

Chapter 14 Subconscious Desires

Lenore walked back to her room with Colton, Ashton, and Joel. It seems the shadow curse from before was a very big deal. It almost destroyed the kingdom. Lenore explained to them what Taric told her but this seemed to make matters worse. Alaric began with very restrictive rules. It seemed like a desperate attempt to maintain order. Her father was livid, but her mother was very calm. She could tell she was angry, but she held her composure well. Her mother kindly reminded her grandfather of all of the different species that were allied with her daughters and NOT the vampires. It was a threat without having to say anything. It was her father who made a very malicious threat. It was the one that set her grandfather off with the rules.

"I can't believe your father threatened to break away from the Vampire Kingdom and start his own. My jaw hit the floor." Colton looked over at Lenore with his mouth still open in shock.

"Our dad was right there with him. The tension is thick in there." Ashton sighed as they walked down the royal hall.

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"They're dangerous words. A division like that could lead to wars among the vampires. But who can blame them? The way he wanted to control Elena..." Joel shook his head angrily. "He knows she isn't the problem. It's the other vampires. Rather than control them he would rather restrict her."

"He's afraid of Aba," Lenore whispered quietly. "By restricting Elena he puts a leash on Aba. Aba has the power to destroy this entire kingdom. So does Justice, but the difference is Aba is still working on finding his control. He knows he's powerless to control Aba, so he controls Elena." She sighed loudly. "Now they're fighting about the primordial stuff. I don't know if their relationship will be the same. My dad is always so well-composed. I've never seen him THIS angry."

"Once, during the whole Elena incident," Misha appeared on Lenore's shoulder.

"Can I just say... I hate how you do that." Colton grumbled, looking at the tiny creature.

"You know I'm always here. My invisibility allows me to move with Lenore undetected. You're the i***t that keeps forgetting."

"That's because you're creepy and silent all of the

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damn time. You pop up, throw your two cents in and then vanish again. I don't even want to know where you go to the bathroom. Nora could have invisible turds all over her."

"How rude and disgusting. I'm not repulsive like you. Who knows what hidden stains you have in your underwear. Every time an attractive woman walks by you lose a bit of yourself. Keep him away from black lights." Misha listened as Colton chuckled.

"I'm a stallion, Meesh. I don't let my seed go to waste."

"Except when your hand brings you comfort. Then you wrap those soldiers into a wad and toss them in the trash." Misha snorted.

"Who said I need to use my hand?"

"Oh? You can use your mouth?"

"Okay, that's enough." Lenore shook her head, though she appreciated the comic relief.

"Ignore the furry booger. Though Colton has a point about the invisible turds." Ashton grinned over at Lenore.

"Wait Joel!" Colton grabbed his hand as he reached for the door. "Laney was sleeping when I

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left. We need to be quiet in case she's still asleep."

Lenore nodded her head and moved in front to step inside first. They went inside silently, though they were detected immediately by two dark, predatory eyes. Elena was resting peacefully in the arms of Aba, whose eyes were fixated on them. His eyes seemed more wild than normal. As if he had been fighting for control again.

In moments like this he didn't allow practically anyone near Elena. But it was different with Lenore. She walked up to the bed, kneeling on the ground and placing a hand on Aba. She gave him a reassuring smile and nodded her head.

We are going to protect her.

How was everything?

She could see his eyes still seemed restless. There was no way she was going to tell him about how Alaric planned to control him through Elena. It would be the last day the vampire kingdom ever existed if she did.

It's still going. They're discussing the primordial stuff now. We're being put on tight leashes. Elena will be the most restricted.

Maybe that's a good thing.

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Lenore stared at him in shock as his brooding eyes looked at her. *She wants to hunt for Meryl. A crooked smile reached his lips. She'll be furious if she knows I told you, but I had to. I'm afraid. I can't lose her, Lenore. Neither one of us can.*

I'm sure she's just venting out loud. In either case, she won't be able to sneeze without everyone knowing. She had to admit... she was disturbed hearing this news. It made her decision about Taric that much harder. If she wouldn't be able to leave him once they marked each other, then she couldn't accept his mark. Especially right now. She needed to be able to protect her sister. *This is one thing I will keep from my sister. She won't know you told me.*

Thank you. He looked down at her resting peacefully. If only it could always be this peaceful for her. He settled in next to her, closing his eyes. He would sleep next to her until she woke up.

Elena stirred slightly in her warm cocoon of intoxicating comfort. The smoked honey scent hugged her body gently. She opened her eyes and was met with Aba's delicious chocolate eyes. Her insides stirred at their close proximity.

"Are they still not back?" She whispered, lifting her head up to look around. She pursed her lips

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together as they began to vibrate softly.

"They have been back and left after they woke up. It is almost noon, Elena." Aba chuckled as he studied her face. "Is something wrong?" She looked anxious suddenly. He watched as she took

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in a couple of deep breaths before turning her dark gaze upon him. Her mouth opened as she began to pant. Her fangs protruded slightly as she fixated on him.

"I'm thirsty." She gasped for breath, her hands shaking as she clutched her throat. The burning sensation shot through her body like lightning, and

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tears welled up. She felt as if she had been walking through an endless desert, parched and dehydrated by the burning sun that had beaten down on her for days. Her throat was volcanic sandpaper. She needed blood, and she shouldn't. Her family never needed blood like that. Her parents craved each other's blood, but that was different. That was part of their bond and vow they made together. Yet, staring at Aba now, she knew it was HIS blood she needed. And she was panicked not knowing what to do about that.

"Elena?" Aba sat up staring into her eyes. "You're in pain." He tried to absorb it from her, but it wasn't working. "What is it, Elena? What do you need?" He watched as she closed her eyes trying to fight against the madness inside of her. "Elena, tell me!"

"I need you." She whimpered, opening her dark eyes. "I need your blood." She panted as his scent lured her to him.

"You need my blood? I don't understand, but have it. If you need it, take it." He watched as she shook her head.

"No, this doesn't make sense."

He grabbed her neck roughly, pulling her lips against his neck. "Drink, Elena." His entire body

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shuddered as her lips pressed against his skin, leaving sharp pricks in its wake. With every movement her lips made, a sharp sensation shot through him, electrifying each nerve in his body until they begged for release. He could feel the pull of her mouth as it sucked hard on his flesh, demanding more and more. It was intoxicating and euphoric. His fingers gripped her neck harder as his chest heaved with desire. The burgeoning bulge in his pants soon met a painful wall of fabric.

She could feel the blood pouring through her mouth and down into her throat, each drop causing the sensation to intensify. She couldn't swallow fast enough to keep up with the flow. She could feel her body craving the blood, demanding it. She needed his blood. She didn't understand why but a primal force within took over. Indulging in the sweet sensational taste of him. It was like drinking pure, insatiable desire. It was only the feeling of Aba's body sagging back that brought her out of it.

She pulled her fangs out of him, licking his neck clean. How much had she drank? How long was she like that? She pulled back to look at him with scared, uncertain eyes.

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"Aba, are you okay? I'm so sorry."

He leaned back on the bed and closed his eyes. "I thought you were about to drink me dry." He said tiredly as he tried to ignore the lustful thoughts swimming in his mind.

He looked pale and weak. She grabbed his hand as tears trickled down her face. What had she done? Just then the door opened and her mother, Lucy, walked into the room.

"Mom."

"Elena, what happened?" Lucy asked, rushing over to check on Aba. She placed her hand on his forehead, feeling his cold clammy skin.

"I couldn't help it. I couldn't stop it. I had to drink his blood. I felt so thirsty. Did I hurt him?" Elena cried as she felt Aba's fingers interlace with hers.

"Shh, I'm fine. Just let me rest."

His voice was meek and tired. He had never looked so vulnerable before. She looked at her mother with a worried glance.

"Aba will be just fine." Lucy's concerned eyes moved to her daughter. "You needed blood? Maybe this is a primordial vampire thing in you?" She asked out loud. "Why didn't you just get some

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blood from the reserved bottles?" She watched as her daughter gagged.

"Elena." Lucy breathed out, her lips parted in shock. "What did you do?"

Elena looked at her mother's shocked eyes.

"Elena, I'm going to check something with you."

Lucy took in a calm steady breath as she assessed her daughter. *Lenore, come to your room immediately.* "Mira, could you bring me one of the shot vials of blood?" Seconds later the banshee appeared, holding out the small container to Lucy. "Thank you Mira. That is all." She waited for the banshee to disappear. A moment later Lenore walked in, behind her were Colton and Ashton.

"Just Lenore for now." Lucy said politely, watching her daughter's confused face. After Lenore shut the door she took in a breath. "Nora, can you have Misha put a barrier up in here please? One that is strong enough to keep unwanted eyes and ears away."

"Meesh can do that." Lenore said as the tiny creature manifested.

"On it!" Misha lifted into the air as a strong bubble formed around the room.

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"What is this about, mom?" Lenore asked, moving next to Elena. She looked at Aba's fragile looking face and felt anxious. What had happened?

"Nora, smell this." Lucy asked as she popped the vial open. "What do you think?"

"I can practically taste it on my tongue. Is that some of the reserved blood? It smells really good. But I'm not much of a blood drinker myself." Lenore shrugged.

"Lena, your turn." Lucy moved the vial towards Elena. As soon as it got close she grimaced in disgust, turning her head away. Lucy put the vial to the side and moved up to check Aba's neck. This wasn't a mating mark. Yet, there were two lightly colored dots on his neck that weren't fresh.

"Elena, did you do this?" Lucy asked as she moved her fingers over the mark.

"She was asleep," Aba murmured, barely audible. His body was completely drained, but luckily, he was already recovering, thanks to his supernatural powers. "It was just a tiny prick and then she fell asleep. Why?" Aba opened his eyes to see Lucy's wide eyes. "Why?" He suddenly asked, shifting to his elbows. His fingers remained interlaced with Elena's.

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"Did she mark him?" Lenore asked, moving to get a better look.

"No, this is more concrete than a mark. This is a blood bond." Lucy watched as Aba sat up more. She looked over at Elena's shocked eyes. "This is

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why you were craving his blood, and other blood now repulses you. Only Aba's blood will ever satisfy you. You will never be able to be with anyone besides him. Unlike a mate bond that can be broken, this never can. With a mate bond, if your mate dies, you can claim another. With a blood bond, you can never take another person.

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They will never satisfy you."

"So essentially Elena has claimed that she will take no other mate but Aba. Well, her subconscious claimed him. What a way to get around grandpa wanting you to date other vampires." Lenore shrugged with a smile.

"Nora, this is serious." Lucy scolded her daughter.

"I think it is the perfect solution. She didn't mark Aba. So he isn't forced to take her as a mate. It really only affects Elena. And now she can't be mated to anyone else." *And that isn't a problem for you anyway,* Lenore mind linked to Elena wryly.

"How exactly did the blood bond occur? Vampires drink blood from others and this doesn't affect them. She didn't make a public declaration." Aba furrowed his brows. Something wasn't adding up.

"It's a mental decision Aba." Lucy looked at her daughter. "Which means this is what Elena wanted."

Three sets of eyes now rested on Elena. She had sealed herself to Aba without taking away his decision. He could still be with whoever he wanted, but now there was no one else out there for her but him.