

Chapter 0164

A long Viking table was set up in the middle of the otherwise empty ballroom. There were name cards on the table settings. Thea made her way out to the balcony and stood at the edge, looking out over the trees. The triplets followed her.

"It's beautiful," she said. "I can feel the forest. It's so expansive and clean."

"You've always loved our pack lands," Alaric said.

"I can see why."

Guests started to arrive, escorted into the ballroom by Delta team members in suits. Most brought their own security detail who stood on the sides of the ballroom, just as the Delta team members did.

The Alphas were drawn to the striking woman on the balcony. When some of them set eyes on her, Thea felt a shot of lust flow through them. They introduced themselves to the triplets and Thea. Thea paid attention to their names and packs but let the triplets do the talking in return. They introduced her as their mate and future Luna, and the Alphas gave compliments and well wishes. The triplets were the

youngest in the room but the most intimidating aside from their father. Their builds, their height, their auras, their confidence in their ability to win any fight—they were Alpha's Alphas.

Two younger Alphas didn't respond with lust when they saw Thea. Alpha Stoll of Near Side and Alpha Ledger of Waning Moon. They appreciated her beauty, but it didn't turn them on. Thea noticed when those two made eye contact for the first time. They stopped and stared. Their wolves went berserk. Thea felt their hearts flutter and thought they must be mates. Then Alpha Stoll turned away. Alpha Ledger's face fell. Thea felt his heartache. The two ignored each other for the rest of the night. Thea was sad for them. She understood why the old Thea decided to start the gay bar for werewolves.

Everyone mingled and chatted. Thea responded generically at the right times even though she wasn't paying attention. It played as bashful charm. The other Alphas were enchanted. All the while, she was feeling them out.

When Alpha Sharpe, Misty's father, arrived, he happily greeted Thea and the triplets.

After a while, Thea felt the atmosphere shift. She looked toward the entrance and saw Alpha Knight had

walked into the room. He put on a brave face, but his heart was broken.

Thea excused herself and made her way directly to Alpha Knight, triplets in tow. She held out her hand, he shook it, but she kept a hold of him.

“Our deepest condolences, Alpha Knight,” Thea said softly.

“Thank you,” he said.

She felt the parts of him that were in pain, and she brought in feelings of comfort and peace. It didn’t make the heartache disappear, but it softened the edges. He could see through the fog and focus on the moment at hand.

She squeezed his hand and let go. The triplets each shook his hand in turn.

“If there’s anything we can do,” Alaric said. “Please, don’t hesitate to ask.”

“We’d like to spend time with Garret,” Kai said. “Get to know him better. Let him get to know us. We want him to know we support him in his coming role.”

Alpha Knight nodded. “I appreciate that. This has all happened quickly and unexpectedly. Having you in his corner would go a long way in making him feel up to

the task.”

“Alpha Knight?” Thea said.

“Yes?”

“It wasn’t your fault,” she said softly. “There’s nothing you did or could have done. I felt him. His brain was faulty. He wasn’t capable of feeling empathy. You didn’t turn him into what he was.”

He considered her for a moment. “You fixed it, didn’t you? That’s why he changed at the end.”

Thea took a deep breath in and let it out slowly.

“Yes. I’m sorry I didn’t have the gift sooner.”

“It’s not your fault either,” he said. “Some things are out of our control.”

The triplets and Thea nodded.

“May I ask,” Alpha Knight said. “Have you felt anything in Garret? Is he—”

“Garret is perfect,” Thea said. “A specimen.”

He let out the breath he was holding. “I didn’t see the signs with Xavier. I never suspected there was something wrong. I don’t want to be blind again.”

“Garret is solid,” Thea said. Somehow she knew a

man like Alpha Knight could overcorrect and mess up Garret in other ways. “The way you raised him is perfect.”

Alpha Knight nodded. “Thank you.”

“Alpha Knight,” Conri said. “Her gift isn’t public knowledge yet.”

“Her secret is safe with me,” Alpha Knight said.

“Thank you.”

The Alphas came in from the balcony, found their name cards, and sat in their designated places. Alpha Ulric sat at the head of the table, Thea at the other end so she could see everyone easily. The triplets sat on either side of her.

Servers came and delivered appetizers while everyone traded pleasantries and gave more compliments to the future Alphas’ beautiful Luna. Thea responded in smiles and nods while she focused on feeling them out.

“Alpha Ulric,” Thea said in mind link.

“Yes, Thea?” he responded.

“Alpha Jones from Ice Moon is skeezy. I’m pretty sure he’s abusing people. Alpha Adams from Moonrise is

unreliable. Spineless. He'll follow the crowd. Alpha Richardson from Earthshine likes his vices, and he's lazy. He won't make a good ally, but he's not a dangerous enemy."

"This is all good," Alpha Ulric said in mind link. "What else?"

"Alpha James from Supermoon pack is like Xavier. Do you want me to fix his brain right now?"

"Will he know something is happening?"

"Most likely."


"Can you do it from afar? Once he gets back to his pack?"

"I don't know. I haven't tried it at a distance yet."

"Maybe we can get him drunk enough he won't notice."

"Worth a try. If that fails, maybe we can get him to stay after the others leave."

Alpha Ulric nodded almost imperceptibly, then raised his hand to get the attention of the servers. "Wine for everyone," he said out loud. He continued in mind link to the servers and kept the channel open to Thea. "Keep the wine flowing to Alpha James."

 +20 BONUS

The servers got to work getting everyone wine. Alpha James and Alpha Richardson indulged immediately, motioning for refills quickly and often. Alpha Ulric smiled at Thea across the table.

“Whenever you feel he’s ready, do it,” Alpha Ulric said to her in mind link.

The main course was served.

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