


Triplet Alphas Gifted Luna 157

 +5 BONUS

3 - 46 Debrief

Delta team, the triplets, Xavier, Alpha Ulric, and Beta Walter spent Monday morning debriefing the summit, its aftermath, and the takeovers on Saturday and Sunday.

They went over what Thea and Xavier experienced and nauseam.

"We all felt a little of what you felt," Maverick said. "I almost couldn't take it. I didn't know how strong you were until that moment. You held your poker face like nothing was happening."

"Until I passed out," Thea said, not impressed with her performance that night.

"Only after the job was done," Maverick said.

"You didn't pass out. You were dying," Xavier said under his breath. Everyone still heard him.

"Is that true?" Alpha Ulric said. "It wasn't just feeling what they were going through?"

"Yes," Xavier said at a normal volume. "It was killing her."

"He's right," Thea said, nodding her head. "If Zay didn't absorb the energy and give me his blood, I'd be dead."

"I don't think we understood that on Saturday," Beta Walter said. "You looked fine."

"She wasn't," Xavier said, his voice getting louder, more urgent, agitated. "She can't be physically close to killing unless I'm with her to absorb what explodes out of the person, especially in a big group like that. The lifeforce radiation will kill her."

The room was silent for a moment.

"So when you say the lifeforce radiation from a kill affects her—" Maverick said.

"Imagine someone standing inside Chernobyl's nuclear reactor core while it's on fire. It's Arc of the Covenant, your face is melting, reach minimum safe distance," Xavier said. "That's what was happening to her lifeforce and physical body."

If his words weren't enough to convince them, his tone was. He hadn't expressed an intense emotion since before he became a vampire. He had been subdued, gentle, solemn, obedient, and servile. He was on the verge of taking control of the conversation and demanding they take it seriously, but the intensity of his anger had already made everyone in the room feel guilty that they didn't realize how serious it was.

"And every time we had to make a kill that night—" Chase said.

"Zay absorbed the energy," Thea said softly.

Silence.

"You'll always be with her, though, right? Zay?" Conri said, leaning forward in his seat to look at Xavier.

If Xavier wasn't so concerned about everyone taking this seriously, he would've been touched by the trust Conri was showing he had for him. Later, it would hit him when he realized that Conri considered him a permanent fixture in their circle.

"We don't know how this will affect Xavier yet," Thea said. "Don't make plans until we do," she added firmly.

Another silence.

Alaric put an arm around Xavier's shoulders and squeezed. His other arm went around Thea and pulled her tight against his side. Conri stood up, stepped over Kai, who was holding Thea's hand, and pulled Thea up. He sat in her seat and pulled her into his lap. He hugged her from behind with one arm, his face pressed against her neck. With his free arm, he reached across Alaric and grabbed Xavier's hand, squeezing it. Kai and Alaric each took one of Thea's hands. 1

"I don't like that we didn't know how she would be affected," Conri said. "She could have died."

"We can't know how something will affect me until we try it, Con," Thea said.

"Why?" Conri said.

"Because this gift has never been given," Thea said. "No one

knows anything about it.”

“It’s just dumb luck that Xavier could mitigate the damage,” Alaric said.

“The girls knew Thea would be okay,” Kai said.

“You think they knew Zay could do what he did?” Thea said, looking at Kai.

“Yes,” Kai said.

Thea considered.

“Let’s move on for now,” Thea said. “Until we have more information.”

“Yes. We’ll circle back to this,” Alpha Ulric said. “Any plans we make will take this into account. I doubt this will leave the forefront of our minds.”

They went over the whole operation. Working with the different packs’ warriors. The trust it built among the Alphas. The potential for good.

Thea was ashamed and disappointed in herself that she froze in fear when the wolves attacked her vehicle. She wasn’t sure if it was because of her PTSD, not being able to shift, or being scared of losing her pups. It was probably a combination. She said she needed to see the pack psychologist until it was under control. 1

“It’s okay to be scared,” Kai said.

"It's not okay to freeze," Thea said. "It took too long for me to think about putting everyone to sleep at once."

"We didn't even know you could do that before that moment," Alaric said.

"It's my fault it happened at all," Thea said. "I should have caught the guy from Storm Moon that called Moonrise and warned them. I should have felt his intentions." 2

"Who said he had the intention while you were there?" Conri said. He rested his lips against his mark on her shoulder.

"There were hundreds of people there," Kai said. "And you were searching for people who wanted to hurt others. No one blames you."

"You separated the bad people. It's not your fault that one of them had a phone and made a call when you weren't there," Alaric said.

Kai mind linked Liam, Alpha Ulric, and Beta Walter. "Can we take Thea on vacation? I think she needs some R&R." 1

"That's a great idea," Alpha Ulric said in mind link.

"She used her gift a lot this weekend and nearly died," Beta Walter said. "I'd say it's appropriate. Thank you for thinking of it." He always worried about his daughter having so much on her shoulders. It made him relax that her mates cared about her so much.

"Let me know where you want to go. I'll work out the protection details," Liam said in mind link.

"All's well that ends well," Beta Walter said out loud. "You put everyone to sleep and saved a lot of people. If we had to keep fighting, a lot of their wolves would have died. Some of Moonlit's warriors too."

"If you didn't do all the other things you did that night, a lot worse would have happened," Alaric said. "We wouldn't know who was dark. A lot more people could have made things difficult for everyone."

"Okay," Thea said. She pulled her hands from Kai's and Alaric's and put them on her face, her fingers pushing the bridge of her nose together. "I get it. No one can do everything. No one's perfect." Her fingers moved up and over her eyebrows, massaging the tense muscles.

The men in the room looked at each other. They could tell the stress was piling up.

"I wish there was a way to block you guys from my magic," Thea said, thinking. "I'd feel a lot better about doing crowd control things if it didn't put you all down too."

"It worked fine," Conri said. "With Xavier there to protect you, you had the time to wake us up."

"There are other reasons I want you blocked from my gift," Thea said ruefully.

"Like what, Luna?" Liam said when she didn't continue.

Thea chewed on her bottom lip. Her hands fell to her lap.

"I don't always have control over it," Thea said. She shrugged one shoulder. "It acts on its own sometimes. Like when it put up the forcefield."

"That wasn't a bad thing," Alpha Ulric said. "What's worrying you?"

The room was silent. The men held still, waiting for her. Conri squeezed her and nibbled his mark on her shoulder.

"I visited the moon goddess in my sleep last night," she finally said. "Apparently, that's going to happen from now on. What she told me about Life—it's not Good. It's above Good and Evil. She put it in me to sway it to Good, but I don't have control over it. I have influence, at best."

Thea could tell no one in the room was concerned about this. She didn't know how to make them understand.

"The goddess knows what she's doing," Beta Walter said eventually.

"No! That's the thing, Dad. She doesn't!" Thea said.

The men felt the anguish in her voice and winced. None of them wanted Thea to feel that way.

"She told me that Life is a cosmic force she doesn't understand. She doesn't have control over it. She had to

pray to it and ask it to gift me. She needed something stronger than the gods to have a chance at beating what's coming. That alone should scare the shit out of us about what we're going to be facing. This was a hail mary on her part. There's no guarantee it's going to work."

"Could this be your trademark humility making you doubt yourself?" Owen said.

Thea growled.

"Okay. We'll keep it in mind," Liam said.

Thea leaned back into Conri, closing her eyes while the men thought about what she said. Her hands went to her belly, one over Conri's, the other landed on Arella's belly chain of teeth meant to protect her pups. When she opened her eyes, she saw Maverick playing with one of the canines he had taken that night. An idea popped into her mind. She needed to talk to Allegra.

"You think?" Alaric said.

"Why else would the girls insist on needing the power in the teeth?" Thea said. "I need all the canines from that night."

"You think you can turn them into a shield?" Kai said.

"I'm going to try," Thea said.

"Like a dog with a bone," Alpha Ulric said, looking at Beta Walter. "Never satisfied until she gets her way, protecting everyone."

"We'll get them to you," Liam said.

"Are we set up to help all the packs that need assistance?"
Thea said. With something to do, she was back in work mode.

"Yes," Alpha Ulric said. "Alphas Ford, Stoll, and Ledger will be joining your early morning training starting tomorrow."

They continued discussing details.

Kai mind linked Alaric and Conri about a vacation. They decided on getting a place on the beach. He told Liam in mind link, and Liam said he'd work out the details.

"I need to talk to Allegra and Arella about the canines," Thea said after the meeting ended.

Thea, the triplets, and Xavier found the girls in reading class and pulled them out.

When they saw him, the girls ran and hugged Xavier. It caught him off guard, but he awkwardly patted their backs.

"Thank you for saving Luna Thea," they said. 

Xavier nodded.

"That reminds me," Thea said. "You didn't tell us what was going to happen."

"If we told you, Zay wouldn't believe he could do it," Ophelia said.

"He had to be surprised and scared," Arella said.

"Then he wouldn't think. He would just do it," Cassandra said.

Thea smiled. "You girls are wise beyond your years. Thank you," she said, hugging them. "Now, Arella, do you need the teeth for anything specific?"

"You give them to your special warriors," Arella said.

"For protection?"

Arella nodded.

"Thank you," Thea said. She kissed each girl on the cheek. "Okay, time to go back to reading class. We'll see you tonight."

The girls went back to class.

"We need to see to some things," Alaric said. "Do you need anything before you see Allegra?"

"Just kisses," Thea said.

The triplets smiled and took turns kissing her. Then they went one way, and Thea and Xavier went the other. [2](#)