



Chapter 212

"I don't think I can," Thea said. "I can make you unconscious by matching the brainwaves, but the coma part of it—being nonreactive to stimulus—is literal damage to the brain. There's an area that isn't sending signals to the rest of the brain."

"Can you block that part of the brain?" Alaric said. "Maybe it would have a similar effect."

"I can try. Who wants to go this time?"

"I will, Luna," Channing said.

Thea nodded. She focused on Channing's brain, isolated the area, and felt the connections to the rest of the brain. Electrical impulses flowed back and forth. She imagined it being blocked, but nothing happened.

"What blocks electricity?" Thea said.

"Rubber," Channing said.

"Plastic," Ryker said.

"Cloth and glass," Kurt said.

"How do you guys know this?" Thea said.

"The military taught us to rig stuff from available materials. We had to know how to insulate electricity," Kurt said.

Of course.

"Do we have any of those things around?" Thea said.



"Our shoes are rubber," Anders said. "A lot of this medical tubing is plastic. Our clothes are cloth. The windows are glass."

"Right," Thea said.

She put her attention on the rubber of the shoes and got a feel for it. She looked around the room and found a wire encased in plastic. She picked it up. She knew electricity was flowing through the wire, and she knew electricity was flowing through her own body. She felt into both. How was the plastic shielding the electrical impulses? She felt into the rubber again. She thought she recognized what it was that blocked electricity.

Thea brought that essence into Channing's brain and made a barrier with it around the coma part of the brain. Channing collapsed, and Kurt caught him. He and Anders helped place him on the floor.

"See how he responds to light," Thea said.

Kurt pulled out his phone, turned on the flashlight, lifted an eyelid, and shined the light in Channing's eye.

"The pupil contracted," Kurt said. "But other than that, no response."

"Try to wake him up," Thea said.

Kurt pinched him, slapped him, shook him, spoke into his ear.

"No response," Kurt said.

Thea went back into Channing's brain and dissolved the barrier. The electrical impulses immediately began flowing back and forth again. She pushed in her magic to give him a boost and make sure everything was working optimally.



Channing's eyes opened. He sat up.

"That was weird," Channing said. "I was standing. Then it was dark. It was like I was trapped in my body. I couldn't move or respond."

Thea shivered, remembering when the witch paralyzed her.

"I heard you guys talking," Channing said. "I felt everything you did. I tried to move, to speak, anything, then suddenly I had control of my body again." Channing stood up. "That was weird. It wasn't like sleeping."

Thea was shaken at Channing's description. She never wanted to make someone feel trapped and helpless. Then she thought about the coma patients she felt today. They were in that state and had been for who knows how long. She had to try to wake them up again.

Thea went to the man in the bed. She felt for the coma part of his brain. It didn't feel damaged anymore after she worked on it with her magic, but it wasn't firing off any electrical signals. She felt into Alaric's brain.

"Ric," Thea thought to him.

"Yes, my love?" he thought back.

"Will you think about something that gets you really excited?"

"Sure."

Thea felt Alaric's brain explode with activity. Electrical impulses were going off like fireworks. She brought that energy into the coma patient's brain and pushed it into the silent part. She felt for the other coma patients and funneled the energy into all of them. She kept it going, and eventually, there was a ruckus outside the room. Ryker peaked down the hallway just as Maverick mind linked the group.



"Doctors and nurses coming your way," Maverick said in mind link. "They're talking about coma patients waking up."

The men in the room looked at Thea, surprise on their faces.

"Tell us when the coast is clear," Ryker said in mind link. "When the hall is clear, we're leaving," he said out loud.

"But this one isn't waking up," Thea said. She felt out to the others. That's when she noticed something extra they had that this man didn't. She thought maybe it was their souls. This man didn't seem to have his anymore. Like he'd already left. He wouldn't wake up. She slowed her magic and let it stop. "Nevermind," she said. She turned and hugged Alaric. "Thank you, Ric," she thought to him.

"You're welcome, my love," he thought to her.

"What were you thinking that made your brain light up like that?" Thea thought.

"You couldn't hear my thoughts?"

"I was focused on too many other things."

"You," Alaric thought.

She looked up at him.

"Always you. Only you," he thought.

She kissed him. "Goddess, I'm lucky. I love you," she thought.

"It's clear," Maverick said over mind link.

"Time to go," Ryker said.