

## Tereshan

After getting irritated looks from the other omegas while I tried to figure out how to make breakfast, I mean, how fucking hard can it be, Vivienne grabs me and pulls me to the front door.

"It's you two today?" Ivy says, barely glancing at us. I still can't believe she's been stealing from me. As soon as I'm Alpha again, I'm demoting her.

"Yes, Gamma." Vivienne says, nudging me with her elbow.

I turn and look at her and she gives me a look, but I don't know what it means until she looks back down. Oh right, I'm an omega, I'm not allowed to look Ivy in the eyes.

Ivy leads us to a van and gets in the driver's side. I move to get in the passenger seat, but Vivienne pulls me to the side door and we get in the back.

"Do you have the list?" Ivy asks and I look at Vivienne. What list?

"Yes, Gamma."

"Good. I'll let you two get the supplies and I'll meet you

back up front when you're done."

"Where are you going?" I ask her, wondering why she came along if not to help.

In an instant, she's reached her hand between the seats and smacked my thigh as hard as she can. "It's not for you to question me, omega." She snarls and I can already feel a bruise forming on my thigh.

Magnor growls in my head at her insubordination, but the sound is weak, since he's only an omega wolf now.

"Alpha Tereshan said you're not supposed to hit us, Gamma." Vivienne says, coming to my defense. I like this little omega, she's got some backbone.

"Who's going to tell him, hmmm? One of you? That's a good way to end up in the cells. Keep your mouths shut." She snaps as she pulls into the parking lot.

Son of a bitch. Franco's Supermarket. Claire was right, it's right here in front of my face. I look back at Ivy. Why didn't she figure this out?

She parks and without waiting for us, she walks inside. Why is she so excited to be here and what is it that's so important that she's meeting us up front when she's done?

We walk inside and I look around. The store is actually



set up nicely. There's a produce section, a bakery where I can smell fresh bread baking, and a meat market in the back.

"Come on." Vivienne says, pulling me to where there are a group of flatbed carts.

I look around and find Ivy. She's at a desk, leaning over and it looks like she's waiting for someone. Vivienne continues to pull me away from where Ivy is standing.

"Who is she waiting for?" I ask Vivienne.

"Probably Alpha Franco. She always goes to see him if he's here." Vivienne says.

Alpha Fucking Franco?? Are you fucking kidding me?

"Come on, Claire, we need to get moving. If we aren't done by the time she is, you know there will be hell to pay."

I turn, following Vivienne, when I see the sign.

"Today's Produce brought to you by Alpha Keegan Farms."

I stop, distracted a moment and look around. The produce section is easily a third of the store. No wonder Claire knew not having an alliance with him

would be a problem. There are fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs. I move to a different section and see honey, jams, jellies and...mother fucker, Madagascar sugar. That's what Alpha Keegan had asked me about nearly a year ago. If the cake he was eating was made with Madagascar sugar. I hadn't understood the significance of what he was asking at the time, but I sure as fuck do now.

"Hey Vivienne, do we use Madagascar sugar?" I ask her, not looking away.

"Oh, you found it, good. We need..." She looks down at the paper in her hand. She can read too? "Two ten-pound bags."

She tucks the list into her back pocket. "Here, help me."

I reach out, not thinking, planning to just pick up the ten-pound bag of sugar and I nearly fall over. Shit, I can't even lift ten pounds? This is fucking ridiculous.

I'm struggling to help Vivienne lift the second bag onto our cart when I hear a giggle. I look up to see Ivy, clinging to Alpha Franco's arm. I can tell from here that he's schmoozing her and she's eating it up. They go into an office on the second floor of the building, which is set aside for office space.

Was Ivy working against me all this time? I always



knew she wanted to be a Luna, but I had thought that once she met Bryson, her fated mate, that she had settled for being a Gamma. Was she the reason my pack had started to fall apart? Was she undermining me this entire time?

I follow Vivienne around the store, but I keep my eye on the door that Ivy went through with Alpha Franco. Vivienne knows her way around the store well and it doesn't take too long for us to get everything that is on the list. Our last stop is the butcher shop.

"Where do you get your meat?" I ask the butcher.

He looks up at me as he expertly cuts up the cow that Vivienne has asked for. Looks like beef for dinner tonight.

"Alpha Franco owns a slaughterhouse so we can get our meat from anywhere."

"Does Alpha Elio provide some of this meat?" I ask.

The butcher shakes his head. "Nope. He sells directly to the packs, but it's not enough to feed them, so they supplement with our meat."

Well, that makes sense. Alpha Elio couldn't provide me with enough meat to feed the pack after a couple of months and I'd paid him to be his exclusive client.

When we're done, we get in line to pay. I know from paying the bills that they bill these charges directly to the pack. I pay them twice a month.

Suddenly, Ivy is back, smelling like soap, but underneath that is the scent of Alpha Franco and sex. I'd know his scent anywhere, especially since I've had his blood in my mouth. Twice.

Ivy has the look of a woman that just got fucked. Her hair is slightly mussed and the bounce in her step is a little too bouncy.

"I'm glad I caught you before you checked out. Add these things to the groceries." She says, and I see that she's added some candles, some of Gamma Bryson's favorite cookies and a bottle of wine. Seriously, the woman fucks another man and then plans a romantic evening with her mate?

'I told you she was worthless.' Magnor says, watching everything unfold.

He did, only neither of us had any idea just how worthless and possibly detrimental she really was until today.



## Claire

Thankfully for Gamma Bryson, Ivy didn't take too long with her lover.

"I told you, I'd be fine, Alpha."

I help him back into his seat. "How long?" I ask, going to get him a glass of water.

He sips it before responding. "As long as we've been mated." He says.

"Why do you stay with her?" I ask, truly curious.

"She's my mate. I know it's not the same for you, Alpha. Maybe if I had rejected her in the beginning it would be different, but now..." He stops, taking another sip of water. He looks into the glass as if looking for answers that he won't find.

"I knew when I took her as a mate that she wanted to be a Luna. I had hoped that being a Gamma would be sufficient for her, but it's not. It never has been."

I refill his glass and sit beside him. "How often does it happen?"

"Every time she leaves the pack to go somewhere. I

don't know if she has one person or more than one. But she takes advantage of her time away, every time. And the worst part?" He scoffs, looking at me. "She'll come back having bought some of my favorite things, or they used to be my favorite things. Now, all they do is remind me that she's been out cheating on me."

I understand that very well. The smell of blueberries still makes me nauseous.

"You know it makes you weaker every time she does it?" I say, knowing how it was for me and more importantly for Damara.

"Yes. I won't be able to shift until tomorrow or the next day. Thankfully she doesn't usually leave the pack more than once a week."

"You have to decide what is best for you but think about whether or not you want this life for yourself. I mean, what if she becomes pregnant? You won't even know for sure if the pup is yours." I say to him.

"Thanks for listening, Alpha." He says, ending the conversation. "I'll get that information you asked for." He says, standing. Before he walks out, he turns back. "I don't know what happened on your birthday, Alpha, but I like the change in you. I think it will be good for our pack."



He's back 45 minutes later. "Here are the names of our electricians and plumbers, Alpha. I'll have to talk to Ivy. It doesn't appear that she used any of these guys."

I didn't think so. "Call them. See who can get out today to fix the air and heating unit as well as the hot water heater on the omegas side." I tell him.

He frowns. "Didn't we fix them a couple years ago?" He asks.

"I paid for it, but it was never done." I say, watching him closely.

He looks at me for a long moment, realization dawning on him. His mate has been hoarding money that he doesn't know about, stealing from the pack.

"She's preparing to leave me, isn't she?" He asks.

"It would appear so." I say and he nods, turning to leave without another word.

"Feena, Bryson is having some guys come in today to fix the heat and hot water heater. Let me know when they arrive please." I mind link her.

"Yes, Alpha. Thank you."

"Don't thank me, Feena. It should have been done two years ago. Oh, and do you happen to know where we

order blankets?"

"No, Alpha. Gamma Ivy handled that as well. Usually, we get the leftovers from the ranked members and warriors."

I knew that already.

"Thanks, Feena."

"Alpha, the electrician is on his way." Bryson tells me in the mind link.

"Good. Do you know who we order our blankets from?"

"Let me find out. I'm on hold with the plumber, I'll get it to you ASAP."

"Thanks Bryson." I feel better knowing he wasn't part of the betrayal. I always felt like he was a good man. It's good to know my instincts are accurate.

It isn't long before he's back in my office, giving me the name of the company where we order our blankets.

"Thank you." I say, looking over the information.

"The plumber will be here today as well, Alpha."

"Thank you, will you let Feena know?"



"Will do."

I pick up the phone and call the company, just as Tereshan knocks and comes in with a bucket and cleaning supplies.

I jerk my head in the direction of the bathroom. "You can start in the bathroom." I tell him as someone answers.

When the company answers, I realize quickly that this is not a werewolf company, it's a human company. When I put in my order for 50 blankets, they want a credit card.

"Oh, don't you send me a bill?" I've never done this before. I have no idea if Tereshan has a credit card for the pack. I would assume that he does, but I have no idea where.

"Give me a minute please." I say and I begin opening and closing the drawers of the desk, frantically searching for a credit card.

Suddenly, small hands grasp the drawer on the right side of the desk, pulling it out. I look up to see Tereshan flipping through some folded documents and tucked inside of them is a credit card.

I frown at him but take the card and give the woman the number.

"Thank you, Mr. Colton. We'll get this order rushed. We should have the blankets to you by tomorrow morning.

"Thank you, Ms. Jones."

I hang up, looking at Tereshan. "Thank you."

He shrugs and turns to go back into the bathroom. "I don't like being cold. Don't flatter yourself. I did it for me, not you."

I have to laugh. "Trust me. I knew you didn't do it for me." I say, turning back to the work in front of me, making a note of the money going out for this transaction.

"What do you mean?"

I look up at him. "Since when have you ever done anything for me?"

I watch as he begins to answer, thinks about it, opens his mouth to answer again and shuts it again.

"Right. So, that's what I mean."

I expect that to be the end of it, but instead he continues to stand there staring at me.

"What?" I say, looking up.



"Did you know that Ivy was having an affair with Alpha Franco?" He asks me.

I shake my head. Of course, it had to be an Alpha.

"No, but it makes sense."

"You understand what this means, don't you?" He asks me and even in my voice, he sounds condescending.

"Why don't you explain it to me." I say to him. Damara is pushing forward, not happy with this disrespect.

"She's working with him. She could be the reason that we were attacked, the reason I was killed. It was only two days ago. Don't you remember?" He says and his tone is so nasty, and I can't take it any longer, and neither can Damara.

I'm up and in his face in an instant. "I rejected you and left the pack. How would I have known that you were attacked by Alpha Franco OR that he was responsible for your death? I didn't even know you died until just now. How would I? Did you know that I died?" I ask him sarcastically, Damara pushing her aura out, making him submit. I'm not sure if Magnor is willing to submit, but Tereshan definitely isn't.

"You died too?"

"Yeah, sure did." I tell him.

"Maybe that's why all this happened." He says, muttering to himself. "Maybe this IS some freakish alternate reality. Maybe we really did go down the rabbit hole."

I shake my head, going back to my desk. "We need to find out what information she's feeding him. She could be the reason he attacked us!" He yells at me.

I turn on him, snarling. "Let's get one thing straight, Tereshan. He attacked us, twice, because you had sex with his daughter. Not because of Ivy, or Roman or anyone else. YOU did that. YOU caused that. YOU are the reason that seven omegas were killed in the safe room by his pack. No one else. So quit trying to divert blame and get back to work. Goddess knows I have enough to do to fix the things you didn't do when you were Alpha." I say, turning back to my desk.

There's a knock at my door.

"Come in."

Feena comes in carrying a tray of food.

"Alpha, I brought you lunch, and I wanted to let you know that the electrician has arrived."

"Thank you, Feena."



## Tereshan

Feena brought Claire lunch? She has never brought me lunch. What the actual fuck?

And how can Claire be so blind? Okay, yeah, me fucking Franco's daughter probably caused him to act, but if Ivy is working with him, he would have had a plan in place to attack already. Hell, I could have pushed him to act more quickly saving our pack.

'Do really believe the bullshit you spout to yourself?' Magnor asks me.

'It could be true!' I insist.

'News flash. Our entire pack was killed in the attack from Alpha Franco. So, no, you didn't save anyone.'

'How do you know?' I ask him.

'I just do.' He grumbles but refuses to answer my question.

"Get back to work, Claire." She says, stressing my name.

'At least she uses you're a name. All you ever did was call her omega.'

It isn't long before there's a knock at the door.

"Come in." Claire says, not lifting her head from what she's reading. What the fuck is she reading? I need to find out what's so important.

'Why? What do you think she's going to do? She's already managing the pack better than you ever did.' Magnor says. In the past his tone would have been a snarl, but he's too weak for that.

I look up as Dane brings Heath into the office. Now I do snarl, only it sounds more like a choking cough.

Claire looks at me giving me what must be one of my most arrogant looks. Goddess, I had no idea I could look so condescending.

"Problem, Claire?" She fucking knows what he did. Why is she bringing him in here? She should have taken him straight to the dungeons.

"Claire!" Dane barks at me, making both me and Heath jump. "Your Alpha asked you a question." He says.

Never, not once in all the years that Dane has been my Lead Warrior have I ever heard him snap at one of the omegas, not until today. Son of a bitch, he knows. He knows it's me and he's chosen her side.

"No problem, Alpha." I grumble.



"Good, that toilet needs a good scrubbing. Off you go." She waves a dismissive hand at me. I grit my teeth and walk into the bathroom. No fucking way am I cleaning in here. I'm an Alpha. Alphas don't clean.

Claire turns back to Heath and Dane. "Have a seat, Heath." She says.

"Is something wrong, Alpha? Did I do something?"

Yeah, you ass wipe. You fucking betrayed your pack and me, your true Alpha.

I carefully lean my head out of the bathroom door to watch what happens.

"Can you read, warrior?" She asks him.

"Yes, Alpha."

She pushes the reports she was reading in front of him. "What do you make of these?" She asks him. They must be the same reports that I showed Dane. The ones that showed that every time there was a rogue attack, that Heath was on patrol, allowing them to get through.

"This is a coincidence. It must be. I would never betray our pack." He says and I snort. Claire's eyes flash to mine and narrow before she turns back to Heath.

"Heath. I know it's you that is allowing the rogue attacks on the pack."

He starts to argue, but she cuts him off. "Listen, I know that this pack hasn't been run properly for a while now. I understand that you and Selah are angry about that."

Who the fuck is Selah?

'His mate you idiot. Don't you know anything about your pack? Claire even told you her name.' Magnor asks me.

'I can't remember everyone's name.'

'Sure you can. You're the fucking Alpha. Or at least you were. Claire doesn't seem to have a problem knowing everyone's name.'

'Shut up, Magnor.' I say, tuning back in to the conversation.

"My mate had nothing to do with it. Leave her out of it." Heath says, defensively. I remember that was his weak spot, his concern for his mate.

"Heath, we need you to be honest with us. We understand that you haven't been happy with how things have been run. Alpha is making changes to that, not allowing the abuse of the omegas, and



beginning warrior training for them as well. But if we continue to get attacked by rogues, our pack will begin to weaken and we won't be able to protect ourselves. If that happens, you not only put the ranked members at risk, you put all of the omegas at risk, including Selah."

Heath looks up at Claire, defiance clear on his face. I remember that look, the arrogance when he was in the cell, telling me what a terrible leader I was. He says it again to Claire.

She looks down, nodding. "You're right. I haven't been the best leader to this pack, the leader I should have been. But I'm trying to change that. I want this pack to be a place that people want to move to. I don't want my omegas to hope they find their mates so they can leave. I want them to convince their mates to move here with them because they are so happy here that they don't want to leave."

Somehow, Claire manages to make my face look completely earnest as she speaks. "I can't have you putting my pack at risk, Heath. So, I wanted to give you the chance to rectify it, just as I am correcting my wrongs and trying to make this pack better."

"What do you mean, rectify it?" He asks and I can see that he's actually considering what she's saying.

"I'm willing to give you a second chance, to prove to me that you are a worthy member of this pack. But I need something from you."

"What? What do you need?" He asks, looking from Claire to Dane and back again.

"Organizing the attacks on our pack takes a lot of strategy, a lot of planning. I'm not saying you're not smart enough to do that, Heath, but I am saying you probably don't have the time. So, that means, you're working with someone. I want to know who it is."

Well, fuck me. That had never occurred to me. I just assumed that he was working alone. Roman never said anything about him working with someone else when he interrogated him. I wonder if he even asked.

"You're really willing to give me a second chance?" He asks, as amazed as I am. I would have had him executed. Oh, that's right, I did.

"Yes, if you tell me who is truly behind the attacks. And, of course, if you stop working with that person or persons and allowing the rogue attacks."

He looks down at his hands, they are clenched tight in his lap. When he looks back up, I see the resolve on his face. He fucking believes her.

"Alpha Franco. It's Alpha Franco that has been



I'm pretty sure my mouth drops to the floor. Alpha  
Fucking Franco.

## Claire

Alpha Franco. Again. He's been trying to infiltrate our pack in multiple ways. I need to find out if there are other ways and lock those down. I won't allow him to hurt the members of this pack.

Dane escorts Heath out and comes back. "What are you going to do?"

"With Heath? Watch and make sure he follows through." I say.

"And with Alpha Franco?" He asks.

I turn and look at the bathroom. I know that Tereshan has been listening. I'd heard his scoffing, huffing and snorting as he listened.

"Tereshan, come here." I say, watching as Dane's eyes go wide.

"You did believe me, right? I ask him.

"I...yes, sort of."

He comes out of the bathroom, looking at Dane scornfully.



"So, you know and you're taking her side? I'm your Alpha." He says to Dane.

"You don't look like my Alpha, you don't act like my Alpha. My Alpha is right there." He says nodding his head to me. "And my alliance is with her." He frowns. "Or him." He looks at me. "It's very confusing."

"You have no idea." Tereshan and I say together. I look at him a moment, wanting to smile, but refusing to feel any camaraderie with him. I know he'll use it against me. So, instead, I look at Tereshan.

"Tell Dane what you told me about your trip to the store today." I tell him.

He does and Dane gets up and begins pacing. "Son of a bitch."

He looks back at me. "Do we know where else he is trying to infiltrate?"

I look at Tereshan a moment. "No, but I have an idea."

He turns, looking at me. "And that is?" So much arrogance, even as an omega.

"His daughter."

"No way. She was here to get back at her father."

"For what?" Dane asks him. "She has everything."

"Yeah, and she's a spoiled brat that wanted to piss her father off. So, I obliged."

"Convenient, isn't it? On both occasions that you slept with her, he attacked us."

"Wait, what?" Dane asks, as Tereshan and I stare at each other. I can see the wheels turning in his head and he looks away first.

I turn back to Dane. "In the previous version of this year, Alpha Franco attacked our pack two times. The first, was the time I told you those omegas were killed, the second was after...well, after I left the pack."

"After I helped you reject him and leave." He says quietly, but Tereshan's head snaps up.

"You did that?" He asks accusingly.

Dane just shrugs. "I guess. It didn't happen for me, so I don't remember it, but honestly, yeah, I can see me helping her get away from you. You were a terrible Alpha."

"Do me a favor." I say to Dane, who nods instantly.

"Keep this between us but keep your eyes open. You have good instincts. Use them and let me know if you see or hear anything that makes you uneasy."

"For the record, Alpha Franco was pissed about me



sleeping with his daughter because I videoed it and sent it to him, both times, not because she was working with him against me." He says.

Dane stands and looks at him. "You realize that doesn't make you sound any better than before, right?"

"Whatever." Tereshan says and Dane's response is instantaneous.

"Watch your mouth, omega." He snarls at Tereshan. He continues until Tereshan is forced to submit to him before he backs off.

"Let's go Claire." I say, switching back to our fake names. I'm sure the bathroom isn't clean, but I don't trust you in here and I need to check on the electrician and plumber that are finally fixing things on the omegas side."

"Yeah, especially since that bitch Ivy has been stealing from me." He says.

"You mean me, don't you?" I say as I hold the door to the office and wait for Tereshan to walk out in front of me.

"I will always be the Alpha." He says, and I'm sure he tries to make it sound intimidating, but it doesn't come close.

Damara pushes forward. "If it wasn't for Magnor, I would have let Claire banish you. He's the only reason you're still here. Which reminds me, meet us in the forest at sunset."

I see Tereshan's eyes darken. "Where?" Magnor has pushed forward.

Damara touches Tereshan's face, stroking his cheek. "Our usual spot." The spot where we always met them when Magnor spent time with us.

"Sunset." He says, before his eyes lighten and I know Tereshan has pulled him back.

"Let's go." I say, closing the office door behind me.

"You could just leave me here." Tereshan says as we begin walking down the hall.

"Not gonna happen. I'm sure you'll use any chance you get to undermine me." I tell him.

He snorts but doesn't say any more. I'm thinking about everything I have to do, so it takes me a minute to realize that the kitchen, usually bustling with people and noises of food preparation, is entirely too quiet.

I put my hand out, stopping Tereshan and putting my finger to my lips. I have no idea what is going on, but something definitely is.



I mind link Dane to meet me in the kitchen and slowly move to the door.

"Who the fuck told him, huh? Who the fuck opened their mouth to our Alpha about the heat and hot water?" I hear Ivy snarling at the omegas.

I hear a yelp and then Feena's voice. "He asked, Gamma Ivy. I can't lie to my Alpha."

"Did he give you an Alpha command?" Ivy asks sarcastically.

"No."

"Then you can lie, can't you? Perhaps it's time you remember who is in charge here. I think it's time for you to spend a month in the cells."

Without intending to, I walk into the kitchen snarling. It's a loud, ferocious sound that makes everyone immediately submit and turn to me.

"Alpha." Ivy says, looking contrite, but I know it's all an act.

I look at Feena and see a bruise swelling on her cheek. "Feena, come here." I say and she instantly walks over to me.

I gently run my thumb over her cheekbone where the

bruise is already starting to color her skin.

"Who did this to you?" I ask her quietly, tipping her chin up to look at me. Damara is thrashing around in my head, ready to kill whoever hurt Feena.

"Gamma Ivy." She says quietly.

"That's a lie you bit...." Her words cut off as I grab her arm mid-air, the one that had reached out to hit Feena again. Damara snarls, low and menacing in our chest. We hold Ivy's arm, not letting go as the force of our aura makes her drop to her knees, baring her throat to us.

Dane, Bryson, Roman and some other warriors come running into the kitchen.

"Alpha, what's going on?" Bryson says walking up to me slowly.

"I'm going to give you a choice, Bryson. I'm demoting your mate. You can choose to be demoted with her, or you can reject her."



## Tereshan

I watch as Claire manhandles Ivy, bringing her to her knees. In this, we are in agreement. Ivy needs to be brought down a notch, or several. However, I'm shocked when she says she's demoting her. She should be banishing her or killing her, not demoting her.

'I guess if you were still Alpha, you could decide her punishment, but since you're not, shut your mouth. My mate is amazing.' Once again, Magnor looks at Claire with utter adoration. Okay, Damara's aura is something to behold and given that I felt it earlier, I can attest to the fact that it is fucking strong.

"You can't do this!" Ivy screams, still on her knees.  
"Bryson, tell him he can't just demote me like this."

"He's the Alpha Ivy, and you disobeyed a direct order from our Alpha. What were you thinking?" Bryson says. His voice isn't exactly steely, but it isn't kind either.

"I made a mistake, Bry. Please, tell Alpha Tereshan you don't want to reject me."

"Was it a mistake too every time you fucked someone

else, Ivy? Did someone's dick just happen to fall into your vagina every time you left this pack? Don't you think I could feel it? Every. Fucking. Time?"

His voice is getting louder, and the rest of the room is quiet, listening. I look around. Is it always like this when some dramatic event is happening in the pack? I'm usually involved at some level, so I don't really pay attention.

"I tried, Ivy. I really tried to be a good mate to you, to be everything you wanted me to be. But you'll always want to be a Luna, and I'll never be an Alpha. I, Gamma Bryson Cain, reject you, Gamma Ivy Cain as my mate."

Now Ivy screams, her one free hand going to her heart. "Bryson, no...."

"Accept it." He snarls at her.

"Please...."

"Accept it!" He snarls.

"I, Gamma Ivy Cain, accept your rejection." I watch as Bryson doubles over, but he stays on his feet. Roman moves to help him but he pushes him away. He turns to look at Ivy.

"It actually hurts less to reject you than it did to feel



you cheating on me. Goodbye, Ivy."

He turns and walks out of the room.

Claire releases Ivy's arm and she slumps to the floor.

"Ivy Cain, for the crime of disobeying a direct order from your Alpha and the added crime of stealing from your Alpha and your pack for years, I sentence you to one month in the cells and demotion to omega, effectively immediately." Claire says, towering over her. "I will determine if you are also guilty of betraying the pack and handing pack secrets over to Alpha Franco. If you are found guilty of that crime, you will be put to death."

I watch as Ivy slumps on the floor, crying. I look up at Claire. I'm not sure if it's because she's in my body, or if the look on her face truly shows her deep seeded contempt for this woman, but either way, she looks fierce. I look back at Ivy, realizing that I truly had no idea what she did or how she treated my omegas.

'No shit. You're just now realizing that?' Magnor says in my head.

'I can't be everywhere and do everything, Magnor. It's not possible.' I say quietly.

"You could have done more. You should have done more. And you wouldn't have had to do more if you

hadn't rejected our mate."

I watch Claire as she turns to Feena.

"Feena, what's the rule for those who get sent to the cells?"

Feena turns and looks at Ivy. For once, there is no compassion on her face. It's blank of all emotion.

"Two buckets. One empty and one filled with water."

"And who implemented this rule?" Claire asks her, although I'm guessing she know the answer already.

"Gam.....Ivy, Alpha."

I watch as Ivy looks up, horrified.

"No, you can't. You can't do that to me."

"On the contrary, Ivy. I can and will." She says, turning to Dane.

"Dane, would you escort Ivy to the cells." I'm shocked when she turns to me. "Claire, help Dane."

Wait, what?

Dane clears his throat, getting my attention and nods his head at Claire. I look at her and her eyebrow is raised in that arrogant expression that I'm beginning



to dislike on my face.

"Yes, Alpha."

I walk over to Ivy, who is now screaming, begging for mercy, but Dane hauls her up by the arm and begins to drag her to the cells.

When we get there, the guard on duty looks at Ivy and snorts. "My, how the mighty have fallen. Good thing I got that pussy when I did."

Dane snarls at him and he shuts his mouth. Dane turns to me.

"Claire, fill one of those buckets with water. Then bring it and an empty bucket to the cells."

I nod and turn to fill the bucket as Dane hauls Ivy down the stairs.

"Can't say I'm not glad to see that bitch knocked down a peg. Although I thought Alpha would get rid of this type of punishment, what with all the bullshit about being kind to omegas." He says to me, as if I'm not an omega. If I were Claire, no doubt I'd be intimidated by him, but he's talking to me as if I won't say anything.

"What do you think, omega?" He says, turning to look at me. "Do you think that if I fuck her in the middle of the night that Alpha will find out, or even care?"

Who is this fucking warrior? I may not be happy that Claire is in my body, but another person is threatening to ignore my Alpha command?

"Yes, warrior. I think Alpha would be very angry with you. He just demoted our Gamma after having her mate reject her. What makes you think she wouldn't do the same to you?"

In an instant his hand is around my neck, cutting off my air supply. "Don't you go opening your fucking mouth omega. You're about to start joining warrior training. Bad things can happen in training. Omegas could get hurt, or killed, completely by accident." He tells me, getting in my face.

"Claire, hurry up!" I hear Dane calling from the cells.

I grab the water bucket and the empty pail and move past the warrior. When I get down to the bottom, I realize that the water pail is much heavier than I expected in this weak body and I've been sloshing it all around, spilling it as I come down the stairs.

When I get there, Dane is standing by the door. He opens it and gestures me inside. I walk in, seeing Ivy curled up on the floor, still rolling around in pain and misery. I set the buckets down and turn to leave.

"This bucket isn't even full. I need a full bucket at least!" She screeches.



"Would you have given a full bucket to another omega, Ivy? Since I know the answer is no, you'll make do with what you have, just as others have." Dane says, closing and locking the door.

"Dane, please. Please, I'll do anything."

He just snorts. "Obviously. It seems you've already slept with everyone that you could. My standards are higher, for myself and for the women I sleep with." He says, turning away.

"Let's go Claire." He says and we begin walking up the stairs.

"Warrior Turner. I'll be sending a second warrior to watch the omega."

"That's not necessary, sir." He says, eyeing me.

"And yet, it's what I'm going to do." Dane says, his voice brooked no argument.

As we walk out, I look up at Dane. "Why was Ivy so concerned about the water?" I ask him.

He turns and looks at me, snorting in derision. "You really had no clue, did you?"

"Enlighten me." Again, if I was in my normal body, my tone would have been condescending. Instead, it

comes out as a weak imitation of what I trying for.

He stops, turning to look at me. "The bucket of water is the only water she will get while she's in the cell. It's for drinking, bathing and washing. It will have to last her the entire month."

I frown, turning to look over my shoulder at the door to the entrance of the cells.

"No one could live off that little water." I say.

"And yet, your omegas were doing it all the time." He says, turning and walking off.



## Claire

I'm excited to finally have time with Magnor again. It's been a really long time.

'What if he can't shift, Damara?' I ask her.

'If not now, he will be able to soon. We won't be cheating on the mate bond. His presence always strengthened me. We'll keep spending time with him until he's strong enough to shift.'

We arrive at the spot before he does, so I sit and wait. When he arrives, I look at Tereshan.

"Try to be on time." I snap at him, as he did to me so many times.

"I was with Dane, I..."

"We don't care, human, this is my time with Magnor. Let him come forward." Damara interrupts him, pushing her aura onto him.

His eyes darken instantly. "Hello mate." He says to Damara.

She reaches forward, caressing his cheek. "Can you shift?" She asks him.

"No, I'm not strong enough yet." He says.

"You will be. Time with you always made me stronger."

He nods. "It was because the mate bond wasn't broken and Tereshan was cheating that you were so weak, wasn't it?" He asks.

"Yes."

"I didn't know. I didn't realize. I never would have allowed..."

She places her fingers on his lips. "I know, my love. I've never questioned your devotion. And I hope, even though we rejected your human, that you don't question mine to you. You will always be my mate. I will never have another."

He leans into her hand. "What do you want to do during our time?" He asks her.

"Well, Claire and I used to love riding on your back, so I thought we'd go for a run. It's your body after all, and I haven't had a chance to run in an Alpha's body before." She tells him excitedly.

"You're going to love it." He says to her, smiling a smile I'm not sure I've ever seen on my face before.

She steps back and strips off her clothes before



shifting into Magnor's huge wolf form.

The minute the painless shift is complete, she reaches her head into the air and howls at the pleasure of feeling the strength and power of being in this form.

Magnor comes over, stroking her fur. "It feels good, doesn't it?" He asks out loud.

"Yes." She replies in the mind link, lowering herself to the ground so he can climb on.

"Hold on." She says, before standing and taking off into the woods.

She's running, getting used to these much longer legs, wider body and stronger limbs. Plus, it's been over a year since she's had an opportunity to run in wolf form. Once she gets her rhythm, Magnor pushes her.

"Faster, faster!"

And so she does, racing as fast as these legs will take us. Magnor lays on top of our body, decreasing the wind resistance and letting her run even faster.

Damara howls again and Magnor laughs, a beautifully happy sound on our back.

We run for hours, Magnor pointing us in different directions, showing us some of his favorite places to run. Eventually, we find the large pond on our

property and stop. Magnor slides off of our back and Damara walks to the water, drinking and catching her breath.

'Claire, that was amazing! We need to run every night. It felt so good.'

I feel a hand in my fur, and I turn, making sure that it's still Magnor.

"You need to get stronger, Claire. In my body, you should be able to run faster than you did. Even after two hours, you shouldn't be panting at all. Damara should run every night, but you also need to get stronger. First, because it will make Damara stronger too, but also, if you don't, Tereshan's body will begin to weaken and that will cause problems for you as an Alpha."

'I already have plans to meet with Dane every morning to train, Magnor.' I say in the mind link.

"Good." He says continuing to caress Damara's fur.

"Your fur is softer than mine." He says quietly, almost to himself.

Damara's head snaps up to look at him, but he gives a subtle shake of his head, asking us not to push it.

'Claire, he never saw us shift, right? I don't remember ever shifting in front of him.'



'No, we didn't.'

'So, how does he know that?' She asks.

'I don't' know, but I'm guessing that look was because he doesn't want Tereshan to know. However, he did it, it seems that Magnor has actually seen your beautiful form.'

'And has touched me.' Her body shivers at the idea of her mate actually touching her in her own body.

Magnor comes back to her head, taking it in her hands, looking into her face. "So, I've been dying to ask you. How does it feel having something long and strong hanging between your back legs?" He asks as a devious smile spreads across his face.

Damara growls at him but I begin laughing in earnest. I had forgotten that Damara would also have to deal with having new 'equipment' in this form.

"Was that my other mate, laughing?" Magnor says, watching our face intently.

'Yes, Magnor. Damara gave me crap when I first woke up, having to deal with Tereshan's penis. I'd forgotten she has to deal with yours.'

"You'll get used to it. You have time." He says quietly. Another comment implying that he knows more than

we do.

The sun is beginning to set, so Damara lays down and Magnor climbs onto our back. Our trek back to the packhouse is slower, as none of us want this time to end. Sooner than any of us would like, we're back. Magnor slides off Damara's back and before Tereshan pulls him back, Magnor runs over and hugs Damara.

"Thank you, my mate."

Damara licks his face, letting him know that she loves and cares for him before he steps back. I shift back into Tereshan's form, knocking my head on the tree.

When I hear a snort, I know that Tereshan is back and Magnor is gone.

"Forget how tall you are, omega?" He asks me arrogantly.

Damara's response is instantaneous. She bends over him snarling until Tereshan is on his knees, throat bared. "Remember who the omega is, Tereshan." She snarls at him.

"Yes, Alpha." He says, but his voice is deeper, so I know Magnor pushed him to say it.

I pull Damara back. "Get inside and help Feena with dinner." I order him, before grabbing my clothes and



getting dressed.

I begin taking long, easy strides for this body, but they require Tereshan to run to keep up in my much smaller body. "What's for dinner, anyway?" I ask him.

"Steak, roasted potatoes and broccoli."

"Have Feena bring a plate to my office in 30 minutes." I tell him.

He huffs and turns to head to the kitchens. "If she doesn't, I'll know you didn't tell her and the punishment will be yours, not hers." I tap my finger against my chin. "I believe the dining room floors are due for a scrubbing and polishing. Keep that in mind."

He grits his teeth but nods and heads off.

I get to my room, it still feels weird to say that, and head for the showers. When I get to the bathroom, I stop. There, on the counter is a towel wrapped in what I can only describe as an origami style swan.

"Feena?" I mind link her.

"Yes, Alpha? If you're wondering, Claire did tell me about your dinner tray."

"Good, I'm glad, but that's not what I want. Who cleaned my room today?"

"Oh, is something wrong?" She asks and I can hear the nerves in her voice, even through the mind link.

"Feena, not everything I ask about is bad. Who was it?"

"Vivienne."

"Can you send her to my room, please?"

"Alpha is something is wrong..."

"Feena, please do as I ask. No one is allowed to hurt omegas, that includes me."

"Yes, Alpha."

While I wait, I look around. She did an amazing job cleaning up, better than I ever did, that's for sure.

It isn't long before there's a knock on the door.

"Come in."

Vivienne comes in, trembling noticeably.

"Vivienne, you have nothing to be afraid of. Come here, please." I tell her, watching her fight her instincts to run.

'Tereshan really did make a mess of things in this pack.' Damara says, watching through my eyes.



'That he did.'

When she gets to me, I point to the origami swan. "Did you do that?"

"Yes, Alpha. You barely left anything for me to clean so I thought I would do something nice for you. If you don't like it, I can get rid of it..." The words are rushing out of her mouth so fast I can barely understand what she's saying. But the moment she pushes forward, I grab her arm.

She flinches and I immediately relax my hold. I'm not used to being this strong.

"Vivienne, I love it. I've never seen anything like that. Where did you learn to do that?" I ask her.

I watch her as the fear is replaced by a tentative smile and pride. "Oh, I was reading about it. I found a book that had been left near the territory and I saw the pictures and wanted to learn how. This was my first try. You really like it?"

"No. I LOVE it. Feel free to practice every day. That is, if you are agreeable to being assigned permanently to my room." I say to her.

"Really?"

"Really."

"I would love that."

"Good, tell Feena. If she has any questions, have her come to me."

"Thank you, Alpha!" She says, running out of the room.

Seriously, it's not that hard to make omegas happy. All Tereshan had to do was care even a little.