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Misty sat with Arella, Ophelia, and Cassandra the next morning and watched Thea and the triplets train with Delta team. A few minutes in, Thea's father joined them.

"Time to see my daughter in action now that she has her wolf," Beta Walter said.

"You want to switch to wolf training now?" Conri said.

"Sure," Thea said.

Everyone undressed and shifted.

"Let's start with one on one," Beta Walter said in mind link. "Everyone pair off." $\!\!\!$

Beta Walter paired with Thea. They circled each other, looking for an opening to strike.

"Zoe, what should I do?" Thea said in her mind.

"You've seen your father fight," Zoe said.

"Good point," Thea thought.

Thea faked a straightforward lunge, then ducked and bounded off the ground in the other direction. Beta Walter tried to follow her movements but went in the wrong direction. Thea had a split second to bite his neck and clamp down before he righted himself, and she took the opportunity. She didn't bite hard. Just a nip to let him know she had him.

"That was good," Beta Walter said in mind link.

They went back and forth for a while. They both got to the killing blow on each other an equal number of times.

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"Ready for a group to attack?" Beta Walter said in mind link to everyone.

Everyone circled Thea. One wolf lunged from behind, and she spun to get out of the way. She saw the opportunity to go for his neck, but another wolf jumped at her from the side. She clawed at the first wolf and turned to take the second wolf's attack. It got its teeth into her flank, and she lightly sunk her teeth into its neck. She would be wounded, but he would be dead.

A third wolf jumped into the fray. Thea let go of the second one and jumped at the approaching wolf. She tackled it, knocking it to the ground. They continued for a while, Thea taking minor injuries but getting a kill shot in.

"You know if this happened in a real scenario, I'd probably just do this," Thea said in mind link. She reached into the wolves' minds and put them all to sleep. They all fell to the Earth with a thud. She reached into their minds and woke them up.

"What the hell was that?" Beta Walter said in mind link. He stood up,

"You haven't seen me use the gift yet, have you?" Thea said in mind link.

Delta team laughed.

They took turns attacking each of the triplets as a group. Then they shifted back to their human forms, dressed, and continued training. They paired off in human form and sparred.

While Thea was sparring with Garrin, she felt something—that same pull and presence from yesterday. It was closer. Stronger. Thea felt out with her senses to get a better read on it, but she couldn't tell what it was.

Suddenly, Thea was on her back on the grass.

"Ow," Thea said.

"I didn't mean to—" Garrin said.

"No, I don't want you to take it easy on me," Thea said.

Garrin offered her his hand. She took it, and he helped her stand up. She leaned over so she wouldn't leak blood onto her shirt.

"What was that? It's like you just zoned out," Garrin said. Everyone gathered around.

"I was distracted," Thea said.

Kai handed her his shirt. She held it to her bleeding nose.

"I've never seen you take a hit like that," Kai said.

"I felt something," Thea said.

"A fist to the nose?" Conri said.

"With my gift," Thea said.

"A disturbance in the force?" Garrin said.

Thea looked at Garrin and rolled her eyes. "Not quite. There's the woods, the plants, the bugs, the animals. Us. Now there's something else I don't recognize. I felt it last night. It's faint."

"Do we need to do anything about it?" Alaric said.

"I don't know," Thea said. "Not right now."

"Let's call it a day," Beta Walter said. "Training won't be useful if you're

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distracted."

Thea nodded. She walked over to Misty and the girls.

"That last one looked like it hurt," Misty said.

"It did," Thea said, smiling. "I got distracted."

"Luna," Arella said.

"Yes, Arella?"

"Can we ride on your back when you're a wolf again?"

"Sure," Thea said. "How about after school today? If you do well in your reading class, we can go for a run."

The three girls smiled and clapped their hands.

"Come on, let's get breakfast," Thea said.

They are breakfast, got ready for the day, then Thea walked the girls to

"Alright, remember this is important," Thea said. "I want you to do your best."

"We will, Luna," Cassandra said.

"Thank you," Thea said. "I'll see you this afternoon."

Commented [Ma1]: