

### 3 - 23 Allegra

Allegra, the witch from Thea's uncle's pack back east, and her werewolf mate, Bellamy, arrived at New Dawn the next day. Beta Walter personally picked them up from the airport. Alpha Ulric announced that a witch was coming to visit.

"We need to make alliances," he said. "We're all suspicious of witches but give her a chance. She's been living in a werewolf pack for twenty years without incident. She's good. Go out of your way to be kind to her and her mate."

When they arrived, Alpha Ulric, Luna Ada, Naomi, Thea, and the triplets came out to greet them. Beta Walter made introductions. [1](#)

"After such a long plane ride, do you want to go for a run?" Conri said.

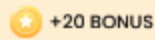
"That would be wonderful," Bellamy said. He had brown hair, brown eyes, was tall for a human but average for a werewolf.

"I'll stay with you, Allegra," Thea said. "I can show you around while they're running."

"Perfect," Allegra said, her hazel eyes studying Thea. She tucked her light brown hair behind her ear as the wolves took off.

"I remember you from when I visited my uncle's pack when I was a kid," Thea said. "Seems like you haven't aged a day."

Allegra laughed. "Thank you. I also remember you from that



visit," Allegra said. "You, on the other hand, have grown from a child into a woman. A beautiful Luna."

Thea smiled and started walking. "Behind us is the pack house, but over this way is the village. There's a coffee shop, Apothecary, and a salon. Are you hungry, thirsty?"

"I wouldn't turn down a coffee," Allegra said.

A few minutes later, they were sitting in the coffee shop. A server asked what they wanted.

"Oh, hold on one second," Thea said. She pulled out her phone and searched if pregnant women could drink coffee. "I'll have a cappuccino and a Danish."

"I'll have the same," Allegra said.

The server left.

"It must be early on if you're checking if you can have coffee," Allegra said softly. "Did you just find out?"

"Last night. How'd you know?"

"Personal talent," Allegra said.

"No one else knows yet," Thea said.

"My lips are sealed. Congratulations."

"Thank you."

"I heard you had some trouble with a witch a while back," Allegra said. "I hope you can see me without bad memories coming up."

"I can. For one thing, you don't have completely black eyes, and your voice doesn't sound like you're a demon."

"Oh goodness. Those are signs of a witch who has done truly evil things. A lot of evil things."

"That was my thinking," Thea said. "Though, admittedly, I know next to nothing about witches and how magic works. Aside from the one that attacked me, you're the only witch I've ever met."

"Do you want to learn?" Allegra said. "I'm happy to answer any questions you have."

"I have so many questions," Thea said. "I suppose my first question is how can I prevent a witch from paralyzing me again?"

"She paralyzed you?" Allegra said.

"Yes. First, she separated me from my security detail and mates. Then she did something, I couldn't move, and a rogue sliced my neck. I couldn't even try to stop the bleeding. I nearly bled out before my mates found me. I have panic attacks about it. Feeling trapped, helpless. I would like to know how to keep that from happening again."

"I can understand why. I can teach you protection spells. We'll want to put a protective shield around the baby," Allegra said softly. "Before we practice any magic."

The server brought their food and cappuccinos.

"Doing magic can affect that?"

"Yes. How it affects it depends on the magic. In general, you want to avoid exposure."

Thea nodded. "Can you tell me anything about seeing the future?"

"Often, it's a road to madness," Allegra said. "Many people get addicted to it, and they can't function without checking. They end up spending all their time doing that instead of living."

"Is it something all witches can do?"

"In theory, yes, but not all witches do. We have different affinities for different kinds of magic. Anyone could cast a spell to divine the future, but it's not always clear or accurate. Some have trouble interpreting the results. Technically, anyone could practice any type of magic, but it isn't easy to practice outside your natural ability. So any witch could scry for the future, but the ones with an affinity for it can do it much easier and better."

"The ones with an affinity for it, are they oracles?" Thea said.

"No," Allegra said. "Oracles can come from anywhere. They don't have to be witches. They come from any and all species. It's a random thing. They don't have to cast a spell or scry for the future either. Generally, they don't even ask to know the future. It comes to them unbidden."

"But oracles can also purposely look for information about the future?"

"If they develop the gift instead of fighting it," Allegra said. "

It's often seen as a curse instead of a gift."

"Yeah," Thea said. "I get that."

Allegra took in Thea's body language—the slight slumping of her shoulders, her eyes looking down, and the biting of her lip.

"Is there a way to magically trace a genealogy line?" Thea said.

"What do you have in mind?" Allegra said.

"There's a pack that had a coup a few generations back. I want to find the rightful Alpha. See if the line still exists."

"It's possible, but it's not my area of expertise," Allegra said. "I could give it a try, though."

They both took a bite of Danish.

"If someone here had magic, could you sense it or help them figure out how to use it?" Thea said after a sip of cappuccino.

"I could certainly try."

"I warned you I had a lot of questions," Thea said.

"I like the questions."

"I'll wait until you get settled in to ask more."

Allegra sipped her cappuccino. "Do you mind if I ask you questions?"

"No, ask away," Thea said.