

Tereshan

"Do you think he was the mole?" Claire asks me as we get back to my office.

"Honestly, I wouldn't have thought so. But I've been wrong about so many things, that I can't be sure. What about you? You seem to have a sixth sense about people." I say to her.

"I always thought Gamma Bryson was kind, a good man. I'm shocked."

"There's another possibility." Dane says, having followed us into my office.

I sit in my chair, pulling Claire into my lap. It's what I did in my timeline, but this time, it's for more than keeping Magnor calm. Claire keeps me calm. I smile down at her as she immediately starts putting the desk in order.

"You don't have to do that." I say quietly in her ear.

"It's making me crazy." She says, without looking at me. My little mate is very organized.

I look up at Dane. "What other possibility?" I ask.

Now, Claire does stop and watches him closely. He begins pacing slowly in front of my desk.

"He believed your story. He asked very specific questions about Ivy, about what happened after he rejected her." He stops looking at me.

"You basically threatened to kill her for killing Claire in your last timeline." He says, looking at me.

"You think he's protecting his mate, trying to save his mate bond?" Claire asks.

"It's a possibility. One I wouldn't overlook." He says.

"Then he's a fool. He knows that she been cheating on him, and he knows that she's always wanted to be a Luna. That was in every timeline." I say. "If you're right, she'll betray him, and he'll most likely end up dead."

"Make sure the border patrols know that neither he nor Ivy are allowed back on pack lands." I say.

"Already done, Alpha."

Claire returns to her work, but I can tell she's thinking over what Dane has said. I'll give her time to think about it and then see where her mind is. She's better at understanding the personal interactions of others than I am.

"Do you want Jesiah to give his report now, Alpha?" Dane asks.

"Yes, oh and in the last timeline you made him Lead Warrior. You probably need to do that again sooner rather than later." I tell him.

"Actually, Alpha, if I may?"

Claire's head pops up again. "What is it, Dane?" She asks.

I smile behind her. Being in this chair, even if it is on my lap, has her acting like an Alpha.

He looks at her, then at me. I nod for him to continue.

"Well, it seems to me that you need a Gamma now. Jesiah would make a great Lead Warrior, but so would some others that I have in mind. However, a Gamma needs to be someone that you trust implicitly, someone that has the pack's needs at heart and would do whatever it takes to protect the pack. Someone with an ability to see what's being presented to them and see the underlying reasons behind what is happening."

"And you think Jesiah is Gamma material?" Claire asks him.

"I do, but I've only been Beta for a couple of hours, so I could be way off."

Claire is quiet, thinking about what Dane has said.

"What do you think?" I ask her.

She turns and looks at me over her shoulder. "Let's bring him in. Let's see how he reports, what he saw that we didn't ask him to look for. If he appears to have the right insights, the right way of looking at things, I say we give him a chance."

I look up at Dane. "You heard your Luna. Bring Jesiah in, let's see what he has to say."

Claire nearly has the desk organized the way she likes it when there's a knock on the door.

"Come in." I say, and Jesiah comes in, closing the door behind him.

"Alpha, Luna, you wanted to see me?" He asks. He's already scoring points in my book acknowledging Claire as his Luna.

"Have a seat, Jesiah. We'd like to hear your report on the two females that Alpha Tereshan allowed onto our pack lands earlier today." Claire says to him.

"Of course." He says and comes to sit down. I lean back in my chair, intending to let Claire run this.

"Zoey and Amelia are sisters. They ran from their pack, hundreds of miles from here when it was attacked by another local pack and decimated. They only arrived here a couple of months ago and stumbled upon Alpha Franco who offered to help them."

He presses his lips together. I already know the kind of 'help' Franco offered them.

"After bringing them to his pack, feeding them and clothing them, he told them they would have to earn their keep. They offered to work as omegas in his pack, but he told them he didn't need omegas, he needed workers in his brothel. When the sisters refused, he told them that they could do it willingly or he would tie them down and allow the more violent of our species to have their way with them, but either way, they would earn their room and board."

Claire leans back against me, seeking comfort. This could so easily have been her. I protectively wrap my arms around her, kissing the top of her head, trying to convey to her that she's safe. I won't let anyone hurt her ever again.

"Alpha, they didn't tell me, but I get the impression that they come from a ranked family. The older one tried to hide

it, but I'd be surprised if they aren't Betas, maybe even Alphas."

Now I sit up. "What makes you say that?"

"The way they carry themselves. I know...." He looks at Claire.

"She knows how I woke up this morning." I tell him, knowing that they must have told him about me.

He nods. "I know that they were given the option to basically be high end escorts. I'm guessing that Alpha Franco realized the same thing that I did, that they were ranked members and that he could get more out of them by saving them for higher bidders or to try and gain insider information, which is what they were doing with you. They also told him that they'd be willing to work together knowing there is a niche of people who want more than one female at a time. This way, they could stay together and keep each other safe. They are all that is left of their family."

He looks down a moment. "I think the older one, Zoey, accidentally released her aura. That's what makes me think this a high ranked member."

"So, you don't believe they are spies for Alpha Franco?" Claire asks him.

"No. In my opinion, they hate him. Hate him for forcing them into this situation. The younger one, Amelia, was a virgin, forced to submit to a stranger her first time. Zoey tried to keep them focused on her, but..." He shrugs.

"Anything else?" I ask him.

"No, but they are nervous. It took a lot for them to open up to me. I had them watch your announcement, to show that things are changing here in our pack. They have asked to stay, to become pack members, if Luna will allow it."

"Why me?" Claire asks.

I lean forward, nuzzling her hair. I have so much to make up for.

"Because I was having sex with them less than 24 hours ago. And now I've found you. Most Lunas would not allow those she-wolves into their pack." She understands that 'less than 24 hours ago' is in this timeline. For us, it's been two years.

"But they need our help." She says.

"Yes, they do." I say, stroking her arm. My sweet mate, always thinking of others.

"Do they have a place to sleep, Jesiah?" She asks him.

"Yes, Luna."

"I'll speak to Feena, but Tereshan, you should talk to them. If they are ranked members, maybe there's something else we could do to help them."

"WE will talk to them." I stress to her. This will be both of our decisions.

She nods.

"Is there anything else I can do for you, Alpha? Luna?" Jesiah asks.

Claire looks at me and nods.

I turn to Jesiah.

"Yes, Jesiah. Did you hear about Bryson leaving the pack with Ivy."

His lips press together again. "Yes, Alpha."

"Well, I find myself needing a Gamma, and I'd like you to fill that position."

I watch as his eyes go wide, and his mouth drops open.

"Me?"

"Yes. Claire thinks you'll make a good Gamma and so do I." I say.

His mouth opens and closes several times before he's finally able to get a couple of words out.

"Thank you! Thank you so much! I won't let you down!"

"You never have." Claire says, so only I can hear her.