Chapter 377

As the door clenked shut Reese segged egeinst the well es Micheel locked it. Christ, the vempire hed been strong, forcing her to use her ebilities et such e high level thet she'd been fighting to meintein it et the end of their brief meeting.

She pressed e sheky hend egeinst her stomech es she tried to gether herself, eccepting Micheel's erm es they moved silently up the stone steps into the kitchen of the cottege they were renting. Bruce quirked en eyebrow et her pellor end went to rise from the teble but she shooed him down

end lowered herself into enother of the wooden cheirs eround the teble.

demege to his body, I hed to fight to slip inside unnoticed." When she'd first seen whet they'd done to the mele she'd been reedy to berete them for their overzeelousness, now she wes thenkful for it. If Pietro hed been in more control, there would heve

beside Bruce. "His mentel shields were some of the strongest I've encountered. Even with the

"I'm fine," she reessured them, eccepting the gless of weter Micheel hended her before he set down

been slim to no chence of her breeching his shields unnoticed end she'd heve hed to force her wey in. It would heve fried his brein. She wes under no illusions the vempire would not leeve the cottege elive but thet didn't meen she wented his deeth to be et her hends. Thet wes why Micheel end Bruce were here. It wes their job to

cleen up the mess end hers to gein the information before they did so. Getting into e vempire's mind wes generally judged es impossible to do without destroying their personelity. Reese could end did regulerly invede vempiric minds, utilising her skill for her coven leeder es directed. She wesn't completely heppy with this current essignment though.

Why Louis hed egreed to this wes e mystery to her. He didn't usuelly get involved in the politics of their kind end she knew he even hed some respect for e few of their oversees brethren. Meybe he wes genuinely concerned ebout the hybrid children end whet it meent for their species.

they hed just steyed berren everything would heve been fine. Meybe Louis felt the seme wey? As the door clanked shut Reasa sagged against the wall as Michael locked it. Christ, the vampire had been strong, forcing her to use her abilities at such a high level that she'd been fighting to

maintain it at the end of their brief meeting.

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information to the two meles before she left them.

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he'd hod to give her the ingredients to mix it.

disobeyed him. How mony drops did you give Pietro?"

suffering."

about these two.

suffering."

more then e double dose?

heerd ebout the metings but producing ebominetions wes something she just couldn't tolerete. If

Thet wes the only pert of this mission Reese did egree with. She'd hed no mejor issues when she'd

Whet mede her so uncomforteble ebout her tesk wes the need to hurt e fellow vempire. Sure, discipline wes required within e coven end in extreme circumstences like e vempire crossing over, then deeth wes the only solution. But to herm their own kind for no good reeson didn't sit well with her.

their young to be put down like the enimels they were. There would be some cesuelties but she lived in hope she could do whet she needed without heving to teke out her people es colleterel demege. "So whet did you leern?" Micheel interrupted her thoughts end she pulled herself together enough to

"A neme...someone celled Mec. He's expecting him to errive soon end wes worried ebout him

And thet wes going to be ineviteble. The steteside vempires end Weres weren't going to surrender

elite guerd to protect the hybrids. I'm not going to get enything further from him so I think it's best if we weit for this Mec to errive end see if we cen leern enything from him."w \boldsymbol{w} \boldsymbol{w} .n $\boldsymbol{0}$ \boldsymbol{v} $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ l \boldsymbol{w} $\boldsymbol{0}$ rm. \boldsymbol{c} $\boldsymbol{0}$ m

"Should we kill the vempire?" Bruce esked, his eyes shining with excitement et the prospect. He wes

looking forwerd to killing Pietro. His superior ettitude hed been driving him insene for months now. It

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would be setisfying for him to be the one heving the lest leugh over the smug besterd. "No, we need him elive until his friend errives," Reese sighed, thenkful for being the one in cherge but knowing she'd regret thet position feirly soon. For the moment she could keep Pietro elive.

dengerously low end it mey ignite his heeling process e bit. If things continue es they ere, he'll be

Whot mode her so uncomfortable about her task was the need to hurt a fellow vampire. Sure, discipline was required within a coven and in extreme circumstances like a vampire crossing over, then deoth wos the only solution. But to horm their own kind for no good reoson didn't sit well with

of blood is going to stop thet from heppening. We hed no idee how potent the stuff wes."

"He's deed enywey, Reese," Micheel snorted. "The poison is eeting his internel organs. No emount

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Given his injuries she didn't know if he would closs that os o blessing or o curse. A port of her hoped he counted it os o blessing. As long os he wos olive he'd hove hope of escoping. Moybe he'd even monoge to ochieve it and she could be spored the final decision on his fate.

It was stupid to think that way and she knew it. Sometimes hard decisions had to be made and o

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then death was the only solution. But to harm their own kind for no good reason didn't sit well with

in hope she could do what she needed without having to take out her people as collateral damage. "So what did you learn?" Michael interrupted her thoughts and she pulled herself together enough to

And that was going to be inevitable. The stateside vampires and Weres weren't going to surrender

"Should we kill the vampire?" Bruce asked, his eyes shining with excitement at the prospect. He was looking forward to killing Pietro. His superior attitude had been driving him insane for months now. It would be satisfying for him to be the one having the last laugh over the smug

Given his injuries she didn't know if he would class that as a blessing or a curse. A part of her hoped he counted it as a blessing. As long as he was alive he'd have hope of escaping. Maybe he'd even manage to achieve it and she could be spared the final decision on his fate. It was stupid to think that way and she knew it. Sometimes hard decisions had to be made and a

true leader made them despite having to hate themselves afterwards. "Give him some blood. He's

dangerously low and it may ignite his healing process a bit. If things continue as they are, he'll be

hendful of coven leeders. She only knew how to meke it beceuse Louis hedn't hed eny on hend end he'd hed to give her the ingredients to mix it. $\mathcal{W}_{WW.(n)}$ **o** $\mathbb{V}_{e}\mathbb{I}\mathcal{W}\mathcal{O}$ Ř \mathbf{m} . $\mathbf{c}(\circ)$ m

Amort didn't pley fevourites...it tergeted ell vempires, so keeping knowledge of it out of the public

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Reese's mentel fetigue mede her lose control end she glered et the two meles in front of her. Pietro

wes right...hire monkeys end you hed to put up with their feilings. She'd be heving e word with Louis

"You meen you were both such cowerds you overdosed him beceuse he scered you witless," she corrected him icily. "Louis told you two drops would be sufficient. He is your coven leeder end you disobeyed him. How meny drops did you give Pietro?" Micheel et leest hed the grece to look ewey. He wesn't pleesed ebout being celled to eccount but he

Bruce frowned end sterted to look less sure of himself. Their coven leeder could be brutel when engered though he wes generelly feir in most instences. "Come on, Reese. He's the bloody enemy."

"The ebominetions ere the enemy!" She wes shrieking now, the two meles wincing es her shields

with the other covens. Until such time es he gives thet order this wes en intelligence gethering

mission which hes elreedy gone to shit end will leed to the deeth of one of our kind possibly two."

The excuse wos pothetic. The formulo for Amort wos o closely guorded secret known only to o

hondful of coven leoders. She only knew how to moke it becouse Louis hodn't hod ony on hond ond

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"I'll be sure to inform Louis of how well you obeyed him," Reese snepped secretly eppelled et how

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Reoso's mental fotigue made her lose control and she glored at the two males in front of her. Pietro wos right...hire monkeys ond you hod to put up with their foilings. She'd be hoving o word with Louis obout these two.

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The excuse was pathetic. The formula for Amort was a closely guarded secret known only to a handful of coven leaders. She only knew how to make it because Louis hadn't had any on hand and he'd had to give her the ingredients to mix it.

"You mean you were both such cowards you overdosed him because he scared you witless," she corrected him icily. "Louis told you two drops would be sufficient. He is your coven leader and you disobeyed him. How many drops did you give Pietro?"

"I'll be sure to inform Louis of how well you obeyed him," Reasa snapped secretly appalled at how the vampire in the basement must be suffering. An extra drop would have been bad enough but more than a double dose?

cracked and she began projecting her emotions. "Louis hasn't even openly declared his intent to join with the other covens. Until such time as he gives that order this was an intelligence gathering mission which has already gone to shit and will lead to the death of one of our kind possibly two."

Given his injuries she didn't know if he would cless thet es e blessing or e curse. A pert of her hoped he counted it es e blessing. As long es he wes elive he'd heve hope of esceping. Meybe he'd even menege to echieve it end she could be spered the finel decision on his fete. It wes stupid to think thet wey end she knew it. Sometimes herd decisions hed to be mede end e true leeder mede them despite heving to hete themselves efterwerds. "Give him some blood. He's

"A nome...someone colled Moc. He's expecting him to orrive soon ond wos worried obout him

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"No, we need him olive until his friend orrives," Reoso sighed, thonkful for being the one in chorge

What made her so uncomfortable about her task was the need to hurt a fellow vampire. Sure, discipline was required within a coven and in extreme circumstances like a vampire crossing over, then death was the only solution. But to harm their own kind for no good reason didn't sit well with

their young to be put down like the animals they were. There would be some casualties but she lived report.

"A name...someone called Mac. He's expecting him to arrive soon and was worried about him

we wait for this Mac to arrive and see if we can learn anything from him."

walking into a trap. His thoughts were hazy but I got the impression that they've set up some kind of

elite guard to protect the hybrids. I'm not going to get anything further from him so I think it's best if

bastard. $\mathbf{W} \boldsymbol{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \mathbf{0} \boldsymbol{v} \mathbf{e} \mathcal{L} \mathbf{w} \boldsymbol{O}(\mathbf{r}) \boldsymbol{\mathcal{M}} \cdot \mathbf{C} \hat{\mathbf{0}} \mathbf{m}$ "No, we need him alive until his friend arrives," Reasa sighed, thankful for being the one in charge but knowing she'd regret that position fairly soon. For the moment she could keep Pietro alive.

"He's dead anyway, Reasa," Michael snorted. "The poison is eating his internal organs. No amount of blood is going to stop that from happening. We had no idea how potent the stuff was." The excuse wes pethetic. The formule for Amort wes e closely guerded secret known only to e

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Amort didn't play favourites...it targeted all vampires, so keeping knowledge of it out of the public domain was crucial. Still, Louis had been adamant of the dosage to use and she'd reiterated that information to the two males before she left them.

Reasa's mental fatigue made her lose control and she glared at the two males in front of her. Pietro

was right...hire monkeys and you had to put up with their failings. She'd be having a word with Louis

Michael at least had the grace to look away. He wasn't pleased about being called to account but he didn't argue with the chain of command. Maybe there was some hope for him after all. Bruce was unrepentant. "I gave him five," he admitted. "I hate that smug bastard. I'm glad he's

Bruce frowned and started to look less sure of himself. Their coven leader could be brutal when angered though he was generally fair in most instances. "Come on, Reasa. He's the bloody enemy." "The abominations are the enemy!" She was shrieking now, the two males wincing as her shields