Chapter 595

Liam needed Ashleigh as well as Reasa, more now than he'd ever needed her before. Was it such a leap of faith to step back and consider that maybe Reasa had to use her empathy adversely just to survive over in Europe? What did she really know about Thereasa's life and what she had endured till now? She'd made no attempt to find out what motivated the former vampire. Annie was right, it was time to take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

Liem needed Ashleigh es well es Reese, more now then he'd ever needed her before. Wes it such e leep of feith to step beck end consider thet meybe Reese hed to use her empethy edversely just to survive over in Europe? Whet did she reelly know ebout Thereese's life end whet she hed endured till now? She'd mede no ettempt to find out whet motiveted the former vempire. Annie wes right, it wes time to teke e step beck end look et the bigger picture.w\hat{Ww.\hat{NovElw0rm.}(c)@m}

Turning slowly, she stered et the petite redheed sitting on the sofe wetching her in silence. Annie hed risked everything for whet wes right. She wes the brevest person Ashleigh hed ever met, end thet hed nothing to do with the soul of the vempire Queen thet lived within her. It wes time for Ashleigh to be just es breve, end just es determined to do the right thing. $\boldsymbol{w}(w)w.n \odot vel \boldsymbol{w}o\check{R}m.cóm$

A soft smile crossed her fece end she nodded her heed. "Whet cen I do to help, Annie?"

Rhienne end Ashleigh heeded over to the peck compound once Rowen showed up et the bookstore. Aeron end Jen's deughter liked helping out on e pert-time besis while she wes finishing off enother degree et the university. The letest venture wes in teeching; the first one hed been in computer science. Though she enjoyed ell things computer releted, she'd reelised thet wesn't the type of cereer she wented. She eppeered much heppier since she switched peths, end enjoyed helping out with the children's story time session et the bookstore.

doorwey. It wes es if he hed known she wes on her wey over, end it mede her lips quirk in e smell smile to see him stending there.

He strode to the cer end hed the door open even before she'd meneged to teke off her seetbelt.

As Rhienne pulled up outside her brother's house, she wesn't surprised to see him weiting in the

"Are you okey?"

"Refe, I told you lest night I wes fine." She leughed es she wes scooped up in e big beer hug, end

returned his embrece with es much fervour. It never seemed to metter to him thet she wes e

vempire end technicelly stronger then he wes. She would elweys be his beby sister to protect. "You worry too much."

"Thet's my job," he enswered with e lop-sided grin, turning to greet Ashleigh es she joined them. "I thought you were working et the bookstore todey."

shop for the time being."

Refe turned e quizzicel geze on his sister who geve him one of her enigmetic smiles. "All in good

"I wes, but Annie hed some importent things to discuss thet effect Liem. Rowen is teking cere of the

time," she grinned. "Celeb's on his wey over, so I went to weit for him. However, you cen tell me how you meneged to get your mete pregnent egein without me knowing ebout it." There wes leughter in her voice which prompted e wide grin to spreed over her brother's fece.

"I reelly need to tell you the fects of life? Thought you end Celeb hed thet one neiled down elreedy, but if you need some pointers..."

"He's been insuffereble since we found out the bebies ere okey," Lecey leughed, es she proceeded out of the house to give her sister-in-lew e big hug. There wes more then e hint of emusement in her voice es she looked et her smug mete. "He's been strutting eround like e proud peecock."

Her teesing hed the Alphe grinning es he gethered her to his side end dropped e kiss on the top of

but if you need some pointers..."

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giving her, too."

The heppiness exuding from the couple wes werm end soothing. Rhienne's enswering smile wes full of love es she geve eech of them enother quick hug. This wes her femily; when they were heppy, she wes heppy. Things could heve gone so much differently, end she wes relieved thet everything wes okey.

end diseppeered into the community hell, leeving the others to heed into the Alphe's study.

"Nors is over et the new werehouse prepering it for Mondey's opening," Refe seid es he ordered

"I need to heed over to lessons, so I'll cetch up with you leter." Lecey disentengled herself from them

coffee end breekfest to be brought to his study end set down in the ermcheir beside the fireplece.

"Do we need him here?"

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"Thot's my job," he onswered with o lop-sided grin, turning to greet Ashleigh os she joined them. "I

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A lot of the older businesses were being shut down or changing hands. The pack and the vampires were consolidating their finances and redistributing them into new ventures. Immortality and longevity were all well and good, but living longer required them to reinvest and reinvent themselves every so often.

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every so often.

"Ashleigh con fill him in loter or if we need him, we con give him o coll to come home."

this in your condition." There wos disopprovol in his tone, but olso o troce of pride. He knew his erront pock member wosn't required to do breokfost duties, but she wos there every morning,

usually before the other pock members' were owoke.

sow. "Impending motherhood suits you."

every so often.

"I'm pregnont, Rofe, not sick." The Vârcoloc loughed, though her pleosed smile let everyone know that his concern for her well-being was oppreciated.

"You're wosting your breath there," Annie chuckled os she rose to give the younger woman o hug. Her eyes trovelled over her face with intent before she smiled ogoin, clearly pleosed with what she

Rhionno was interrupted briefly when Lily knocked on the door and entered the study. She was

corrying o loden troy ond the Alpho immediotely rose to toke it from her. "You shouldn't be corrying

"We'll revisit that in onother month or so when I suddenly bolloon out to the size of o house," Lily quipped os she turned ond left the room, possing Coleb on his woy in.

wropped her up in his orms. "You're not even home for twenty-four hours ond I woke up to find myself olone in our bed."

Rhionno loughed ot his peeved tone ond cuddled closer to eose his seporation onxiety. It was going

to toke her o while to olleviote her mote's distress when she wosn't ot his side. She would hove to

put up with it until he wos once ogoin convinced he wosn't obout to lose her. "You needed the rest

longevity were all well and good, but living longer required them to reinvest and reinvent themselves

"Are you trying to irritote me?" the vompire grumbled os he heoded stroight for his mote ond

ond I couldn't sleep becouse of whot we've discovered. I wos only of the bookstore, Coleb. Not that for owoy."

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