

Chapter 51

Caleb

A pout forms on my lips as I obediently wait for Lola's Alpha to show up. When he does, he isn't alone. Yato, his brother, is with him and so is Daisy. They listen to Lola's version of the story, then to Lina's, and soon, all eyes are on me.

"Well?" Alpha Xavier asks, and I gulp at the intensity of his eyes. I can't put my tongue on it, but something about this Alpha doesn't sit right with me. He is scary. "Are you going to tell us your version of the story?"

"Of course, Alpha Xavier," I say, meeting his gaze. His eyes are a piercing emerald, but I don't allow myself to flinch. I'm not a werewolf-his alpha command doesn't work on me. "I caught Lina outside your house, trying the door handle. When I confronted her, she said something about a mission, and that's why I assumed she was working for the vampire queen."

Alpha Xavier grunts, pinching the bridge of his nose. He looks tired, his black hair a ruffled mess that somehow suits him. I could see myself working under this man...if he would let me. "I'll get to the bottom of this," he says finally, glancing at Lina, who trembles under his gaze. "Do you have anything to say for your defense?"

Lina gulps. "M-my sister is your future Luna, and she can bear witness to my innocence. Daisy also knows I'm not a bad person. I'm her sister!"

Daisy snorts. "Dude, you've beaten me up so many times when we were kids that I honestly don't know what to think of you," she glances at me. "I honestly trust Lola's vampire mate more than I trust you."

Lina gawks at her sister and Yato burst out laughing. I'm not sure if I've missed a joke or something "You guys probably want to sleep." Alpha Xavier says. So, I should probably take Lina to the hotel and interrogate her there."

"Oh, about that!" Lola turns to me. "Caleb can look inside of her head and tell us exactly what is going on...if you trust him, that is."

"He is a mind-reader?" Alpha Xavier seems curious, and I shudder when his eyes meet mine.

Something is definitely wrong with this Alpha. Usually, when I look at a werewolf. I can sense that I can read their mind, but this guy? I can't, which worries me. Is he a normal werewolf? I swallow thickly. "I can read minds, yes..."

"Would you be willing to teach me to do that?" Alpha Xavier asks, which makes me gasp. "Umm.....I don't think that's a skill for werewolves. Vampires, on the other hand, can-"

“I’m a hybrid.” Oh. Wait...what the hell? Do those exist?!

I look around the room. Lola seems shocked, but Yato and Daisy just smile-they already knew Alpha Xavier’s secret. Well, this is news to me. Most hybrids die at birth, unable to handle the conflicting forces of both species within them. Yet here is Alpha Xavier, standing before me in the flesh.

“A hybrid,” I repeat dumbly, the wheels in my mind almost screeching with how quickly they are spinning. “Does this mean...”

“I learn to do it myself. And since I can resist your mind-reading.” Alpha Xavier finishes for me.” But that doesn’t mean I you’re such a gifted vampire...” His gaze is challenging, and I find myself accepting it before I even think through the implications of what I’m agreeing to I gulp down my apprehension and put on a brave face.

“Alright then, Alpha Xavier. I will try my best to teach you.”

There’s a moment of silence in the room as everyone digests this new development. Finally, Lina breaks the quiet with a gulp of her own, her fear making her restraints rattle slightly. “Wait, so you’re going to let him...poke around in my head?” she asks incredulously.

Yato bursts out laughing again... “You’re about to have all of your secrets exposed,” Yato sounds amused. “How do you feel about that?”

Lina shrieks. “Y-you can’t do that!”

“We can, we will,” Alpha Xavier replies dryly. “It seems like a small price to pay for the truth.”

“And this should be interesting.” Yato adds, grinning as he crosses his arms over his chest.

Lola throws me an apologetic glance. “It’s okay if you don’t want to do this, Caleb; we can find another way I shake my head. “No, it’s okay,” I assure her, though I’m not sure how exactly this is going to work. Maybe I could grab Alpha Xavier’s hand and somehow guide him inside Lina’s head with my abilities? Alpha Xavier glances down at me. He is a tall guy, at least 6’5 to my 6’1, and he is massive. But I suppose all Alphas are... hmm. I hope Lola isn’t disappointed that I’m more lean than muscle-bound. But now isn’t the time for insecure comparisons – there’s work to be done.

Before anyone can object or second-guess this unusual approach, I step forward, extending a hand to Alpha Xavier. He raises a brow but relents and reaches out, allowing me to focus my magic. I close my eyes, and Alpha Xavier follows my lead by closing his own. Then, I pull Alpha Xavier into Lina’s mental library. It’s filled with books that symbolize her memories, and I

go through. each one at an incredible speed, letting the books I don't find interesting fall to the ground. I sift through the volumes of Lina's life one by one, allowing Alpha Xavier to see some glimpses of her past while carefully steering him away from the more irrelevant ones. Soon, I find a memory that seems promising. It's the vampire queen speaking to Lina inside the underground castle. I draw Alpha Xavier's attention to it, and together, we delve into the memory. The walls of the room fade into the grandeur of the vampire queen's throne room. Her pale skin is slightly luminescent in the dim lighting, and her eyes glow with an unnatural light as she speaks. She's issuing orders to Lina, who kneels before her. "Lina," she begins, her voice echoing around the cavernous room as though it was a whisper in our ears. "You know I can't let your mate go before the war is over. But once the werewolves have fallen, I promise you there is a place waiting for you in our clan right by your mate's side."

"Can't I just see him one more time?" Lina sobs. "I'm worried about him."

"Are you insinuating that I would hurt him?"

Fear washes over Lina's face. "N-no, your majesty--"

"Good, then finish your job and murder Lola Alvarez. She took the life of one of our own, and every day she stays alive is another day that gives the werewolves hope of winning the war. She needs to die."

"Lola?" Lina asks. "But she is my sister's friend!"

“Do you want to see your mate live another day or not?” the vampire queen roars. “Last time I checked, you were madly in love with Oscar. And I imagine you want your mate by your side Isn’t that right?”

Lina’s gaze drops to the floor, her shoulders hunched in defeat. It’s clear she’s torn between loyalty to her sister and saving the life of her mate. But in the end, the mate bond wins, and Lim nods, tears running down her face.

“Good.” The vampire queen’s tone is cold and void of emotion. “You know what you have to do, then.” The memory ends abruptly there, leaving Alpha Xavier and I standing in the quiet emptiness of Lina’s mental library again. I can feel him pulling away, his mind still processing the information we just unearthed. We open our eyes simultaneously, and I’m startled by the fiery rage reflected in Alpha Xavier’s gaze.

“Lina is a traitor. Instead of going to her Alpha for help, she decided to plot against us, against her own pack,” he seethes, fists clenched. “She betrayed us all just to protect her lover.”

I swallow hard, my mouth suddenly dry. “We don’t know the full circumstances, Xavier... Perhaps she felt she had no choice.” I try to reason with him despite the pounding of my own heart. Lola is the most important person in my life, and I don’t want anyone to harm her. But if I were in the same seat as Lina, then I would do anything to keep Lola safe, including killing my own clan.”

“Choice or not, she’s crossed a line,” Alpha Xavier retorts, his voice hard and unyielding. He turns to face Lina, who is now openly weeping in her restraints. “You put our entire pack in danger because of your selfish desires. I can’t believe you were going to kill Lola to save your mate!” I notice the green in the Alpha’s eyes is starting to turn red—a sign of the vampire coming out to play. This usually isn’t a good sign, especially since I can feel his thirst for the traitor’s blood, but Daisy is quick to intervene.

“Xavier, calm down,” she places her hand on his broad chest and strokes him. “Take it easy, okay?”

Alpha Xavier’s eyes return to their soothing green, and I tilt my head in amusement. Daisy is more than a foot shorter than her Alpha. She looks like a little kid in comparison, which is why I find it so comical that the huge Alpha lets himself be calmed down by her.

“I didn’t know Alpha Xavier was a hybrid,” Lola says, walking up to me and meeting my eyes. “It makes sense why he trusted you, now he is a bridge between the species.”

I look back at Alpha Xavier and Daisy and smile. “I suppose he is.”

Lola’s grip tightens on my arm, her brows furrowed with concern. “I don’t think I’m going to be able to fall asleep on my own...do you...umm would you mind sleeping beside me? J-just

to keep my nightmares at bay!" I glance down at her, surprised by her sudden vulnerability. Lola Alvarez blushing is a rare sight to behold...and very adorable. A grin spreads over my lips. "Of course, Lola," I say gently, putting an arm around her shoulders. "I won't let the nightmares get you." Her blush grows deeper, and she mumbles a quiet thanks' before pulling me away from the others.

I follow her like a dog. allowing her to close the door behind us and then expecting her to sleep with her clothes on. But that isn't what happens... Lola starts undressing, and I freeze into a block of ice, unsure what to do. She is standing before me in all of her naked glory. and pouts up at me. "Why do you look so shocked? Am I really that unattractive?"