

## Chapter 171 - The Vampire's Servant

[Victor]

Once Echo and Grayson were asleep, I headed down to the office. Talia and I had decided to wait until everyone was in bed before giving me back the title. Marius called to confirm that Daniel Darknight was out of the thrall of the curse and had been stripped of the title of Master.

Talia was waiting for me in my office. She was curled up on the couch, reading a book. It reminded me of the first few evenings she was here.

“Did everyone get off to sleep?” Talia asked.

“Yes. Echo seems more relaxed than she has in the entire time I’ve known her. Valor and Harmony are already talking about their next moves. Harmony wants to head back to the pack lands with Cameron.” I said.

“Yes, Emmalyn and Amelia are making plans with Finn right now. The girls will leave first, and Finn will follow them once the hunter threat is taken care of. He wants them safe and this gives Amelia time to get the windows in her house tinted like yours.” She chuckled. “All of my children have found their mates. This is amazing.”

“You must be eagerly awaiting grandchildren, then.” I smiled.

“I truly am. I love Bellamy’s babies. I know I’ll love yours as well.” She replied. “Are you ready to be Master of this territory again, Victor?”

“Yes. More than anything.” I sighed.

“It has certainly been a trial, but nothing worth having comes easy.” Talia stood and took my hand. “I, Talia the Traveler, name you, Victor Nightshade, as the Master of this territory from now until the end of your life. All vampires here are your burden and responsibility. All humans your chattel. Grow strong and prosperous.”

“I accept this title and vow to honor the vampire council with every thought and action pertaining to it.” I answered.

I felt the connection to the territory come back to me. The support of my people was still strong. I knew we needed to deal with these hunters to feel truly connected. They would see this as me taking responsibility for the territory and all the people in it.

The office felt a little empty without the cat's cage in it. Grayson had moved around all the items in the cage and designated one of the drawers in the kitchen as the cat treat drawer. I suspected this animal would start taking over larger parts of my home.

It already acted as if it owned the house. It really wanted attention and would rub up on everyone. Unlike most cats, it didn't have a problem with werewolves or vampires. When Sean and Rosario had returned from dinner with their parents, Fenton stalked them and would try to pounce on Sean.

Rosario explained that cats were seen as the enemy of smaller pixies and nearly every cat had the memory of the scent of pixie just as they did birds and mice. It also explained Sean's aversion to the cat ever since he was brought home. It wasn't just that the witch resided in him.

I squeezed Talia's hands before releasing her and going to my desk. I needed to contact Talon and Silence about the hunter issue. We needed to deal with them before they made a move on us or our allies.

I put them on a conference call and we worked on the issues in the territory. Both were happy to have me in charge again. Silence commended Echo on her handling of the territory when she took over for me, but asked that I not leave it to her again until she had more life experience.

We worked together for a couple of hours. Talia made a surprised sound. I looked up to see that Fenton had decided to lay on her while she sat reading.

Cautiously, she petted him. I could hear him purring happily. She giggled and scratched under his chin.

It was good that he was so comfortable with vampires. There would be a lot in his life. He was going to have to get used to every type of supernatural if I was going to run my territory as successfully as possible.

We wrapped up our call an hour later. I had them spreading the word about the hunters and that I was looking for volunteers to fight by my side. It was a chance for people to show they were truly my subordinates. Those who could fight would volunteer, the others would make offers and pay a tribute I would spread among those who fought with me.

I sat back in my chair and closed my eyes for a moment. They flew open again when I felt a tapping on my leg. I looked down.

The cat let out a tiny meow and tapped again. I reached down and scratched behind his ears. He stood and turned so I was scratching the base of his tail. I chuckled. I hadn't had a pet since I was alive.

"You're a good cat, aren't you?" I asked.

He meowed at me and turned again to bump my hand with his head. I scratched him a little longer then turned back to my work. There were several vampires who had requested audiences with me and I needed to look over the progress reports for the daylight servant agency.

I was fully occupied until I heard the sound of running paws coming down the hall. Fenton ran into the office, around the desk, then around the coffee table, then right back out the door. I looked over at Talia. She was laughing on the couch with her phone in her hand.

“They call that the zoomies. Cats often do it in the middle of the night, according to the websites I’ve been looking at.” She giggled.

“Why?” I asked.

“Because he has excess energy to burn off. He’ll probably go find a place to sleep once he’s run himself out.” Talia said.

“It may take a while to get used to this.” I chuckled.

“I’m sure it will. I’m going to head to the library, unless you need me.”

“I wanted to talk to you about the traveling I did recently, actually. It seemed like I was in an alternate reality. Is that possible?” I asked.

“Yes. You’ll find the easiest travels are into your own body in alternate realities. Did you have full control of your body, or were you just watching?” Talia questioned.

“I thought I had control, but maybe I just wanted the same things the other me did.” I replied.

“That’s possible. The first few times I did it, I went into realities that were very similar to my own. They were realities where the situations that were happening were very similar.” She said. “You said Echo was there in both realities. It must have been an urge you had in both realities that merged and pulled you into the other.”

“We made love for the first time. She was so much more confident there than she was with me. When I kissed her afterward, she ran away. She thought she influenced me to do that.” I told her.

“It was back when you first started having feelings for her that were more than friendship. Later, you told me you thought she was your Solus Amor. That mate connection would have been obscured by the curse.” Talia said.

“Yes. I could feel it more after I drank her blood from her neck. The connection got stronger. It was what made me cling to her more as I lost my mind. She was letting me feed on her and her sanity was countering the insanity.” I explained.

“Have you traveled since?”

“No. I haven’t exactly had a chance to try and I haven’t managed it on accident. It couldn’t just be a one-time thing, right?” I asked.

“Like any other ability, it will get stronger the more you use it. One day, you may even be able to travel to realms outside of alternate realities. Like I do. You will not lose it if you don’t use it. Deal with your other issues before you try to work with it. You have higher priorities right now.” She implored.

“You’re right. We’re just in the phase where we have to wait for so much, and I’m frustrated. I want this all to be over so we can relax a little. Echo deserves it.”

“You all deserve it. Are you doing your binding ceremony after they come home from their honeymoon?” Talia asked.

“I haven’t really planned it.”

“Maybe you should. It might distract you from the waiting. You should see if there are any tailors among your people. You’ll want a nice suit for it.” She suggested.

I smiled. “That’s a great idea. Thank you, Talia. Have fun.”

When she left, I started digging through the computer files and calling the three tailors on file. One had an opening and was happy to come for measurements immediately. I was thrilled to get a suit and I told him I would want to order a few other things, but the suit was the most important. Tonight was ending up luckier than I’d expected.

-

[Crazy Derrick]

-

I sat in the bar the hunters frequented. They would come in around ten most nights. I nursed a beer in a quiet corner.

They came in right on time. There had to have been about ten or eleven of them. They went to the other side of the bar and pushed some tables together before ordering some beers and a couple bottles of whiskey.

Reaching in my bag, I pulled out my collection of silver rings. I’d taken them off hunters we’d killed. I found one that fit my finger and slipped it on. It burned so good.

Making my way over, I figured on my plan of action. I walked up to the waitress and ordered another round of beers for the table. They looked up at me.

“We haven’t finished our first one, buddy.” A big guy smirked as he stood.

He was the biggest one there, not as big as me. They looked me over and I could tell a few had already gotten me pegged as a werewolf. I looked like one.

I was a first gen rogue born, like our queen. Unlike her, I took after my pack born parents and was bigger and bulkier than most rogues. My dark skin made me stand out more in the white bread town.

“No reason not to have another. I haven’t seen a hunting party this big since the Bloody Claw attack.” I chuckled.

“Bloody Claw, back in 2010? You’re not old enough to have been in that hunt.” The guy said.

“You know what they say. Black don’t crack, man. It was one of my first hunts.” I grinned. “I’m Derrick. Everyone just calls me.” I unbuttoned my shirt and bared my chest. “Crazy Derrick.”

My tattoo shown out from my dark skin. It was the perk of using silver laced ink. I flexed my muscles and winked at one of the female hunters.

“Is that silver ink?” One of the guys asked.

“Yeah. One of those wolfy bastards bites me and he’s gonna get an immediate punishment for ruining my ink. Check this out.” I told him and whipped my shirt off, turning so they could see my body count.

It was a bit of a mural and I was proud as hell of it. I added to it pretty regularly.

“The fangs are vampires. The claws are bears. The wolf skulls are self-explanatory.” I said proudly.

“What are the bullets?” The big guy asked.

“Brothers lost in battle against the beasts. Each of those is for a hunter.” I replied solemnly.

“Lost a lot of men.” One of the others piped up.

I put my shirt back on and turned back to them while buttoning it up. I wanted to give them a little anticipation builder.

“Lost a lot of boys and girls who couldn’t follow a plan, or got too caught up in the fight to watch their backs. I mostly fight alone now, because of it. Unless I get wind of something particularly fun.”

“I’m Luke. Have a seat, Crazy Derrick. You on the job?” Big boy asked.

I grabbed a chair from the table next to us and sat with them. Luke poured me a shot and pulled out a bottle with a dropper. He wasn't even gonna hide that he was testing me. Dumb ass cracker.

He put two drops of colloidal silver into the shot glass and set it in front of me. I raised an eyebrow at him. With how much silver I had on and in me, I couldn't believe he was still going to test me.

With a smirk, I downed the shot. "You know the brand of colloidal you're using actually has a little scent." I reached in my bag and pulled out a bottle. "This shit is way better. Wolfy bastards never even see it coming. And, yeah, I'm on the job. Just got off from info gathering. What about you?"

Luke took the bottle and opened it. He sniffed, then opened his bottle and sniffed. His nose scrunched a little. He closed my bottle and tried to hand it back, but I put my hand up.

"Keep it, brother. You need all the help you can get in this world." I said.

"Yeah. We're putting together something big. What're you after?"

"A Master vampire is shacking up with a witch in the area. I'm here to kill them." I grinned.

"We're after a Master who's shacking up with a witch too. Only ours has werewolves on staff." He intimidated.

"Not my bloodsucker, then. Mine doesn't use servants. I'm hunting Death." I smiled smugly.

"The Death? The ancient vampire?" One of the other guys asked, leaning in.

Some of the women looked even more interested in me than before. Too bad they were hunters. Some looked like prime pieces of ass. I might bag one or two before we take them out, though.

I winked at the hottest female. "Yup. Which one you after?"

"His name is Nightshade. He's the Master of the territory. Then, we're going to go after the pack here and all the other vampires and witches. We're cleansing the town." She told me, nibbling her lip and giving me bedroom eyes.

"You're hunting a vampire called the Hunter. I've heard of him. He tracked one of his children down, found the guy, killed him and all his friends. Pretty apt that you're going after the vampire that did our job for us." I chuckled.

"You've heard of him?" Luke asked.

"Man, you don't live in this job unless you do all your research. I know all the supes here we need to look out for."

“You want to help us with our hunts and we’ll help you with yours?” Flirty hunter girl asked.

“Can you all follow plans? Hunting Death means following directions to a T. He’s not called Death for no reason. And his witch is a dark witch. That makes this doubly deadly. I’m not taking responsibility for people I can’t count on.” I scoffed.

“We’ve got even more than this. Forty in total, once everyone gets here. All ages, all abilities. The prestige of killing Death would get you all of the best from the group. You could take your pick of companions.” Luke said.

“Sure. I’ll help you. Let’s get another round of shots to celebrate.” I grinned.

Luke filled everyone’s glasses. I raised mine up, getting the attention of the whole group.

“To the hunt!” I announced.

“The hunt!” They chorused and we downed our shots.

I crooked my finger at the hunter girl and she strutted around the table and settled her sweet little ass in my lap. I wrapped an arm around her waist, flashing my silver ring to the table. From there, I went about getting more information about the hunters, their mission, and what they knew.

Updates and Affirmations

## Chapter 172 - The Vampire's Servant

[Victor]

It had been nearly a week since we broke the spell. That didn’t mean we’d just relaxed, though. Almost immediately, the tension about the hunters started running through our little group.

No one could leave the house, in case hunters were following. Finn’s plan to send Amelia and Emmalyn away until it was safe had been quashed by the realization they could lead the hunters to a much larger supernatural community. We wouldn’t risk our friends.

Echo offered to take them to the pack land of Lune Rouge, but they refused. They didn’t want to leave Emmalyn’s car behind and Amelia said she changed her mind and couldn’t leave Finn. The chance that she would never see him again was too high.

I understood. Echo offered to take anyone to wherever they wanted. She said she could take Sean and Rosario to Maeve's house, but they also refused. Everyone was intent on seeing it out with us.

In the interim, I had over forty vampires who had responded that they would fight by our side. With the addition of Trent's warriors and Bellamy's warriors, it would be enough. In the spirit of friendship, I had informed the coven leader and Maeve about the hunter threat.

Though the coven leader didn't have many, there were a few witches who volunteered to join. Maeve put it out to her people and three families of trolls and ogres volunteered. She even got us some goblins from the fae village in the forest. Goblins loved a battle and were not only ruthless, but also carrion eaters who would take care of the bodies.

With all the support we'd found, I was certain we could be successful. We just needed to know the weapons and makeup of the hunters. Bellamy said Derrick was working on it.

Every morning, our little group was training. We'd pushed the training times to be earlier so Finn and I could safely join before the sun came up. It was refreshing to see Echo training so hard. She was beautiful and her movements were as fluid as any vampire.

The earlier training times meant we had less chance of our training being witnessed, depending on the equipment the hunters had. Preston was teaching Valor offensive attacks he could do with his powers. Amelia and Emmalyn worked on protection spells. Rosario taught Sean how to fight with a sword. Pixies had an innate ability with sword fighting.

Cam and Grayson were teaching Harmony how to fight in a partially shifted form. She was taking to it well. One could see she was truly meant to be the Beta of her pack. I wondered how things would go for her without taking a ranked position. Though, I supposed I would find out.

"Victor. I know you're doing some important daydreaming, but I need you present for this call." Talia chuckled.

"Sorry. I was just thinking of how far everyone has come. I'm so proud of Echo and Grayson. They have both made great strides... but..." I sighed.

"You don't want either of them anywhere near this fight, do you?" She asked.

"It's not that I doubt their abilities. I just think they have a chance at a life together if something happens to me."

"Of course they do. And you have a chance at a life with Echo if you and she stay out of it. But, would you want to go through that life thinking you should have been there? You would feel extreme guilt over letting your friend fight this battle alone. Gray would feel the same. Echo would always miss you and Gray wouldn't be able to fill that hole in her life. So, fight together, watch each other's backs, and come out the other side as strong as you've ever been. It's not like it's just the three of you against the full force of these hunters." Talia chided me.



I nodded. It made a lot of sense. Echo needed both of us and we were stronger together. I would watch out for my family. I wouldn't lose them like I lost the last one.

The phone rang. It was the call we'd been waiting on. The update from Bellamy and her people. I answered and we exchanged brief pleasantries.

"Now that we're all on the line, what do you have, Troy?" Bellamy asked.

"More hunters and we've lost most contact with Derrick. He's being swarmed by hunters at all times. They haven't just accepted him. The suggestion that he say he was after Death and his witch has made him hugely popular. He hasn't been able to reveal much in his call-ins, but he wants to meet to hand off some stuff he's collected and his notes." Troy answered.

"He can't meet with anyone who looks like a supernatural. That takes vampires and pack wolves off the table. No one pale and no one imposing." Bellamy said.

"There's a club that caters to all species. If we wanted our person to seem normal, they would have to be around others who seem different. The hunters may not follow him into the club. I can get him on the list to skip the line." I offered.

"Great. Who would we send in? From the descriptions and the pictures he was able to send, they know what Gray, Val, Harmony, Cam, Echo, and Victor look like. If Derrick played it off as he was meeting a contact, then a man wouldn't make sense. They would have already observed his... charm." Bellamy chuckled.

"From the list he keeps updating, he's managed to bed most of the female hunters. His focus is always on women. He'll talk to men, but he gets most of his information from women. It's like they can't resist his crazy ass." Troy snorted.

"Women have always been drawn to enigmatic and powerful men. I've met Derrick. He's good at seeming mysterious and just looking at him, you can see that he's strong. Pair that with his confidence in the presence of women, and you have a dangerous combination. He's not really my type, but he nearly charmed me out of my panties when we did meet." Talia smirked.

I raised an eyebrow. That was high praise. Talia flirted a lot, but her type was fairly clear. She liked tall, blonde, confident men when she was looking for a man. Her type for women had little to do with physicality.

"That doesn't leave us with many options. We could have Lila do it, but someone might recognize her if we need to have a sighting of Marius and his witch." I said.

"Finn would never let Amelia do it. He's worried about her as much as you're worried about Echo, only he doesn't think like you do. He's thinking like a human and not like a vampire."

“What about Emmalyn? Echo could take her to the club and stay in the back office, watching the cameras. Once Emmalyn has the information, we can bring her back home and no one will be any the wiser.” I offered.

“Do you think Emmalyn will be up for it?” Bellamy asked. “She seemed a little quiet, but very serious when she was here. I just worry she’ll get nervous. Can any of our females do it?”

“No. You sent us two. The hunters know them. If a hunter followed him in, we’d be blown.” Troy responded.

“Excuse me.” Emmalyn called out from the door.

“Emmalyn! Why are you here?” Talia exclaimed.

“I was reading my runes and they told me to go. When I asked where, they told me here. You need me for something, the Goddess is guiding me to help.” She replied.

I indicated the unoccupied chair across from me. She closed the door behind her and came to sit down. She was a good choice.

Emmalyn was too slim to be a shapeshifter, she didn’t have that thicker, more athletic build. She also didn’t have the sickly look some thin vampires get. She had a pink flush to her cheeks that vampires couldn’t mimic even with makeup.

It would be easy to pass her for a human. I was sure Echo and Harmony could do something about her clothing, makeup, and hair to make her fit in better at a club. Talia caught my eye and nodded.

“Emmalyn, we need someone to go to a club and meet up with our contact from inside the hunter camp. We were thinking over our options, and think you would be the best fit. The hunters don’t know what you look like. You can pass for human. And you won’t get distracted as easily as someone else might.” I said.

She stared at me for a moment, then down at her hands. The scent of her nervousness started to fill the room. She was always so cool and in control that I forgot about the fear witches have of hunters.

“I promise, we’ll keep you safe. Echo will transport you there and back. You will always be in sight of someone who is on our side. The contact you’re meeting is a werewolf. You shouldn’t see any hunters at all.” I told her.

“I’m not nervous about that.” Emmalyn replied quietly. “I’m not good with large groups of people. A club is just so many people.”

“You’ll stay near the bar. There’s an area for placing orders on one side, and a place for people to sit on the other.” Talia said.

Emmalyn bit her bottom lip a little. There was nothing else I could say. I had to hope that her own assessment would make her agree. The only other option was having Echo take Finn and Amelia. There was no telling how he'd react to his Solus Amor having to accept the advances of another man.

She reached into the bag she'd brought with her and pulled out a rune. With a nod, she returned it to the bag and looked up at me.

"I'll do it. What do I need to do?" She asked.

We went over the plan, the precautions, the security, and what she could expect in each step of the process. Troy went over the code words and got a description of her. She let us know that she couldn't move around well without her glasses and didn't have contacts.

She was nervous about having to act as if she were romantically involved with Derrick, but was assured that she would only have to go along with it. She wouldn't have to make any moves on her own. He would identify himself.

With that out of the way, we went over the movements of the hunters and the outside observations of the rogues. We brought Echo in to go over what we would need to do to get the information we needed. She was intent on the plan and what we would be needing from her.

It was the most professional I'd seen her be. I could imagine that she was like this when she took over my territory. It was arousing and I found myself getting lost as I watched her take over the call.

"Have you been in contact with Trent and Maeve as well?" Echo asked.

"They have warriors waiting for our signal." I replied.

"I think I have a way to draw the hunters out. They will think it's their trap, but it will really be ours." Echo smiled wickedly.

"Do tell." I smiled and leaned forward.

"That had a very pervy tone to it." Bellamy giggled. "This must be what everyone is talking about when they say Lucien and I fight as foreplay."

"You do fight as foreplay. I've never seen two people run off a training field as quickly as the two of you do after sparring." Talia snickered.

Echo blushed and looked down at the floor. I chuckled a little. They were right. Seeing Echo in control and confident like that aroused me even more than seeing her flustered and shy.

"I'm sorry, Echo. I'll contain myself while you share your idea. Please, tell us what you were thinking." I implored.

“We have graduation coming up in a few days. What if the hunters got wind of a little graduation party? We could host it on the Aimes property. It’s fairly out of the way and not near any of our home bases. The woods surround it and are a great place to hide out. There’s also a barn on the property where we can hide more warriors.” She suggested.

“How are we sure the hunters are going to bite rather than just going with whatever their plan was?” Troy asked.

“Easy. You said you were using Lila and Marius as a pretend hunt for the guy you sent in. We create the perfect environment for them all to get the people they’re after. What better way to catch Death, than to get him when he thinks he’s totally safe?” Echo smiled.

“If he were to go to a party somewhere that he thought no one knew him, Marius wouldn’t even think there was a risk to him. He would be caught off guard. What people don’t realize is that he’s even more dangerous then.” Talia smirked. “This is a wonderful plan, Echo. The group is not so big that it would be seen as a threat and we can have Trent there to increase the juiciness of the target.”

“We can dress up a female warrior to pretend to be his Luna. We could have a few other warriors as revelers. It would give us a powerful central force. We would depend on them being the distraction while our people get in place, the attack from behind would give a chance for the central force to move out and catch them from both directions. This could actually work. How did you think this up, Echo?” Bellamy asked.

“It was part of some revenge I got on Victor the other day. I got close to him with a pretense that he believed and caught him by surprise. I figured we could catch them by surprise if they thought we had no clue and were going to be out in the open.” Echo said softly.

“It’s one thing to pretend to need cuddles and steal my clothes and another to think of a mock ambush, princess. You surprised me. You’re thinking like a hunter far more than we were. If they find a way to do a surprise attack, they’ll jump on it. How do you think we can convince them he’ll be there?” I asked.

“If Emmalyn is supposed to be Derrick’s contact, then we send her with pictures showing us meeting with him and an invitation that looks like it was pulled from the garbage. We can have the time and place on it inviting Marius and Lila. He wouldn’t need to keep the paper, if he has a memory like most vampires, it would only take looking at it once to memorize the important details.” Echo explained.

“Great. That sounds like a wonderful plan. We’ll let you go and get the information to the pertinent places. Make sure you remember the code phrase and answers, Emmalyn.” Bellamy said and hung up.

Troy hung up shortly after. Talia was smirking at me and tapped Emmalyn’s hand.

“Let’s go start gathering clothing. I think Echo is closest to your size.” She told Emmalyn and helped her up before they left.

I got up and walked around my desk, pulling Echo into my arms. I kissed her passionately. She moaned and wrapped her arms around my neck.

Pulling back, I pressed my forehead against hers. “I promise. This will all be over soon and we can be together again, my princess. Just a little longer.”

“I know. I love you, Victor.” Echo murmured.

“And I love you, Echo.” I whispered before kissing her again.

Crazy Derrick

## Chapter 173 - The Vampire's Servant

[Derrick]

The club was pretty impressive. There was a line that went halfway down the block. As I walked past the line, I could smell every sort of supernatural.

Troy’s message said this club was neutral territory and had been for years. No one seemed to be fighting or grumbling. They all just looked like a bunch of young people having a night at the club.

I didn’t need to check to see that I had a tail. When I told Mitchell earlier that I had to meet with an informant on my hunt, he nodded, then pulled these two guys aside and whispered to them. I had to pretend I couldn’t hear them, but I did. I heard him tell them to stay on me.

He didn’t mean it because he didn’t trust me. I had a few drinks with him and his boy a couple nights ago. They entrusted me with some stuff and showed me the video of the kids disappearing outside a room and reappearing inside.

Mitchell was looking out for me. He wanted some friendlies around in case things went pear shaped. I had to pretend like I didn’t know they were there.

When I got up to the bouncer, I gave him my name and showed him my ID. He was a vampire. A pretty big one. I hoped he was good at his job.

The club was bumping. Music pounded and people rubbed against each other. I was betting there was a lot of interspecies mingling going on. This was my kind of place. You could get the strangest of strange.

I would have to come visit again before we headed out. Maybe find me a little vampire mama to bang it out with. Ever since I tried for that Talia chick, I'd been craving a cold little lover.

Across the room, I saw the girl I was supposed to meet. At least, I was pretty sure she was the one. They said a redhead with glasses and she was pretty much the only one in here wearing glasses.

She had on a tight black dress with a small cut up the side, showing off her milky thigh. One leg was crossed over the other and her legs tapered into some expensive looking heels. I licked my lips in anticipation.

Maybe I could take her into the bathroom for a quickie. She looked like a screamer. If I didn't nail her tonight, I would try again once all this was over.

I made my way over to her and leaned against the bar, looking her up and down as she took a sip of her drink. She set the glass down. First, business, then, pleasure.

"The moon is beautiful tonight." I said.

"It's beautiful every night." She replied in a bored tone.

"Except the nights when it's dark." I answered.

"On those nights, it's even more beautiful. Some of the most wonderful creatures hide in the dark of the night."

"What's your name, Red?" I asked.

"Emmalyn Grove. How did you want to do this?"

"That's a beautiful name." I smiled and leaned in.

"Stop. I'm here to do a job." Emmalyn hissed.

I leaned close to her ear. "Look in the mirror behind the bar. You see those two men who quite obviously don't belong? They're hunters. They followed me to make sure I didn't get in trouble. I have a reputation. Play along and I'll make it worth your while. Maybe even give you a little taste when this is all over."

Normally women couldn't resist when I whispered in their ear. Not even a shiver. Goddess, she was almost as icy as a vampire. That was hot as hell.

She seemed to decide it was in her best interest, because she leaned into me and ran her fingers down my chest. I knew women loved the muscles and flexed them subtly.

“There’s something you should probably know about me, Derrick.” She purred.

Goddess, I loved how she said my name. It dripped sweetly from her tongue. I could almost imagine her crying it out as I made her see stars.

“Mmm, what’s that, baby?” I asked, putting my hand on her knee and tracing it slowly up her thigh.

Suddenly, there was a sharp pain in my chest. I looked down to see she had one of my nipple rings in her hand and was twisting it hard.

“I don’t sleep with womanizers.” Emmalyn growled.

I whimpered slightly. I’d had the piercings twisted playfully before, but nothing as rough as this. It was really starting to hurt.

She let me go and pushed me back onto my stool. I sniffed. She wasn’t even a little turned on.

Running my hand over my head, I looked in the mirror at the hunters. They were snickering. This was the first time they’d seen me be rejected.

Hell, it was the first time I’d been rejected since I was a pup. Back when I was a gangly guy and hadn’t built up my muscles. It threw me back to that time. I remembered the girl who had turned me down back then.

She was one of the popular girls in school when I was in ninth grade. By the time I graduated, I’d tagged her and most of her friends. This girl wasn’t the high school beauty queen, though.

This girl wasn’t so vain. She was obviously immune to the charm of my body. I liked it. I would have to work harder for this girl.

“I’m sorry, Emmalyn. I was just so overwhelmed. You’re gorgeous and I couldn’t hold back how much I want you. I wanted you to play along so I could try and tempt you later on by learning what makes you itch.” I smiled.

“Trying the truthful tactic? Telling just enough of the truth to make me think you’re being honest and making me soften toward you?” She scoffed. “Not going to happen.”

“I’m not a womanizer. I’m just having a little fun before I settle down. You should be having some fun too, baby. I bet you’d look a hundred times sexier when you were cumming.” I winked.

“You’re disgusting and will never find that out for yourself. Now, can we get to this exchange? I want to go home and take a shower.” Emmalyn sneered.

“I see. It’s because I’m a wolf isn’t it? Take a walk on the wild side. Try a little wolf, baby. I bet you’ll be ruined for all those weak little witch boys.” I told her.

“It doesn’t matter if you were human, wolf, vampire, or witch, I would never sleep with you. I’m not a bigot. I’m a woman with standards. You should really learn the difference.” She said as she reached into the purse on the bar and pulled out a manila envelope.

It suddenly occurred to me. I was probably barking up the wrong tree. That explained why my advances weren’t working.

“Oh. I got it. You like to dabble with women yourself. Sorry, playette. I usually have a good nose for those sorts of things.” I chuckled and pulled out my own envelope.

My envelope was folded to look like it had cash in it. We wanted to make it look like I was paying her for the information.

I slid it over to her and took hold of her envelope. I opened it and looked at a couple pictures. She pretended to be running her finger over the fake money in the envelope I handed her.

Emmalyn smiled and I felt my dick twitch. Man, it sucked that she was a lesbian. She was warm to the touch, but cold in attitude. That smile, though. I fucking loved it.

She slid from her stool and got close. Emmalyn looked into my eyes with those icy blue eyes. There was something slightly amused in them.

“I date men, not women, and not you. I’m not ever going to sleep with you. Stop chasing. You’ll never catch me, wolf boy.” She told me. “I’m leaving now. Don’t follow me.”

With that, she turned and walked toward the offices and restrooms. I watched the sway of her slight hips as she disappeared to the back. Damn, that was one hell of a woman.

‘I want that one.’ Brutus, my wolf, said in my head.

‘I want that one, too, man. She’s the only one to honestly refuse us. The chase will be epic.’ I replied.

‘Not chase and fuck. Keep and love. That’s our mate. I won’t accept anyone but her.’

‘You sure? We can have our pick of tons of other women.’

‘None like her.’

He’d decided. I smiled slowly. This would be a different sort of chase. After tonight, I would only chase my little witch. One day, she would be mine.

-



The other hunters had rushed off to their car after we got out of the club. I didn't care. I was replaying the night in my head.

Emmalyn was perfect for me, really. She'd keep me on my toes, keep me on the straight and narrow. I would have to do more to get her than just wink and smile.

Soon, I was arriving at the house and parked my car. When I walked into the living room, it went quiet. I looked around. This wasn't the time to be floating on air. I needed to take care of these fucks before I could chase my little witch.

"Hey, Derrick. Looks like you had a rough night." Luke snorted.

"Someone followed me. I saw them. I don't appreciate that I'm not trusted to gather my information in peace." I growled.

"We were following you so we could watch out for you, Derrick. We didn't want someone getting you before you had a chance at your hunt. We just happened to see you get turned down hard." Paul snickered.

"That's why she's my contact. She's the only straight woman I can't seduce. She's small and able to make herself blend in with people. She got me some good information tonight." I grinned and approached the coffee table.

I pulled out the envelope and emptied out the contents. Pictures of Marius and his witch, Nightshade and his girl, other people in the house. Finally, an invitation to a graduation party after dark addressed to Marius.

"Looks like our targets know each other and they'll be in the same place at the same time. I looked this place up online. It's out of the way and backs onto the forest. There's an old barn and a burned out old house, from what I can see. It's pretty perfect for an ambush. The place they marked on the property is mostly surrounded by the forest." I told them.

"We could be part of the hunting party to take out Death." One of the men gasped.

"Not just Death." I smirked. I pulled out a photo and pointed at a familiar face. "That's the Traveler. We could wipe out half of the Vampire High Council in one attack. This means we'll have a higher casualty rate than a normal hunt, but I'm betting this will be a small affair."

"Why are Death and the Traveler going to a graduation party for a servant?" Luke asked.

"My contact says she's not a servant. She's a dhampyr. Her dad is Death. Her mate is Nightshade. And his sire is the Traveler." I said.

"What's a dhampyr?" Mitchell asked.

“Seriously? It’s fine if you’ve never heard of them. They’re pretty rare. Humans almost never see one. She’s half vampire and half human.”

“Half witch, you mean?”

“No. That appearing and disappearing thing must be her vampire power. Witches never mate with vampires. Even the dark ones. They may shack up, but vampires save mating for humans and the occasional shapeshifter.” I explained.

“You mean these three kids here might just be human and not vampire or witch?” He pressed.

“They’re traitors no matter what they are. The other girl is mated to a werewolf. You can see her mark in this photo. She’s probably already knocked up with his monster spawn. We need to take them all out.” I insisted.

“Derrick’s right. We can hammer out a plan in the morning. I want everyone rested.” Mitchell said.

The group broke up. A few carpooled up and drove out the RV park where they were camping. I went to the family room. They were letting me use the pull out couch to sleep on. It kept me nice and close, right where I wanted to be.

A little while later, I was quietly jacking off while thinking of my little witch. I was leaning my head back with my eyes closed. I wasn’t paying attention. It was something that could get me killed in so many situations, but I couldn’t think of anything but those glittering ice blue eyes.

It wasn’t until I felt two hands on my thighs that I realized I wasn’t alone. There were only two females in the house. I opened my eyes.

“Let me help you with that.” The daughter said with a smile.

I watched as she pulled my blankets down and slid me into her mouth. I closed my eyes and imagined it was Emmalyn’s mouth on me. She let out breathy moans. I needed release.

Pulling her off, I got off the bed and hauled her up, bending her over the arm of the couch and kicking her legs apart. I flipped her nighty up and ripped off her panties. I rubbed my cock between her legs.

“Tell me you want it.” I growled. “Beg for my cock.”

“Yes. Please. I want it so much. I’m so wet and ready for you. Take me.” She moaned.

I covered her mouth with my hand and rammed myself into her. My hand muffled her startled scream. I began pumping in and out of her, gripping her hip with my other hand as I kept her mouth covered.

Last thing I wanted was to be caught by her dad. I closed my eyes and imagined Emmalyn bent over the arm of the couch. It was almost enough to send me over the edge when her body started squeezing and the girl let out a muffled scream.

“Be quiet.” I hissed.

She whimpered as I pounded harder. I had to be careful. She wasn’t a wolf. She was human, like my Emmalyn. Just hard enough to feel good, but gentle enough that I didn’t break her.

I started groaning as I felt myself reaching my peak. She seemed to realize what was happening, because I heard her gasp and pull my hand from her mouth.

“W-wait! Don’t cum inside me! I’m not on birth control.” She pled in a whisper.

Goddess, getting my Emmalyn pregnant. That would be perfect. The way she would look at me, need me, love me. I was lost in that thought as I started releasing into the warm body beneath me.

“What if I get pregnant?” She asked panting once I pulled out.

“I’ll take care of everything, baby. You go on back up to your room and clean up. You need to rest for your first hunt.” I purred and patted her ass as she went by.

“Really? You’ll take care of me if I’m pregnant?”

“Sure thing.” I smiled.

She bounced out of the room and I felt the smile fall into a sneer. Like I would let any of those hunter bitches carry my pups. That was only for my Emmalyn. My perfect little witch.

That was the last time I’d dirty myself with other women. The next woman I stuck it to would be Emmalyn. I was a one-woman wolf from now on.

Graduation

## Chapter 174 - The Vampire's Servant

[Echo]

The morning of graduation, everything was ready. Our people had their hiding places figured out and the fae were making a glamour shield to hide some of our forces. The old barn had been

reinforced by several of Marius' builders who also secured the cellar under it. Vampires for the evening were sleeping under the barn so they wouldn't have to travel out.

I was a little giddy with excitement. I knew I should feel badly about planning to kill people, but they would kill me if I didn't get them first. Gray didn't seem bothered by it. That was how I knew I was right to not be worried.

Before he went to sleep, Victor pulled me aside. He took me to his room and locked the door behind us. He went to the closet and came back with a small box.

"You're graduating high school today, princess. I love you and I'm so proud of you. I bought this when you first came to live with me. I'd planned to give it to you on this day. Back then, I didn't realize you'd end up mated with a werewolf." He chuckled. "I've ordered another in white gold. It will be here before your wedding."

Victor opened the box and revealed a silver necklace with a star pendant on it. I smiled at him. It was lovely.

"Oh, Victor. I love it." I murmured.

"It was intended to remind you that you are a bright and shining star. My special little friend." Victor said and reached out to stroke my cheek. "I could never have imagined how much more you would mean to me. You've made me so happy, Echo. I promise to make you happy forever."

I closed my eyes and reveled in the feeling of his cool skin on my cheek. He kissed me gently and I wrapped my arms around his waist. When he pulled away, I laid my head on his chest as his arms slid around me and held me tightly.

"Are you worried about tonight at all, princess?" He asked.

His concern and Gray's had been inundating me this whole time. He knew the answer, but he wanted me to tell him. I knew he did.

"Victor. I know bad things might happen. I know we could lose people. I know I could lose you or Gray. But could isn't will. If we do nothing I'm sure I will lose the people I love. I will lose you and Gray. I'm not waiting for the future to do something bad to me. I'm not going to hope that I can shape something out of the ashes of what it leaves behind. I'm scared, Victor, but not as scared as I would be just waiting on them to hurt us." I told him.

He held me tighter. "Do you want Grayson to come join us before I have to sleep?"

I nodded. Victor pulled away and unlocked the bedroom door. Gray had been waiting, I guess, because he seemed to appear immediately.

"Did Victor give you his gift, angel?" He asked.

“Yes. It was beautiful, but I can’t wear it or I could hurt you.” I said as he went over to the closet.

“I have something for you, too.”

“Was I supposed to buy you a gift? I didn’t know I was supposed to get gifts for people.” I blushed.

“Usually, your parents and grandparents will buy you gifts or give you money for your graduation. Since you, Harmony, and Val don’t have family, we’re taking care of all three of you. My family has some gifts for you. Cam’s family has things for Harmony. The ranked females put together gifts for Val. Your uncle Preston has something special for all three of you.” Gray explained as he pulled a shoe box sized package tied with ribbon out of the closet.

I bounced with excitement as he brought it to me. I reached out for the gift and he held it above his head. I tilted my head and tried to reach for it.

“Gray. What are you doing?” I pouted.

“I need a kiss first.” He smiled.

I laughed and gave him a peck on the cheek. He chuckled and handed me the box. I pulled the ribbon and the top popped up. I giggled he’d managed to cram something too big into it.

Pulling the top off, I looked in the box. Something fuzzy was puffing out of it. I pulled it out and looked at it. It was a stuffed wolf that looked almost exactly like Rex. I dropped the box and hugged it tight.

“Do you like it, angel?” Gray asked.

“It looks just like Rex. I love it. I’m going to call him ‘little Rexy’.” I grinned.

“Rex is happy. So am I.” He smiled.

I reached out and pulled him to me, wrapping him in a one armed hug, as my other arm was full. Gray put his arms around me and held me close. I loved getting gifts. This was better than any birthday I’d ever had.

I half turned and held little Rexy in my hand as I extended my arm to Victor. He moved in and Gray shifted a little so Victor could hug me too. I loved them both so much.

“You should head downstairs. I can feel myself starting to drift.” Victor murmured.

“I’ll be back when you wake up.” I promised.

“I look forward to it, my princess. Take care of her, Grayson. I hope you both have a good graduation.” Victor smiled.

I put little Remy on the chair in the room so he could guard the vampires while they slept. Victor gave me a kiss before he went to lay down and Talia came in to sleep.

“Where’s Finn?” I asked.

“Amelia wants him to sleep in her room today. She wants to see what it’s like.” Talia said.

With a nod, Gray and I left the room. We went downstairs to the living room. Everyone was there except the vampires, Amelia, and Emmalyn.

Emmalyn hadn’t felt well since meeting with Derrick. I’d watched on the monitors in the club, and they didn’t seem to get along. It was like she’d had an instant distrust of him. When I asked, she said he was a womanizer and that made her sick. I had to ask Gray what that was.

He asked me where I heard that word and I had to explain everything to him. Gray just shook his head and sighed, then told me a womanizer is a man who sleeps with a lot of women and doesn’t really have relationships. I was stunned. I asked him if he knew any and he got uncomfortable and said ‘a few’.

I’d wondered about it for a while. I knew Val dated a lot, did he sleep with those girls? Was he a womanizer? Val got offended when I asked, but Harmony laughed.

-

Uncle Preston pulled out a handful of pouches on strings once everyone was gathered. He smiled at all of us.

“Congratulations to all of you on graduating high school. I didn’t have the time or money to get you all gifts, so I made these for now. Later, I’ll send more permanent gifts. These are luck pouches. In each pouch is a collection of materials to bring good luck. You hold the pouch in your hands and tell it what you want luck with, then you slip the strap over your neck and wear it. You can wear it over or under your clothes. It works once per twenty-four hours and should last for about three months.” Uncle Preston explained.

He went around the room, handing one of the little pouches to each of us. I hugged him when he got around to me, and he hugged me back.

Samuel had never warmed up to me, but Preston did after a while of living with us. I was glad that at least one of my uncles liked me. I wanted to have a family who cared about me.

We started getting our things together. We would go set up the staging area this morning. We had enough people. Emmalyn wouldn’t be able to go with us, in case the hunters were watching the spot.

Since the primary target was the vampires, we knew they wouldn't attack us. That was a big perk to this plan. We could set it up and they wouldn't take advantage of us being unprotected, because we were the primary reason for the vampires coming out where the hunters could attack.

Cam, Gray, Val, and Harmony carried the bigger things. Sean and Rosario carried a cooler with drinks and food. We planned to be here until a little after noon, then come back to finish it after graduation if we didn't get it done.

Everyone worked hard as we set up the party tent and staked it to the ground. Rosario showed me and Sean how to make the weeds and grass lay down flat on its own. Folding tables were set up, chairs were situated around them, and solar powered lamps were set out in the sun to start charging.

We got it finished just before noon and sat out having a picnic in the shade of some of the larger trees. We weren't allowed to talk about what would happen tonight. It was too dangerous.

Instead, we talked about our summer plans. In a couple weeks was the wedding Gray's family was working on. I had an appointment to go try on the dress in a few days. I was excited to see what they put together.

Gray said we could save the dress for our daughter to wear when she gets married. He'd already planned for us to have several boys and a girl. I told him I was only planning on two babies with each of them. Suffice it to say, Gray was a little disappointed. Val made us stop talking about it.

Once we were finished with lunch, we went home to get ready for our graduation. Harmony and I did each other's hair for it and I wore a nice sundress under my gown, since it was such a warm day. I put on some sandals with no heel and we headed downstairs.

Maeve, Brian, and Hope had come to pick up Sean and Rosario, to take them to the graduation. We thought it best if people drove with their families. Marius appeared in the entryway with Lila. They would be driving Victor's car.

Cam's family and Gray's family would be meeting us at the school. I would ride with Marius and Lila, while Val went with Cam and Gray, and Harmony went with Uncle Preston. Amelia waved us off as she was heading to get a snack in the kitchen and wished us luck.

-

-

The ceremony was lovely. I'd never seen anything like it. Everyone sat in their caps and gowns waiting to be called up to receive their diploma. Gray showed me how to wear the tassel and move it from one side to the other to show I was graduated. It seemed like a silly tradition.

There was a smattering of applause for each student called. I was happy to have my own applause when I went up. No one had ever applauded me before.

After the ceremony was over, we gathered for pictures with our families and friends. I loved this part too. I planned to get a photo album and fill it with pictures of everything. Marius insisted on a picture of me with my sister and brother.

We were just wrapping up pictures when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned to see Melissa standing there. She was smiling brightly and I wanted to punch her in the face.

“Echo. I’m so happy I got to see you before I left town. I wanted to thank you for coming to my party the other night and apologize for if I ever made you feel unwelcome in the group. I don’t adapt to change well.” She said.

“Have you apologized to Rosario and Sean? Gray said you were trying to reach them.” I replied.

“Oh, not yet. I’m a little embarrassed about that whole misunderstanding. I understand now how Rosario must have felt seeing a girl all up on her boyfriend like that. I just never thought I’d find someone who made me feel special like she did and I was a little jealous. Now I have the best boyfriend. He’s tall, handsome, and strong.” Melissa grinned.

“Why are you telling me this?” I asked. “You made it pretty clear that we’re not friends over the last few months.”

“I thought maybe we could start fresh. What are you doing tonight? Do you want to hang out?” She asked.

“I’m having a little get together with my family and Gray’s family. Maybe tomorrow night? I really want to be friends with you, Melissa. I want to have as many friends as possible.” I smiled.

“Tomorrow night sounds great. Oh! Oh, my god.”

I turned as Marius and Lila approached. Unlike Talia, Finn, and Victor, Marius hadn’t been particularly young when he was turned. I was certain his life as a warrior for his people probably made him age a little prematurely as well. He looked like he was in his mid to late thirties.

“I’m Echo’s father, Mario. This is her stepmom, Lila. Are you one of her friends?” Marius asked.

Melissa looked nervous for a moment with wide eyes. She’d seen the pictures and knew he was a vampire. I’m sure she was as surprised as I was that he could go out in the sunlight.

“I-I’m Melissa Hearne.” She stuttered.

Marius smiled at her and put out his hand. She accepted it gingerly and he shook it gently. Lila looked like she was going to burst out laughing.

“We should get going soon, papa. All this sun can’t be good for you.” I said softly.



“It truly is a lovely day, isn’t it? Let’s go then, I’m sure you want to get ready for your party.” Marius replied.

“See you later, Melissa.” I smiled, wiggling my fingers at her.

“Not if I see you first.” Melissa muttered with a soft growl.

After Party

## Chapter 175 - The Vampire's Servant

Once I got home, I put my things away and went to help Wendell and Lisa in the kitchen. The cake had cooled and I put together frosting for it real quick before covering it and decorating it. I had always done Val and Harmony’s birthday and celebration cakes, so I was pretty experienced.

Decorating their cakes had always made me happy. It was something I could put my whole focus on and the lovelier it looked, the nicer my ex-mother would be to me. Aside, from approved books, she would let me look at cooking magazines. I got to see a lot of pretty cakes there.

“Wow, Echo. That looks like a professional did it.” Wendell said.

“I’ve been decorating cakes for years. I like it a lot.” I replied.

After I finished the cake, I helped with getting the foods all packed away. There were some mousses that would be behind a ‘vampires only’ sign. We had to make it look like it was a real party. I doubted anyone would really be hungry. Maybe after....

My phone alarm went off as we packed the cake into a protective box and officially called it good. My nerves were on fire. I was more nervous than I’d been at the beginning of the day.

I climbed the stairs to Victor’s room. Everything would change once the sun went down. I could end up losing everyone I loved. I could die. The realization of it hit me like a ton of bricks. What would happen tonight?

When I got up to Victor’s room, I turned on the blanket and crawled into bed with him. Talia was downstairs already, going over the plans on the phone with Trent and Maeve. Bellamy and her rogue warriors were on their way as well, for added support.

I rested my head on Victor’s chest and listened to his very slow heartbeat as if it were the last time. It really could be the last time. I couldn’t stop the tears from falling.

Suddenly, Victor's heartbeat sped up. That didn't make sense, it should have been at least twenty minutes. I gripped him tightly and tried to stop crying.

The door flew open and Gray rushed in. He climbed into the bed on the other side of me and cuddled my back. Victor wiped my tears away.

"Don't be scared, princess. Everything will be alright. I promise." Victor murmured.

"He's right, angel. I know it's scary to face something like this, but we're ready. We have allies and a good plan, your plan. They can't win against us, Echo. We have the Goddess and all of her people on our side." Gray whispered.

"They have lots of big guns and other weapons. We don't have weapons." I sniffled.

"We are weapons, Echo. The fae will have weapons and magic. The witches have magic. Vampires have magic. Werewolves have claws and fangs. There are forty of them, maybe one or two more. We have fifty pack wolves, two dozen fae, ten witches, forty vampires, thirty rogues, and none of that is counting the people in our house." Victor told me gently. "There is no way we don't win this, princess."

"You promise? You promise everything will be fine and we're all going to live?" I asked.

"I... I wish I could make that promise. I can promise that we will win. This isn't an insurmountable obstacle. I can't promise who will survive, though. Only that everyone will do their best to survive." Victor said softly and kissed the top of my head. "I need you to be brave for me, my princess. You can come back here until the fight is over. One less person won't be the difference between winning and losing."

"I can't do that. I would hate myself for leaving everyone. This is my fault. This is my plan. I can't let everyone else fight for me." I replied.

"That's very noble of you, Echo, but I want you to use your best judgement. If it does seem like we're losing. I want you to come back home. Alright?" Victor said.

"Alright." I agreed.

We laid in the bed for a while longer and they held me until I was feeling better. I needed to do this. I needed to go out and fight with everyone. It was the only way to ensure that we would win.

Derrick had been giving the hunters bad information about dhampyrs and ancient vampires. It changed their weapon choices and tactics. It played to our advantage.

Once I was calmed down, we went downstairs to go over the plan. We had a lot of information from Derrick's notes and the papers he'd stolen. I knew that would help a lot.

While everyone was busy talking, I went up to Victor's room and retrieved my luck bag. I held it in my hands and thought of what I should say to get the result I wanted. When I was sure I had it, I lifted it to my mouth.

"Please give good luck to everyone I love tonight. Let them come home safely." I whispered, then put the pouch on my neck.

I felt a lot better knowing everyone was going to be watched out for. Now I knew it would all work out. Everyone would come home safe.

The next few hours went by in a blur. Finn didn't want Amelia coming out for the fight, but she insisted. Her affinity would be a big help.

Victor reminded those of us with sensitive noses, that the hunters wouldn't smell like anything. It was part of the masking spray they used. The witches would just be working from their best guesses of who was an ally and who was an enemy. I didn't like that, but we didn't have other options. There wasn't time to make magical protection charms.

"I want to help." Emmalyn said as she entered the room. "I hate the idea of my little sister being out there and me not going."

"We don't have a way of getting you out there without blowing Derrick's cover." Gray replied.

"What if I used my ability? Once we put out the lanterns, I can travel here, get Emmalyn, and travel back with her. It should take a minute or less." I offered.

"Yes! Let's do that." She insisted. "I can't just wait around here and hope."

"What do you think, Victor?" Gray asked.

"I think it's a fine idea. The more witches we have on our side, the better." Victor smiled politely. "Will you be alright doing that, princess?"

"I wouldn't have offered if I wasn't. It's getting close to time. Let's get the cars loaded up. Emmalyn, I want you to wait here in the living room for me." I answered.

Those of us who could go out in the dwindling daylight, started loading food and other items into the vehicles. The cake would be held, so it didn't topple somewhere. We took as much care of everything as we could, as if we were really going to this party.

-

Once we arrived we hung and turned on the lanterns. We set out food on the tables, a bowl of punch, some cups, plates, and flatware. Someone turned on some soft music and we waited on others to arrive.

I was a little surprised to see Maeve approach with Rosario. He was in his male glamour. We didn't need to pretend as much anymore.

"Maeve, what are you doing here?" Victor asked. "I thought you were just sending your warriors to help with the fight."

"I couldn't let you fight this alone. I'm no leader if I don't stand by my allies in battle for my people." Maeve replied.

We started moving around and chatting with everyone. The warrior who was dressed up to look like Trent's mate, gave me a hug. She told me it was from the Luna who was at home with her children and praying for our safety.

Marius and Lila came over and each hugged me. I was really starting to feel my nerves. I knew the hunters were probably already out there and preparing to attack, but we had to wait for the signal.

"You're shaking, Echo, and you smell frightened." Marius said.

"I'm trying to be calm, papa." I told him.

"It will happen soon. I can already smell the forest scent getting faint as the hunters draw near. This battle shouldn't last long. We have a mighty force that will annihilate them for their hubris." He grinned wickedly.

"You're so hot when you're all battle ready like this, daddy." Lila purred in his ear.

I giggled as he looked over with a heated expression. "I should probably leave you two alone for a few moments."

Wandering away, I found Victor and Gray talking quietly near one of the tables. Just as I was about to talk to them, a howl went up in the forest. That was the signal.

All the lanterns were turned off. I waited for a moment before going back home, grabbing Emmalyn, and returning. She thanked me quickly before running out of the tent and into the forest.

Quickly, I also ran to the forest. There were screams, howls, snarls, and gunshots all over. A man appeared in front of me. He didn't smell like anything and started aiming the gun he held.

I used my ability to travel behind him, then gripped his head and twisted it like Marius had taught me. There was a sickening crack and he fell to the ground. I picked up his gun and kept going.

Though I'd never used a gun, it seemed pretty simple. The first time I tried it, I didn't do well and missed the man who was sneaking up behind Val. But the gunshot made Val turn and he set the man on fire.

Dropping the gun, I slipped away. I wasn't going to try that again. I had no idea what I was doing, and it hurt my hand. There was a scream from above me and I looked up to see Sean drop a woman from a great height. She landed on her neck a few feet from me.

A man ran past me and stumbled. Within just a few moments, a werewolf jumped on him, rolled him over, and started tearing at him with its claws. All around there was the sound of fighting.

I sniffed the air, seeing if I could find Gray or Victor. I followed Victor's scent to a very small clearing in the center of some tall trees. He was fighting a man who had a stake in one hand and a big knife in the other.

They regarded each other briefly before the man lunged at Victor with the stake raised high above his head. Victor moved fast and plunged his hand into the man's chest. He pulled something out, held it in front of the man, and then dropped it on the ground.

As he did this, the man slowly fell to his knees, then slumped over. I smiled happily. I hoped it was going okay for Gray too and started to look around. That's when I saw her.

Melissa. She was standing in the shadow of a tree on the other side of the clearing. Her hair was tied back and she was wearing some sort of dark outfit. In the moonlight I could make out tears in her eyes.

She held up a crossbow with a stake in it. I could see her aiming for Victor. I ran as fast as I could toward him. He was facing me so he couldn't see her.

"This is for my father you bloodsucking fuck." She growled.

When I reached Victor, I grabbed his arm and pulled him to the side, just in time. The stake went past him. I saw Melissa smirk and disappear into the forest.

"Echo. What have you done?" Victor whispered and reached for me as I lost control of my legs.

The pain was unbearable. I looked up at him and he seemed like he was going to cry. Victor helped me to the ground.

Another howl went up. This one was sad and sorrowful. A few moments later, Gray appeared. He skidded to his knees next to me.

"We have to pull it out." Victor said. "If she dies with a stake in her heart, she won't come back."

"I wasn't ready for you to be a vampire, angel." Gray murmured.

“Grayson! Get the stake out of her. I lose my strength if I touch it. I can’t save her. Only you can. Now, pull it out!” Victor shouted.

He gripped the stake in my chest. I wanted to talk to them, to tell them not to worry, but it hurt so much to breathe. I could only watch as Gray grip the stake and pull it from my chest.

“Give me your shirt.” Gray told Victor.

I watched Victor strip his shirt off and hand it over. Gray held it tightly over my chest. My vision blurred a little.

“I love you both very much.” I whispered.

“Everything’s going to be alright, Echo. We got the stake out. You’ll be a vampire when you wake up.” Gray said.

“I’ll teach you everything you need to know, princess. It will be okay. Then you can spend all night with me.” Victor murmured in a cracking voice.

I smiled and closed my eyes. Blood loss was very tiring. I sighed and let the feeling overtake me. There was nothing I could do to help them. The world faded away as I slipped into darkness.

A Hunter's View

## Chapter 176 - The Vampire's Servant

[Melissa]

-After graduation-

I walked away and quickly found my parents. They were watching me as I went to confirm the information Derrick got. It was true, they were having a party.

“Daddy, did you see the man I was talking to?” I asked quietly as we headed out to the car.

“I did. What the hell is a vampire doing out in daylight? We need to talk to Derrick. Maybe he knows. If they become immune to things like sunlight, what else could they be immune to?” Dad said.

“This could be a more dangerous hunt than we thought.” Mom added.

“I think we’ll be fine, Mom. We have a lot of experienced hunters on our side and Derrick. He’s the best of all of them.” I smiled.

When I talked to Derrick the morning after we made love for the first time, he told me I shouldn’t tell my parents until after the hunt. He promised me he was a one-woman man now and wouldn’t be chasing any of the other hunters anymore.

I doubted him a little and thought he was only saying that so I wouldn’t tell anyone we slept together, but then I watched him turn women down left and right. He told them he found a special girl and he wasn’t going to step out on her. My heart leapt at that.

My dad really liked Derrick and I knew he’d be proud to have him as a son-in-law. I hoped I wasn’t pregnant, though. I wanted to wait until I had at least graduated the hunter training camp.

After we got to the house I went searching for my boyfriend. He was down in the gym working out. I loved the way the muscles moved under his dark skin. The lights caught the silver in his tattoos and they glittered like stars in the night sky. Just looking at him made me horny as hell.

I sat on the bench along the wall and watched him workout. He was so serious about his hunt. He called it one of the most important jobs he’s ever been on.

Taking out two members of the Vampire High Council would certainly put all of our names in the books. I would go to the camp with the prestige of having been in this hunting party following me like a cape. Everyone would know my name.

Derrick started his cool down. I watched his mostly naked body as he twisted and bent, stretching his muscles. I licked my lips, he was all mine.

“You’re back from your graduation thing. How’d it go?” He asked.

“Pretty normal. They called names, we got diplomas, people took pictures. There was one thing that was pretty surprising.” I told him.

“What was that, baby?” Derrick smiled as he used a towel to dry the sweat on his body.

My mouth went dry. I wanted to be that towel. I wanted to lick him clean. I started fantasizing about all the things I would do to him once this was all over and he was officially mine.

He snapped his fingers. “I’m waiting, Mel.”

“Oh, sorry. Death was at the graduation. He was watching his daughter graduate. In the sun. Like a normal human.” I said.

“Yeah, ancient vampires can handle the sun for a few hours a day. That’s what makes them more dangerous than normal vamps. They don’t sleep very much and they can go out in the sun.

That's why the plan was never to attack him during the day. An overwhelming force will be our ticket to killing him." Derrick shrugged.

I got off the bench and went to him, wrapping my arms around his thick waist. Derrick was 6'3" with dark brown skin, tightly cropped hair, and eyes that were so dark they almost looked black. He had tattoos all over and several piercings, even one in his... you know.... I'd never felt anything like it with any of the boys I'd slept with.

He rested his hand on my back and rubbed it gently. I liked it no matter if he was rough or soft with me. Derrick was my perfect man.

"What are you going to do while I'm away at the training camp?" I sighed.

"The hunter training camp?" He asked.

"Yeah. It's probably been years since you went, but I still have to go in for a year before I'm an official hunter." I replied.

"Hmm. I think I'll hunt a little and maybe come visit you. Where are they holding it this year, baby?"

"You know I can't tell you that." I giggled.

"But a whole year without me. I don't know if you'll manage it. Come on, baby, tell Big D where you're gonna be. I'll sneak in some night and make sure you don't forget me with all those young studs around." Derrick purred.

The thought of him sneaking in to see me thrilled me. I wanted that more than anything. The fact that he wanted to check up on me made me really happy. Like I could do any better than the perfect man I held in my arms.

"You have to promise you won't tell anyone. We're not supposed to give out the location. You know why." I reminded him.

"Can't have the monsters finding out where all the baby hunters are training. I know. I promise you, I won't tell anyone. I'd never lie to my girl."

I could hear the truth in his words and pulled out my phone, handing it to him. He took it from me and programmed in his cellphone number before handing it back. I smiled and sent the text with the location to him.

"Oh, baby. This makes me more excited than you could know." He grinned, as his phone chimed in his pocket.

"We're going to win tonight, right?" I asked.



“Trust me, baby. My enemies never know what hit them. You’ll see tonight. It’s gonna be a massacre.” Derrick chuckled. “You better go first. I don’t want your dad catching wind of us before this is all over. Go get ready to fight.”

I nodded and headed upstairs. He was really a thoughtful and sweet boyfriend. My dad would have a fit if he knew I was with an older man. Derrick may be our best hope, but the goodwill he would earn from this hunt would be what cemented him as a good man to my father.

-

Later that night, I was all decked out in my new hunting outfit. Mom bought it for me. It was black and navy blue made of a strong material. I wanted something formfitting, but mom said something loose was better for camouflaging myself. I finished it off with a pair of comfortable black hiking boots.

Hunters didn’t really wear leather to hunt, like people thought. It held too much of a scent and our masking spray couldn’t cover the sweat built up in the material. Something to keep us cool was definitely better. I couldn’t wait for Derrick to see it.

He came out of the family room in only a pair of sweat pants. He looked like he was going to bed. We all looked at him curiously.

“That’s not going to protect you well from claws.” Dad told him.

“We all have our habits. I’ve ruined too many hunting suits to count. If your enemy wants to get through that cloth, they will. I’d rather be comfortable than covered in something that’ll just get torn up anyway.” Derrick winked.

I certainly didn’t mind the show. There wasn’t a mark on him from his previous fights, so he must be pretty good at keeping them off him. I looked forward to seeing him fight.

We turned our attention back to my father. He went over the plan, where we’d park, the route we’d take, and where we’d all be stationed. When that was done, he went over the makeup of our enemy.

It looked like vampires, werewolves, humans, and one dhampyr. From what Derrick said, they were just living versions of vampires. The same things that could kill vampires could kill dhampyrs. Literally one thing made them special, and it was that they were totally immune to sunlight.

Everyone loaded into the cars and trucks with their weapons. It was a bit of a drive to the place where we would enter the forest. We didn’t want to alert them to our presence.

We sprayed down with our scent blocker once we were out of the cars and our trek began. I scurried to stay next to Derrick. We would split up to take our places for the attack and I wouldn’t see him until after the fight was over, if I didn’t see him during the fight.

I took my place and watched. Derrick would give the signal when the time was right to start shooting. The people with the guns and silver bullets would unload every clip they had into the party tent. That would take care of the humans and werewolves. It could damage the others pretty well.

After that, those of us with stakes and crossbows would be up. The vampires would most likely charge out of the tent toward us. We would start shooting, aiming for their hearts. The estimated time for this whole attack was under thirty minutes. Short and sweet.

Crouched in my spot, I waited for the signal. I had a stake in my hand, ready to load it up and kill some vampires. I was hoping for the Master of the territory or even Death himself. I'd marked my stakes at the end with some of my favorite nail polish. I'd know who I killed.

Suddenly, a howl sounded from in the forest. The lanterns in the tent went dark and I couldn't see anything by the sliver of moonlight available. It was a trap!

There was a grunt and a crack from nearby. I looked over and could make out the outline of a vampire on the nearest hunter. I loaded my crossbow and shot him in the heart. Then I got up and ran.

Fighting, screaming, and growling sounded around me. I held on to my weapon and tried to help where I could, but there were too many of them. I saw a hunter I recognized and was heading for him, when some huge monster barreled out of the woods and grabbed him, then pulled his head off like he was a doll.

I bit back a shriek and fled. This wasn't how this was supposed to go. I heard blades clashing to my left and went that way. It had to be my mom. She was the only one with a sword.

When I arrived where she was fighting, I saw her opponent. It was Sean. He looked green in the moonlight and had a sword. He fought her hard and, in the end, ran her through. I watched my mother's body go limp.

Before I had a chance to do anything, another hunter attacked him and wings popped out of his back. He flew up into the sky with her and dropped her on her neck. I needed to find Derrick. He could keep me safe until we could get out of here.

I searched all over. Everywhere I went, I saw people, my people, being killed. I stumbled to the edge of a small clearing.

In the clearing was my father. He was fighting with a tall, pale man. He must have been a vampire. I loaded my crossbow.

As I brought it up and tried to aim for an opening, the vampire reached into my father's chest and pulled out his heart. Tears tried to form in my eyes, but I blinked them away. I couldn't be weak.

"This is for my father you bloodsucking fuck." I growled and shot.

The stake flew toward him quickly, but didn't hit him. Faster than I could blink, he was a couple feet from where he'd been and Echo stood in his place. The stake stuck out of her chest. I smirked. His face fell. I was glad I hurt him as much as he hurt me.

I turned and fled into the forest. I needed to find Derrick and Alex and get the hell out of here. I heard my brother yelling something and ran toward his voice. A sad sounding howl rose up in the forest behind me.

Good. I hoped whatever wolf that was, he suffered. I leaned against a tree and caught my breath before continuing on.

Alex was near a stand of trees, yelling at Derrick. I was so relieved to find them.

"You used all my bullets! How the hell are we supposed to get out of here?" Alex shouted.

"That's the thing, buddy, you're not." Derrick chuckled with a malicious grin.

"You did this! You set us up!"

"Yep. And you were all too eager to walk into my trap. Now is time for you to die, buddy, then I'll find your idiot sister and end her too." He said and shifted to half wolf form before slicing my brother up with his claws.

No. My perfect boyfriend. The hunter I was going to marry and hunt with. He was a werewolf. I fucked a werewolf. Oh, god, he came inside me. I retched.

"Ah. The little woman. You know that scent blocker wears off if you're afraid enough. I can smell you my terrified little hunter." Derrick laughed. "Come to Big D and let me make you feel better."

"You used me. I can't believe I let you have sex with me." I cried.

"Yeah. I've had more skilled and more talented women, but there's something about a fresh and eager piece of meat dangling in front of my nose was just too much to resist." He chuckled as he sniffed around. "The best part was getting you to tell me where the hunter training camp was. I'll make sure none of them know it was you, baby. Just like I promised."

I loaded my last stake. I had a silver knife, if he got close. I pushed away from the tree and took aim.

"You better aim true, girl, because I'm coming for you after you get your shot off." Derrick grinned.

"I hate you." I whimpered and shot.

He dodged my shot and rushed at me. My hand was on my knife, but I didn't have time to pull it before he was on me. He pinned me to the ground and wrapped a clawed hand around my neck.

"You're a shit hunter, a shit human, and a pretty shit lay. This wasn't your fault, though. Your daddy wasn't very good at his job and all hunters are idiots in general." Derrick murmured. "Now this is done, I've got a little witch to seduce. See you in hell, hunter girl."

With that, he squeezed until I couldn't breathe. Then something popped and everything went black.

Hunting for Survivors

## Chapter 177 - The Vampire's Servant

[Gray]

I linked Harmony to come to me quickly and bring Marius. He'd called the pack hospital earlier and knew where it was. If we could get Echo in there, maybe we could stop her from dying.

Holding pressure on the wound, I howled a few more times, so Harmony could find us. Victor just sat by Echo and stroked her hair. She looked so peaceful, like she was sleeping.

"How did this even happen?" I asked gruffly. "You should have protected her!"

"She pulled me out of the way. I didn't realize there was a hunter behind me. It should have been me. I'm so sorry, princess." Victor whispered.

"She's going to forget us now, isn't she? That's what happens when vampires turn. They forget about their lives before."

"Yes and no. Yes, vampires forget, but she won't. Dhampyrs are different. They remember from the moment they wake up. It's because they were basically born vampires, rather than being turned into one from another species." Victor explained. "We should have made her stay home. A battlefield is no place for someone like Echo. She's never actually fought before."

"If she weren't here, you would be dead. At least we get her when she comes back as a vampire. It's not perfect, but it's more than we could hope for in this situation. If she were anything other than a dhampyr, she'd be dead." I told him.

A few moments later, Harmony and Marius broke through the trees. They were followed by Cam and Val. Where Marius looked the same as he had before the fight, everyone else looked more beaten up.

Harmony rushed over and sank to her knees. Val came and stood over us. They looked worried, but a little relieved.

“Why did you pull the stake out? You’re never supposed to do that!” Harmony scolded. “They taught us that in the first aid portion of health class.”

“They had to, Harmony. If Echo died with the stake in her heart, she wouldn’t have come back as a vampire. The ash stake would have stopped the magic from turning her.” Marius explained softly. “Don’t worry, she has an entire second life to live.”

“She has an entire first life to live. We need to get her to the pack hospital before she bleeds out more!” Val insisted.

“It went through her heart. They probably can’t save her. The surgery required would take too long.” Victor answered.

“It didn’t go through her heart! You guys have spent all this time with our sister and never realized she has Situs Inversus? She’s my mirror image twin, just with paler skin and darker hair! Her organs are on the other side! If we get her to the hospital, they can save her.” Harmony shouted.

That shook us out of our sorrow. Marius stepped forward and took over pressure on Echo’s chest. Harmony put her hand on him.

“I’m going with. I know the most about her medical condition... apparently.” She said coldly.

They disappeared and I felt the flame of hope ignite in my chest. They could save her from turning into a vampire. We could have our living Echo for even longer.

I reached across the space and hugged Victor. He hugged me back.

“I thought we were going to lose her right before we could show her the world. There are so many things she needs to be alive to experience.” He whispered.

“We wouldn’t have lost her, she would have just been a vampire.” I replied.

Victor pulled back and looked into my eyes. “No. Even for dhampyrs, it changes you. She would have lost her innocence. Death is still death. It still kills anything fragile inside of you. When the time comes to change Echo, she’ll be fully knowledgeable in the world. We won’t notice the change as much. It would have been so drastic, that we wouldn’t have been able to reconcile our Echo with the one we were left with.”

“Let’s get back to the fight. It’s dying down, but there are still a few hunters hiding in the woods.” Cam said.

“Where did the hunter who shot Echo go? I want to kill him myself.” I growled.

“It was a young woman. She went that way. I’ll join you. I want to tear her arms off before she dies.” Victor replied with a snarl.

We got up and ran in that direction. Val was right behind us. I didn’t see where Cam went.

Soon, I smelled human blood. Maybe it was the hunter. We turned and ended up near a stand of trees. On the ground was a man’s body with claw marks down the chest and across the throat.

As we walked on a little further, we found another body. She looked like she’d been tossed aside. I rolled her over. It was Melissa.

“That’s the girl who shot Echo.” Victor said.

“She’s dead. It looks like her throat was crushed and she was just tossed aside like so much trash.” I told him.

“Good. I hope it was a painful death.” He muttered and kicked the corpse.

“Leave her. The goblins will find them and take care of the bodies.” Val said.

And we did. She was nothing to us anymore. I’d make sure Sean and Rosario knew she was dead. They would be happy to hear that.

We trekked on. The sounds of fighting, the screams, the gunshots, the thrashing, had all died down. I saw troops of goblins carrying corpses. They would put our people in the clearing and pile the hunters in one place to take back to their homes.

When we reached the clearing where the tent was, most of the party was there. Werewolves and vampires were talking about the fight like old friends. I could see Rosario and Sean laughing with some trolls who were making hand motions that looked like something hitting the ground. Amelia and Finn were making out. She was wrapped around him tightly.

Maeve came to us. She had a smile on her face.

“The battle was successful. Only minor casualties on our side so far. Not everyone has made it out of the woods yet. We’re sending some werewolves and vampires back in to find allies in need of medical assistance.” She said.

“Good plan. We can take them to the vehicles and get them to the pack hospital. For tonight, the pack will take in all supernaturals who need our help.” Trent said, limping up to the group.

“Trent.” I said softly.

“Bastard got me in the leg with silver shot. I’ll be fine. I’m waiting until we find all of our people.”

“Amelia!” Victor shouted.

She and Finn pulled away from each other and looked over at us. Victor waved them over and they came. They seemed as curious as I was.

“You have an affinity for metal, right?” He asked.

“Yeah.” She replied.

“Could you see to the werewolves who have silver shot stuck in them? If the silver is removed, their wolves can heal them faster. See to Alpha Trent first.” Victor said.

“Sure thing!” Amelia grinned and had my brother sit on the ground.

She knelt beside him and held her hands over his injured leg. He started hissing and growling. Bits of metal emerged from his skin and flew up to her hand.

I linked one of the wolves near the tent and he grabbed a cloth tote bag for her to put the shrapnel in. We set up a place for her to pull silver. Rosario started up a spot next to her to remove wood splinters from vampires who hadn't suffered killing shots, but had been hit and some left behind.

Heading back to the woods, I was on the search for living allies and any hunters who thought they might get away. I didn't want any of our enemies to escape and come back with more hunters. I had about a dozen wolves with me, both pack and rogue.

If we found someone injured, but alive, one of the wolves would help them back to the treatment site and head back to us. We wanted to try and find any injured vampires before dawn. Victor linked me that we had nearly all of them.

The plan was that I would go back to the pack lands with my brother and Val. We would wait for updates on Echo. Trent wouldn't leave until all our people were accounted for, dead or alive.

There was some muffled screaming coming from my right. I signaled to the group that we were heading that way. We stalked through the woods carefully. Soon, we heard a voice coming from that direction too.

“Don't worry, baby. As soon as I get you to the cars, I'll take that gag outta your mouth. I just can't have you screaming right now.”

My men spread out and I could finally see who it was. A large black man was carrying a woman over his shoulder. I didn't recognize him, that didn't necessarily mean he wasn't one of ours. Did he have a hunter?

“Hold on right there.” I ordered.

He came to a stop as we filtered out of the forest. The man looked around and saw that he was pretty much surrounded. My men moved to close the gaps.

“Derrick? What the hell are you doing?” One of the rogues asked.

“Lyle. Nice to see you man. We never see each other anymore.” Derrick chuckled. “I was just heading out. We should get together sometime for a drink.”

“Who’s the girl, Derrick?” Lyle growled.

The girl over Derrick’s shoulder started screaming and bucking. I caught sight of a flash of orange hair. The sound of the voice was suddenly familiar.

“Emmalyn?” I gasped.

There was a squeal of confirmation from the girl. I growled at the man holding her. I could see that her legs were tied together. I was betting he had her arms tied too.

“Mine.” Derrick snarled.

That shocked me. Emmalyn’s mate was a werewolf? She didn’t seem to want to be with him. Maybe he didn’t understand that you need to court non-wolf mates.

“You’re a rogue-born, Derrick. You don’t have a fated mate. Let the girl go.” Lyle stated firmly.

“You don’t understand. My wolf chose her. She’s my mate. She just needs time to get to know me and fall in love with me.” Derrick insisted.

“This isn’t the way to do that.” I told him. “Things like this only push your intended mate further from you. Do you even know what you’re taking her from? Her little sister is back in the triage area, worried because she never came back from the fight.”

I was pretty sure Amelia was worried, once she realized Emmalyn hadn’t come back. I would be worried if Trent hadn’t. It was the nature of siblings, you worry.

“I need her. I need to make her love me.” He mumbled.

“She won’t love you if you take her away from her little sister right now. She has a lot of family who is worrying because she’s not with them. One of her cousins is in the hospital on the pack lands right now. There’s no way Emmalyn won’t worry about them.” I said.

“Derrick.” Bellamy said from behind me. “Lyle linked me. Put the witch down. You can’t just steal the woman you want. You have to court her properly. This isn’t the way to get her to want to be your mate.”



“Queen Bellamy. Don’t make me give her up. I never felt like this before. I love her.” Derrick pled.

“I understand. That’s why I’m not making it a command yet. Don’t get me wrong, I will make this a command if you take even one step away with her. You’re just making yourself the bad guy here. All she knows about you is that you’re some big guy who decided to take what you wanted without considering her feelings. That’s not going to make her love you. Let. Her. Go.” Bellamy ordered.

Derrick looked around and sighed. He picked Emmalyn up off his shoulder and set her down in front of him. Then he untied the ropes around her wrists and ankles.

Emmalyn reached up and untied the gag in her mouth. Derrick stood and looked down at her. I kind of felt for him.

“I will never love you. I will never be your mate and I never want to see you again, Derrick.” She growled, then kicked him between the legs and ran to hide behind Bellamy.

He dropped to the ground, holding himself. I winced. That did not look like fun. Two of the rogues headed toward him and helped him up.

“She’s rejected you, Derrick. You need to move on. I want you out with the searchers looking for injured allies. You are to be in my office at Lune Rouge no later than Tuesday morning. That gives you a couple days to wrap up anything you need to here. You will not contact Ms. Grove while you are here.” Bellamy commanded.

Derrick whimpered a little. It made me feel even worse. He really thought he was in love with Emmalyn. A rejection has to be as painful for him as it would be for a pack wolf.

Bellamy led Emmalyn back toward the gathering area, and we pressed on into the forest. We found a couple living hunters that we made quick work of. Derrick was quiet.

I ended up walking with him as we led the search team. He seemed imposing, but a little broken. I wanted to help.

“You need to give her space. You overwhelmed her.” I said quietly.

“I never loved anyone like this before. I just wanted her to give me a chance.”

“You took it too far. Kidnapping is never the answer. Just try to stay away for the most part. Send her gifts. Visit without touching or going on about being mates. Get to know her and let her get to know you. You have to take things slow with humans.” I told him.

“Do you think she’ll want me? Do you really think I can change her mind?” He asked.

“I think you have a better chance doing it this way than whatever crazy idea pops into your head.” I chuckled.

He seemed to be thinking it over. I was certain, if his brain had decided kidnapping was a valid choice, that he would think of something even crazier next time.

“I’ll do it. Thanks, man. You’re a good guy, for a pack wolf.” Derrick grinned.

I hope Emmalyn doesn’t hate me for this. I just couldn’t let another wolf suffer like that.

Healing Echo

## Chapter 178 - The Vampire's Servant

It was near dawn when we’d finally dealt with all the bodies and the survivors. Vampires were taken to Dennis’ club to recover for the day, unless they could get themselves home to their servants. Werewolves, fae, and witches were taken care of by their people.

In the end, we had the bodies of about forty-four hunters. That was right about what our figures said. Some we really had to guess at because there were pieces instead of a whole body.

Our casualties were pretty light. Three vampires, five werewolves, two witches, one troll, and about four goblins died in the fight. We were such an overwhelming force, that some of the hunters died before they even realized they were being attacked.

I walked over to Victor as he was sending off the last of the vampires. Marius had returned and given us an update on Echo when she was out of surgery. If not for the fact that we were in charge of the whole thing, I would have been right there waiting for her.

Victor and I were considered the leaders of this attack, even though I had less to do with the planning than my brother. I wasn’t going to abandon everyone. I even found an injured witch after I’d sent my whole party back with other injured people. He might not have been saved if not for me. It was a huge area to cover.

“Did your final count of vampires come out even?” I asked him.

“Yes. We have everyone. Marius is taking me home. Finn already left. Talia will head home after a cursory daylight search for the last few people who are missing.” Victor answered.

“Marius said Echo’s alive and in recovery at the hospital.” I told him.

“Thank the Goddess.” He sighed.

I laughed. "I've never heard you mention the Goddess before."

"Honestly, I failed to recognize any deity after losing my family and being turned into a vampire. The Goddess gave me a new family. I have a new found appreciation for her." Victor smiled slightly.

"Had you ever heard of Situs Inversus before?" I asked.

"Never. Thank goodness she had it, though. That must have been why she wasn't as scared. I thought she was just confident in starting her second life and knew we'd be there for her." He replied.

I nodded. "I was scared enough for all three of us. I didn't want to lose her. Even if it was to being a vampire. I was going to have you turn me if she turned."

"You want to be a vampire instead of a servant?" Victor asked.

"I don't know. I just hated the idea of you both being dead all day and only having a few hours with her every night that I'd have to share with you." I answered.

"You'd still have to share her if you were a vampire." He chuckled.

"I never said I was thinking clearly."

I patted him on the back and we headed toward the cars. I'd brought my truck with us, because of all the things we needed to pack up, and was instantly grateful. I could head straight to the pack lands.

"Drive safely and take care of our Echo. I'll come as soon as it's dark enough for me to leave the house." Victor told me.

"Like she won't decide she doesn't need the hospital and come home on her own." I laughed.

"You better work hard to convince her she does need it. Make sure she knows I'm coming to see her there. I expect her to be there when I arrive." He said.

"I'll make sure. This is the end of this, right? No more bad guys lurking, no more curses, no more things that want to kill us." I asked.

"As far as I'm aware, this is it. The only task we have left to deal with, is your marriage to Echo." Victor smiled.

"I had an idea about that, come talk with me in my truck, I don't want anyone else to hear." I said and led him to my truck.

In the end, he liked my idea. We would keep it a secret from Echo, so she could be surprised. I drove off, after watching Marius disappear with Victor, and headed for the pack hospital.

Once at the hospital, I found a parking spot and went in. I saw the admitting nurse and she sent me up to Echo's room. I was nervous about going in.

What if she was awake and upset? No... I would have felt that. All I'd felt since we sent her off was Victor's emotions and a brief confusion from Echo. Probably from when she first woke up. It felt like she was sleeping now.

I went into the room. Echo was in the bed, asleep. Harmony sat next to the bed, holding Echo's hand. She looked up at me as I entered.

Giving her a slight smile, I pulled another chair up on the other side of Echo and held her other hand. I kissed her little fingers and rubbed the back of her hand against my cheek. I'd missed her while she'd been away.

I must have fallen asleep, because, the next thing I knew, someone was gently nudging me aside. I opened my eyes and saw a nurse adjusting the blood pressure cuff on Echo's arm. Harmony was gone and Val had taken her place.

"Sorry, I just need to fix this. The doctor will be in shortly to give you an update." The nurse said.

"Thank you." I mumbled.

She squeezed my shoulder and left the room. Val looked about as tired as I felt. I was betting he hadn't slept yet.

"Where's Harmony?" I asked.

"I sent her to get a room in the pack house and sleep. She'll be back in a couple hours."

"Then you'll sleep?" I asked.

"No. Not until Echo's awake. I napped a little while you were out with the search party. I should be fine." He replied.

I nodded and straightened up. I checked the clock on the wall. It was about eleven in the morning. That was around five hours of sleep for me.

The door to the room opened and Dr. Foster came in. I knew him from my rough and tumble pup days. I was pretty much a regular in the pack hospital.

"Grayson, good to see you as a visitor and not a patient." He chuckled.

“Dr. Foster. This is Valor Gale. He’s Echo’s brother. I’m her mate.” I told him.

“Congratulations are in order on finding your mate. She’s a tough little thing. If twins weren’t a common occurrence in wolves, I wouldn’t have had much experience with Situs Inversus. Did either of you have any questions?” Dr. Foster asked.

“Is this something that will affect her health in any other way?” I asked.

“No. She can live a normal and healthy life with this condition. It’s pretty rare, but she doesn’t have any of the comorbidities that can come with it. Everything should be completely normal.” He answered. “As we do with any young women who need surgery, we did a pregnancy test for Echo. It came up negative so this injury and the surgery we did didn’t affect any growing pups.”

I was a little relieved. I knew there wasn’t a chance that she’d be pregnant, because Talia said she wouldn’t be able to have babies until she was closer to nineteen, but it was good to know there hadn’t been a fluke. Val cringed a little.

“Once Echo’s awake, we’ll check her wound again. Once we got the slivers out of her chest, though, she started healing just like a vampire or werewolf should. I expect that she’ll be ready to head home tonight. No strenuous activity for at least three days, and that does include mating.” Dr. Foster continued.

“That shouldn’t be a problem.” Val replied. “My sister’s mates are good men and they wouldn’t do anything like that until they knew she was healthy again.”

A small smile crept across my face. Normally, Val would have threatened something if he thought we might do something with Echo. Now he was acting pretty chill about it.

There was hope that he’d calm down even more in the coming days or weeks. I really hoped so. Echo was getting tired of scolding him for threatening us.

“Mates? Dear Goddess. I’ve never heard of such a thing. I’m sorry you have to share your mate with someone else, Grayson.” Dr. Foster said.

“I’m good friends with her other mate. It’s not as bad as it might seem. We both love and care for her in our own way and we are companions, not competitors, for her love.” I smiled.

He nodded. “It sounds like you have it all well in hand. I’ll head out to my next patient. Thank you both for your hard work last night. I know a lot of lives were saved thanks to you and your efforts.”

“We were just doing what needed to be done. I’m glad our casualty list was small. The biggest positive of this action, was Derrick, one of our men, getting the location of the hunter training camp. Queen Bellamy is talking with the Association about an attack on the training camp. It will strike a serious blow to the hunters. With luck, we could get the location of other hunter families in the states and start ensuring the safety of all supernaturals.” I told him.

“That’s wonderful news. That will mean fewer hunter attacks. We may actually see growth in the population of werewolves.” Dr. Foster grinned.

With a small wave, he left the room. I was proud of what we’d done. We managed an attack unlike any the world had ever seen and, now, we were gearing up to take down a bigger threat.

Val and I spent the next few hours talking about everything. Our plans. The wedding. The honeymoon trip. When he would do his soulmate search. Anything that popped into our heads, we talked about. I knew our relationship was doing much better. I even convinced him to nap on the couch later.

When Harmony arrived, Val went to the couch near the wall and laid down. One of the nurses who was checking on Echo saw him and brought in a pillow and blanket for him. She flirted a little with him before leaving.

He drifted off to sleep. Light snores filled the room as I talked with Harmony more. She filled me in on other things I might not know about Echo. Things Echo never thought were important enough to mention.

It was about five o’clock in the evening when Echo started stirring. I squeezed her hand and she squeezed back. I kissed it and rubbed my face against it.

Echo chuckled breathily. “You need to shave. You’re all prickly.”

“It’s your punishment for scaring me like that.” I whispered. “Don’t you ever do anything like that again.”

“Were you scared, my sweet wolf? I didn’t mean to frighten you. I had such a hard time breathing.” She murmured.

“Victor and I have been so worried about you. We promised to always protect you and we weren’t there when you needed us most.” I replied with a stifled sob. “You can’t throw yourself in front of danger like that.”

“I had to save Victor. I would have done the same if it were you.” Echo said softly.

“Echo. Don’t ever do that again. Val and I would be lost without you.” Harmony whimpered, drawing Echo’s attention away from me.

“I love you, Harmony.” She mumbled and started to drift off again.

“I love you, too, Echo.” Harmony sniffled.

“She’s sleeping again.” I said.

“I want her to be awake. I want her to be sitting up and fine. I want her ready to go home.” She cried softly.

“She will be. We just have to wait. She’s healing a lot of damage.” I told her.

There were a few more wake ups, they each ended in Echo drifting off again shortly after. I talked to Dr. Foster before he handed us off to Dr. Johnson. He had no clue why Echo wasn’t awake yet. Everything seemed healed.

Victor walked in a little after eight. He greeted Dr. Johnson and was filled in on the situation. Victor sighed.

“It sounds like she’s reacting like a vampire who’s suffered blood loss. She needs the energy that comes from drinking blood.” Victor explained.

He crossed to the bed and bit his wrist while opening Echo’s mouth. Victor put his bleeding wrist up to her lips and let the blood flow in. After a few moments, Echo’s hands gripped his arms and she pressed her mouth to his wrist.

She moaned lightly as she drank. Victor tried to pull away, but she held him tight. I grew our one of my claws and drew a small cut in my own wrist before waving it near her nose.

Echo released Victor and grabbed at my wrist, bringing it to her lips and sucking. She whimpered a little and her tongue teased the cut making me hiss. The sound seemed to actually reach her and her eyes opened.

With a gentle lick over the cut, Echo sealed the wound and released me. She sat up in the bed and looked around.

“Where am I?” She asked.

“In the pack hospital, angel. Don’t you remember?”

“I remember being shot by Melissa and telling you I love you before I fell asleep. I couldn’t breathe. It hurt.” She sniffled. “I couldn’t tell you that it didn’t hit my heart.”

“Harmony told us. You should have, though. You should have told us much earlier.” Victor scolded. “I thought you were going to move to your second life. Neither of us was ready for that.”

“I didn’t know when I should have told you. I thought you would have figured it out at some point. You never put your head on my chest like I do on yours, though. I’m sorry. Please don’t be mad.” Echo pled.

“We’re not mad, angel.” I promised. “We were just scared. None of us were ready to give up our living, breathing, Echo.”

Harmony and Val were standing at the end of the bed. They hugged each other and reached down to pat Echo's legs. She smiled at them.

"Did everyone make it out alive?" She asked.

"We lost a few people, but no one you knew. Melissa's dead, so you don't have to worry about her again." I told her.

Echo looked relieved. I knew she would worry about Melissa being alive to try again. I still didn't know who killed her, but I prayed to the Goddess that they would have good things happen for making sure that bitch was gone.

"Now that Echo is up and alert, you can take her home. I'm sure Dr. Foster told you, but I'll repeat it, three days of rest and no strenuous activities, including sex, during that time." Dr. Johnson said.

"Thank you, doctor. We'll heed your advice." Victor replied.

The nurse came in to unhook Echo and we helped her dress in scrubs they provided. Her dress and bra were ruined by the stake. Victor lifted her and carried her to my truck.

Val and Harmony said they'd follow us to the house in Val's car. Victor put Echo in the cab of my truck and slid in next to her. He buckled her seatbelt before his own and took her hand in his.

"Let's go home, princess. Our enemies are gone and our friends are waiting to see you." He smiled.

"Soon we can send everyone away and have our life together. Just the three of us." Echo sighed.

"I can't wait." I grinned and pulled out of the parking spot. "This is when our lives really get fun. Now we don't have to be afraid anymore, angel, I can't wait to marry you and take you on an adventure."

We drove back to the house. In a few weeks, we would be married, I knew Echo was excited for the trip more than the wedding, but she'd love the ceremony. I knew it.

Wedding Day

## Chapter 179 - The Vampire's Servant

[Echo]



-Three weeks later-

I was in the Alpha's quarters, getting ready for my wedding. Harmony and Luna Lily helped me into my dress. It came off the shoulders and had a corseted waist that led into a voluminous skirt with a three-foot train.

The material was satiny and seemed to glow. I looked in the mirror and thought I really did look like a princess. They even had a tiara my veil clipped into.

Opal had come to do my hair and makeup. Bellamy brought me a necklace with a sapphire heart. She said it was something blue and borrowed. Another tradition.

In the last week, I'd become acquainted with a few of them. Including a bachelorette party and sleeping alone last night.

I was a little terrified when Harmony, Sean, Lila, and Elle took me to a place where men danced in nothing but tiny underwear. At least a couple of the dancers were vampires and they refused to dance for me because they recognized who I was. They didn't want to get in trouble with Victor.

The club was owned by a rogue wolf. She let us in, even though we were underage, as long as we didn't order any alcohol. Bellamy had called in that favor and apologized for not being able to make it out until the wedding. She was dealing with a problem with one of her rogues.

Once I relaxed more, I enjoyed myself. Everyone seemed to be having fun. I really enjoyed being out with my friends and my family.

I smiled at the memory. It was especially funny when Cam busted in while Harmony was getting a lap dance from another werewolf. He almost started a fight, and Harmony started scolding him in front of the whole club. A few of the women who were watching the dancers told him to shake his ass or get out.

He looked appalled. Harmony growled at them and ushered him out the door. After that, we went to a restaurant for dinner and had fun teasing Harmony for her jealous mate.

"You look beautiful, Echo." Lily said, breaking me out of my reverie.

"Thank you." I replied.

She had been my constant companion today. While Harmony, Sean, and Elle were getting ready, Lily had been there for me to keep me company. I got to understand more about what it meant to be a Luna. She was the epitome of it. Caring, compassionate, kind, and a supporter to her entire pack.

I wanted to be that as Mistress of the territory. It was hard, because vampires didn't depend on each other as much as werewolves did. Silence, Talon, and Dennis were open to talking to me about things, though. I appreciated that.

Everyone came back into the room. Harmony was going to be my maid of honor. I had to include Sean, because he was one of my best friends, and Elle because she was teaching me magic and was one of my oldest friends.

Sean's suit had been altered by some fae tailor so his wings could be out. I wanted him, Rosario, and Maeve to be in their natural forms for the evening. We were all supernaturals. There was no reason for them to hide behind glamour.

We even invited Mrs. Layton, the head of the local coven. She accepted even though Lila would be there. Mostly because Lila was moving out of the territory and in with Marius. She would only come back for visits. It made most of the witches in the area happy.

"We're about ready. Come on, Echo." Sean smiled.

I slipped on my high heels and picked up the front of my dress. We made our way down to the gardens in the back of the house. The sun had fully set and our guests were all seated.

Everyone arranged themselves to walk down the aisle. I stood at the back of the procession. Marius came and hugged me briefly before taking my arm and wrapping it around his.

Val had wanted to walk me down the aisle, but Gray had asked him to be a groomsman. He would walk with Elle. Rosario was with Sean and Cam was with Harmony.

I was a little sad that Gray hadn't asked Victor to be his best man, but he told me he didn't feel like that was really the place for Victor. I tried to understand. They were friends. They insisted they were friends. Why wouldn't he want Victor in the wedding?

"You look like an angel, Echo." Marius told me.

"Do you think so, Papa? I thought I looked like a princess." I smiled.

"I think maybe you look like both. That must be why your mates call you angel and princess. You are both combined in one perfect package." He smiled back.

My heart was so full of happiness. I got to wear a pretty dress and make Gray happy. If this was what he needed to make him feel like we were really connected, I would give him that.

It was finally time for me to walk down the aisle. I held my bouquet close and hung on to Marius' arm. He marched me proudly toward Gray. I smiled as Gray grinned at me.

When we reached the end of the aisle, Marius turned me toward him and kissed my cheek. I kissed him back. It felt right.

Trent was standing behind a podium thing. He nodded toward Gray and turned to Marius.

"Do you give this woman to this man today?" Trent asked.

“No.” Marius said coolly.

I was shocked. This wasn’t how the rehearsal went. He was supposed to say yes, then hand me off.

Everyone else seemed pretty shocked as well. There was a murmur that went through the crowd. I looked to Gray to make sure he was controlling his temper.

He stepped aside and Victor came out from behind Trent. I didn’t know what they were doing, but the mischievous look on their faces made me giggle. Marius hugged me one more time and pulled me away before looking down at me.

“You marked them at the same time. You loved them the same way. They occupy the same space in your heart. I will not give you to one without the other.” He told me. “I only give my daughter to Grayson and Victor.”

“Thank you, Papa.” I said softly.

“Anything for you, sweet Echo.” He replied and kissed me on my cheek once more before letting me go to Victor and Gray.

I handed my bouquet to Harmony and took Gray and Victor’s hands in mine. They were both wearing tuxedos with matching ties, pocket squares, and vests. Both were handsome in their own way and I loved them so much.

“Ladies and gentlemen. This is the first ever marriage and binding ceremony. No objections will be heard, as these three are already bound by supernatural law.” Trent announced. “We gather here tonight, in the sight of the Goddess, to bind these three together. Two in the eyes of human law, and all three in the eyes of their friends, relatives, allies, and supporters.”

We all smiled at each other. I saw Gray slip his free hand into Victor’s. Power surged through us. It made my heart leap.

“Occasions like this don’t come often. The Goddess grants us our mates and the love we wait our whole lives for is finally realized. Echo has had the good fortune to be blessed twice by the Goddess and, in that blessing, Grayson has found another brother, someone to share his heart and his home with. Victor has found an ally who will stand by his side no matter the circumstances and will challenge him when he needs to be challenged.

As they grow in their relationship, the Goddess will guide them to a path with love and prosperity. She watches out for her children and shows them the paths to their true happiness. Each party has created their own vows. Grayson, will you begin?” Trent asked.

Gray nodded to him and smiled at me, squeezing my hand. I didn’t know why I was so nervous, probably because I didn’t have anything prepared to say to Victor. I would have to make something up when it was time.

“Echo, when I first met you I was irrational, impulsive, and selfish. I thought that I deserved your love just because you were my mate. I didn’t think about what you really wanted. Or really needed. Victor taught me how to be the man you needed and how to earn your love and trust. You are my heart and everything I ever dreamed of.

Victor, if not for you, I’m sure Echo would have rejected me as soon as she figured out how to do it. I didn’t understand why you taught me. I couldn’t fathom what would make a man create a stronger rival. But you weren’t creating a stronger rival for Echo’s love, you were creating a stronger man to share Echo’s love.” Gray said. “Thank you for being the partner I needed to grow. Echo, I promise to keep growing and to always cherish you.”

“Victor.” Trent said.

“Echo, I felt a connection to you from the moment I saw you. I thought it was just because you were a dhampyr and all vampires are comforted by the presence of other vampires. You were the first dear friend I’d had in ages. When I realized I loved you, I fought against it. I struggled to reconcile the feelings. I almost gave you up and lost the best thing that had ever happened to me. I promise to always be there for you, to be your guiding light in the storm, to be a safe place when the world is too harsh.

Grayson... Gray, you annoyed me immensely when I first met you. Now, I’m proud to call you my friend and partner. Over the past months, I’ve watched you grow into a confident, caring, young man. I look forward to seeing who you continue to grow into. I vow to be here for you, a sounding board, a hand to hold onto, and a support you can always count on.” Victor promised.

“Now, Echo.” Trent smiled.

My heart leapt into my throat. They were so sweet making vows to each other as well as me. I didn’t quite know how to put what I felt into words.

“I never had much growing up. I was kept away from the world and made to believe that I didn’t deserve love or any sort of happiness. Then, you saved me, Victor. You showed me there were good people, good vampires, in the world. You gave me a family who loved me and you never pushed me to be more than I could handle. You were my first love, my first willing kiss, and my first real friend. I promise to be there for you when you need some softening, to be your warmth when you grow too cold, and to be your friend as well as your Solus Amor.

Gray, I learned so much from you. You showed me how to have fun and enjoy life. You taught me that people can change if they want it hard enough and work at it. I never knew what the world could hold outside of the sheltered life I lived, until I had you. I grew to love you and even regretted not giving you a chance earlier. So much had changed for me that I grew frightened of what changes could come next. I promise to support you, to learn with you, to keep your heart safe because your heart is the very best part of you.

I love both of you so much, I can barely contain it. My love for you is so huge it makes me feel like I could burst. I feel safer with you both than I’ve ever felt in my whole life. I never believed

in the Goddess before, but I'm grateful to her now for giving me the two best men in the whole world, who love me and care for me in the ways I didn't even realize I needed." I said.

Gray and Victor smiled at me. I smiled back. They were wonderful and they were really mine. It felt like some dream and I often feared I would wake up back in the basement, cold and alone. As it stood, I would live every day like it could all be taken from me. I would enjoy my life with them and experience everything I could.

"The Goddess has blessed this triad. This blending of souls and hearts. She has granted them a special mark and a power unlike any other. From now until the end of time, they are bound. All here are witnesses to their vows and their love for each other. Let none forget what we witnessed here today. In the name of the Goddess, I pronounce you husbands and wife. You may seal your bond with a kiss." Trent stated.

Gray and Victor leaned forward. I kissed each gently on the lips. I didn't want to do anything bigger in front of an audience.

They moved to either side of me and released each other's hands. I was walked up the aisle by both of my husbands. I'd already considered them that long before a wedding was even talked about. Now we'd had the ceremony both had been so eager for.

We moved the party inside to the large dining room. They had a buffet laid out with foods for the vampires as well as foods for the other guests. Gray and Victor seated me and went to get me some food. They were so eager that I laughed.

"Congratulations, daughter. I'm very happy for you." Marius said as he came up to the table I was seated at.

Lila was on his arm and seemed to be very lovey and cuddly. Bellamy had said that some people get aroused by weddings. I didn't know why.

"Thank you, Papa. Did I do the vows right? I forgot what I wanted to say after I found out Victor would be there too." I blushed.

He chuckled. "You did perfectly. Those were very heart felt vows. I think everyone could feel how much you love both Grayson and Victor. We'd best get to our seats. There are more traditions to observe."

I sighed. "This thing is much bigger than I was led to believe."

Marius laughed as he led Lila away. Gray and Victor returned with food for all of us. I smiled at them.

After dinner, Harmony stood and gave a brief speech. She talked about how she had been rooting for Gray early in our relationship because she was so happy with Cam. She said she didn't realize how much I needed both Victor and Gray until she moved in with us and started to see

our dynamic. At that point, Harmony realized I needed both of them to be truly happy and cared for.

Val stood after she sat down. He smiled at me softly, then looked around the room. I was a little worried about what he'd have to say. I only hoped it would be as nice as what Harmony said.

“Many of you know I didn't approve of my little sister having one mate, let alone two. I didn't understand it. Echo has always had a lot of love in her, but I didn't realize how much she needed. A while ago, my sister was in the hospital. She'd been staked by a hunter. Until that point, I was still under the belief that Gray and Victor were just using her.

When I saw them in the forest, holding her body, practically in tears because they hadn't protected her, I realized it wasn't just what she did for them physically. They truly treasured my sister and were worried for the loss of who she was far more than just her body.

I watched Gray sit by her bedside, holding her hand and soothing her whenever he thought she was distressed. I saw Victor come in and command the room, figuring out just how to care for my sister to get her back. Together, they are more fitting as a mate to my sister than they are apart. They cover everything she needs. Tender care, mature knowledge, and loving gentleness.

I'm sorry for all the times I yelled at you two. I look forward to watching you care for Echo in the future. You all have a long, loving, life together. May the Goddess watch over you and your family.” Val said, raising a glass.

There were tears in my eyes. I was so happy that he'd come around. Gray and Victor each kissed my cheek gently and I blushed at the cheer that went up in the room.

After a few more speeches, we had cake and danced. I had so much fun. The entire Vampire High Council had come out and they were so kind to me. Lucien danced with me and told me he knew I would be an amazing Mistress of the territory. Even Dillon and Jean-Claude made it out.

At the end of the night, I was so tired. It felt like I'd been dancing for hours. Whenever a song finished someone would take me from my partner and start moving around the floor with me.

When Gray and Victor told me it was finally time to go home, I was so relieved. Gray and I would be leaving for our honeymoon in a couple of days. I felt like I would need that time to recover from this night.

They bundled me into the limo and we headed home. I rested my head in Victor's lap and my feet in Gray's. He rubbed my feet as we drove. I was so thrilled to finally be going home with my husbands.

Wedding Night

## Chapter 180 - The Vampire's Servant

I didn't know when I'd drifted, but Victor was gently shaking me when we got home. I opened my eyes sleepily and accepted his help in getting out of the car. Gray made sure my skirt didn't get trapped in the door.

They led me up to our room. Marius had his builders come in as a wedding gift and expand the room into the guest room beside it. We had a huge closet with plenty of room for all three of our things. The bathroom had been expanded and the tub and shower made even larger. The counter was elongated and a third sink added to it.

I was thrilled that Victor and Marius had planned it out. There were even comfortable chairs in the closet and an island of drawers in the center. It was perfect for the three of us.

When we got to our room, Gray and Victor helped undress me. It was one of their favorite things to do. I always felt like a life size doll. They were so cute.

“Wendell drew a bath for you. Are you ready to get all cleaned up, princess?” Victor asked.

I nodded. Victor sat me in a chair to start pulling out the pins in my hair. Gray came in with some makeup removing pads and started cleaning my face. They always pampered me so much when I had to go through things like this. They'd done the same after the celebration party for those who had fought in the battle against the hunters.

It had been quite an event. We had it at Dennis' club. It was two weeks after the fight, when everyone was healed up. There was a memorial for those lost in battle. Emmalyn spent most of the night dodging a big werewolf who kept trying to talk to her, until Bellamy caught him and dragged him off to the back. When they returned, he just watched her from across the room.

Victor picked me up once my hair was done and my makeup was off. I held on to him. Gray walked ahead of us and stripped off before stepping into the tub. Victor handed me off to him and he helped me get settled in the tub, between his legs. Victor joined us shortly after.

They washed me diligently, occasionally kissing and nibbling in places. Baths were always a precursor to love making for us. The hot water, naked bodies, slippery soap. All of it made us crave each other intensely.

I turned in the water and grasped Gray's erection. He groaned as I stroked him firmly. I knew Victor was sitting back and watching.

“Play with his balls, princess. You know how much Grayson loves that.” Victor purred.



Following his direction made Gray arch a little and spread his legs more. The water rippled around us as I stroked him further and kneaded his balls in my other hand. Gray started groaning.

Victor came up behind me and stilled my hands. I looked at him and he kissed me gently. His hands slid up to my shoulders and down my body. He grasped my hips and ground himself against my backside.

“Look at how he needs you, princess. The heat in his eyes. The love and desire. You don’t want to tease your sweet wolf, do you?” Victor whispered in my ear.

“No, Victor.” I replied.

“That’s my good girl. Grayson is your husband in the eyes of human law, now. It’s only right that he make love to you first.” He said.

I nodded as Victor’s hands gripped my waist and he picked me up, settling me on Gray’s stiff member. I sighed as I felt Gray slowly fill me. Wrapping my arms around his neck, I kissed Gray passionately as I slid up and down his shaft.

Water sloshed around us as we moved together. Him thrusting into me as I moved up and down. The feeling of him inside of me was more intense than normal. Was that the result of being married? I didn’t know, but I knew the feeling building up in me so well.

Gray could feel me cresting an orgasm and started rubbing my clit to get me there. He said that he loved the feeling of it when I came intensely on him. So he did everything he could to make every climax the best possible climax.

I threw my head back and cried out as my body squeezed his and he pushed through my muscles.

“Oh, fuck, yes, Echo. Cum for me just like that, angel.” He groaned as he sat up and pressed my body into Victor’s.

Victor’s hands slid behind my knees and he held my legs apart while Gray gripped the edge of the tub behind Victor’s shoulders and thrusting into me firmly. I yipped a little at each impact. Victor grunted like Gray did.

“Goddess, you feel amazing my little wife. I love you so much.” Gray murmured, slowing himself and kissing me deeply.

I could feel Victor growing firm behind me as Gray made love to me tenderly on top of him. Victor always loved watching us together. He loved giving instructions and urging us on. It appeared he also loved feeling us together on top of him.

One of Gray’s hands moved from the edge of the tub into the water. I felt his hand caress my bottom before he pressed a finger into me there. I moaned at the feeling.



“Of all the ways I’ve had you since your brother finally left, there’s one I haven’t gotten to try.” He whispered with a smile.

My body clenched a little at the tone and the realization of what he meant. Only Victor had entered me there. It wasn’t that Gray wasn’t allowed, he just never showed an interest in it.

He squeezed a second finger into me and started stretching me so I’d fit him. I panted and moaned. Gray had stopped thrusting while he focused. Victor’s hands slid from behind my knees to under my thighs.

“Just one moment, Grayson.” He said, pulling me off of Gray and turning me to face him.

Victor reached up on the edge of the tub and pulled a bottle of lube from behind a shampoo bottle. He poured some in Gray’s hand and poured more in the crack of my bottom.

“We need to make sure our princess is properly ready. We don’t want to hurt her. I want to see her face. I never get to see what Echo looks like as I slide into her sweet little bottom.” Victor murmured.

Gray rubbed himself back and forth in my crack before pressing into me. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. He was about the same size as Victor, so I was more used to it once he got in. Gray groaned as he slid into me.

“Angel. I can’t even tell you how beautiful your ass looks speared by my cock. You feel even more amazing.” Gray moaned sliding slowly in and out of me.

After a while, I felt his hand under me, but he wasn’t reaching for me. He gripped Victor’s length and started pulling it out from under me. Victor looked shocked.

“What are you doing, Grayson?” He asked breathlessly.

“Sharing.” Gray chuckled and pulled me back, sliding Victor into me.

We all sighed as power flowed through us and I felt entirely full of both my loves. They started moving in me. I gripped Victor’s shoulders as my body tensed. They groaned at the feeling of the small orgasm.

Gray’s mouth came down on my shoulder. He nipped and nibbled as he stroked into me. His movements made me move up and down Victor’s shaft.

I felt my body climbing to even higher peaks. This was how I loved having them the most. I was completely surrounded by the men who adored me and owned every inch of my body and soul.

As my whole body tensed and I arched backward, I could feel Gray release into me. While my body relaxed, Victor wrapped his arms around me and pulled me to him. His fangs slid into my neck as I felt him burst inside me. It threw me into another intense orgasm.

When I finally came down from my high, they both slid out of me. I rested on Victor's chest for a while before he handed me back to Gray, who cuddled me close to him.

"The water's getting cold." Gray murmured.

"I didn't notice." I giggled.

Victor got a wash cloth and cleaned me up before he started the tub draining. He got out and wrapped a towel around his waist before helping me off Gray and getting a towel for me. He worked on drying me off while Gray got out of the tub and dried himself. When Gray took over for Victor, so Victor could dry off, I smiled.

Gray picked me up and carried me to our bed. Victor pulled back the blankets and Gray put me in. They both climbed in on their sides of the bed.

"Are you tired, princess?" Victor asked.

"No, Victor." I replied. "I'm more awake than I've ever been."

His hand found my breast and he teased at the tip with his long cool fingers. I moaned softly and caressed his face gently. Gray moved in close and I could feel the heat of his skin as his hand traveled up my stomach, over my ribs, and encircled my other breast.

"Are you sure, angel?" Gray asked.

"I'm absolutely certain, Gray." I answered.

He chuckled and slid beneath the blankets. I felt his lips and tongue on my breast, teasing my nipple for a little while before heading down further. I groaned lightly as he spread my legs and settled between them.

Gray's tongue tenderly explored me. I was still a little sore from how hard Gray made love to me earlier. The soft, silky, gentle feeling filled me with heat. My breathy moans echoed off the walls of the room.

Victor watched me with a loving look. He was enjoying my pleasure. He always did.

"Isn't Grayson the most tender of lovers, Echo? See how sweetly he eats you. Feel the gentle way he apologizes for treating you so roughly. Doesn't that feel good, princess?" Victor murmured.

"So good, Victor. I love Gray's tongue. He makes me feel so lovely." I whimpered.

I reached down and stroked Gray's hair as he delved deeper into me. Victor moved his hand to my other breast. He licked the tip of the nearest one, teasing it with his tongue before pulling back again.

“Do you love my tongue as well, princess?” He asked.

“Yes. I love both of you, every part, every piece, every inch of you.” I moaned as my legs started shaking while Gray suckled at my clit and rubbed inside of me with his fingers.

As a wave of pleasure washed over me, I arched and cried out. I didn’t know how much more of their touches and words I could handle. The way they worshiped my body was intense.

Gray crawled up beside me. His finger played gently over my lower lips, stroking back and forth. I gazed at him with love.

Victor leaned into him. “That smells divine.” He murmured.

“Smells as good as it tastes.” Gray responded in a sultry tone.

They drew closer to each other, until their lips nearly touched. My heart leapt. Were they actually going to kiss?

I held my breath, not wanting to break the moment. They were so close! I bit my bottom lip with barely contained excitement.

Gray started laughing and pulled away. “That’s not going to happen, angel.”

“Sorry to tease you like that, princess. Your face was just too perfect.” Victor chuckled. “It may be a few decades, maybe even centuries, before something like that will happen. For now, you’ll have to accept an indirect kiss.”

“I don’t understand.” I said as Victor slid under the blankets.

“An indirect kiss, angel, is when someone puts their mouth where someone else’s has recently been.” Gray explained just as I felt the velvety tip of Victor’s tongue slide into me.

I arched and moaned at the slightly chilled intrusion into my hot body. Victor kissed me ardently down there. Like a lost lover he hadn’t seen in ages.

“You know he’s only better at that because he doesn’t have to breathe.” Gray muttered before taking the tip of my breast into his mouth.

A giggle turned into a moan as Victor teased and licked me. Gray’s hand traced over my stomach while he nibbled at my breast. My legs started shaking again. They were going to kill me with pleasure.

Victor pulled back, and I felt his fangs sink into my thigh. He hadn’t even prepared my skin for the bite. Not that it mattered, or even hurt. My entire body tensed and I came harder than I ever had before.

I could feel my body go limp and I could barely move. Victor licked over my thigh, to close the wound and crawled back up to my other side. He took my limp hand and kissed it.

“Delicious, as always, princess.” Victor purred.

A mewling sound came from me. I couldn't seem to form words. Gray's head came up from my breast and he smiled at me.

“You get a short rest, angel, then we're ready for round two.” He chuckled.

I whimpered. They really were going to kill me. And it was a death I was more than eager for. I sighed happily as Victor and Gray discussed what they were going to want to do next. I didn't mind them making decisions for me. I knew they would make it amazing as everything else we did together. They were my husbands, after all.