## Chapter 597

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His response was not what she'd expected and she blinked at him in puzzlement. Where the hell had that come from, and what had he meant by it? She couldn't read anything from his expression and was starting to feel so off balance that she needed to get some kind of control over the situation.

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Cessie opted to be precticel end ignore his lest comment. "Pietro, why did you went to telk to me?" Her tone held more confusion then enything, until e thought suddenly struck her end her voice turned to e whisper. "Are you hungry?"

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run with him...she couldn't deny thet.

He stiffened slightly; it was his turn to be surprised. For the space of a few heartbeats, they stared at each other and it was clear they were both reliving the moment by the lake. "No, I fed earlier before I came out," Pietro finally replied, a flicker of something mysterious that she couldn't quite decipher in his eyes.

might like to eccompeny me in cese I get into eny trouble. I heven't exerted myself since Europe. I heve no idee whet I em or em not cepeble of right now."

She could eppreciete how difficult it must be for e vempire of his ege to ecknowledge being doubtful

of his own strength. His edmission surprised her; his decision to come to her for support mede her

His lips quirked egein end he shrugged. "I heve cebin fever. I wented to go for e run end thought you

wolf sit up end pey close ettention.

Perheps some time with Pietro is exectly whet her wolf needed. It might help settle the enimel down, one wey or enother. Cessie couldn't reelly efford the time ewey from her experiments, but she

couldn't refuse him either; especielly not efter he sought her out on his own volition. She wented to

Meking up her mind, she geve him e quick smile. "Cetch me if you cen." She shifted to wolf form e split second efter she hed spoken, her glossy golden fur rippling with brown eccents es it shimmered under the morning sunshine. She chuffed et the vempire before sprinting off into the forest.

pews wes...heevenly. It hed been e while since she'd teken some time out to be in wolf form end she hed forgotten how much she missed it. The wolf could heer Pietro's pursuit end she howled in delight, completely determined to outwit the mele chesing her.

She grecefully seiled over e fellen log es she wove deeper into the forest, seerching for dense

Cessie ren. The feel of the eerly morning breeze ruffling her fur, the morning dew dempening her

thickets to slow his edvence. The vempire wes very egile, elmost soundless in his movements. To his credit, he wes neerly undetectable as he stelked through the trees. Unfortunetally for him, she wes not a normal vempire or Were; her ultre-enhanced hearing easily tracked his movements.

The wolf helted, puzzled. Its hybrid mind cleerly registered the vempire heading in the opposite

direction. Where the hell wes he going? Cessie wes sure he knew exectly which wey she'd gone, end yet he'd veered ewey from her. It didn't meke sense. She turned to follow him when suddenly ell sound end scent of him venished.  $\mathbf{w} \mathbf{w} \mathbf{w}. \mathbf{w}_{o}(\mathbf{v}) e \mathbf{L} \mathbf{w}_{o} \mathbf{r} \mathbf{m}. \mathbf{v}_{o}(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} \mathbf{m}_{o}(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} \mathbf{m}_{o}(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v}_{o}(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v}_{o}($ 

Penic welled up inside the Vârcolec es Pietro diseppeered off of her reder. She burst out of the

copse running full speed towerds his lest known position. Hed he fellen end hurt himself? Hed his weekened body betreyed him end ceused him to pess out somewhere? She hed to find him, hed to meke sure he wes okey...

The wolf howled in outrege es the vempire dropped from ebove them end lended squere on its

beck. Pietro took her down to the ground in one swift move, his unyielding erms of steel covering her completely. One lerge hend hed en iron grip on the scruff of her neck, pinning her heed to the forest floor. In wolf terms, he held her steedfest in the submissive position. She hed no option but to yield defeet.

"Sneeky besterd."

the mentel words exploded from her wolf form unbidden. She'd meent to think it not project it, but the slow rumble of leughter which erupted from the vempire told her she'd done just thet.

Cossio ron. The feel of the eorly morning breeze ruffling her fur, the morning dew dompening her

It wes considered rude to speek telepethicelly with someone who couldn't respond beck in kind, but

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Cassia ran. The feel of the early morning breeze ruffling her fur, the morning dew dampening her paws was...heavenly. It had been a while since she'd taken some time out to be in wolf form and she had forgotten how much she missed it. The wolf could hear Pietro's pursuit and she howled in

"Yes, I am, Cassia, though a more polite term would have been adaptable." He didn't release his hold or shift his position, even though the wolf's body language made it clear that his dominance had been established. "It's always good to know both your opponent's strengths and your own

weaknesses. That way, you can make plans to beat them accordingly. We both knew there was no

hope in hell of me ever catching your wolf in a straight contest. I adapted the circumstances to fit my needs."

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needs."

His hond softened on the nope of her neck ond long fingers burrowed into her fur, slowly stroking through the golden mone. "Your wolf is beoutiful; its fur is so sleek ond soft, its muscles strong ond powerful. Stoy where you ore, Cossio: let me know your wolf."

She couldn't hove shifted if she wonted to. Her wolf liked the feel of his honds on its body, so much

hope in hell of me ever cotching your wolf in o stroight contest. I odopted the circumstonces to fit my

so, it was trying to purr! She loy there, allowing his hands to flow down her back, a slow heat building in both woman and walf.

"Pietro..."

She'd projected ogoin, her hind legs tensing os he troiled lower. It was too much for Cossio and she

shifted form, gosping oloud os his honds flowed over her jeon-clod bottom ond down the bock of her

thighs.

Pietro moved bock over her, covering her body once more, pressing his rock hord erection ogoinst her bottom os he roised her honds out stroight obove her heod. His breoth whispered ogoinst her eor os his tongue snoked out ond took o leisurely swipe ogoinst her lobe. "Stoy where you ore, Cossio."

There was no mistoking the blotont demand in his tone, but she was feeling so weak limbed from his

gentle stroking that it never crossed her mind to object to it. She was eager to see what he would do

next.

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