Chapter 206

Kai shifted into his human form just as Alpha Ulric, Beta Walter, Alpha Sharpe, and the rest of Delta team came bounding up to the group in wolf form.

"Why does any of this matter?" Kai said out loud.

"Look at him," Thea said. "He's filthy. Dirt under his fingernails—he clawed himself out of his grave—but there's no blood on him. He hasn't fed. He's a newborn, and he hasn't fed."

Before anyone could react, Thea stepped over the threshold, off pack lands, and beyond the safety of the barrier. She kneeled in front of Xavier. He looked at her, hopeful.

Kai followed Thea and stood next to her, ready to fight. Caleb and Axel moved behind Xavier, ready to pounce. Everyone else came closer, ready to attack.

Xavier pulled off his dirt and blood-stained shirt and offered it to Thea. It was the shirt he wore while he was tied to the poles, blood leaking from the holes where his canines used to be. They buried him in it. Thea took it from his hands and put it on, appreciating the gesture the new Xavier was making. Thea was naked, after all.

"Thank you," Thea said.

She started pulling energy from the Earth and pushing it into Xavier. Some of her own magic started to flow into him as well.

"See? He's not even salivating," Thea said. "Much less trying to eat us."

"He's a vampire. He's asking you to kill him. Can we get on with it?" Kai said.

"No," Thea said. "If he were still broken like before, maybe, but he's not.

⭐ +15 Bonus

He has a conscience now. He feels remorse for the things he did."

"He was sentenced to death for the things he did," Alaric said over mind link. There were murmurs of agreement from everyone over mind link. Thea could feel their desire to maim Xavier for what he did to her.

"And he paid that price," Thea said. "He died. Whatever powers that be saw fit to bring him back. Maybe he needs to prove his penance. Maybe he deserves a real life. The life he didn't get to choose because he was broken. He has a second chance. I didn't give it to him, but I won't take it from him."

"Xavier is a vampire?" Alpha Ulric said over mind link.

"Yes," Thea said out loud. "And he hasn't fed. In fact, he has no interest in biting any of you. The thought disgusts him. He has control, and he's good now. He won't hurt anyone."

Xavier looked up at her. "How can you say that?"

"I know what you're thinking and what you're feeling. I feel the Need you have, and I feel the other thoughts and emotions that are keeping you from feeding. I'm not going to kill you, and I'm not going to let you get yourself killed."

"Why?" Xavier said.

"You're not who you used to be," Thea said.

"You want to bring him back with us, don't you?" Alpha Ulric said in mind link.

Thea looked at Alpha Ulric's wolf and nodded.

Cassandra approached Alpha Ulric's wolf. "Alpha?" she said softly.

He turned to her and bent down to her level. She whispered in his ear. Alpha Ulric's wolf turned back to Thea.

"We should keep him in the dungeons to be safe," Alpha Ulric said over mind link.

"Agreed," Thea said. She turned back to Xavier. "Do you feel different?"

"The Need is less," Xavier said. "How did you—"

"We'll get to that," Thea said. "We're going to take you to our dungeons. You won't have to worry about maintaining control there. Then we'll sort everything out. Okay?"

Xavier didn't know what else to do. "Okay," he said.

They stood up. Kai was tense.

"Come with me," she said. Still funneling energy and magic into him, she reached out and pulled Xavier onto New Dawn's territory.

The whole pack felt him step onto their land.

"Did everyone else feel that?" Alpha Ulric said over mind link.

"Yes," everyone said.

"So if one of us invites them in, they can cross the threshold," Thea said over mind link. "And everyone feels it."

The whole group was uneasy. They expected Xavier to attack and start feeding, but like Thea said, he wasn't even salivating. He had no desire to feed on any of them.

Thea mind linked the patrolmen. "At ease. We have the situation handled. It was just one vampire, and he's not a threat. Everything is fine."

"I wouldn't say everything is fine," Conri mind linked Thea. "Xavier is a vampire, and he's coming home with us."