

Claire

I have so many questions, so much confusion in my head right now. I don't even know where to begin. In the last 24 hours, I've died, come back to life on my 18th birthday yet again, I've run for my life, been accepted by my mate, and told that we need to work together to survive.

Now, I need to clear my thoughts and be prepared to talk to the three people who supported me the most in the last year but have no idea what they have done.

Feena arrives first with the medical kit.

"Oh good. Feena, will you look after my mate? I need to try to organize this mess on my desk before the others arrive."

Her eyes are wide and she watches as he walks around his desk before looking at me. Tereshan never cleaned his office of his desk. He always left that to the omegas, until he had to do it for me.

She rushes over. "Are you okay?" She mouths silently to me.

"Yes, it will be okay, you'll see." I say out loud and Tereshan's head snaps up.

"It will be Feena. You'll see. But first, I want everyone to get here so we only have to discuss this once."

She pulls the sleeve off my arm, looking at the bite mark. "I need a washcloth." She says.

"Bottom drawer beside the sink." Tereshan and I say at the same time. He looks up at me again, smiling.

Then he looks at my arm, the smile fading as he stops what he's doing and comes over to me.

"How bad is it?" He asks, gently taking my arm and looking at it.

"It's mostly a bruise. Damara has some healing power right now."

"Tucker's lucky I don't kill him for that."

"I'm surprised you didn't." Dane says, walking in.

Bryson walks in next with Ivy right behind him. I flinch when I see her, feeling the cold metal slicing through my throat again. Tereshan's eyes meet mine as my heart rate spikes.

Tereshan stands, his fists clenching at his sides. "Ivy, I did not request your attendance in this meeting."

She looks at me then back at Tereshan. "Alpha, you asked for your Gamma. I am your Gamma female. Now that your Beta is in the cells, for some unknown reason, you need your ranked members more than ever." She says.

I look up at Tereshan. He doesn't know that she's the one that killed me. He only knows about her betrayal.

He takes two menacing steps toward her, Bryson putting himself between them.

"Alpha what is this about?" He asks.

"What I need, Ivy, is people around me that I can trust." He snarls at her.

I'll give her credit, the girl always had a big pair of balls. "And that's why I'm here. As your Gamma female, you should know that you can trust me."

Feena comes to sit beside me, but I put a hand on her arm, keeping her from looking after my injury. I'm worried that Tereshan is going to kill Ivy right here. I stand, positioning myself at his side. I catch Ivy's quick scowl, as does Tereshan.

"Tell me Ivy, where has all the money gone that I gave to look after the omegas?" He asks her, his voice cold and deceptively quiet. It makes the hair on the back on my neck go up. This is Tereshan at his most dangerous.

I hear Feena suck in a breath behind me. Ivy looks at her then back at Tereshan.

"I don't know what your omegas have been telling you, but all the money you've given for their needs has gone to them."

"Let me ask you something, Ivy." I say.

Her lips curls and her fingers twitch with her need to hit me, but she won't in front of Tereshan.

"Gamma Ivy to you, omega." She says.

"Claire is your future Luna, Ivy, I suggest you get with the program."

He turns, looking at me, nodding for me to continue.

"Who fixed the hot water heater and heat? It wasn't one of our people, was it? Wasn't it someone whose name you got from Alpha Franco?" I ask and I feel Tereshan go rigid beside me. I can't remember if he knew that or not.

"You don't know what you're talking about." She insists.

"I know that the heat was never fixed, even after Tereshan paid for it. I know that the hot water heater was never fixed, even after Tereshan paid for it and I know that none of us ever got the new blankets that Tereshan paid for every year."

As I've been speaking, Bryson's frown has gotten deeper and deeper on his face.

"Ivy, what did you do with all that money?" He asks her.

"Bryson, she's lying. You have to believe me. She's an omega, lying to make herself look good to Alpha, hoping he'll accept her as his mate." Ivy says to Bryson.

"Dane, call a warrior to escort Ivy to the cells. Make sure that she isn't anywhere near Roman." Tereshan says, turning back to Ivy. "And I've already accepted Claire as my mate."

"WHAT?! You can't do this!" She yells.

"I'm the Alpha, I most certainly can."

"Alpha, is this necessary?" Bryson asks, still trying to protect his mate.

"Bryson, if after this meeting, you decide that your mate is telling the truth, we can re-evaluate things." Tereshan says,

keeping it very vague.

Just then, two warriors come and take Ivy, kicking and screaming, out of the room.

Bryson watches, but I can see he's torn. He looks at me. "Are you sure you know what you're talking about?" He asks me, sharply enough to have Tereshan growling at him.

"I'm giving you a chance, Bryson. Come in and hear what we have to say or go back to your office and I'll deal with you and your mate later."

He looks at both of us a moment longer before stepping into the office. Just as Tereshan is about to close the door, a terrified Vivienne walks up with a tray of food.

"Vivienne." Tereshan says softly, making her eyes go wide. I know he's developed a soft spot for her, so I'm not surprised when he takes the tray she's barely able to carry out of her hands.

She turns to leave. "Vivienne, I have a request."

She turns back to him.

"Would you clean my room today please?" He leans in, getting close to her ear.

"I'd like some of that animal origami you've been reading about."

Her eyes look like they are about to bug out of their sockets, but she nods before rushing off.

He smiles, turning and seeing three shocked faces staring

back at him. He sighs, walking over to the table where he sets the tray.

"As I mentioned, we have much to discuss." He turns to me.

"Claire, please let Feena dress your wound before Magnor has a fit."

I sit back down beside Feena who is understandably confused. However, she begins cleaning the wound as Tereshan starts.

"What we have to tell you is going to sound crazy, but I promise, it's the absolute truth."