

Chapter 617

"I'm astounded to hear you think Cassia is that fickle," he finally said, standing up to leave. Coming here hadn't been a good idea after all because Demetri was sorely tempted to kick the shit out of his friend for being so narrow-minded. "It would serve you right if she did kick you into touch. While I'm here, there are also some concerns about your antipathy towards Reasa. I just wanted to remind you to stay away from the girl."

"I don't need you to tell me that," Pietro snapped back, more than a little anger in his voice as he rose too. "I've stayed away from her for days now. You have no need to concern yourself over that. You really came here just to push my buttons, Demetri?"

The two vampires stared each other out and then Demetri's lips quirked in a smile. "Actually I did want to see how you were doing too," he grinned. "It's good to see you with some fire in your belly, my friend. Hold onto that and you will heal just fine." He turned and walked to the front door.

As he pulled it opened, Pietro followed him, a scowl on his face. "What did you mean about Cassia not being so fickle? Demetri! Demetri!"

Climbing into his car, Demetri's grin widened at the sound of the front door slamming shut when he didn't answer. He may suck at the more tender emotions but he sure as hell still had it in him to piss people off. Hopefully, Pietro would be so off-balance trying to figure out his relationship with Cassia that there wouldn't be any chance for him to accidentally bump into Thereasa.

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The Vârcolac had her work cut out with his friend, there was no doubt about that, but there was more than enough spark still within Pietro. He had faith that she would be able to make him see sense. The only question was...would she be able to do it before Alexei found out about them.

Reasa had just finished lunch when the knock came on the front door. Freya looked up from the pile of paperwork she was nose deep in and smiled. "I wonder if he was clock watching," she commented before calling out, "Come in, Liam."

Taking a deep breath, Reasa deposited her plate and cutlery into the dishwasher and then turned to greet the Vârcolac. "You had sufficient time to read the entire book?"

"Eidetic memory," he grinned, the book on dream walking tucked under his arm at his side. "I brought it back so you could read it later. It really is fascinating."

There was a new confidence about him. It was subtle and not the least cocky, but she could see the slight change in him as he waited patiently for her to decide what they were going to do. She had to admit the confidence made him much more appealing and it was hard to keep her gaze fixed firmly on his face and not travelling down his body to admire the view.

Giving herself a mental shake, she turned to Freya who was openly watching them without the least attempt to conceal it. "May we use you for the next lesson, Freya?" She noted Liam frown at the words. He was clearly not happy at the prospect of his aunt being with them.

"What am I required to do?"

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Reasa ignored Liam, keeping her gaze on the vampire. "If you could possibly choose an appropriate emotion and maintain it for a while? Liam and I will be in the other room. I want to show him how to seek out individual emotions. As he already had a strong connection with you, it should be easier for him to detect your emotions."

Freya frowned, looking back at her paperwork. "Wouldn't Elina be a better choice for this? Liam has the same affinity with her as he does with me. I am very busy right now."

Reasa shook her head. "Elina is too used to using her abilities to shield Liam. That habit will most likely provide an obstacle to any progress."

"Irritation is an emotion too, Freya," Liam grinned at his aunt. "I'm used to sensing that in you so I should be able to find you easily."

Giving her nephew a pointed look, the vampire finally sighed. "Very well, but try to make this quick. Learn fast, Liam, I have work to finish this afternoon."

Laughing at the pique in Freya's tone, Liam followed Reasa into the back of the house. He was excited to learn new tools that could help him control his empathy, but he was more excited about spending more time with his mate. The morning lesson had been challenging, especially when he'd had to confront his vampiric side, but having Reasa in his mind had been amazing. He couldn't wait to experience it again and have their positions reversed so he could be in her mind this time. He wondered what he would learn about the exotic creature that was destined to be his mate.

He was also excited to tell her what he'd learned from Annie's book. Since he'd discovered what he'd inadvertently done up at the Praetorian Compound, it had only been his stronger shields that had prevented his sorrow and guilt from being projected onto the pack. After reading the book, he now had some hope that they may be able to save the stricken vampires.

Reasa took her position on her bed as before and he took his at the bottom facing her, the book on dreaming walking once more placed between them. It appeared symbolic, as if it gave her some form of protection against him. It was enough to make Liam smile. If he were determined to have her no book would get in his way, however he knew she needed more time so he was content to wait until she came to him. She would come to him, of that he had no doubt. No one could withstand the mating instinct, not matter how hard they wished they could.

"Stop grinning. This is serious and you need to concentrate." Reasa's tone was waspish and it reminded him of his aunt and sometimes Elina too. It suddenly struck Liam how he automatically formed bonds with women who were usually cool and reserved. He was drawn to personalities that soothed his soul even as he strove to try to bring laughter into their lives because he wanted to see them happy.*wWw.nøveLwOŘM.coM*

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