



## Chapter 218

"But you're gorgeous," Alessia said. "Your long, silky, auburn hair. High cheekbones."

Cassidy smiled, her dark brown eyes soft. "Thank you. I don't think I was back then. Ill-fitting clothes. Ratty hair. I was no prize."

"That's horrible," Misty said. "A group of people terrorizing a younger kid, not letting you leave."

"Yeah. It was humiliating and terrifying," Cassidy said.

"Ugh," Lizzy said. "If we could go back in time, I'd kick those kids' butts."

"Alas, we can only move forward," Cassidy said. She turned to Tessa. "How about you?"

Tessa sighed dramatically.

"I had a crush on a boy. I wrote him a love poem. Goddess, this is embarrassing. It was so sappy. I put it in his locker, hid, and watched him find it. He read it, then his friends took it, and they passed it around, laughing and making fun of him. My only saving grace was that I didn't sign my name, so they didn't know who wrote it. I threw away all my poetry books that day."

"Your poor thirteen-year-old heart!" Misty said.

"It was for the best. You don't win a man's heart by writing him poetry!" Tessa said.

The girls laughed together.

"Just because those boys didn't appreciate the finer things in life doesn't mean you shouldn't still enjoy them," Misty said.

"She's right," Thea said. Thea got on her phone and ordered poetry books while the other girls talked. She put Tessa's name on the delivery, then turned her attention back to the girls.

"I actually have one to add," Thea said. "You guys know that Delta team takes turns guarding me?"

The girls nodded.

"They never let me out of their sight," Thea said. "I thought it started after that rogue chased me on our land a few months ago, but I found out later they've been watching me my whole life, just in secret. They didn't want me to know because they wanted me to grow up normal. Anyway, they've seen every embarrassing thing I've ever done. Like all the stuff I did with the triplets before I knew Delta team was watching. I was mortified when I found out."

"Oh my goddess," Alessia said. "That's crazy. You were watched your whole life without your knowledge?"

"Yeah," Thea said.

"The more I learn about you, the more I think it has to be so difficult being you," Alessia said.

"It sounds like it's difficult being any of us," Thea said. "I'm glad I know all of you, and I'm glad we can have a night like tonight."

"Me too," Alessia and Misty said at the same time. They looked at each other and smiled. Their hands moved closer together.

Cassidy glanced at Thea, and they both tried to hide a smile. Lizzy and Tessa were oblivious.

"I'm glad too," Lizzy said. "Okay, let's do wildest fantasies next. I want to hear about what it's like with the triplets."



The girls laughed.

"Come on. The whole school wants to know," Lizzy said.

"Well, the whole school doesn't get to know," Thea said.

"But us?"

"Alright, fine. I don't have anything else to compare it to, but it's awesome. Obviously, they're my mates, so it's supposed to be awesome."

"Three mates," Tessa said. "I mean, how does that even work? Who do you concentrate on?"

"Maybe it's the matebond, but I can feel them all at the same time and still keep them separate. I don't feel totally complete without all of them. They each make me feel something different. Con makes me feel like the only woman in the world. He's like a puppy, following me around. When we were kids I thought it was because he looked at me like a security blanket. Maybe he still does. I don't know."

"No," Tessa said. "He's not afraid of anything, and he doesn't give a crap about himself. He needs to know you're safe and happy."

"I always got the feeling that he trailed behind you because he has your back. Like he's guarding you from what you can't see," Alessia said.

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