

3 - 27 Four

The group made their way into the pack house. Thea's and the triplets' parents were eating breakfast in the dining hall. They stopped in front of them.

"I see Xavier is doing well," Alpha Ulric said, his eyes on the vampire he and everyone else had wanted to kill.

"Yeah," Thea said. "He's super strong too. Like, abnormally strong."

Alpha Ulric nodded.

"We have some news," Alaric said. "Thea's pregnant."

Luna Ada and Thea's mother jumped up and hugged Thea. Alpha Ulric and Beta Walter clapped the triplets on their backs.

"This calls for a celebration," Alpha Ulric said. "We'll do something tonight."

"Should we wait a few weeks before announcing it?" Thea said. "In case I miscarry?" she added softly.

Luna Ada and Thea's mother looked at her with sympathy.

Ophelia tugged on Thea's arm. Thea looked down at her.

"Luna," Ophelia said. "Your pups are healthy. You won't lose them."

"How can you know for sure, Ophelia?" Thea said.

The girl put her hand on Thea's belly and her eyes glazed over. After a moment, she looked into Thea's eyes.

"I see them being born. The doctor says they're perfect. You're sweaty, and you scream a lot," Ophelia said.

"They?" Alaric said.

"Four boys," Ophelia said. 3

"What?" Thea said. "Four? You mean I'll eventually have four. I'll be pregnant four times."

Arella, Ophelia, and Cassandra put their hands on Thea's belly.

"There are four boys in here right now," Arella said.

"Four! How am I? Four?" Thea said, panicking.

"Don't worry," Cassandra said. "Everyone helps you."

Thea tried to calm herself, to believe that everything would be okay with the pregnancy, but she knew the statistics of multiple births in werewolves.

"Hey," Alaric whispered in her ear. "If anyone can carry four healthy pups, it's you, my love."

"Yeah, darling," Kai thought to her. "Your gift will sustain them."

"You made us healthy and strong, babe," Conri thought to her. "And you weren't even trying. You didn't even have your full gift."

"Go see the doctor after you eat," Luna Ada said. "You will have some limitations, especially with four. Sons, listen to the doctor. You'll have limitations too."

The triplets got her three plates of breakfast.

"They're not even the size of a grain of salt right now," Thea said. "I hardly need this much food."

"You need to get used to eating more," Alaric said. "They won't be small for long."

After eating, they dropped Arella, Ophelia, and Cassandra at reading class and then headed to the doctor. Misty and Xavier followed.

"Congratulations, Luna, Alphas," Dr. Boman said after they told him.

"Thank you," they said.

"You're young and healthy," the doctor said. "Your day-to-day life won't change much during the pregnancy. Obviously, you can't shift until after you deliver. You'll eat more, sleep more, and you'll need to stop training soon."

"Doctor," Thea said. "I believe there are four pups inside me."

The doctor blanched, which said a lot because he had a great poker face and an excellent bedside manner.

"Forget everything I just said. Your lifestyle will change immensely." 10

He went over the changes she would need to make.

"Don't carry anything. Don't strain for anything. Don't reach for anything. Don't do anything yourself."

"How am I supposed to do that?" Thea said.

"I can be your lackey," Xavier said. "You know I'm strong. I can carry anything you need me to carry. Do anything you need me to do. That way, your guards can focus on guarding. You know I have nothing else to do. Your mates have responsibilities. They can't be with you every second of every day." 4


"I never thought I would agree with Xavier Knight on anything, much less want him by your side all the time, but it's not a bad idea," Conri said. 1

"He's loyal to you," Alaric said. "He has no problem with feeding or his Need. And he's faster and stronger than all of us combined. He'd be good to have around during this time."

"I know you're going to chafe at not being able to do everything on your own—" Kai said.

"No," Thea said, her hand on her stomach. "Not when it comes to our pups. My pride doesn't matter. I just want them safe and healthy. Thank you, Zay."


"When the pups grow big enough," the doctor continued. "You will have a difficult time moving around by yourself. Getting out of bed, sitting to standing, all of it will be difficult. Your center of balance will be thrown way off. You should have help. Maybe specialized furniture that helps you get up. You must stay relaxed. Stress and anxiety will put an extra strain on your heart and restrict blood flow to the

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pups. That's where they get their oxygen, nutrients, everything. I need you to be Zen throughout this pregnancy."


Thea nodded. She'd have to figure out how to do that quickly.

"You'll be eating all the time. You should be drinking all the time. You need to stay hydrated. That means you'll also be going to the bathroom all the time. Think of this as your full-time job now."

"Eating, drinking, and peeing?" Thea said. 

"And resting," Dr. Boman said. He went on for a while longer, then the group left.

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