

Tereshan

I help Feena prepare the feast for the pack. I realize that not only is this a great idea to recognize the omegas that were so brave, but it also brings the pack together, letting us all celebrate our victory as one unified pack. Because it wasn't just me or Claire or Dane that won the battle. It was all of us together. A lesson I have learned while I've been in Claire's body. A lesson she has taught me.

I had watched Claire go to Elise, praising her for her bravery and courage. I had seen the way Elise's face went from fearful and timid to bright and happy at receiving her Alpha's praise.

Thinking about it, I stop, taking a look around at the omegas working hard in the kitchen, cooking, and setting up the tables. The atmosphere in here is so different than it was when I first woke up in this body. Everyone is happy, excited even. And not just because of the feast tonight. They are just happy. Happy in their work, happy to have safety and security in their lives, happy to know that their Alpha and other ranked members appreciate them and care about them.

Claire did this. She's made this pack into something I never did. A real pack, not a group of people living and working side by side, but a group of people that live and work together for a common goal. The goal of living a good life, a happy life the way a pack should.

We finish getting everything set up for dinner. Feena has

found some candles to light giving the dining room an even more celebratory feel.

We all come into the dining room. Dane set it up so that the patrols will shift out halfway through the event so everyone can celebrate with us.

We bring the food out putting it all on the tables, family style and then we sit down.

Claire stands, looking around the room and smiling at her pack. Everyone goes quiet.

"Tonight, we celebrate our victory over Alpha Franco." She says and everyone begins clapping, stomping and howling.

She smiles, clapping her hands along with everyone else. When everyone quiets down, she begins again.

"Yes, we are a brave pack with fierce and powerful warriors." Everyone claps and howls again.

"But, sometimes, bravery comes from unexpected places. And tonight, I would like to honor some of our unexpected heroes. When I say your name, please stand."

Claire lists out the seven of us that were in the safe room. When Elise looks terrified at the attention she's getting, Claire casually walks to stand beside her, putting her hand on her shoulder and calming her.

"As most of you know, one of our safe rooms was breached. It is a testament to our warriors and our omegas that we have strengthened our pack by training our omegas and giving them the power to fight when needed. But just

because you have the skill, doesn't mean you will act when the time comes."

She looks down at Elise who is looking up at her with so much adoration it makes my heart hurt. That should have been me. They were my omegas and never once did any of them look at me like that.

"Bravery means that when the time comes, you overcome your fears and you do what must be done to protect yourself and to protect the pack." She looks at all of us before continuing.

"You seven fought bravely and tonight, I commend you and honor you as defenders of this pack. No lives were lost in that safe room because you fought the intruders, you overcame your fear and you WON!"

She shouts the last word, punching her fist into the air and pushing the already excitable pack into a frenzy of howls, whistles and stomping. From outside, I can hear the patrols howling their own excitement, having listened to Claire's announcement through the pack link.

As the pack quiets down, Claire leans down, kissing the top of Elise's head before helping her back into her chair.

"Now, what you may not know is that I nearly died on the battlefield."

I stop and everyone in the room goes quiet. Only me and Dane know this.

Claire looks at me, coming to stand beside me. I shake my head at her. She doesn't need to tell the pack that I killed

Franco.

She puts her hand on my shoulder and turns back to the pack. "I had been fighting Alpha Franco and I was winning. But in an instant, that changed, and he got the upper hand. He had Dam...he had Magnor pinned to the ground and was ready to kill us." She looks down at me.

"Claire slit his throat before he could." I hear everyone in the room gasp.

"So, tonight, I want to recognize and honor Claire for her bravery and her commitment to this pack. Without her, this celebration would not be occurring."

I realize that Claire is saying so much more to me in this statement. She recognizes that I'm finally putting the pack first as I always should have. I feel tears prick my eyes.

Claire turns and Feena hands her a drink. I see others handing them out and I realize this is champagne, a toast to me.

"So, here's to you, Claire Roberts. For showing bravery like no other and putting our pack first."

I can do nothing but watch as she takes a sip of champagne, her eyes never leaving mine as the people in the room say "Cheers", clinking their glasses and drinking their champagne.

She hands me my glass before returning to her seat.

"Before we get to our feast, we have one more announcement." She turns, looking at Dane.

"Dane?"

He stands. "Thank you, Alpha."

"Jesiah, will you join me?" He says. Jesiah looks shocked but comes to stand beside Dane.

Similar to what Claire did, Dane puts his hand on Jesiah's shoulder, looking him in the eye.

"You have been a good, strong warrior in this pack. You have shown your love and dedication to this pack, to our warriors, and you were one of the first to show your dedication to training our omegas."

The omegas all begin clapping. Dane smiles, looking out over the room before turning back to Jesiah.

"Tonight, I would like to honor your dedication by making you the Lead Warrior in our pack."

Jesiah's eyes go wide and this time, the howls are so loud that the room shakes. I can hear the howls of the pack members outside, their yips of excitement and congratulations.

"Thank you!" Jesiah says to him, then turns to Claire.

"Thank you so much for this opportunity."

Dane snorts. "Don't thank us yet. We have a lot of work for you."

Jesiah looks back at Dane. "I'm up for the challenge, Beta."

"We know you are, that's why you were chosen to take Dane's

place as Lead Warrior." Claire says, going to congratulate him.

The rest of the night, the mood in the pack remains positive, excited, happy. Nearly everyone comes up to me, congratulating me on saving Claire's life. They all want to hear the story and I even notice that when they ask Claire, she tells them they will have ask me, since I was the one that saved her.

In the past, I would have worried that the pack would have challenged me if they knew that an omega saved my life, assuming I was too weak to save myself. In this pack environment that Claire has created, there is only happiness and congratulations that our Alpha was saved.