

Chapter 0176

Delta team, Alpha Ulric, the triplets, and Thea gathered in the oath room back at New Dawn.

“Thea,” Alpha Ulric said. “Did you read anything off Alpha Jett or Alpha Jones? Anything about wanting to retaliate?”

“Neither of them cares at all about their daughters,” Thea said. “They wouldn’t retaliate on their behalf. When they denounced their daughters, the feeling I got off them was annoyance and a little fear. They don’t want to go to war with us.”

“Good,” Alpha Ulric said. “We don’t need blood vengeance to deal with right now.”

“I’m sorry I put us in this position,” Thea said.

“No, Thea,” Alpha Ulric said. “You did right. Those girls stoked the fire for war—you put it out. When someone challenges you as a leader, you turn them into an example to make sure no one else challenges you in the future. You’re not kids anymore. That was a real challenge, and you were right to put them in their place. Sometimes, as a leader, you have to show who has the most strength.”

Thea nodded.

“All the video evidence made it easy for the Alphas to stand down without losing face,” Alpha Ulric said. “They would be clearly in the wrong if they didn’t stand down. I bet they’re grateful for it. They don’t have to posture and avenge the daughters they don’t care about.”

“Right,” Thea said.

“What else did you sense off those worthless men?” Alpha Ulric said.

“Alpha Jones’ son isn’t like him,” Thea said. “He’s not dark. When he takes over as Alpha, Ice Moon may turn into an ally.”

“Good to know.”

“I don’t think Alpha Jett knows we have the girls or his former slaves and omegas,” Thea said. “But it’s only a matter of time, right?”

“Yes. They’ll all find out eventually,” Alpha Ulric said.

“Alpha Jett won’t retaliate because of Molly,” Thea said. “But when he figures out we have the girls, he could use his daughter as an excuse.”

“No one would back him up,” Alaric said. “He’d be



easy to beat.”

“I’m not so sure,” Thea said. “There was something interesting about Alpha Jett. He felt weak.”

“What do you mean? He’s sick? Dying?” Alpha Ulric said.

“Every other Alpha I’ve felt has a distinct extra layer of magic. Like they’re supercharged. He doesn’t have that. I don’t think he’s an Alpha.”

“He feels the same as an average werewolf?”

“Not quite,” Thea said. “There’s magic in the Alpha position, but none in him. He wasn’t born to be Alpha. It’s like he stole the position.”

“He’s not Alpha blood?” Alpha Ulric said.

“No, I don’t think he is,” Thea said.

“That is interesting,” Alpha Ulric said.

“Explains why Molly didn’t even try to put up a fight,” Kai said.

“We could challenge him for his pack and easily win,” Conri said. “Save everyone from fighting a war.”

“Unless he uses magic or cheats,” Thea said. “I got the impression he was taught to be crafty because his

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family doesn't have the Alpha power. I bet that's why he had so many slaves and starved them so they never had strength. He wouldn't be able to control his pack otherwise."

"If he knows he's weak, it's unlikely he would accept a challenge," Alaric said.

"You can't turn down an Alpha challenge," Conri said.

"He may accept the challenge, but he'd find a way to cheat," Alaric said.

"So we don't give him the chance," Kai said. "We challenge him in the moment. No time to plan anything."

"What if he has contingencies?" Thea said.

"Thea, do you think you could sense it if he did?" Alpha Ulric said.

"I'll always be on the lookout for it with him, but I don't know what I don't know. Maybe he has a way of cloaking things from me."

"No one knows about your gift but us. He wouldn't know he needed to cloak anything," Conri said.

"He's been hiding his secret his whole life. I don't think I'm on his radar of things to worry about,"

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Thea said.

“Right,” Kai said. “He’s been hiding from everyone for a long time. He’d have safeguards in place.”

“What do we know about Crescent Moon’s history? How long have the Jett’s been in power?” Thea said.

“They joined our school a few years before the current Alpha took power,” Alpha Ulric said. “Our pack didn’t have any contact with them before that.”

“Maybe it doesn’t matter, but something doesn’t feel right to me. I want to know their history,” Thea said.

“We can look into it, Luna,” Garrin said. “We’ll include it in the dossier we’re putting together.”

Thea nodded. “Thank you. So do we think it’s inevitable that we’re going to have to take over Crescent Moon?”

“A false Alpha, abusing omegas and slaves, which make up most of their pack,” Alaric said. “We took their oracles—probably one of the main ways Alpha Jett has been crafty—and they want them back.”

“It seems highly likely,” Alpha Ulric said.

“We should start thinking of how we’re going to go about that,” Thea said. “With the least amount of

collateral damage.”

“What would we do with the pack?” Kai said. “We can’t take in that many people, and the land is far away. We shouldn’t divide ourselves.”

“What do you think we should do?” Alpha Ulric said.

The triplets looked at Thea. She looked back at them and shrugged her shoulders.

“We could give it to Blood Moon,” Alaric said. “They share a border. We know they would treat the omegas and slaves well. They’d free the slaves, and the omegas wouldn’t retain the title.”

“It’s not a bad idea. Giving the pack to Blood Moon would send quite a message. We reward allies. We demolish and assimilate enemies,” Alpha Ulric said.

“If we find out who the real Alpha of Crescent Moon should be,” Thea said. “Could we reinstate him as Alpha?”

The men looked at her, surprised.

“If he’s still alive,” Thea said. “If he’s a good person and will run the pack properly—”

“Right. We’re not handing over a pack to a monster,” Alaric said.

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“If we can find out who should be Alpha, and if he’s a proper leader,” Alpha Ulric said. “That would be the right thing to do. Delta team will investigate. If our hands are forced before we know, or if the Alpha line is dead, Blood Moon seems the best option.”

“How are we going to take them out?” Thea said.

“Let’s think for a bit. We’ll come up with options,” Alpha Ulric said. “Let’s try to delay the inevitable until we have the information we want.”

The triplets and Thea nodded.

“Anything else you sensed, Thea?” Alpha Ulric said.

“Those were the highlights,” Thea said.

“Okay, patrols are already on alert, but I don’t think anything will come of this. Delta is on dossiers. We’re going to keep an eye on Crescent Moon and prepare for its inevitable takeover.”