## CHAPTER 16: NEW PLAN

Claire stood in front of the training grounds, her gaze on Liam who was enthusiastically barking orders at the new warriors. She rolled her eyes as he started sparring with a recruit, showing off his prowess in fighting.

As she watched him leap over the boy before turning and getting him in a chokehold, a round of applause rang in the arena making Claire sigh. It was just a basic move but his grand theatrical actions were making him gather fans rapidly.

A few days ago, her father had assigned a few tasks to Liam to get him familiar with the pack affairs. A few small deals with the neighboring packs to see how he handles them, trips to those packs to help his skills to maintain friendships with them, etc. And yes, the fiasco she had just witnessed. Her father had assigned him with training a few recruits. It was his duty to hone their skills and her father would check on their progress to see how well Liam is doing with them.

Though Claire hated he was getting to put his hands in the pack's affairs even on a small scale, she couldn't stop it from happening. Her father, though not pleased with Liam, had no option but to accept Liam as the next Alpha. And when he started training Liam, Claire couldn't tell him she would never let Liam be the Alpha. She could only grit her teeth and watch as Liam strutted around, boasting about his status as the future Alpha.

To keep from snapping, Claire told herself that he was celebrating in vain. It was not as if he would become the Alpha for real when she was done with him. He could show off all he wants but it will all be a pipe dream for him. Claire will make sure of that.

There was one good thing out of all this future Alpha business though. Liam was so busy with his training these days that he rarely spent time with her. He didn't get the time to pester her and force her to mark him ever since his new duties began. With him out of her hair, she has been a bit relaxed since then.

Claire sighed, turning away from Liam. She paused as she saw Devin talking to a few of his men, Eunice standing beside him looking perfectly at ease. It has been a week since Sebastian had left but Devin was still staying in the pack. His relationship with Eunice had blossomed in those days, with them no longer acting shy with each other. It was sweet to see them together, but it made her miss Sebastian. Each day without him felt like ages and she just wanted to see

him again. But how?

Claire walked towards Devin, wondering how Sebastian was doing. Did he miss her like she did? Did he talk about her to Devin?

Devin paused talking to the men when his phone started ringing, and he excused himself before walking away.

"Hey Sebastian!" Devin called out cheerfully and Claire straightened up, excitement rising in her. Though she knew it wasn't nice to eavesdrop, she couldn't help but follow Devin, wishing to hear Sebastian's voice even from afar.

"Yeah. She is fine!" Devin said, making Claire frown. 'She?'

"Relax, man. I am keeping an eye on Claire. I just saw her in the training ground a minute ago. Not a scratch on her. You chill bro!"

Claire felt her eyes widen in surprise as she realized Devin was talking to Sebastian about her. So Devin was reporting about her to Sebastian? That meant he cared about her!

She was snapped out of her thoughts when she heard Devin let out a chuckle. "Alright man. I will watch over her for you. Until you come get your girl," Devin cut the call abruptly, no doubt leaving Sebastian cursing him. Devin let out a laugh before shaking his head and before he turned, Claire quickly ran ahead to the training ground.

Claire watched as Devin stopped next to Eunice, the two of them laughing together at something Devin said.

"Hey lovebirds," Claire greeted them, making them both blush beet red. How cute!

"Hello there Claire! How are you doing today?" Devin asked in a joking tone but Claire had a feeling that he was actually serious with the question. After all, he was reporting her wellbeing to a certain green eyed Alpha a moment ago.

"As right as rain," she answered with a smile and Eunice laughed beside her.

"Just missing someone," Eunice chimed in and Devin smiled knowingly.

"You two are really made for each other," Claire grumbled but she had a smile on her face.

The three of them started walking together, with Eunice who had lost her shyness around Devin, chatting animatedly.

Suddenly, something hit Claire's shoulder making her stumble and Devin caught her before she faceplanted on the ground.

Slowly, Claire steadied herself and looked down to see a wooden sword in the ground. If it had hit her head, it would have surely warranted a concussion if not worse. Who the hell was playing around throwing swords around like that?! 2

With a frown, Claire turned around to see two of the new recruits, one of them carrying a sword similar to the one on the ground. Claire realised they must have been practising sparring and it must have accidentally slipped off somehow. But then she looked up at the guy who had lost his sword and seeing his malicious smile, she quickly changed her opinion. This guy was not playing around. He certainly wanted her hurt. But why?

"Why are you walking around the training grounds? This is not a place for weak people like you," he called out with a taunting smirk and Claire narrowed her eyes, trying to place the guy from her memory.

Then she recognized him as Kyle, Liam's follower in her past life. He worshipped Liam, believing his Alpha was a saint. Kyle had believed all of Liam's tales about her being a wicked witch and was quick to spread gossip about her cheating on Liam in the pack. He had played a key role in making her the pariah of the pack in her last life and here he was again, trying to injure her. But what problem did he have with her now when Liam was still acting as the doting boyfriend to her?

Kyle smirked at Claire, his eyes flaring with derision. He adored Liam, the future alpha from childhood. He was as one of the few persons in Liam's inner circle who knew Diana was his real mate. Diana was an excellent fighter, and she was friendly with everyone. For Kyle, Diana was the one who deserved to be the luna, not this weak girl who only had her beauty to boast about. When Kyle heard Claire had tried to set up Diana with James, a womanizer, his blood boiled with rage. Not only did she try to separate his golden couple, she even had the audacity to set Diana up with a guy like James.

Claire looked around at Kyle's buddies who joined him, all of them looking at her with hostility. Each of these men had stood up with Liam in her past life, making her voiceless in her own pack. Without their support, Liam would have never gotten as strong as he did. To prevent it from happening this time, she has to either get rid of them or buy their support somehow. She has to investigate them and decide

what to do with each of them. She would have to sway them with money or show her gentle side and win their affection. This time, she won't let Liam use these men against her!

A quick plan formed in her mind as she looked at Kyle who walked towards her with a glare. She would kill two birds with one stone if she played this right.

Claire recalled Devin's words to Sebastian, 'Not a scratch on her'. How about we change that?

"Wanna see if I deserve to be in the training ground?" Claire asked with a smirk and Kyle frowned, not expecting her confidence.

"What?" Kyle asked with a suspicious frown.

"Let's spar," Claire said confidently while Kyle let out a chuckle, looking as if she was joking. When he saw how serious she was, he stopped laughing.

"For real?" He asked with wide eyes.

"For real."

Kyle couldn't back away now that he was challenged, that too by a woman.

"Alright," he agreed with a victorious smile, vowing to himself that he wouldn't go gentle on her even if she was just a weak woman and the Alpha's daughter. He will teach this bitch a lesson and avenge Diana. She just handed him the perfect chance herself. How stupid of her!

Claire threw the wooden sword she picked up on the ground and smirked at Kyle.

"Wooden swords are for kids. Someone bring me real swords," she said, making Kyle turn red from embarrassment and anger.

As one of the warriors brought over a pair of swords, Claire picked up the gleaming lean sword before testing its weight. Perfect!

She looked at Devin, who looked ready to drag her away to keep her safe, and shook her head at him. Devin looked as if he would ignore her demand, but then he sighed, looking defeated already. He must be imagining Sebastian's wrath if he let her get injured under his watch, but it was not as if he could stop her now. Her challenge had already gathered people who were watching them curiously, and if she backed down now, she would be mocked as a coward. Sebastian wouldn't like that either, right? Talk about being in a tough place!

Claire took her stance before waving her hand at Kyle in a bring it on motion and he leapt towards her with a war cry.

Claire may be weaker than the men, but she made up for it with her agility and quick reflexes. She had begun training even before the boys did, since her father wanted her to lead the pack one day. Claire had always trained in private, so most of the pack didn't know she was good at fighting. That's why Kyle thought she would be an easy target.

Claire had never showed off in her last life, letting people think she was a worthless weak woman. But this time, she wouldn't repeat the mistake. This time she will let everyone see her for who she really was.

As Kyle struck, Claire danced out of his way gracefully before using his own momentum against him and hitting his knee, making him stumble onto the ground. People laughed around them, making him angrier and messier as he turned around with a snarl.

As Kyle ran towards her, she leaped, landing behind him and twisted his arm, making him grunt in pain. Then she pushed him onto the ground, making him kiss the floor a second time. Now people were laughing all around, and Claire smirked. She had enough fun with him. Now it was time to put her plan into motion.

As Kyle shrieked like a banshee and ran towards her for the third time, she could almost see the fumes

