

Chapter 131: Survivors

Claire

I help Tereshan to stand, the gash in his neck and his blood loss has him leaning against me as he gives Dane instructions.

"Alpha Tereshan."

We turn and see Beta Holden, his hands up.

"I called the pack to retreat. I'd like to take my Alpha's body and bury him properly."

Tereshan pulls away from me, standing on his own, showing no weakness in front of a possible threat. He not-so-subtly pushes me behind him.

"I'm not here to hurt your mate. I know Francine was....I know who she was. I just want to take my Alpha and go back to my pack lands."

"I saw that Roman escaped," Tereshan says.

Beta Holden nods. "That was Alpha Eason's job, to get Roman out while we fought you and your pack."

"Roman will kill you," Tereshan tells him. We both know it's true, even if Holden doesn't.

"My Alpha and my mate are dead. Honestly, death is the kindest thing that could happen to me right now," he says.

"Take your Alpha, bury him, and watch your back. If you change your mind and need a place to live, it doesn't have to be my pack, but there are other packs that would take you in."

"Thank you, Alpha." He grabs Alpha Franco's body and swings it over his shoulders.

"I never considered you an honorable man, an honorable Alpha, but I see I was wrong about you," Holden says, looking up at Tereshan.

"You weren't wrong about me. It took me finding my mate and learning a lot of hard lessons to make me into the man I've become today."

He nods, heading out. Tereshan doesn't move as he leaves, protecting me in case he turns.

When he finally crosses the borders, Tereshan relaxes and stands out of his fighting stance, turning to Dane.

"Find out how many of our warriors are injured. Get them inside and make sure they get medical attention."

"Yes, Alpha," he says before jogging off.

Tereshan turns to me. "I want to tell you that you should have stayed inside, but of course, I knew you wouldn't. I

didn't and in the end, it's takes both of us," he says, taking my hand.

"Together, right?" I ask him.

A ghost of a smile spreads across his face and his hand strokes my cheek. "Definitely together."

For a moment, the sounds of chaos and craziness fall away. "We survived the first battle. It takes several months for the next one to occur, at least, it has in the past. It will take time for Franco's pack to reestablish an Alpha," I say.

Tereshan frowns. "That's true."

I smile reaching my hand up and gently cupping his bloody face. "After we make sure that everyone is safe, we figure out how Roman got out and you are healed, it's time for you to mark me, Alpha." I say, smiling smugly.

He growls possessively, pulling me to him. He knows I'm right. Now is the best time for us become a fully marked and mated pair. And since I believe that is the only way we will survive in this timeline, I intend to make sure it happens.

"Oh, my little mate. How do you make my heart soar when there is so much death around us?" he asks.

"Not our death, Alpha. We will survive."

"Together," we say at the same time.

"Come on, let's go check to make sure the other safe rooms are unbreeched and that everyone in your group is okay."

As we walk, he turns to me. "How did they do?" he asks me.

"Jacoby is very proud of that belt you made him, and man is he good with those hatchets."

Tereshan smiles. "He really is. He was very proud to get the belt from me, but he deserved it."

"Yes, he did," I say as we step into the back of the packhouse. There is shattered glass everywhere.

Tereshan frowns. "How many were there?"

"Seven. They broke through just as I was about to go into the safe room. They chased me and that's how they ended up attacking our safe room," I tell him.

When we get there, Jacoby is standing guard at the broken door. They've moved it so that it offers them some protection.

"Stand down, Jacoby. It's just me," Tereshan says, before helping them all out of the room. He pats Elise on the head as she passes, making her beam with pride.

"Nice job, all of you. You protected your Luna, I'm very proud of you."

They all stand a little straighter at that. "See, I told you we'd make our Alpha proud," I say.

We go to the other safe rooms, using the secret knock to let them know it's us and it's safe to come out. Once everyone is out, the omegas begin to clean up the mess.

"Claire, I need to go down to the cells. I need to find out how Roman got out and who let him out," he says.

"I'm coming with you," I tell him.

"That's not necessary."

I look at him. "Together, remember?"

"Let me wash some of this blood off first," he says, going into a bathroom beside the kitchen area. While he scrubs his arms, chest and face, Feena comes rushing up to me.

"Is Dane alright? Is he hurt?" she asks frantically.

"No. Well, he might have gotten injured, but he's healthy enough that he's in charge of clean up outside," I tell her.

"Thank you, Luna," Feena says, rushing outside to check on Dane.

Tereshan comes out of the bathroom and takes my hand. "Let's go see what happened."

We're almost to the cell doors when Lucy runs up to us.

"Alpha! Luna! Have you seen Jesiah? I haven't seen him. Is he okay? Is he injured?"

"I'm right here, Lucy. I was just coming to find you," Jesiah says, jogging up to us.

Lucy turns, racing into his arms and kissing him.

I look up at Tereshan.

"My mate and I still mark and mate first," he growls, making me smile before turning and heading down the stairs into the cells, tugging me along behind him.

As soon as he opens the door, we smell it. Blood.

"Bryson." I say, worrying that he was caught down here, alone when the rescue mission occurred.

Tereshan pushes me behind him again as we descend the stairs. He looks right and I follow his gaze to see the door of what must have been Roman's cell practically ripped off its hinges.

He turns left and we've barely taken two steps when he stops.

"Bryson?" he calls out.

"Hey Alpha, I think I found your mole," Bryson says.