Chapter 642

Alexei stayed a little longer with Cassia before he headed back to his own room. It was still early and Cedar was sleeping, having only gone to bed a few hours before. Now that he was sure his daughter would be okay, he gave into the need for a few hours' rest himself, quickly throwing off his clothes and climbing into bed with his mate. Cedar muttered under her breath, rolling over to instinctively wrap her limbs around his tall frame. He hardened in an instant, as he always did when he lay beside his woman.

"Is it Dara's turn?" Cedar murmured, stroking her hand down his back as she sleepily brushed her lips against his chest.

Her touch had his breath catching and he couldn't have stopped himself from tangling his fingers in her curls if he tried. Tilting her head back, he silenced her with a passionate kiss, moaning quietly as her lips parted to his touch and her tongue battled lazily against his.

"Alexei...?"

"Cass is fine, sweetness." His words were muffled as he trailed his mouth down the graceful arch of her neck, laving his tongue greedily against her soft skin. His teeth nipped hard and she moaned and brushed her body against his.

"Really?"

There was still very much the mother in her tone and he sank his teeth a little harder. "Yes, she is. She's showering and making breakfast so that gives us a little time to..."

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Cedar arched as his fangs elongated and sank into her neck, pressing her aching breasts against his torso, muffling a cry as one large hand engulfed her flesh and squeezed hard. "Alexei!"

He drank deeply, savouring the hot blood flowing down his throat, his talented fingers moving lower to his other favourite spot on her body. Sinking his fingers deep within her body, he raised his head again to capture Cedar's lips to muffle the sound of her climax. His heart thundered in his chest as her body shuddered in his arms. She was so beautiful when she came apart for him. It was a view he would never tire of watching.

Barely giving her a moment to catch her breath, Alexei rolled on top of his mate, moaning against her mouth as he joined them together. "Hmmm yes, we have enough time to enjoy this and have a little nap afterwards," he laughed, stroking languidly into her hotness, savouring the feel of her body sheathing his in the most intimate of caresses.

Cedar's arms wrapped around his neck, her teeth nipping at the spot when it joined his shoulder.

"Then let's dance, lover," she all but purred, rocking her hips up to meets his as she bit down hard.

Cassia heard Dara before she felt her sister cuddle into her from behind. She held still to allow her that moment, knowing she had scared Dara badly. Putting the teapot down carefully, she turned around to hug her sister tightly.

"I was so scared, Cass." Dara whispered the words, and Cassia felt dampness against her neck where her face was burrowed.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you like that," she answered running a soothing hand down her sister's back. "My wolf just got a little overwhelmed by things and needed some time to come to terms with what had happened. I'm fine now, Dara. I promise."w\www.\Nove\Lw\sigmar(\mi).c\O\M

Her sister clung to her a moment longer and then she pulled back and wiped at her wet cheeks. "Are you sure?"

Cassia shot her a rueful smile, a trace of melancholy in her eyes. "I'm still hurting, that hasn't changed, but I'm not wallowing in it any more. I've been racking my brain trying to think of how best to confront Pietro but haven't come up with anything concrete yet." She motioned to Dara to sit and then plated up a cooked breakfast for both of them. Sitting beside her, she ate some of her cheese omelette and sipped at her tea.

"What are you options?" Dara asked between forkfuls of egg and bacon.

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Her sister shrugged, staring pensively ahead as she considered her answer. "I suppose I can give him some time and see if the mating pull kicks in. Or, I could pack a bag and move in with him whether he likes it or not."

Dara's eyes widened with shock. "Would you really do that?"

Cassia shrugged. It was something she was considering given the circumstances with Thereasa. "I can't discount it, Dara. I know I would have to discuss it with Mom and Dad, as well as get approval from Rafe, but with the hostility between Pietro and Reasa I may have no choice but to leave the pack."

Her sister's dismay increased. "But...what about researching the antidote and your healer's training? What about the pack? Cass, you're so pack orientated I don't think you could ever be happy being apart from us." Dara was aware that she sounded selfish but nobody knew her sister better than she did. She had no doubt that Cassia wouldn't be happy on her own, even if she was with Pietro.

"What's the other option, Dara? Should Liam and Reasa leave the pack so Pietro and I can stay? What makes my needs more important than theirs? Liam has always needed the pack more than I ever have. Now that Reasa is human she is too fragile to be out there alone even with Liam. We have to consider everything before a decision is reached. You know that in your heart, honey."

Dara did but that didn't make hearing the words any easier. Yesterday she had been afraid she would lose Cassia to turning rogue. Today her relief at finding that wasn't the case wasn't eased any. She didn't know how she would handle her sister not being a part of the pack. They had always been together, always looked out for each other. However, Cassia's happiness had to come first. If things couldn't be resolved between Pietro and Reasa then one of the Vârcolac would have to leave. There was no escaping that fact.

"Maybe once Pietro accepts you as his mate it may help him find some forgiveness in his heart."

Cassia sipped at her tea before giving her sister what she hoped was an encouraging smile. She wasn't so sure of that but it was a hopeful possibility. "Let's wait and see what happens, Dar. For now, let's finish breakfast and then I'm going to head over to the lab for a little while and do some work while I think things through."

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