

Chapter 0170

Thea nodded, thinking.

Misty put her hand on Thea's shoulder. "You're the one who told me the goddess wouldn't give you someone you couldn't totally love. That they will be perfect for you in every way. You have to trust that for yourself too. They are meant for you. You're meant for them."

"You don't remember," Lizzy said. "But you changed the curriculum on the matebond here at school because some things weren't being taught right. Maybe you should do a refresher with the curriculum you made."

"I did go through the matebond research," Thea said. "I wanted to understand what I was feeling. I read some stuff, like once you're marked that's it. If someone else tries to mark you, or if your mate marks someone else, you die. Ripping away a mark kills you. That's crazy, isn't it?"

"I don't know," Misty said. She let her hand drop then tucked her arms behind her back again. "It discourages infidelity. It's one thing to cheat on your significant other, but it's another to kill them."

“Well, cheating on your mate wouldn’t kill them. It would just be excruciatingly painful,” Lizzy said, shifting her weight to her other foot so her other hip stuck out. “It’s the marking someone else that would kill them.”

Thea thought about Xavier losing his canines, then losing his wolf, and how painful that was. Having your mate cheat on you was supposed to be close to that feeling.

“Either way,” Thea said. “I couldn’t hurt my mates that way, and I certainly don’t want to kill them. Who would do that?”

“Evil people,” Lizzy said. “People like Xavier, who enjoy inflicting pain.” She turned to the mirror, leaning over the sink to check her makeup.

“Right,” Thea said. “I’m glad the matebond exists, and that I have the triplets. They make me feel safe despite everything that’s going on. I couldn’t deal with this without them.”

“Deal with what?” Misty said.

“Everything,” Thea said. “Not knowing who I am but being expected to be that person. I started all these things, and I don’t know how to keep them going. I

don't know anyone, but they all know me. I don't know how I'm supposed to act. We rescued the slaves and omegas who were being abused because I said I would help them before I lost my memory. I'm glad we did it. I would do it again, but I don't know what I'm supposed to do now. There could be retaliations, and I don't know what to do. I just want everyone to be safe and happy, but I don't know how to make that happen. I'm responsible for these people, and I know nothing." Thea sighed.

"Your instincts are good. You're a good person. Everything you do is always right," Lizzy said, looking at Thea in the mirror.

"On that first day, when I ran into Xavier, my instincts told me to fight him. That got him turned over for punishment. Now he's dead."

"But he deserved it. He was hurting and killing people," Lizzy said.

"I know," Thea said. They didn't know his brain had been broken, or that she fixed it, and at the end he was a different person. Maybe someone who didn't deserve to die.

"You kept him from killing more people," Misty said. "I know you're not going to want to hear this right

now, but you're the future leader of your pack. It's your responsibility to protect your pack. That includes punishing the people who do bad things. Murdering innocents is bad. Sentencing murderers to death is part of your job."


"Yours too, right?" Thea said. "You'll be Alpha of your pack?"

"Yeah," Misty said, unconsciously taking a step backward like the thought scared her. "So I know what I'm talking about. My father, your father, the triplets' father, they've all put people to death as leaders. It actually speaks to your Alpha blood that even without your memories and years of training, your natural instinct is to protect and help others. Your instincts are good. Follow them."

Thea nodded. "Thanks, guys," she said.

They finished their business in the bathroom and walked back to the cafeteria to finish lunch. They entered but stopped in the doorway. Old and new members of New Dawn were growling. People were whispering to each other. It was clear they were talking about Thea, but she didn't know why.

"How dare they?" someone said. "For these bitches to try something when Thea's in a 'weakened' state.

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The disrespect is disgusting.”


Misty gasped. Lizzy froze next to her.

“Go away,” Alaric’s authoritative voice cut through the din of the cafeteria.

Thea looked at the table where the triplets sat. Two girls had pulled up chairs and were sitting next to Alaric and Conri, leaning in, talking to them, trying to be seductive. Kai was in between his brothers, safe, but seething.

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