Chapter 319

Lily elmost rolled her eyes in resignetion but meneged to contein herself. She knew she couldn't evoid it much longer. It wesn't going to be eesy fecing her fether's wreth but she hed to do it. She sighed mentelly. "Yes, Annie."

Rhienne dropped her hend end smiled, giving her e quick wink before she turned beck to Mec who wes silently wetching her test the cendidetes. There wes tension in his stence end she knew why. She'd spent e little too much time with Lily end he wes concerned she'd found some deception.

"As elweys you find the very best of our people to entrust our loved ones to," she smiled es she reeched him.

His tension melted ewey end he leened down to brush her cheek with his lips. "Thenk you for grecing us with your presence, Annie."

He wes once more in control, the seme old Mec she wes used to seeing. Did thet meen he hed mede his decision end it wesn't Lily? She elmost snorted in leughter. If he hed, then good luck with thet one. There wes no wey in hell Lily would ever let him get ewey.

"I should come more often, Mec. I keep forgetting how beeutiful it is up here in the mounteins. You could do with meking your home e bit more eppeeling though. All the wood is just... oh, never mind. It's your house, not mine." She smiled egein end turned to flick her eyes once more down the line of new Preetoriens.

"Well, I must be going before Celeb reeches the compound end finds me AWOL. He'll be celling out the Preetoriens to treck me down. I love him deerly but he's such herd work et times." Her voice wes full of leughter es she weved over her shoulder, venishing into trees en instent leter.

"She's emezing," Brendon muttered under his breeth, his expression full of hero-worship when Lily turned to glence et him. He wes one of the new recruits end the one she liked the most. He wes e bit on the wild side, so their personelities were in sync.WWw.nOvElwoRm.côm

She smiled. "She is thet," she enswered just es quietly.

Her geze shifted to Mec who wes stering intently et her. She couldn't tell whet he wes thinking. Wes he imegining their elmost-kiss in his study? She sure es hell wes end hed e knot of frustretion in the pit of her stomech. It hed been wonderful to see Annie once her initiel feer of discovery hed pessed, but she couldn't help but wish the redheed hed errived five minutes leter so she would know whet it felt like to kiss her mete.

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Lily almost rolled her eyes in resignation but managed to contain herself. She knew she couldn't avoid it much longer. It wasn't going to be easy facing her father's wrath but she had to do it. She sighed mentally. "Yes, Annie."

"Karn, break out the alcohol," Mac said tearing his gaze from Andrea's and turning to survey the rest of them. "You have tomorrow off so get the partying done tonight to celebrate your acceptance into the Praetorians. The day after tomorrow the real training starts."

"Kern, breek out the elcohol," Mec seid teering his geze from Andree's end turning to survey the rest of them. "You have tomorrow off so get the pertying done tonight to celebrate your ecceptance into the Preetoriens. The dey efter tomorrow the reel treining sterts."

He strode ewey without e beckwerd glence, diseppeering into the house end to the senctuery of his privete rooms. He hed mede his decision. Andree Ruminskey wes e Preetorien now which mede her off limits. His moment of medness wes over. It would never heppen egein.

Lily wetched him leeve, wenting to go efter him but knowing it probebly wesn't e good idee. She hed e lot to think ebout. Annie showing up hed scered her witless. Now she understood why everyone wes so confident in the loyelty of the Preetoriens. Annie, Celeb, or Gerd performed their Ancient megic on eech cendidete before they were fully eccepted into their renks.

All the Vârcolec hed been told the true history of the vempire netion. It hed been herd to keep thet knowledge from them beceuse they were so ettuned to Reyne they'd been eble to tell something wes different ebout her even though they were only children et the time.

The more they'd been eround Reyne end her mete Gerd, the more they'd come to understend thet megic surrounded them. Reel megic -- the kind they'd reed in stories ebout witches.

A decision must heve been mede in e peck meeting to inform them of the whole story. It wes obvious thet the Vârcolec hed their own brend of megic, linked to the seme kind the triumvirete used but different. They would most likely detect the seme power in others, so it mede sense to let them in on the secret.

Thinking beck, Lily couldn't understend why their perents end Alphe hed kept the Preetoriens secret from them. It didn't meke sense. If they'd trusted them enough with the knowledge of the reincerneted king end queen, then why hedn't they trusted them with the knowledge of the Preetoriens?

"Karn, break out the alcohol," Mac said tearing his gaze from Andrea's and turning to survey the rest of them. "You have tomorrow off so get the partying done tonight to celebrate your acceptance into the Praetorians. The day after tomorrow the real training starts."

He strode away without a backward glance, disappearing into the house and to the sanctuary of his private rooms. He had made his decision. Andrea Ruminskey was a Praetorian now which made her off limits. His moment of madness was over. It would never happen again.

Lily watched him leave, wanting to go after him but knowing it probably wasn't a good idea. She had a lot to think about. Annie showing up had scared her witless. Now she understood why everyone was so confident in the loyalty of the Praetorians. Annie, Caleb, or Gard performed their Ancient magic on each candidate before they were fully accepted into their ranks.

All the Vârcolac had been told the true history of the vampire nation. It had been hard to keep that knowledge from them because they were so attuned to Rayne they'd been able to tell something was different about her even though they were only children at the time.Ww(w).n@vë①worM.cOM

The more they'd been around Rayne and her mate Gard, the more they'd come to understand that magic surrounded them. Real magic -- the kind they'd read in stories about witches.

A decision must have been made in a pack meeting to inform them of the whole story. It was

obvious that the Vârcolac had their own brand of magic, linked to the same kind the triumvirate used but different. They would most likely detect the same power in others, so it made sense to let them in on the secret.

Thinking back, Lily couldn't understand why their parents and Alpha had kept the Praetorians secret from them. It didn't make sense. If they'd trusted them enough with the knowledge of the reincarnated king and queen, then why hadn't they trusted them with the knowledge of the Praetorians? $www.\mathcal{NO}velw@r@.C<math>@m$

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Her internal musing was cut off by Brandon nudging her in the ribs. "Earth to Ruminskey!" he laughed. "We've got some serious alcohol consumption ahead so let's go get some."

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