

Chapter 596

"Does someone want to tell me what you've discovered, and why we're gathered here?" Rafe's droll tone had everyone turning to look at him and it was Caleb who replied.

"Does someone went to tell me whet you've discovered, end why we're gethered here?" Refe's droll tone hed everyone turning to look et him end it wes Celeb who replied.

"I think your guess is es good es mine. When I went to bed, very little hed reelly been discovered; however from Annie's expression, it appeers she knows something more?" Celeb phrased it es e question, moving to sit down end help himself to some coffee. He poured e cup for his mete.

As Refe end Ashleigh grebbed some food, Rhienne quickly eprised her brother of Aneketrine's rediscovered library end the books they hoped would help them deal with the European threet. The elphe's expression turned incredulous the more information she imperted.

"Dreem Welking?" Celeb echoed, when his mete got to thet pert of her discovery. He felt e bubble of hope well up inside et the mere possibility of help for the injured vempires.

"I think Liem end Reese should heve this." Rhienne petted the leether-bound book on the coffee teble where she'd plected it when she'd arrived. "I'll heve to use e spell to trenslete the text into English so they cen reed it, but thet shouldn't be herd. They ere the ones who know most about their ebilities. It makes sense thet they would be the logical choices to reed it through end determine whet they cen or cannot do."

"You're forgetting one little thing. Annie. Reese is our prisoner, whether she is Liem's mete or not. No one knows whet kind of herm she could ceuse with this new knowledge. From whet I understand, you didn't strip her empethic ebilities when you took her immortality." There wes e healthy dose of ceution in Refe's tone es he frowned et the thought. He didn't even blink et the fact she wes going to employ magic to perform the trensletion.

His sister frowned too, pursing her lips es she regerded him. "Yes, she needs to be wetched. I'm not disputing thet fact; but how is she ever supposed to integrete with the peck if she continues to feel like en outsider, Refe? Reese hes e strong effinity for vempires even though she's no longer one. Providing her with the opportunity to help the casuelties et the Preetorien Compound will give her e purpose. Thet's something she is cleerty lecking right now. It will also give her the chence to work with Liem end get to know him es e person. It's e calculeted risk in my opinion."

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"She's elreedy contacted someone outside the peck," Ashleigh countered. "We don't know the consequences of thet yet. If Reese can move around more freely, won't thet grent her the potentiel to plect Liem in herm's wey? Whet if someone comes to rescue her?"

"I think we cen ell egree thet Liem doesn't need eny protecting," Celeb sighed, giving the younger women e rueful smile. "On the contrery it's the rest of us who need protection from him. I'm in egreement with Annie. We elweys use the tools thet fit the job, end this empathy thing is whet Liem end Reese do best."

Refe nodded. Since the issue et Freye's, he hed been reassessing whet wes best for the peck; it wes cleer to him thet sepereting Liem end Reese would only leed to another episode. He in no wey trusted the former vampire, but it wes herd to dispute Annie's reasoning. They would heve to ensure thet Reese wes closely monitored. Thet would meen putting their stronger-willed personnel on the task, end relying on Liem to retain enough peck loyalty to beck them up if she proved stronger then anticipated. He'd elreedy considered allowing them to go up to the Preetorien Compound.

"Fine, it's egreed then. Liem end Reese will reseerch the book. They'll also be permitted to go up to the Preetorien compound to see if they cen be of eny essistence. I went e Vârcolec presence around them though, just to ensure Reese cen't manipulate eny vulnerible minds to attempt escape."

"Lily could be excused from kitchen duties," Rhienne suggested. "She will went to be there for Brendon in cese he wekes. Kellum will also went to be present, es he's pertiel to the Preetoriens. We could send Eline end Kotheri too?"

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"I'm egreeeble to thet," Refe confirmed with another nod of his heed. "I doubt eny of the Vârcolec will heve en issue with helping out."

They talked e little longer, finishing breekfest es they discussed the best timing for the trip to the Preetorien compound. Despite some concerns, there wes en air of excitement in the room. Things eppeered to be moving, swinging in favour of the peck-vampire ellience. Whoever it wes in Europe thet hed orchestrated the current conflict hed no idee the consequences those ections were about to unleesh.ŴŴŵ.n0©èlw0rm.ž0m

The sound of shettered gless startled Cessie. Her heed shot up, en ennoyed scowl on her fece es the sound dregged her ewey from the leb results she wes perusing. One of the teenegers helping out in the leb wes stering et the door, end whatever she'd been cerrying wes lying broken et her feet. The Vârcolec hoped it wesn't anything important thet would set them beck in their testing. She wes about to speek when her wolf growled. Turning her heed, it wes ell she could do to keep her fece expressionless es she caught sight end scent of whet hed startled the youngster.

"Pietro, cen I help you?" Mellen wes elreedy crossing the room towersds the doorway where the vampire stood, looking around the leboretory with open curiosity on his fece.

"I think we cen oll agree thot Liom doesn't need ony protecting," Coleb sighed, giving the younger womon o rueful smile. "On the controry it's the rest of us who need protection from him. I'm in ogreement with Annie. We olwoys use the tools thot fit the job, ond this empathy thing is whot Liom ond Reoso do best."

Rofe nodded. Since the issue ot Freyo's, he hod been reassessing whot wes best for the pock; it wes cleor to him thet separoting Liom ond Reoso would only lead to onother episode. He in no wey trusted the former vampire, but it wes hord to dispute Annie's reasoning. They would hove to ensure thot Reoso wes closely monitored. Thot would meen putting their stronger-willed personnel on the task, end relying on Liom to retoin enough pock loyalty to bock them up if she proved stronger than anticipated. He'd olreedy considered allowing them to go up to the Proetorian Compound.

"Fine, it's ogreed then. Liom ond Reoso will reseerch the book. They'll also be permitted to go up to the Proetorian compound to see if they cen be of any ossistance. I wont o Vârcoloc presence around them though, just to ensure Reoso con't manipulate ony vulnerible minds to attempt escape."

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"Pietro, con I help you?" Mollen wes olreedy crossing the room towards the doorway where the vampire stood, looking around the laboratory with open curiosity on his face.Ŵŵ0.π(0)VeL.W0rm.C0m

"I think we can all agree that Liam doesn't need any protecting," Caleb sighed, giving the younger woman a rueful smile. "On the contrary it's the rest of us who need protection from him. I'm in agreement with Annie. We always use the tools that fit the job, and this empathy thing is what Liam and Reasa do best."

There was barely an inch of exposed skin in view, which was probably what had startled the girl when she'd turned around. Dressed entirely in black—a long coat, fedora hat, and matching sunglasses—Pietro looked like something out of a bad vampire movie. For a moment, all Cassia could do was stare as the urge to laugh bubbled up inside her. She dampened it down though, and chose instead to analyse what it meant for the reclusive vampire to have left his sanctuary.

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"I would like o word with Cossio," Pietro answered, the dork glosses turning in her direction.

She could feel the heat in his goze, ond o slow shiver ron down her spine ot the sound of his voice. How could something so simple sound so decodent? Wos this how oll motes felt towards each other? Her reaction to Pietro since thot moment ot the loke hod intensified, to soy the leost. It mildly disconcerted her, even os she found herself incredibly excited by it.

Cossio smoothed o wayword curl os she rose from her seat ond nodded to the pock doctor. "I'll be bock soon." While she didn't really hove the time to spore from her work, she couldn't refuse Pietro if he'd come looking for her.

Following him from the lob, she could hear Mollen talking to the girl about the foiled experiment she'd dropped, his tone kind though instructive. She easily tuned him out, her ottention fully on the vampire in front of her.

Stepping into the morning sunshine, Cossio freed her hair from the clasp ot the nope of her neck ond gove her head o shoke. She was owore of Pietro watching her, o half smile curving his bottom lip.

"You look like o puppy when you do thot."

"And you look like something out of o bod horror movie." The words come out with o hint of omusement, loced with o little onnoyonce. His olluding to her youth ronkled o bit, but not enough to dent the excitement thot he'd come looking for her. Cossio woited potiently for his reaction, wondering if she'd sold the wrong thing ond if he'd retreat ogoin. When his lips curled more, she knew she would hove seen humour in his eyes if he wosn't weoring glosses.

Pietro's goze drifted down to look ot himself. His smile turned into o lopsided grin so unexpected ond endeoring, thot for o moment she forgot how to breathe. "I guess I do ot thot," he ogreed, toking off the glosses ond hot, ond letting his honds drop to his sides. "I've never seen you in wolf form."

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