



Chapter 213

Ryker led the way out of the coma patient's room. Channing and Kurt followed close behind.

"Alpha, Luna," Anders said. "You're next."

Thea and Alaric walked briskly down the hall, followed by Anders and Shaw.

"Bringing up the rear," Garrin said over mind link.

"We have more company," Maverick said over mind link. "I'm going to create a diversion. Wait for the signal to go through the door."

Ryker stopped the group at the end of the hallway right outside the door. It felt like an eternity before Maverick gave the signal, and Ryker led the group through the doorway. They saw Landon convulsing on the ground at one end of the hallway and Maverick pulling on the doctor and yelling at him to help his friend.

Ryker hurried in the opposite direction. They turned the corner and didn't stop until they were in the stairwell.

"What's the point in hiding? Won't the security cameras see that we were in the coma patients' rooms?" Thea said over mind link.

"Oz and Wyatt are on security cameras," Garrin replied in mind link.

"Of course they are," Thea thought. "My well-oiled machine," she said over mind link. "I'll be quiet and just trust you have everything taken care of. You always do."

"Paralyzed patient next?" Ryker said over mind link.



"We're ready," Ethan replied over mind link.

"Let's go," Ryker said out loud. He climbed the stairs to the next floor and led them down a hallway where Ethan and Conri waited.

"This is where we get off," Ryker said to Alaric and Garrin.

Thea squeezed Alaric's hand then let go. She and the other men followed Ethan down the hallway. Conri wrapped his hand around Thea's waist. Ethan stopped outside a room.

"He's awake," Ethan said. "Our cover story is you're an energy worker, and you're teaching some trainees how to heal. He agreed to have you work on him and to have other people in the room."

"Wow," Thea said. "Okay."

"Ready?" Ethan said.

Thea nodded, and Ethan opened the door. A man lay in a hospital bed. The feeling in the room was heavy. Hopeless. Despair.

Thea approached the bed. The men all found seats.

"So you're some kind of healer, huh? Think you can get me to walk again?" the man said wryly.

"What's your name?" Thea said.

"Steven," he said.

"I can't make any promises, Steven. I am going to try, though. Can you tell me about your paralysis?"

"Spinal cord injury. Motorcycle accident. For five years, I've been



paralyzed from the neck down. They call it quadriplegia. I'm in the hospital because bedsores got infected."

"Okay. I'm going to feel into you and see what I can sense," Thea said.

Thea felt into Steven's spine. There was a clear break in the electrical impulses in his neck. The area had been damaged, but it had healed since the accident. There was no swelling or dead cells or anything that was really wrong—just a full stop in function.

"Does anyone know why paralysis injuries don't heal?" Thea said.

"The cells in the spinal cord don't replicate. If you lose them, they're gone," Steven said.

Thea felt again. Was this area missing cells?

"Zoe, can I go back to the developmental stage and create the missing cells?" Thea thought to Zoe.

"I don't know the specifics of the inner workings of the human body," Zoe said. "But your gift knows Life. If it's in the DNA, it will adjust whatever's there to match the proper coding and fulfill its highest form. If it recognizes what's missing, I don't see why it wouldn't replace it."

Thea pulled her magic up inside her and funneled it into Steven's neck. She intended that her magic figure out what was missing and create those cells. After a moment, she felt the missing parts, and she felt her magic building the replacements. It would take some time. She could try to paralyze one of the Delta team men while her magic worked on Steven.

"Who wants to go this round?" Thea mind linked the men in the room.

"I'll go," Anders said over mind link.



"Okay," Thea mind linked him. "Let me know if you feel anything."

Thea figured all she needed to do was block the electrical impulses in the spinal cord. She felt into Anders' lower spine, brought in the electricity blocking energy, and pushed it through his spine.

"Anything?" Thea mind linked Anders.

Anders wiggled his fingers and looked surprised. "I can't move my feet," he said over mind link. He squeezed his leg with his hand. "I can't feel my legs."

Thea dissolved the block and made sure the electrical impulses were flowing again. She focused on Steven and waited until the magic stopped flowing.

"Do you feel any different?" Thea said out loud.

"No," Steven said.

Thea remembered hearing it took people a long time to recover from paralysis. They had to relearn how to move their muscles. In some cases, the patient's mental blocks could keep them paralyzed.

She felt into his neck one more time and tried to excite the electrical impulses.

"Humor me," Thea said. "Try to make a fist with your hand."

Steven looked at her and rolled his eyes.

"Please," Thea said. She pushed more electrical energy into his spinal cord and took his hand in hers.



"Oh my God," Steven said, shock in his voice. "I, I can feel you."

"Hey, everyone, come rub his legs and arms," Thea said.

The men in the room came over, and each took his place around Steven, squeezing his long-dormant muscles.

"Oh my God," Steven said. "I can feel it. It's there."

Thea felt Steven sending his own electrical impulses through his spinal cord. He was trying. Then she felt his finger twitch in her hand.

"You moved your finger," Thea said. "Did you feel it?"

"Yes," Steven said. "What did you do to me?"

"Energy work," Thea said. That was the cover story. "You know it will take time to relearn how to move your muscles, but this means you can, right?"

"Yeah," Steven said, smiling, tears building in his eyes.

The heaviness in the room disappeared, replaced with hope and joy.

"We should call in a nurse or doctor," Conri said. He found the remote and pushed the call nurse button. "The rest is up to you and them."

The men started for the door.

"Thank you," Steven said. "Thank you."

"You're welcome," Thea said. "Thanks for giving me a chance."

Conri took her hand, and they left before they had to answer any questions.