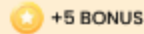


Triplet Alphas Gifted Luna 164



3 - 53 Witch Lore

Allegra came back from visiting local witch covens on Sunday. She found Thea first thing.

"The meetings went well," Allegra said. "I feel good about the high priestesses and covens. We have plans for more meetings."

"That's great news," Thea said.

"It is. They were open to talking about alliances. They had heard about the attacks on wolf packs and witch covens. One witch said she heard vampires had been hit too. It might be safe to say no supernatural race is immune."

"Vampires," Thea said, thinking. "I had a dream a while ago. The moon goddess told me everyone is in danger. Even humans. We need to get to the bottom of this. Quickly."

"Agreed. I think it would be beneficial if you come with me to any future meetings I have, Luna. If they see you, I think we have a better chance of forming meaningful alliances, and that's what we need. Interspecies alliances."

"Of course," Thea said. "That's what I want too. Will they be comfortable with my entourage?"

"I mentioned it. They understood your caution."

Allegra organized a meeting for Tuesday. Gaia, Ruby, Opal,

Sybil, and Amethyst—the high priestess of each of the five major covens in the city—came and met with Thea and Allegra in a neutral location. Thea’s Delta team guards, Xavier, and the triplets also came but stayed outside the women’s circle.

Allegra made the introductions.

“You’re all so close to my pack, New Dawn, and I didn’t even know your covens existed,” Thea said.

“We don’t know the territories of specific werewolf packs either,” Gaia said. She was the oldest high priestess in the area and the de facto leader. She had grey hair and blue eyes. “We just know to steer clear of the woods.”

“It’s sad how deep the distrust between our species runs,” Thea said.

“Allegra told us about your run-in with an evil witch,” Opal said. Her gentle voice immediately put Thea at ease, even talking about her attack. She looked pure and good, wearing a flowy, pale purple dress that matched her pale purple eyes. It felt like those eyes could see into a person’s soul. She exuded kindness. Her long blonde hair fell gracefully over her shoulder.

“You’re here, so you’re either brave, desperate, or forgiving,” Sybil said. With light brown hair and brown eyes, she had a straightforward and authoritative air about her, despite being one of the younger witches. She wasn’t mean, but she wasn’t concerned with being gentle.

Thea smiled. "Anyone from any species can be evil. I know most of us, werewolves, witches, even humans, are good. I can't hold one witch's actions against your entire species."

The high priestesses nodded.

"We understand your goddess has gifted you," Ruby said. She was middle-aged with auburn hair and brown eyes.

"Yes," Thea said. She showed them her marks. "I don't know if the symbols mean anything to you."

"Some of them, yes," Gaia said. "Others I don't recognize. May I take a picture? I'd like to verify some of these symbols."

"Sure," Thea said. Gaia pulled out her phone and snapped a few pictures.

"It's clear you're special," Ruby said. She had a calming presence like her magic affinity was in peacemaking.

"And that we should help you," Amethyst said, tucking her dark brown hair behind her ear. She was the youngest high priestess in the area, but her deep brown eyes held knowledge and wisdom.

"Just so you know," Opal said. "Witches who steal goddess gifted wolves go dark. It goes against our laws and ethics. It goes against the nature of magic. Light magic. Taking away someone's free will is evil, and it twists and darkens the soul. Please know, we would never."

"Thank you," Thea said. "It's ironic. Growing up, we learned that witches are our enemies. To stay away from them. Never to trust one. I know there have been incidents throughout the centuries, but now that I think of it, they're few and far between. Misunderstandings. Or the worst of each of us make trouble for everyone else. It is scary what the worst of us can do to each other, but I believe the vast majority of both species is good and could be stronger together."

"I agree. It was much the same for us. We were taught werewolves were violent animals. I can see that's not the case," Opal said, eyeing the Delta team men. "Your men are extremely stoic." 1

"They are very serious," Thea said. "Don't get me wrong. We have our animal side. Literally. There are bad apples, but most of us are good people. It makes me wonder what we have wrong about vampires."

"I see your newborn vampire is nothing like what I've ever seen or heard of," Sybil said.

Allegra explained her hypothesis about Xavier. Thea added what she had felt with him, how he saved her life at the summit but didn't go feral. 2

"I have something to add to your hypothesis," Amethyst said, her eyes bright. "Lore and history is a specialty of mine. Since learning about the upcoming threat, I've been looking into the old books. Some stories sound a lot like what

you've described." She paused, looking at Xavier, deciding what she should share. 1

"Please, go on," Thea said.

"Vampires worship the goddess Nyx," Amethyst said, her eyes locking on Thea's. "Nyx made many things, among them the Keres. There are many descriptions of them and many origin stories. Who knows what the truth is? It probably doesn't matter. They were described very much like newborn vampires. Drawn to bloody, violent deaths on battlefields, they feasted on the dead and sent their souls to hell." 1


Amethyst's deep brown eyes went to Xavier again like she was trying to sense something in him. She looked at Thea before continuing.

"Other stories tell of similar but benevolent beings," Amethyst said. "The Valkyries. They were also associated with battlefields. They served the gods, taking the dead to Valhalla." 3

Thea looked at Xavier. He shrugged his shoulders. Thea turned back to Amethyst.

"Are you saying bad vampires are Keres, and good vampires are Valkyries, but the Valkyries went extinct?" Thea said.

"It's a theory. Valkyries haven't been heard of in a thousand years. The only people who might be old enough to know for sure are vampires. The oldest vampires," Amethyst said. 3

 +5 BONUS

"If that were true, do you think the Keres could be converted to Valkyries?" Opal said.

"If we could get vampires on our side and turn them into Valkyries instead of Keres, we would have a great army," Sybil said. Thea could tell she was action-oriented. Probably why she took over as high priestess at a young age.

"One step at a time, right?" Thea said. "Let's get witches and werewolves together as a united front before we add another species we know next to nothing about and want to change into something else."

"Wise, this one," Gaia said. "Yes, we'll start here. When we are solid, we'll reach out to our neighbors. Then vampires."

The other witches nodded in agreement.



Samantha Doyle  Author

"*Hey. I'm sorry I missed updating yesterday. There's been an unexpected death in my family. I know many of you are celebrating Easter today, and I don't intend to cast a shadow on the day. I can't promise daily updates for a while, but I'll do what I can. Hope and love to you all.*"

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