His Beta 284



Lanie

When the rush of adrenaline flooded me, I immediately sensed my mates' attention.

At once, I closed down my entire body with everything I had.

I focused hard, shielding, blocking, whatever I could. I did not want any of my mates feeling the

exhilaration and terror rushing through me. The two here at home would rush in, breaking down the

door if they had to. And Mason would probably drive so fast to get home he'd risk wrecking his car.

And...I didn't need any of them. My pounding heart and panting breaths were fear, sure, but I wasn't in

any real danger. Plus, I wanted to handle this on my own first, the best I could.

"Love?" Zane's voice drifted to me through the veil I'd hung between all of us.

"Lanie, I'm coming in," Xander thought to me.

"No, my loves, I'm fine. I promise you, I need some more time alone. Don't come in."

I waited, holding my breath and forcing myself to calm down. I looked at the door, expecting it to fly

open.

| After half a minute, Xander's voice came to me. "If you need us, we're right outside. If we don't hear |
|--|
| from |
| you in thirty minutes, we're coming through that door whether you like it or not." |
| I sighed but also laughed softly. I thought back, "I need at least an hour." |
| • |
| "Fine." |
| I could tell he wasn't happy about it, but I was also glad my mates were willing to let me do w |
| Taking a few deep breaths and sending up some grateful prayers to the Goddess, along with a p |
| additional guidance, I turned back to my laptop. |
| The white words Do You Seek The Truth? blinked slowly on the black background. Beneath them was |
| solid white rectangle. |
| Cautiously, I moved the cursor inside it and typed my reply. |
| YES |
| Nothing happened for a few seconds as I waited, tension coiling inside and all around me. |
| I became aware of my Luna glow pulsing, and I eased it back. It was hard enough to keep my mates |

| from sensing my anxiety. I definitely didn't want them seeing anything through the window or under the |
|--|
| door, especially since they were right outside. Probably listening in. |
| As I calmed myself, the screen slowly faded into pale gray, then changed to white. A single word |
| centered |
| on the screen, this time with a blinking black rectangle below it. |
| ENTER |
| 1/3 |
| I clicked the rectangle. A wry chuckle trickled out of me at all the drama, but I couldn't deny that I was |
| intrigued. Was it a way to chase off people who didn't want to make the effort, or was there something |
| more |
| • |
| to it? |
| A popup warned me that I was being tracked by DARK WEB HACKERS who were going to drain my |
| bank accounts, steal my identity, steal my mates, and sleep with my mother. |

| It was all very threatening, but I ignored it. There wasn't anything on this old laptop that I cared about, |
|---|
| and the Goddess had guided me on exactly how to set everything up so when I logged onto the dark |
| web, nothing could be traced to me. |
| After a few seconds in which I did nothing but wait, another popup followed it. |
| YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. THE BACK BUTTON IS YOUR FRIEND. LEAVE NOW, AND YOU WILL |
| BE SPARED. |
| "I'm not going anywhere," I murmured, leaning closer to the screen to see if I could discern any kind of |
| pattern or links on the page, maybe white text on the white background or something like that. |
| That was it! |
| DO |
| YOU |
| SEEK |
| THE TRUTH? |
| This time, I giggled aloud and clicked the pale box below the almost invisible words. The screen chan |
| changed again, this time to a swirling pattern of stars with a full moon glowing in the top corner. More |



ARE YOU, OR DO YOU BELIEVE YOU MIGHT BE, A HYBRID?

| There was only one way for me t to answer that question and I leaned in close to whisper the words to |
|---|
| |
| |
| the |
| |

A new word appeared, blinking slowly.

"Yes."