hallway.

"Claire." She says, looking at me over her shoulder. I grit my

teeth, I know whatever this is, it's going to be bad.

Before I even walk into the room, I can smell the blood. "When she didn't come to the kitchens this morning, I sent Vivienne to look for her, and she..." She stops, her voice choking up.

Outside my old room, several omegas are standing, wanting to help but not knowing what to do. "Go back to work. I've got this." I tell them kindly.

"Will she be okay, Alpha?" One of them asks.

"I'll take care of her." I tell them.

I step into my old room. I haven't been back here since I swapped bodies with Tereshan. I glance at the door and see that the lock is broken. I look at Dane and point to the lock. He nods, heading out to get something to fix it.

When I step into the room, I don't immediately see Tereshan. Feena points to the bathroom where the door is partially closed.

When I open the door and look inside, my heart feels like it's going to break. Tereshan is sitting on the floor, his knees against his chest and blood pooling around him, some having already dried. He's been sitting here awhile. His head is down and he's rocking his body as if he's trying to comfort himself.

I turn back to the room. "Leave us."

Just before she leaves, I call out to Feena. "Tell the doctor I'll be bringing someone to him momentarily and he needs to

be ready."

She nods before heading out.

When she does, I turn back to Tereshan, squatting down in front of him.

"Tereshan." I say quietly.

He doesn't respond and when I reach out to touch him, he flinches away, screaming.

"Tereshan, it's me. It's me, Claire."

I wait until the unfocused look in his eyes focuses on me.

"Claire."

"Yeah, I'm here."

"I knew you'd come."

"Do you want to tell me what happened?" I ask gently.

He shakes his head no.

"You need medical attention. I've got the pack doctor..."

"No! No, I don't want to go." He says, his eyes going wild with fear.

"Hey. Hey, hey, hey. I'm here. I'm not going anywhere, and no one will hurt you now. I won't let them hurt you again."

"He said you wouldn't believe me." He says quietly.

"This is me, Tereshan. It's Claire. You and I both know that you wouldn't lie about this. I believe you, but I do need to

know who did this. And I do need you to be seen by the doctor. You've lost a lot of blood. Why isn't Magnor healing you?"

A tear drips down his face. "He's gone."

I slowly reach my hand out, pushing the hair out of his face so I can see him. "Because of what happened?" I ask.

He nods.

"We'll get him back. Damara and I will do whatever he needs to get him back, okay."

He looks up at me, his eyes so different than the teasing happiness that was in them yesterday. Today they are full of fear and trauma. "I'm afraid, Claire. I've never been afraid in my life, but I'm so afraid."

"I'll stay with you. Let me take you to the pack hospital to have the doctor see you. I won't leave your side."

I open my arms, waiting for him to make the first move. When he does, he flies into my arms, grabbing the front of my shirt and sobbing against my chest. I hold him, rocking him in the way that he was rocking himself before carefully picking him up and carrying him out of the room.

"The doctor is waiting for you, Alpha." Feena says to me.

I nod. "Tell no one what has happened or where I am. Tell the omegas not to say a word, not to anyone until I know who did this."

She looks at me a moment and I press my lips together.

Yeah, we both know who did this.

I carry Tereshan to the pack hospital. The doctor is waiting for us. He directs me to a room and has me lay Tereshan on the bed. Immediately, he begins grabbing on to me, begging me not to leave.

I take his face in my hands. "I'm not going anywhere. I'm staying right here."

"Look at me. The doctor is going to evaluate you. It might hurt, but I'm right here."

His gaze latches on to mine as if I'm his lifeline, his life preserver in the middle of a tumultuous ocean, the only thing keeping him from drowning.

I never look away from him as the doctor explains what he's doing and Tereshan flinches and tears stream down his face. When he's done, the doctor looks at me.

"Alpha." He says, nodding his head toward the door.

I look at Tereshan, adding an extra blanket to his body, hoping the weight of it will help him feel safe. I always wanted a heavy blanket when I was scared. "I'll be right back. I'm just going to step outside with the doctor."

He immediately starts shaking his head back and forth quickly, his eyes going wide and his pupils dilating in fear.

"I'm not leaving. I'm stepping outside to the speak with the doctor. I won't leave your doorway. No one will get in here but me. Okay? I'm your Alpha. I wouldn't lie to you." I tell him. Damara pushes out her calming Alpha aura.

"I'll be right back."

I step outside and the doctor confirms what I already knew. Tereshan was raped. He's torn badly, he needed stitches, it will take time to heal, but the emotional wounds will take longer to heal than the physical ones. I knew all of that from my time with Feena and the abuse she suffered at Roman's hands.

"Do you know who it was, Alpha?" The doctor asks me.

"I have an idea." I tell him.

"Claire's a sweet girl. She didn't deserve this."

I scrub my hands over my face. "No one deserves this doctor."

He nods. "I'll keep her here for a couple of days, monitor her healing before I release her."

"No one goes into her room unless I have cleared them with you. Understand?"

"Yes, Alpha."

I turn and go back inside. I pull up a chair and sit beside the bed, taking Tereshan's hand in mine.

"Will you hold me, Alpha?" Tereshan asks.

"Of course." I stand, intending to lean over and hug him, but he moves over, making room on the bed for me. I crawl onto the bed, and Tereshan curls up against me. I wrap my arms around him, and Damara begins purring at him.

"I need to know who did this, Tereshan. It's important. They can't get away with it."

He's quiet for a long time. So long that I think he's refusing to tell me. Then, as I close my eyes, I hear him softly whisper, "Roman."