

Tereshan

I have the satisfaction of watching my mate's eyes snap open as I accept her.

"You didn't think I was going to let you get away from me again, did you?" I ask her quietly, realizing that we have an audience.

I can see the fear in her eyes. She's still not sure what to expect from me. I understand that I have a lot to make up for, especially from the time that I was her Alpha. Her Alpha AND her mate.

'Finally, you understand.' Magnor says in my mind, watching our mate.

"Come." I say to her, standing and reaching out my hand. "We have much to discuss."

Just then, I hear pounding paws coming our way. I turn, putting Claire behind me when I see Tripp, Roman's wolf, rushing toward us.

He gets to us and shifts, moving to stand beside me. "Goddess Alpha, what the hell? You just up and left this morning."

He bends over, panting and he turns his head, seeing Claire behind me. He looks at her, then looks up at me.

"She's your mate?" He asks me, disbelieving.

"Yes."

He nods. "Well, fuck her and reject her. I hear your mate is the best fu...."

I grab him by the throat, lifting him off the ground. Magnor pushes forward, snarling.

"I should kill you for what you did." I say to him, pulling him closer to my face. His feet are kicking in the air, trying to find purchase anywhere, and his hands are trying to pull my hand away from his throat.

"Tereshan." Her sweet voice distracts me, and I look at her.

"Don't tell me I should let him go, Claire. Not after what he did." I snarl at her.

I watch as the fear in her eyes increases, but my mate, my amazing mate, stands up to me.

"He hasn't done it in this timeline, Tereshan. Everyone here will think you've gone crazy if you kill him." She mind links me.

"So, I should just let him go?" I say through the mind link, still angry at everything that Roman has done to betray me.

"No. We know that doesn't work, don't we? But we have to be smart about it. He has information we need. We still don't know why Alpha Franco wants this pack. I'm not saying don't punish him, I'm just saying don't kill him. Not yet."

I look at her, recognizing that she, as always, thinks clearly, where I move directly to anger. I take a breath, knowing that

I need to take her ideas, her thoughts, into consideration this time.

I turn to Roman, still struggling and now turning blue. "You went against my order. I know what you've done." I snarl at him.

"I don't know what that omega told you." He chokes out. "But I haven't done anything."

"That omega, is your future Luna and tell me you haven't been forcing one of my omegas to have sex with you." I say. I hear Dane suck in air behind me.

I watch as Roman's mouth opens and closes. "She wanted it." He chokes out, before his eyes roll back into his head and he passes out.

I release him, letting him fall to the ground.

"No, she didn't." I say quietly, turning to the group of warriors.

"Take him to the cells." I order them. I see Claire flinch at my Alpha aura. She's weak all over again. All that work I did to strengthen her body...gone.

'We'll make her strong again. We'll get her strong enough that I can finally see my mate in her true form.' Magnor says.

'Yes, we will buddy. I swear on my life, we will.'

I reach down, taking her hand. "Claire, come with me."

I take a couple of steps before stopping and looking back at

Dane. "Dane, meet me in my office in..." I look at my watch. I need to talk to Claire, and I need to wash the scent of those she-wolves off me. "Forty-five minutes."

I turn, heading back to the packhouse. I've only taken a few steps before I realize that I'm walking like an Alpha again and Claire is rushing to keep up with my stride.

I stop, bending down in front of her. "Get on my back." I tell her.

"What?" She asks, her eyes wide.

I turn and look at her over my shoulder. "Get on my back. You know Magnor loves carrying you around and you know you weigh nothing to me. I know you aren't healthy and well fed and probably woke up exhausted and in pain today. I'm aggravated and angry and I won't be able to keep my stride slow enough for you to keep up easily. It's easier for me to carry you."

She looks at me a moment and I wait. She steps up and the minute she puts her hand on my shoulder, I smell it.

I snarl, making her jump again. I pull her hand toward me, finding the source of blood. As soon as I see that it's a bite mark, I stand, facing my warriors.

"Who did it?" I grit out. I'm ready to kill someone.

When no one responds, my anger ratchets up. "Answer me!" I bark.

Claire flinches again, but I'm watching the warriors. I look at all of them before looking at Dane.

"Dane? Who thought it was a good idea to leave a bite mark on my mate?" I ask him.

"Warrior Tucker, Alpha."

Tucker. I should have fucking known.

"Tucker! You're in the cells too."

"What? No, Alpha, I was just trying to catch her, like you ordered. She was running and I was stopping her."

I look at Dane. He shakes his head, no.

"The cells. Fight it and I'll kill you myself for laying a finger on my mate." I tell him, shutting him up before turning back to Claire.

"Now, Claire." I bark. I know I'm being short. I know I'm scaring her. But if I don't get away from these two men that I want to kill right now, I may tear my entire pack to shreds.

Whether she realizes how close I am to the edge or if she is just following the request of her Alpha, I don't care. She climbs on my back, and I begin to stride away, back to the packhouse.