

## Chapter 0184

“The moon goddess told me there’s a powerful evil gathering forces,” Thea said. “She thinks it will destroy her children—us, werewolves—if we don’t stop it. She gifted me because you, Luna Ada, and my dad and mom had proven to be capable and truly good. She’s been mating people for generations, bringing together the best in genetics and character to get to this point. She knew you guys would raise the four of us the way she intended.”

She looked at the triplets, then back at Alpha Ulric.

“There were others that didn’t pan out, and others that, while they didn’t make the cut for gifts, can make good allies in the war to come. She’s relying on us to fight the evil, eradicate it, and rebuild. She said it won’t be a clear-cut battle with obvious sides like vampire versus werewolf. It’s good against evil, but the evil can come from any species. Human, werewolf, vampire, witch, anyone. They’re banding together to wipe out or enslave everyone. They want to take over. We have to be ready when they come. We have to find the other good people, to protect them and to have the numbers to fight.”

“Anything else?”

“No. You guys called me home,” Thea said.

“Did she say if this is related to the massacres back east?” her father said. “I’m catching some similarities with what I discovered.”

“We didn’t get the chance to talk about that specifically, but it would be a difficult pill to swallow if there are two big bads threatening us.”

They nodded. “For now, we operate under the assumption that they’re related,” Alpha Ulric said.

“Did you talk to the witch, Dad?” Thea said.

“Yes. Allegra asked about you first thing. She remembered you from when you visited as a child. We only talked in general terms, mostly about the massacres and what the motivations could be. I was able to bring up gifted from that. I got the feeling that she—and witches in general—know a lot about gifted. If for no other reason than it’s magic, and magic is their domain. She didn’t go into specifics. She kept it vague. We both played our cards close to the vest.”

“Do we know if we can trust her?” Thea said.


“She’s been in the pack for twenty years. By all accounts, she’s a good witch. She’s trying to get her old coven to work with the pack on the massacres. Her coven has felt a growing darkness. They think it’s related.”

“Can we invite her out here?” Thea said. “I’d like to try to build an alliance because there will be evil witches to fight. We need good witches on our side. Maybe her coven has contacts out here she can put us in touch with, and maybe she could help me figure out my gift.”

“Walter,” Alpha Ulric said. “Go ahead and invite the witch and her mate to come here for an extended stay. Anytime after graduation. I’m guessing she has a suspicion about Thea and won’t turn down the offer.”

“I’ll invite her and her mate, Bellamy, today,” Beta Walter said.

“When she gets here, she’ll sense the magic in Thea, and we’ll see what blossoms,” Alpha Ulric said. “If she’s a good witch, she’ll see what Thea has done here, what she’s doing with her goddess gift, and she’ll see that Thea is worth protecting and can be trusted. Hopefully, we can build a friendly alliance, and she’ll help us.”

 +15 BONUS

Everyone nodded.

“Walter, tell them what you found back east.”

“I visited the ghost packs,” Beta Walter said. “By the time I got there, tracks were old or gone. From what I gathered when I interviewed the people who investigated when it happened and what I was able to see myself, there were signs of vampires, werewolves, witches, even humans. People rationalized it away. They’re sticking their heads in the sand. No one wants to believe they’re all working together, but the evidence is there.”

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## Chapter 0185

“Uncle Jerry isn’t taking it seriously?” Thea said.

“No, he is. It’s the other packs out there,” Beta Walter said.

Thea nodded.

“There are absolutely no leads on where these people are coming from, hiding out, gathering, anything. We don’t know who they are, how they found each other, where they’re staying, what they’re planning.”

“Can the witches read the land, see what magics were used when they were attacked?” Thea said.

“I don’t know. You can ask Allegra when she gets here.”

“I’ll have a lot of questions for her once she gets here,” Thea said. “Did you find anything in their libraries?”

“I brought home the books that looked promising,” Walter said.

Thea’s eyes lit up.

“I thought you’d like that. Your mother read through

some of them. She was discouraged at the information in them. Gifted wolves tend to have difficult, short lives.”

“We’re going to make sure that’s not you, though,” Alaric said.

“Information can’t hurt. Speaking of,” Thea said. “Is there a way to warn people about what’s coming?”

“What do you mean?” Alpha Ulric said.

“If people know what’s been going on, and their pack is attacked, instead of fighting, maybe they could run. Maybe some of the people could get out. The more good people we save, the better. If we offer refuge to any survivors, maybe we can start to piece together real information about who the bad guys are.”

“Send out a nationwide bulletin that we’ll accept refugees?” Alpha Ulric said.

“The main message would be there’s something wiping out werewolf packs, so if you’re attacked, run, but yes, let them know they can come to us,” Thea said.

“Nothing like that has ever been done before,” Alpha Ulric said. “There isn’t a registry of werewolf packs. There’s no master list with names and addresses we

could use to send out an invitation to everyone. On top of that, our pack is big, but not big enough to house werewolves from all over the country.”

The room was silent for a moment.

“Maybe it could be like an email forward,” Thea said. “Where everyone informs everyone they know, with the message to pass it on to everyone they know, and so on and so forth. Do you think the information could get to everyone that way?”

“A viral warning,” Alaric said.

“Something is better than nothing. It would be a start,” Conri said.

“It would go faster than sending out our own emissaries to contact each individual pack by themselves,” Kai said.

“And it’d be safer. I don’t think all our emissaries would make it back,” Beta Walter said.

“And we may not have to take in refugees,” Alaric said. “Maybe the message says make plans with allies in case something happens. Put the responsibility on everyone’s shoulders.”

“Get everyone involved in preparing,” Beta Walter said.

“Let’s let this marinate,” Alpha Ulric said. “We’ll work on the message we want to put out.”

Everyone nodded.

“The impression I got from the goddess was that this is going to be a long, maybe lifelong battle,” Thea said. “We have time to prepare. I know there are fires we need to put out here in our backyard right now. I would like to create a map of packs and their territories, if they’re good, evil, or neutral. Who has slaves and omegas. We could coordinate with all the good packs.”

“Lizzy said you were high maintenance,” Alpha Ulric said. “I’m starting to see what she was talking about.”

“You and Lizzy discuss me?”

“Yes. Part of her training to be your assistant.”

“Hmm,” Thea said.

They talked a while longer, then adjourned the meeting.