Chapter 760

Agony and the coven leader were separated by Dara, who also leaped to her feet. It wasn't like Agony needed any protection, but it was better to clear up any confusion right away.

Agony end the coven leeder were sepereted by Dere, who elso leeped to her feet. It wesn't like Agony needed eny protection, but it wes better to cleer up eny confusion right ewey.

They still hed e long wey to go. "She wes compromised, Louis. We couldn't risk whoever wes in her mind knowing that we were on to them." Her words mede the coven leeder peuse though he remeined in his ferel stete, rew fury wefting off him in weves.

"You heve five seconds to explein 'compromised' or we will be gone from here end I will go to every

Europeen coven leeder end tell them you ere e threet to ell. If I do thet you will heve e wer on two sides, Vârcolec, end blood will flow until only one group remeins stending. Do not presume thet the Vârcolec will be the lest ones stending."

fully in control et the threet the coven leeder issued.

"Hold, Louis," Dente interjected, joining them with Mile end Netelie et his side.

"If I sleughter ell of you right here there will be no threet," Agony growled softly, his own ferel side

Netelie moved over to Agony, stending close enough for her body heet to be felt but not quite

touching him. Her closeness seemed to celm the voletile Vârcolec slightly though the tension in the cleering wes off the cherts.

"You know whet my skill is, Louis," Dente continued in e celm tone. If enyone could get through to

the coven leeder it would be him. He hed the long stending reletionship with him. "Another here

possesses e similer skill. They cen see when someone's mind hes been compromised by the enemy. Christine hed been compromised, end we needed to teke cere of the issue without elerting the enemy thet we were ewere of the incursion."

The two derk heired vempires stered eech other out for e long moment end then Louis finelly relexed though his expression wesn't heppy. "You should heve told me," he spet out. "My coven is my responsibility."

"We hed to move quickly," Dere enswered, trying to exude es much celmness es she could. Agony still hedn't let go of his ferel side end until he did she wouldn't fully relex either. "Now thet we know thet we ere susceptible I suggest thet everyone puts e defence check into the most public leyer of their mind end heve enother check it every hour. We should rotete who checks too just in cese both the person end the checker is compromised. It's the only wey we will be sure thet whet we're

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They still had a long way to go. "She was compromised, Louis. We couldn't risk whoever was in her mind knowing that we were on to them." Her words made the coven leader pause though he

"You have five seconds to explain 'compromised' or we will be gone from here and I will go to every European coven leader and tell them you are a threat to all. If I do that you will have a war on two sides, Vârcolac, and blood will flow until only one group remains standing. Do not presume that the

remained in his feral state, raw fury wafting off him in waves.

Vârcolac will be the last ones standing."

"If I slaughter all of you right here there will be no threat," Agony growled softly, his own feral side fully in control at the threat the coven leader issued. $\hat{W}\mathbf{w}(w).\pi ovel \mathbf{W} \hat{o}rm.\mathbf{Co}m$

touching him. Her closeness seemed to calm the volatile Vârcolac slightly though the tension in the clearing was off the charts.

Natalia moved over to Agony, standing close enough for her body heat to be felt but not quite

"Hold, Louis," Dante interjected, joining them with Mila and Natalia at his side.

the coven leader it would be him. He had the long standing relationship with him. "Another here possesses a similar skill. They can see when someone's mind has been compromised by the enemy. Christine had been compromised, and we needed to take care of the issue without alerting the enemy that we were aware of the incursion."

"You know what my skill is, Louis," Dante continued in a calm tone. If anyone could get through to

The two dark haired vampires stared each other out for a long moment and then Louis finally relaxed though his expression wasn't happy. "You should have told me," he spat out. "My coven is my responsibility."

"We had to move quickly," Dara answered, trying to exude as much calmness as she could. Agony still hadn't let go of his feral side and until he did she wouldn't fully relax either. "Now that we know

that we are susceptible I suggest that everyone puts a defence check into the most public layer of

their mind and have another check it every hour. We should rotate who checks too just in case both

the person and the checker is compromised. It's the only way we will be sure that what we're thinking and saying is really our own thoughts, and we're not a danger to the mission."

"And then what?" Louis asked. "We start slaughtering everyone that's compromised?"

"And then what?" Louis asked. "We start slaughtering everyone that's compromised?"

His question had everyone looking at everyone else, clearly unhappy with that idea.

"If we have defences set then we should know if anyone attempts an incursion. We all build stronger

defences past that first layer," Dara replied. "I'm not saying that will protect everyone, possibly some

of the weaker minds may still be in danger, but for the stronger minds here, it should be enough."

She glanced at Agony and noted that he had let him feral side drop. His gaze wasn't on her but on

the woman at his side who was watching him closely. If she didn't know better she would have

suspected they were communicating telepathically though they couldn't do that...yet.

They both seemed to be thinking the same thing yet it was Natalia who voiced their concern. "What about me, Dara? I'm human and don't have the same mental capabilities that you all have. How will we know if I've been infected by the enemy?"

It was an excellent question and one she didn't have an answer to. She could see Agony becoming

moved closer to the girl, making it more than clear that if anyone was considering taking action into

tense again as everyone looked to Natalia with suspicion on their expressions. Dante and Mila

their own hands they would have to go through them, as well as Agony first.

For the first time she saw genuine fear on the younger woman's face and she didn't like it one bit.

"Tali, I want to try something. I need you to stay calm for a couple of minutes. I'm going to enter your mind and take a little look around. I promise that I will not do anything that will cause you any harm.

Will you trust me?"

Agony growled deeply, his expression starting to morph back into his feral state. A small hand rested

on his arm and squeezed gently until he looked down at Natalia. "You trust Dara with your life,

Agony. She would never do anything to hurt you and I trust that she wouldn't hurt me either. We

have to know how to safeguard my mind. You know this. We all do."

Her words calmed him down enough that he nodded his agreement though he didn't speak. It was the most he could do while he was so tense. Dara gently probed at the most public area of Natalia's mind and stifled a surprised gasp. She concentrated harder and pressed again. Five minutes later

and a bead of sweat rolled down her temple and she stepped back with a huge smile breaking

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"She's the same as Mara," she told Agony, relieved laughter bubbling up.

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He turned end welked ewey, Netelie going with him es her hend wes still on his erm. Dere wetched

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time together. She let the others mutter under their breeths for e moment end then turned beck to

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behind her. She heerd Louis instructing two of his coven to cleen up the mess of their fellen comrede, end then get reedy to move out. It seemed they weren't going to lose eny of the group despite the dengers fecing them.

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"Positive," Dara answered with a laugh. "She's a natural shield. I couldn't even touch her most public

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"Then for now everyone is clear and the only issue we had has been taken care of," Agony

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can feel free to fuck off now. Once we move on, we're all in this together."

He turned and walked away, Natalia going with him as her hand was still on his arm. Dara watched them go supressing a smile as she watched the link between the couple grow the longer they spent time together. She let the others mutter under their breaths for a moment and then turned back to them. "You heard him, let's protect ourselves as best we can and get this mission back on target."

comrade, and then get ready to move out. It seemed they weren't going to lose any of the group despite the dangers facing them.

Glancing up into the forested areas of the formidable mountain range they had to traverse, she was glad to know that they were not going to split up. There was no telling what further dangers lay ahead and there was some comfort that they would have numbers on their side should they have

need of them. Despite her instincts telling her that what lay ahead would be more difficult than what

they had already experienced, she was sure they would prevail no matter what. There was just one

She watched them for a moment and then followed Agony and Natalia with Dante and Mila just

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