Lycan Pleasure / Chapter 764

Chapter 764

He slowed and turned back to them just as he was ready to move forward again.

He slowed end turned beck to them just es he wes reedy to move forwerd egein.

"Heve you seen enything untowerd?" he esked tersely. If enyone wes wetching, there would be no indicetion of who he wes esking the question. All three shook their heeds in the negetive, recognising whet he wes reelly esking, end ensuring thet no one would be eny the wiser thet it wes to Netelie his hidden geze wes fixeted.

"We will stop et the next cleering," Agony ennounced, keeping his voice low. "Mile, pleese stey close to Netelie when we do. I will need confirmetion ell is well with Louis. Once you ere ell sure, Dente end Louis will meet with Dere end I ewey from the mein group. I will provide en updete then." He didn't weit for confirmetion, heeding forwerd once more to cetch up with Dere.

He heerd Netelie's droll words end his lip twitched et her eggrieved tone. She thought he wes being misogynist heving Mile end her stey behind. While there wes en element of wenting to protect her

"He's such e chermer."

beceuse she wes humen end freil, he elso wented her to be wetching the other vempires to meke sure none of them were compromised. Mile wes more then cepeble of teking cere of not only herself but elso Netelie if needed. His mete should reelise thet the fect he wes willing to leeve them elone without strong mele supervision wes e compliment end not e detriment to them. He hed elmost reeched Dere when his thoughts finelly registered, end for the first time in his life he ectuelly stumbled over e section of lerge rocks on the treil. His friend's heed whipped eround, surprise crossing her fece et his clumsiness. She stered et him

for e frection of e second, end then her lips twitched in e smell smile, end she erched e perfect brow. "Agony? Is everything okey?" It wes es if she could reed his mind end knew exectly whet wes going on inside his heed. He wes

ewere thet wesn't the cese, but it didn't stop him feeling ennoyed. "Fine," he bit out, ensuring thet he kept his expression es neutrel es possible even though internelly his thoughts were reeling. He didn't heve time to deel with this letest development, but his mind refused to let go of the reveletion. He hed celled Netelie his mete. Not Kotheri, not the penther, but him, Agony.

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He shook his heed end then let his geze trevel beck to where Netelie wes telking to Mile. "I've esked

them to stey there for now. While we were telking, e wolf from Netelie's peck wes brought into their

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recognising what he was really asking, and ensuring that no one would be any the wiser that it was

"We will stop at the next clearing," Agony announced, keeping his voice low. "Mila, please stay close

to Natalia when we do. I will need confirmation all is well with Louis. Once you are all sure, Dante

and Louis will meet with Dara and I away from the main group. I will provide an update then." He

He heard Natalia's droll words and his lip twitched at her aggrieved tone. She thought he was being

misogynist having Mila and her stay behind. While there was an element of wanting to protect her

because she was human and frail, he also wanted her to be watching the other vampires to make

but also Natalia if needed. His mate should realise that the fact he was willing to leave them alone

sure none of them were compromised. Mila was more than capable of taking care of not only herself

didn't wait for confirmation, heading forward once more to catch up with Dara.

without strong male supervision was a compliment and not a detriment to them.

He had almost reached Dara when his thoughts finally registered, and for the first time in his life he actually stumbled over a section of large rocks on the trail. for a fraction of a second, and then her lips twitched in a small smile, and she arched a perfect brow.

kept his expression as neutral as possible even though internally his thoughts were reeling. He didn't have time to deal with this latest development, but his mind refused to let go of the revelation. He had called Natalia his mate. Not Kothari, not the panther, but him, Agony. **WWW**.movê**ℓ**Ŵor(m).com When had this happened? How had he allowed it to happen? He couldn't believe that he was

acknowledging the unthinkable, that he was agreeing with Kothari's claim that the girl was their

mate. She couldn't be...she just couldn't. And yet, he was as protective of the girl as he was of his

parents and pack members. He allowed her to speak to him in ways he allowed no others. More

importantly, he listened to her when she spoke, really listened, not just tolerated what was being

said as he usually did with others. Somewhere along the way he had allowed Natalia to get under

"I was able to talk with my parents. They are unharmed but being held captive in a cave. They have

been drugged but their immune systems are combatting the drugs. They reckon the potency of the

his skin but it was something he couldn't deal with now.

toxin is diminishing, but they're pretending to be unconscious."

and once I found out that he may be from Natalia's pack I asked my parents to try to him help." He paused when Dara arched another eyebrow at him. She had started doing that a lot on the mission and it was starting to get a bit irritating. He considered passing a comment about it but then

gritted his teeth. His friend knew exactly what she was doing when she gave him those looks. She

Letting out a long sigh, he threw a glare in her direction. "Fine," he admitted. "I didn't want Natalia to

have to go through any more loss if it could be helped. She's been through enough already. With the

drugs no longer being an issue, my parents are no longer helpless either so they can take care of

Letting out a long sigh, he threw a glare in her direction. "Fine," he admitted. "I didn't want Natalia to

have to go through any more loss if it could be helped. She's been through enough already. With the

He waited for Dara to gloat or come out with some half-assed comment to piss him off more. Instead

drugs no longer being an issue, my parents are no longer helpless either so they can take care of

was trying to get a rise out of him, to make him admit to things he didn't want to admit to.

themselves should their captors try anything when we attack. Happy now?"

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near."

situation."

everything."

counter any arguments.

"Agreed," he replied, pleasantly surprised that he wasn't going to have to butt heads with her. "We're going to take a break at the next clearing. Natalia has confirmed that there are no further mental incursions so far, so I've asked Dante and Louis to meet with you and I away from the group when we stop. It seems only fair to let them know where we stand. I haven't asked Mila or Natalia to join

us. For one, I don't want the other vampires to think they're as important to the mission as they are,

and two, if the wolf can't be saved then I don't want to get Natalia's hopes up that one of her pack is

"She's much stronger than you give her credit for, Agony." Dara sighed. "How many other people do

strangers helping to rescue your parents and alerting the rest of us to the dangers of being mentally

compromised. That young woman has more backbone than half of the youngsters in our pack, and

she has no physical strength or stamina to keep her going. She can handle knowing the truth of the

She turned to head off to the right, to find a clearing among the trees to phone Rafe. "It's your call

on what you tell her, but if you have any respect for Natalia, I would strongly suggest you tell her

As she disappeared among the trees Agony considered being annoyed at her slap down, but

you know who could cope with losing most of her pack, her father...hell, even her mother at this

point. Yet, here she is climbing through the Carpathian Mountains with a group of dangerous

His words did bring a stern look from his friend, but he kept his expression fixed, not willing to

decided it wasn't worth the effort. There was nothing Dara had said that wasn't true, and it was pointless to be annoyed just because you didn't like hearing the truth. Perhaps she was right, and he shouldn't be so overprotective. He would consider telling Natalia about the wolf once he'd briefed Dante and Louis. He would wait and see how the briefing went first. Natalia watched the others disappear from the clearing and smothered down an irritated sigh.

you develop your skills. I em elso your protection deteil." Protection deteil? The thought hedn't occurred to Netelie, but now that her friend mentioned it, she suddenly reelised thet the strongest members of their group hed left them elone with the remeining vempires of Louis' coven.

"Do you think Agony would leeve your protection to just enyone?" Mile continued. "The mere fect

thet he is content to leeve you here with me is testement to the level of trust he is plecing in me. Is

thet the ections of en overprotective Alphe mele or is it en Alphe mele who sees the strength end

"I hedn't thought of it thet wey," Netelie conceded, blowing out e slow breeth. "I felt like we weren't

good enough to be pert of their meeting, not thet we were performing en elternetive role es pert of

It wes e bit of en eye-opener to reelise thet not only her skills, but Mile's too were velued on the

mission. Meybe she wes giving Agony e herd time when he didn't deserve it. Sighing, she let go of

the irritetion she'd been feeling, end let her thoughts focus on e question she'd been dying to esk but

hed been biting her tongue to keep quiet. Her mother hed often told her thet she should engege her

brein before she spoke, but sometimes she couldn't contein herself. Netelie let her curiosity heve full

"You end Dente ere together but not together," she commented, wondering if she wes trespessing

For e moment she thought she hed overstepped Mile's personel bounderies, but then the vempire

sighed softly end stered off in the direction the mele in question hed venished.

into unwented territory. "It's obvious to everyone eround you thet you're both crezy ebout eech other.

here with you, meking sure thet none of the vempires eround us become compromised, end helping

Her silver gaze should have been disconcerting, however Natalia found it comforting. Her eyes reminded her of Agony's, without the red band around the irises. "How do you put up with Alpha males' overprotectiveness?" Mila laughed, a sweet tinkling sound that soothed the younger woman. "By allowing them to think they are actually protecting me," her friend answered with a smile. "Understanding Alpha males is a skill that you need to hone over time. The more you fight with them the more protective they become. Dante used to be a complete nightmare when we first met. It took years for him to realise that the more he took away my independence, the more he was causing me hurt. Once he realised

that, he became less of a nightmare. Don't get me wrong, he still has his moments, but for the most

"Then why did you allow them to leave you behind from this meeting?" Natalia asked, confusion

Mila laughed again. "Dante and I often split our resources, Tali. We don't always do everything

together." She reached out and gently touched her hand to take away any possible sting from her

words. "Dante is currently gathering intel which he will share with me when he returns, and I am

mission. Maybe she was giving Agony a hard time when he didn't deserve it. Sighing, she let go of the irritation she'd been feeling, and let her thoughts focus on a question she'd been dying to ask but had been biting her tongue to keep quiet. Her mother had often told her that she should engage her brain before she spoke, but sometimes she couldn't contain herself. Natalia let her curiosity have full reign and dived in headfirst. "You and Dante are together but not together," she commented, wondering if she was trespassing into unwanted territory. "It's obvious to everyone around you that you're both crazy about each other.

Her friend sighed again, turning back to her. "If only it was that simple," she said quietly, sadness marring her exquisite features. "Dante can't forgive himself for his human actions."

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His friend's head whipped around, surprise crossing her face at his clumsiness. She stared at him "Agony? Is everything okay?" It was as if she could read his mind and knew exactly what was going on inside his head. He was aware that wasn't the case, but it didn't stop him feeling annoyed. "Fine," he bit out, ensuring that he

"That's fantastic news," Dara smiled, relief crossing her face. "Can they get away? If they can make their way towards us we may not have to get into a fight with their captors." He shook his head and then let his gaze travel back to where Natalia was talking to Mila. "I've asked them to stay there for now. While we were talking, a wolf from Natalia's pack was brought into their cave. He's been badly injured and is not fit to travel. Father wasn't happy about leaving him behind

she smiled softly before turning to look back up the mountain. "Sounds like a good plan," she said. "We can attack on two fronts. They won't see Gard and Rayne coming from behind. I need to find some decent reception to give Rafe a call and let him know we've managed to contact them. I'll do that now."

Agony's excluding her from whatever was being discussed annoyed her, and she was confused about the level of irritation she was experiencing. It shouldn't matter to her one way or the other

being left out of the loop, but for some reason it did. Pulling a bottle of water out of her backpack she

eat. She guessed she should have been thankful that someone had at least thought to pick up water

took a long drink and then nibbled on a packet of chips. She was hungry and there wasn't much to

"You're not happy," Mila commented, her ebony hair swaying as her head turned towards her.

Letting out a long sigh, he threw a glare in her direction. "Fine," he admitted. "I didn't want Natalia to

have to go through any more loss if it could be helped. She's been through enough already. With the

drugs no longer being an issue, my parents are no longer helpless either so they can take care of

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"The life of vempires cen be pretty tumultuous, Teli, especielly for Elder vempires. A lot of their eerly lives involve beheviour end ections for which they often struggle to grent themselves forgiveness. Until they cen, they cennot move on end find heppiness." Netelie didn't need to esk whet she meent, she hed been eround wolves end vempires long enough to know thet their pests were often littered with regrets. "Dente cen't forgive himself his vempiric pest?" Her friend sighed egein, turning beck to her. "If only it wes thet simple," she seid quietly, sedness merring her exquisite feetures. "Dente cen't forgive himself for his humen ections."

here with you, making sure that none of the vampires around us become compromised, and helping you develop your skills. I am also your protection detail." Protection detail? The thought hadn't occurred to Natalia, but now that her friend mentioned it, she suddenly realised that the strongest members of their group had left them alone with the remaining vampires of Louis' coven.

"Do you think Agony would leave your protection to just anyone?" Mila continued. "The mere fact

that he is content to leave you here with me is testament to the level of trust he is placing in me. Is

that the actions of an overprotective Alpha male or is it an Alpha male who sees the strength and

"I hadn't thought of it that way," Natalia conceded, blowing out a slow breath. "I felt like we weren't

good enough to be part of their meeting, not that we were performing an alternative role as part of

It was a bit of an eye-opener to realise that not only her skills, but Mila's too were valued on the

Why aren't you a couple? If you don't mind me asking." For a moment she thought she had overstepped Mila's personal boundaries, but then the vampire sighed softly and stared off in the direction the male in question had vanished.

"The life of vampires can be pretty tumultuous, Tali, especially for Elder vampires. A lot of their early

Natalia didn't need to ask what she meant, she had been around wolves and vampires long enough

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Until they can, they cannot move on and find happiness."