

### Triplet Alphas Gifted Luna

#### 39 Friday

Arella, Cassandra, and Ophelia snuck outside to watch early morning training again. Thea didn't need to be able to see the future to know they were going to do this every morning from now on. When they worked on Thea's gift, the girls whispered things in Thea's ear to try.

"How do you know what I can do?" Thea said on their walk to the dining hall for breakfast.

"We see you using your gift," Ophelia said.

"Hmm. That makes sense."

"Alpha Kai," Arella said.

"Yes?"

"Could you bring me back a tooth today?"

"Um," Kai paused. He knew he shouldn't say what he was thinking—these girls were little weirdos—but nothing else was coming to his mind.

"Hey," Thea thought to him. "Sometimes they say random things that don't make sense to us in the moment but might later. Remember they don't think the same way as us. They were trapped in one room

their whole lives. They don't know what's normal and what's not yet. Let's let the transition be gradual, though. Everything is new to them. I don't want to overwhelm them."

"Alpha Kai?" Arella said.

"What do you want a tooth for? Don't you have your own in there?" Kai poked her mouth with his finger.

Arella laughed. "Not for that."

"For what?" Kai said.

"A necklace," Arella said.

"The verdict is in. This kid is weird," Kai thought. <sup>2</sup>

"It's not set in stone," Thea thought back. "Give her time."

"What kind of tooth are you looking for?" Kai said. "A shark's tooth? Mouse tooth?"

"Whatever you find."

"I'll try, Arella," Kai said.

"Thank you, Alpha Kai." She smiled big.

At school during lunch, Thea felt into the dark group of people. She sent her magic into the brains that felt off. She'd have to wait and see if it helped them

change their ways. 3

“My father is really happy to be in an official alliance with New Dawn,” Misty said.

“He and Alpha Knight were the first people to speak up and say they were with New Dawn,” Alaric said.

“Yeah, I hope he didn’t seem too overeager,” Misty said.

“When it comes to voicing support, I don’t think that’s possible,” Alaric said. “Someone has to lead the way.”

Misty nodded. “Have you guys tried anything from childhood to jog Thea’s memory yet?” she said.

“We started training again,” Kai said.

“What else can you try?” Misty said. “You guys know your childhood better than I do. I just remember you guys were always together. I’d see you guys walking together. Kai, you always had your arm over her shoulders. Conri, you always held onto the back of her shirt. Thea was always holding Alaric’s arm.”

“We still walk everywhere with her,” Conri said.

“But you’re holding hands and kissing,” Misty said. “You never did that before. Think about it. You’ve only been together romantically for a few months. You

spent your whole lives not holding hands and kissing but doing it the other way.”

“So you’re saying go back to that,” Alaric said.

“Not all the time,” Misty said. “But maybe when you’re walking around school, do what you used to do sometimes.”

“It’s worth a try,” Kai said.

“While you guys are figuring out how to get my memory back, I’m going to go to the bathroom,” Thea said.

“I’ll come with you,” Lizzy said.

“Me too,” Misty said.

They left the triplets.

“How are you doing? Without your memory?” Misty said once they were in the bathroom. “I can’t imagine how you’re dealing with everything. You have so much going on.”

“I don’t know,” Thea said. “I feel like an imposter. Like I don’t belong. Alaric, Conri, and Kai are the only things that make sense. Except they don’t make sense. I trust them, I feel good around them, but I don’t understand how they can love me.”

“Everyone loves you,” Misty said. She crossed her arms behind her back. Thea noticed she did that a lot. She wondered if it was a nervous habit. “You’re such a good person. You’re a good leader. Kind. Smart. Protective.”

“Plus, the triplets are your mates,” Lizzy said. “They’re magically incapable of wanting anyone besides you.”

“The mates thing is so weird,” Thea said. “I feel it. I know it affects me. I have strong feelings for them. The pull to them is impossible to fight. I don’t even want to fight it. I understand that the matebond would affect them too. It just seems like it shouldn’t. It’s like, I don’t even know them—”

“Yes, you do,” Lizzy said, hand on her hip.

“Okay,” Thea said. “But I don’t remember any details about them. I don’t remember any specifics. Do they have middle names? What are their favorite colors? Favorite food? I know nothing. It feels like they can’t know me either. I don’t even know me. I understand we grew up together, but I don’t remember it. I don’t know if I’m the same person they expect me to be.”

“You know it’s real, right?” Lizzy said. “The matebond is one of the most sacred things to

werewolves. The goddess makes people for each other. Her personal gift to each of us. Most people don't even meet their mates until they run into each other for the first time and sparks fly. Their wolves call out to each other. The mate pull is so strong, they instantly can't live without each other, and they're complete strangers. So, losing your memory of them is kind of like how everyone else meets their mates. It doesn't make it less real."

Thea nodded, thinking.

Misty put her hand on Thea's shoulder. "You're the one who told me the goddess wouldn't give you someone you couldn't totally love. That they will be perfect for you in every way. You have to trust that for yourself too. They are meant for you. You're meant for them."

"You don't remember," Lizzy said. "But you changed the curriculum on the matebond here at school because some things weren't being taught right. Maybe you should do a refresher with the curriculum you made." 1

"I did go through the matebond research," Thea said. "I wanted to understand what I was feeling. I read some stuff, like once you're marked that's it. If someone else tries to mark you, or if your mate marks

someone else, you die. Ripping away a mark kills you. That's crazy, isn't it?"

"I don't know," Misty said. She let her hand drop then tucked her arms behind her back again. "It discourages infidelity. It's one thing to cheat on your significant other, but it's another to kill them."

"Well, cheating on your mate wouldn't kill them. It would just be excruciatingly painful," Lizzy said, shifting her weight to her other foot so her other hip stuck out. "It's the marking someone else that would kill them."

Thea thought about Xavier losing his canines, then losing his wolf, and how painful that was. Having your mate cheat on you was supposed to be close to that feeling.

"Either way," Thea said. "I couldn't hurt my mates that way, and I certainly don't want to kill them. Who would do that?"

"Evil people," Lizzy said. "People like Xavier, who enjoy inflicting pain." She turned to the mirror, leaning over the sink to check her makeup.

"Right," Thea said. "I'm glad the matebond exists, and that I have the triplets. They make me feel safe despite everything that's going on. I couldn't deal

with this without them.”

“Deal with what?” Misty said.

“Everything,” Thea said. “Not knowing who I am but being expected to be that person. I started all these things, and I don’t know how to keep them going. I don’t know anyone, but they all know me. I don’t know how I’m supposed to act. We rescued the slaves and omegas who were being abused because I said I would help them before I lost my memory. I’m glad we did it. I would do it again, but I don’t know what I’m supposed to do now. There could be retaliations, and I don’t know what to do. I just want everyone to be safe and happy, but I don’t know how to make that happen. I’m responsible for these people, and I know nothing.” Thea sighed. 1

“Your instincts are good. You’re a good person. Everything you do is always right,” Lizzy said, looking at Thea in the mirror.

“On that first day, when I ran into Xavier, my instincts told me to fight him. That got him turned over for punishment. Now he’s dead.”

“But he deserved it. He was hurting and killing people,” Lizzy said.

“I know,” Thea said. They didn’t know his brain had

been broken, or that she fixed it, and at the end he was a different person. Maybe someone who didn't deserve to die.

"You kept him from killing more people," Misty said. "I know you're not going to want to hear this right now, but you're the future leader of your pack. It's your responsibility to protect your pack. That includes punishing the people who do bad things. Murdering innocents is bad. Sentencing murderers to death is part of your job." ❶

"Yours too, right?" Thea said. "You'll be Alpha of your pack?"

"Yeah," Misty said, unconsciously taking a step backward like the thought scared her. "So I know what I'm talking about. My father, your father, the triplets' father, they've all put people to death as leaders. It actually speaks to your Alpha blood that even without your memories and years of training, your natural instinct is to protect and help others. Your instincts are good. Follow them."

Thea nodded. "Thanks, guys," she said.

They finished their business in the bathroom and walked back to the cafeteria to finish lunch. They entered but stopped in the doorway. Old and new members of New Dawn were growling. People were

whispering to each other. It was clear they were talking about Thea, but she didn't know why.

"How dare they?" someone said. "For these bitches to try something when Thea's in a 'weakened' state. The disrespect is disgusting."

Misty gasped. Lizzy froze next to her.

"Go away," Alaric's authoritative voice cut through the din of the cafeteria. 

Thea looked at the table where the triplets sat. Two girls had pulled up chairs and were sitting next to Alaric and Conri, leaning in, talking to them, trying to be seductive. Kai was in between his brothers, safe, but seething.

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