



Chapter 214

"Burn unit next?" Ethan said over mind link.

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

Ethan led the group through the hospital and handed them over to Owen at the burn unit.

"Prepare yourselves," Owen said over mind link. "These people are in a lot of pain. It's not pleasant in there."

He led the way inside the sealed-off room. Thea didn't know how he got them in, but she didn't need to worry about that. When she walked into the room, the anguish and pain of the patients overwhelmed her. Conri supported her and helped her to a chair.

The room was filled with hospital beds surrounded by plastic sheeting that made a clean room for each patient. Burn patients were prone to infection. No outside germs could get in.

"Can you do your thing from here, or do you need to be inside the plastic?" Owen mind linked Thea.

"I'll try it from here," Thea said over mind link. "I'm not sending electricity in there. I don't think the plastic will block me reading them."

It seemed like the patients didn't notice anyone had come in. They were too focused on the pain.

Thea breathed in and out, trying to ground herself so she could focus. She chose the patient directly in front of her and felt into him. She moved to the next patient. Then the next. There was an obvious pattern to what was going on. The brain was receiving specific nerve signals and



interpreting them in specific areas of the brain as severe pain.

Thea mind linked the group. "Who wants to experience pain?"

"I will," Kurt said over mind link.

"Channing, be ready to muffle his screams," Thea mind linked him.

Channing nodded and positioned himself.

Thea felt into Kurt's brain and stimulated specific areas with the specific signals she noticed in the burn patients. Kurt's face contorted, and Channing put his hand over his mouth before he could scream. Thea stopped, and Kurt bent over, panting.

"That's what these people are feeling?" Kurt said over mind link.

Thea nodded.

"Goddess," Kurt said.

"Zoe, can I do anything for these burn patients?" Thea thought.

"You tell me," Zoe said.

"The layers of skin are gone. They need new cells, but the damaged stuff needs to be cleared away first. There are nerves that are damaged or missing. I'm going to see what I can do," Thea thought to Zoe.

Thea mustered her magic and let it build inside her as she thought about what it needed to do to help these people. Then she pushed it out to all the patients in the room. While it flowed, she put her attention on each patient individually, tweaking things. Each person was at a different stage of healing. A few had infections. It seemed her magic couldn't



make the infections go away because bacteria was also a lifeform, and it was doing what its DNA was designed to do. She could make sure the patients' immune systems were functioning optimally to combat the infection, and she did. She did what she could. She didn't magically heal them with new skin and nerves, but maybe she sped up the healing process.

She thought about disrupting the flow of the pain signals so they wouldn't be in pain, but that would disrupt all electrical impulses. It would paralyze them, and that would make things worse. Plus, she didn't know if she would be able to come back to dissolve the blockage and turn the impulses back on. She couldn't leave them paralyzed.

"I've done all I can in here," Thea mind linked the group.

"Are you okay? You look tired," Conri thought to her.

"Feeling their pain is taxing," Thea thought.

They got up and exited the room. Garrin was waiting for them.

"Are you up to visit a few more random patients?" Garrin mind linked her.

"Yes," Thea said.

"Are you sure? You're worn out. We can tell," Garrin said over mind link. They could feel what she felt through their bond. They didn't feel it as intensely, but they knew what was going on for her.

"We're here. Let's keep going. I'll manage," Thea said.

Garrin nodded. He took them to a hallway and stood outside a room.



"Can you feel into this patient from here?" Garrin said over mind link.

Thea nodded. The woman was in excruciating pain, but it was different from the burn unit. Her whole nervous system felt off.

"Who else wants to experience pain?" Thea mind linked the group.

"I'll go this round," Shaw said over mind link.

"Anders?" Thea said. "Be ready to muffle him."

Anders nodded.

Thea located Shaw's nervous system and mimicked what was going on in the woman's. Anders grabbed Shaw from behind and put his hand over his mouth. Shaw collapsed, and Thea put him back to his normal state.

She pushed her magic into the woman, hoping it would help her. They moved to the next room. Then another, and another.

"Last one," Garrin said.

Another pain patient. His nervous system was all messed up. It felt like it was coming apart. She tried to fix it, but any cells she created were destroyed by whatever it was that was killing them in the first place. Then she realized it was in the DNA. Some gene or coding in the DNA was doing this. If her magic worked with the DNA in the person, it wouldn't recognize that there was anything to fix. There was nothing she could do for this man.

She put her attention on how his brain was interpreting pain. The areas were the same as the other pain patients', but the signals were unique. She figured she knew what part of the brain was responsible for interpreting pain and now had several ways to induce pain in people.



Thea's necklace started to glow faintly.

"There's a vampire nearby," Conri mind linked everyone. "Thea's necklace is glowing."



Samantha Doyle



Author

Thanks for all your kind words, votes, and reviews. :D I've been working on this story a lot lately, trying to finish it so you all can get some closure, lol. I finally have the ending in sight, and 🐾

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