

"I wish I could say it's not, but" Malachi trailed off, his handsome face was twisting in disgust. "I'm
afraid your father's plans run deeper than we'd even imagined, Xander."
Xander looked at Gabriela. "What is he talking about?"
I watched them closely, my heart hammering so hard it made me nauseous.
"Do you know much about Alice's family, Xander? Do you, Zane?" Malachi asked.
Their faces scrunched in concentration, but they remained silent.
"It took her years to be mated, did it not?" Malachi asked. "And when she finally was, who did she get
mated to?"
"Gregory and Lucas," Zane said, his voice barely a whisper. "The men Orion paid off to mate hybrid
she-wolves so he could use them for testing."
My breath caught in my throat. "Alice was a hybrid, too."
Everyone turned to look at me. Xander's and Zane's faces morphed into masks of shock and horror.
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My heart panged for them. They'd had no idea what kind of danger Alice was in, what kind of danger
their

pups were in.
But deep down, I also felt a terrible, ugly jolt of jealousy. Alice and I had been the same, I wasn't
stronger or more special than her. And Mason, Xander, and Zane had all loved her, too.
or
1/2
knew Mason
Constantine, but the twins were only useful to Orion if their vampire side came
from an ancient bloodline.
Malachi nodded.
"She's not from my bloodline, but I'm one of three surviving ancients," he explained. "The othersthey
don't live in this region. I don't know who her ancestors were, but I'm guessing Orion does."
"F uck!" Xander cried, pressing his palms to his hands. "Where are the twins now?"
"With Orion," Gabriela said. "He's bargaining with the Council before he hands them over for testing.
We

My heart ached for the twi	ns. They were so little, so inno	ocent, and Stella could hav	ve just as easily heen

in

don't have much time."