

Tereshan

This day has been jam-packed. I met with Heath earlier and after assuring him that things were going to change, and that I knew about him and the rogues, I told him that I want to take time to talk to him and his mate when Claire is around. I want to figure out how Franco got to Heath and got him and his mate to agree to help him. I understand Roman and Ivy's involvement. But I still may have a mole and I'm still in shock at Bryson's part in all of this.

When Claire ducked away earlier, yeah I noticed, even if she thought I didn't, I took the opportunity to get Feena to help me.

It is, after all, Claire's birthday. I don't know when, if ever, she's gotten a birthday present, but today, she's getting one. Unfortunately, I don't have time to get it, but I know Feena can help me.

I call her to my room while I admire the towel swans, their necks perfectly arched in the shape of a heart on the bed. Vivienne outdid herself. I just adore that girl.

When she knocks on the door, I call for her to come in.

"Feena, I need your help."

"Anything, Alpha."

"You know it's Claire's birthday. I want to make it special. I know she's scared about tonight, and I think she'll feel better

if she's dressed like a Luna. Do you think you could find me a dress that would be suitable for her?"

"Of course, Alpha. Just let me know how much you want to spend..."

"It doesn't matter, as long as it's the perfect dress. Also, could you pick up some flowers for me. Do you know what kind of flowers she likes?" I ask.

"No, Alpha, but knowing Claire she'll be happy that you even thought to get her flowers." Feena says smiling.

"Okay, well ask the florist what flowers mean love, or second chance or forgiveness, any of that, all of that and make sure to get as many as needed so she knows how I feel."

"Yes, Alpha." She says and I see her lips twitching.

"Oh, and, if she's going to be sleeping in here, I know she'll want to have real pajamas. I'm sure she's not ready for sexy lingerie yet, maybe she never will be, but could you pick up some comfortable sleepwear for her, something that will help her feel safe sleeping in bed with me?"

I watch as her mouth twitches even more. "Yes, Alpha."

I stop, looking at her. "Are you laughing at me, Feena?"

She shakes her head no.

I narrow my eyes at her. "Are you sure?" I say in a mock angry tone.

She looks up at me, merriment in her eyes. "It's very sweet, Alpha. And, if I'm being honest, this is not something that I

would have ever expected from you."

"A lot has changed in two years, Feena."

"I can see that. And she will too, in time." She tells me.

"I hope so." I sigh, looking around.

"What about jewelry? Should I have you pick up a diamond necklace or something?" I ask her.

"That's not really her style, Alpha. But I'll look for something simple and dainty for her."

"Simple and dainty. That's a perfect description of my mate."

I turn back to Feena. "Not simple, like she's not smart. She's very intelligent. I meant, simple like she doesn't care about all the bells and whistles. She cares about people, not things. But she's so tiny, that dainty suits her as well."

"Yes, it does."

"Okay, I need all of that before the party and I'm guessing she'll want someone to do her hair something. Don't most ranked members do their hair for big events?" I ask, totally out of my element.

"I believe that Elise can do hair. I can send her up when our Luna is ready."

"Elise, the little girl?" I ask, surprised.

"Yes, why?"

I smile, remembering. "She was in the safe room with me

when we defeated Alpha Franco's men. She threw a knife pretty well, even though it scared her."

"Many people make the mistake of underestimating her because she's young and so small." Feena says.

"I'll make sure I don't."

"Alpha, are you planning to wear your typical careless black outfit tonight?" She asks me.

"Careless, meaning I don't give a shit what people think of me?" I ask.

"Yes."

"Not tonight. Tonight, I'm dressing up. I'm showing off my mate and I want to make her proud."

"Again, Alpha, I think she'll be happy just knowing that you are sticking to what you said you would do."

I nod, looking away. "You don't know how I mistreated her, Feena. I have so much to make up for. One birthday, one night, isn't enough. But hopefully, she'll give me the lifetime that I want with her to show her how much she means to me, how wrong I was that first time and how I will never take this second chance with her for granted."

"If I may say so, Alpha, you're making a good start." She says gently.

"Thank you, now hurry, you don't have much time." I hand her my credit card. "If anyone gives you a problem, have them call me."

Two hours later, she's back. The dress is gorgeous, perfect for my little mate. The jewelry, perfectly understated, will look amazing on Claire. And the flowers, I don't know how she snuck them in here, but there are dozens and dozens of them.

"What kind of flowers are these? I know the roses and carnations and those signify love, right?"

"Yes, these are camellias, also symbolizing love. These yellow ones are daffodils which represent new beginnings, which I thought was fitting." She says.

"Very."

"These that are red and yellow are gillyflower, they represent a happy life and finally, the white ones are dittanies, which represent love and passion."

"You did a great job, Feena."

"Thank you, Alpha. I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Claire. She's a good girl. I'm glad you are going to make her happy."

"Me too. Okay, do you mind going to find her while I set these up around the room?"

"I'll send her right up."

"Thank you, Feena. Oh, and Feena, you're acting more like a Beta than a Gamma. I think I'll promote you."

"Alpha...I..."

"You deserve it, Feena. Thank you."

“Thank you, Alpha!”

Five minutes later, there’s a knock on the door. I move to open it, surprised that she’s knocking, but hoping that she’ll see how serious I am about wanting her as my mate.

When I open the door, I’m startled to see fear and sadness in her eyes.

“Alpha Tereshan, you wanted to see me.”