



Xander shrugged. "F uck if I know. This is all new to me."
"It's new to everyone." I sighed and threw myself onto the bed rubbing my temples hard. "The High
Council are probably the
only ones with answers, but it's not like we can ask Elder Aldon right now."
"Yeah, considering you threatened him and basically called him a se nile old man." Xander smirked.
"F uck," I mumbled under my breath.
It was true, we'd pis sed him off royally using that loophole. No way was he gonna help us out now.
A hard knock at the door pulled us both out of our thoughts.
1/2
"Enter," Xander commanded.
A High Guard stepped into the office.
"Alpha Xander, you're being summonedby a High Elder."
me.
Lanie

Braden had once again left me hanging, assuring me he'd tell me more about vampires and shifters the
next time he saw
It's a very ugly story.
His words rang in my head, and I wasn't sure how long I could wait for answers
But I had to get back to Xander and Zane even if I was nothing more than their castoff mate. A means
to an end with Alice.
I walked to a stream where I'd stashed another set of clothes and jumped in, reluctantly letting the
water wash away any
trace of Braden's intoxicating scent,
The last thing I needed was someone smelling anything funny and asking questions. If the High
Council had kept vampires from us, then there must have been a good reason.
And if they found out I knew, something told me I'd be in more trouble than my "mates" were willing to
pull me out of.
I took a deep breath, steeling myself before I entered the house, and my heart caught in my throat
when I saw who was waiting for me on the other side of the door.

Elder Aldon was standing next to a tall man in a pure white robe.
A High Elder.
ew they wore
I'd never seen one in person before, but I knew they wore white instead of the High Council's traditional
black.
They both whipped around to look at me.
S hit.
"So you're the one who is causing all this trouble" the High Elder said.
Double s hit.
"You're the one I'm here to take care of."