



Chapter 209

"I'd actually like that," Alessia said. "I feel a sense of purpose helping the new pack members. Maybe because I am one, and I'm so happy here. I want everyone else to know this is the best place. Yeah. I'll do it officially. You don't need to pay me, though."

"How many times do you get up in the night to help someone?"

Alessia shrugged.

"Exactly. It's a full-time job," Thea said. "You need to be compensated."

"Okay," Alessia said.

"Okay," Thea said, smiling. "We'll get it set up."

Alessia smiled.

"I want to make sure you still feel safe here," Thea said. "Is there anything I can do that would make you feel safer? I don't want to harm our relationship."

"It's okay, Luna," Alessia said. "I do feel safe here. I don't know if it's your goddess gift or if it's just you, but you were able to see all of us omegas and slaves as something more. You've given us the chance to be something else. How could I not pay that forward?"

"Even if the person you're giving the chance to hurt you?"

"When Xavier was still brain-damaged, even when he apologized to you—which he never did to anyone else—you knew he hadn't changed, and you called him out on it. The way you described him that day at lunch in front of everyone—I knew you knew what he was. I knew if I could



somehow get the message across, you would believe me. I didn't know how I would get past the Alpha command, but I knew you were my only hope. His own family didn't see him for what he was. Your judgment saved my life and gave me a new one. I trust you. I'd follow you anywhere. You say the old Xavier Knight is dead? I believe you, and I'll be there to help you rehabilitate the new one."

Thea stood up, pulled Alessia up, and hugged her.

"You're amazing," Thea said. "I'm sorry, I smell like death. I just came from putting Xavier in the dungeon, and I haven't showered. He spent three days dead in the dirt, and that was after several days of being tied to the poles. He reeks. I reek."

"I don't mind," Alessia said with a bit of a laugh.

Thea could feel Alessia's emotions. She venerated Thea. She saw her as her savior, as the ultimate leader, ultimate person. She wanted to be like her. She was honored to be in her room, that she talked with her one-on-one, and that she was hugging her genuinely. No one, much less someone as important as Thea, had ever treated her this way. It made her feel like she was worth something.

"You know what I think we need?" Thea said. "A girls' night. Misty is staying at New Dawn indefinitely. Would you be up to doing something with us? Maybe Cassidy, Tessa, and Lizzy too."

"Absolutely."

"Great. I'll have Lizzy plan it. She's better at that stuff than me."

Thea let go, and they parted. Alessia was beaming.

"Hey, how are you with research?" Thea said.



"I do well at school," Alessia said.

"If you're serious about helping rehabilitate Xavier, we need to learn all we can about vampires. Admittedly, I know very little. He's the first vampire I've ever seen in real life."

"I can look in the pack library and see what I can find," Alessia said.

"Thank you. I know you have other things on your plate. It's the end of the school year. There are final exams. Don't overload yourself. There's no rush."

Alessia nodded.

"You have a minute right now?" Thea said.

"Yeah."

"Let's go down and get your job set up."

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