


## Triplet Alphas Gifted Luna 156

 +5 BONUS

### 3 - 45 Dream

"Did I die?" Thea said, confused.

"No, my child," the goddess said, smiling. "Your body is alive and well on Earth, sleeping with your mates."

"Then what's happening?"

"Now that you've accepted your role, we will have chats from time to time."

Thea didn't know how to respond. She looked around, taking in the surroundings—or lack of surroundings. No trees, buildings, roads, plants. Just grey dust. The sky was black except for the blue circle covered in white swirls.

The Earth.


They were standing on the surface of the moon.

"I'm sorry about the amnesia," the goddess said. "I know it's been a painful time for you. I've never restored a bond once broken before. So much about you has never been done before. You're doing better than I could have hoped."

"That's not exactly reassuring," Thea said.

The goddess sighed.

"I've been trying to figure out what I'm supposed to do. Information is difficult to find," Thea said.

 +5 BONUS

"It will come in time. There are things I can't tell you."

"As in, you'll get in trouble? Or knowing the future is dangerous? What are you saying?" Thea said.

"Gods can be bound, cursed even."

Thea looked at her expectantly.

"That's all I can say about it right now," the goddess said. "Alpha Ford told you what some of the symbols in your mark mean."

"He's better versed in the ancient lores than I am. I probably should study them more," Thea said. She looked down and noticed she was wearing a flowy cream-colored dress, just like the goddess.

"There are others for that. You have other pressing matters that need your attention."

Thea pulled her eyebrows together, confused.

"Ford was a precocious child," the goddess said. "I rewarded him whenever he hid in his library, reading the old books. That way, he could be an asset to you."

"You've been directing everyone's lives, haven't you?" Thea said, uncomfortable that so many people had been led to help her.

"Just strategically placed people. This is too important. I've set the board as well as I can to give you all the best chance

★ +5 BONUS

against what's to come."

Maybe there were more crucial things to ask the moon goddess while she had the rare opportunity to speak with her—like what was coming for them and how to fight it—but Thea had to know.

"Did you make Xavier the way he was on purpose?" Thea said. "The twin, the brain not developing correctly? Did you lead him on the path to becoming a vampire and feeling indebted to me?"

"No, child," the goddess said, putting a hand on Thea's shoulder. She looked sad. "I wouldn't make him that way to hurt and kill innocent people, even if it was to help you."

"Then how did it happen? Why? It seems too perfect. I need him. I would be dead without him."

"Some things are left to a higher power than us gods."


Thea turned her head to the side and then back toward the goddess. "Wait. What? What's more powerful than a god?"

The goddess's hand fell from Thea's shoulder.

"We gods weren't the first things to exist in the universe. We only have dominion over this small space." She waved her hand at the Earth off in the distance with its blue oceans and white clouds. "And the universe is vast." Her hand motioned off into the infinity of space and its depthless black.

3/11

Commented [Ma1]:

 +5 BONUS

"Are you saying there's someone with dominion over the entire universe?" Thea said.

"I wouldn't know about that," the goddess said. "But there are cosmic forces—like gravity—that bind the universe together and define how the universe functions. They existed before us. They'll exist after us. They just are."

Xavier had described Life in an eerily similar way.


"How could a cosmic force like gravity affect the course of Xavier's life?" Thea said. "And if it's so vast and epic, why would it interfere in one person's life?"

"The first instinct is to think the cosmic forces are too big to affect something so small, but remember, those forces make up the universe. They are in every atom. They are the connections within and between atoms. They're everywhere. They affect everything."

"Are you talking about quantum physics?" Thea said, trying to make sense of what the goddess was saying. "Like the strong force they talk about in physics that keeps atoms together—keeps electrons orbiting protons and neutrons?"

"And other forces."

Thea looked down as she thought. She was barefoot, and she wiggled her toes into the gray dirt. It felt real, but it would be impossible for her to be on the moon. The moon didn't have oxygen to breathe. She wondered how the goddess set up these chats.

 +5 BONUS

"Are these forces sentient? Are they doing this stuff on purpose?" Thea said.

"The cosmic forces are beyond our understanding."

"Beyond a god's understanding?"


"I have suspicions."

"Tell me."

"Life," the goddess said. "Like the other cosmic forces, pervades the universe. Life has an insatiable desire to exist and evolve. It rarely creates the same thing twice. It sprouts up everywhere. Everywhere there's something to interact with."

"Huh?"

"Let's pretend I hand you paint. You can take that paint and do a million things with it. Then let's change the medium. I give you a pencil. The things you make with the pencil will differ from those you made with the paint. Change it again. Now your medium is food. The things you make with food will be profoundly different. You wouldn't classify a cupcake in the same category as what you made with the paint or pencil. The unifying factor is that you made all of it. That's Life interacting with the universe. It interacts with different mediums and creates. The results vary."

"Like bacteria is different from fungi and fish and animals," Thea said. 

★ +5 BONUS

"Yes," the goddess said. "Just on this planet, there are many different forms of life. There's constant variation. Maybe it's chaos. Maybe it's experimentation. I don't know if Life is sentient and acts with purpose. What I do know is that sometimes it makes mistakes. Sometimes those mistakes create new life. Think evolution. Sometimes the mistakes create nothing. Sometimes horror. Life made a mistake with Xavier."

"Was it a mistake, though?" Thea said. She knew Xavier was irrevocably devoted to her, but she also knew that devotion came from him being broken down to nothing. He believed he had no other option than to stay by her side.

"You think Life did it on purpose?"

Thea nodded.


"I don't know if it was on purpose. I don't know how it works," the goddess said, looking off into the vastness of space.

"How did you give me a Life gift if you don't have control over it?" Thea said. "Or even understand it?"

"I entreated Life. Yes, we gods can pray to a higher power too. I made a case, and Life answered. It made a connection to you and merged with you as I blessed you."

"But Xavier was born before me. How would Life know to do something to him?"

"I've been planning you for a long time."

 +5 BONUS

Right. The generations of good Alpha wolves.

"Is Life Good?" Thea said. "This force that pervades the universe—is it Good or Evil?"


"Without Life we wouldn't exist."

"That's not an answer," Thea said.


"Have you noticed your magic acting on its own?"

Thea thought about the forcefield that went up when she marked Alaric and how her magic automatically flowed into Xavier when she funneled Earth energy into him.

"What are you saying?" Thea said.

"These forces only exist when they interact with something. There's no gravity in the vacuum of space. Usually, Life interacts with what's there, creates something, and that's it. That's where its power ends. By merging itself with you, it can continue to act. I don't know what fuels it. It seems like you can control it with your thoughts. Other times it acts on its own or at least without your conscious thought. Maybe it's responding to something you felt—you may not have decided what you want it to do, but the emotion was enough to activate it. Or maybe just by being part of you, it can act whenever it desires. Whatever the mechanism, it's built into you." 

"That's disturbing," Thea said. "I have this cosmic force inside me? It's part of me?"

 +5 BONUS

"Yes," the goddess said.

Thea thought about what Xavier said about her magic being in her cells and lifeforce. Funny how she could read other people, other life, and she was blind to herself. Why hadn't she noticed her very makeup was different? She realized she never looked inward with her gift. That was never a priority.

"And it can act on its own," Thea said. "And we don't know if it's Good or Evil." Thea felt like she had a frog in her throat. She swallowed, trying to push it down.

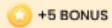
"I hypothesize that Life is neutral," the goddess said in a calming voice. "Above Good and Evil. Maybe indifferent. By tying Life to you, I hoped you would be able to tip the scales in favor of Good. I felt confident that if you were the one Life interacted with, the end result would ultimately be Good."

"You just pointed out that it can act without me directing it," Thea said.

"But it's acting through the medium of you."

"We're not talking about what pictures I can draw with pencils versus paint," Thea said. "We're talking about an unknowable cosmic force. Do you know what happens when we play around with cosmic forces? Nuclear bombs. The strong force that holds atoms together? Mess with that, and it causes a chain reaction that not only fundamentally changes what the atoms are but also destroys everything in





its path. It only took roughly the size of a fingernail of matter being converted to pure energy to decimate Hiroshima. That's the power of a cosmic force."

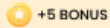
Thea looked away as tears ran down her cheeks. Before, when she thought it was a goddess gift, she wasn't afraid of it. She had been apprehensive of what they would have to fight, yes, but not of the gift. Now that she knew it wasn't a gift inside her but an uncontrollable cosmic force that could use her to do whatever it wanted, she felt sick. She bent over and put her hands on her knees to hold herself up.

"That's why it had to be you," the goddess said. "I knew we needed something more powerful than what we gods have. I chose you to carry the burden because you are Good. I can't harness its power myself."

"No one can," Thea said, trying to even out her breathing.

"I asked Life to bless you so you could save my children from the evil that's building. I knew you would need many protectors to keep you from being stolen and used for evil. I didn't know the gift would affect you the way it has. I suspect Life did and knew you would need a devoted protector capable of mitigating the consequences of your Life magic."

"You said it had an insatiable desire to exist. Life could have interfered with Xavier, ensuring he would protect me, not for my safety or to save your children or for some altruistic desire to preserve Good. Life probably messed with Xavier



to ensure it had a vessel to act from.”

“It’s possible,” the goddess said, her face serene.

Thea cursed. “It probably had redundancies. It probably interfered with a bunch of people to raise the probability that at least one of them would turn out the way it needed to keep me alive.” 2


“If Life is capable of strategizing, that would make sense,” the goddess said.

Thea laughed at the goddess’s utter lack of understanding of the cosmic force she had brought into their lives. No one understood what Life was or how it worked. If it was sentient. What it could do with Thea as its conduit to action.

“How could you be so reckless?” Thea said, more tears running down her cheeks.

“I know you’re angry with me,” the goddess said softly. “You have so many questions I can’t answer. I’ve put an enormous burden on you. If I could, I would carry it myself. I wouldn’t ask this of any of my children if there was another option. You’re right that this was a risk. We’re doing something that has never been done before, and we’re doing it with a power I don’t understand and can’t control. It’s not guaranteed to work in our favor, but I believe it will. I believe your influence over this incomprehensible force will give us the edge we need to win this war.”

“You’ve put all your eggs in a shoddy basket.”

 +5 BONUS

"I don't think so."

"The people Xavier killed," Thea said. "Do they at least get a pleasant afterlife?"


"I don't have dominion over all humans, but I will do everything in my power to see to it."

"And the ones he hurt? And all the people he affected through his actions?"

"I will do my best. You've already made a lot of their lives better."

"Isn't that what you made me for?"

The goddess smiled. "Yes."

There was silence for a moment as Thea thought. "Wait," Thea said, standing up straight. "Did you say you needed something more powerful than what you gods have to fight what's coming?" 

The goddess's smile faded as her eyes glazed over. "It's time for you to wake up."



**Samantha Doyle**  Author

" More tomorrow! "

 66

11/11