Chapter 134

I realized it was about three in the morning, but the phone was already connecting. The phone was picked up immediately, “Apollyon, give me a moment. I am in a board meeting in Berlin.  I am walking into a private room now.”  A short pause, “Yes, Apollyon.  How can I help you?  Is there something at issue with Reiki?”

“No.  I apologize for calling so early. I just thought you might be able to help with two issues.  Do you know a Constance Alarian?”  I started.

Dakkon was quiet for a moment before answering, “Not a problem. I thought you were calling because you were in Europe. But, yes.  I know Constance from Brazil.  Have you come into conflict with her, or are you looking to do business with her?” A little concern mixed with interest was in his voice.

I guessed from his perspective those would be the two reasons I would be calling him.  I tried to sound neutral, “She is interested in someone I know.  Agents of hers are under my—care.  Can you broker a meeting with her at a neutral site near Virginia?”

“Constance is relatively new to Earth.  She has quickly consolidated power among the elf demis on Earth.  Rumor is she came from a transit city between the 22nd and 21st layers.  I have not had many dealings with her operations as they center on agriculture and livestock.  Mainly in South America and Africa.  I can facilitate a meeting and will get back to you with the details, is DC okay?”  Dakkon seemed to be thinking as he talked.

“Near Washington is fine,”  I responded.

“And what was the other issue you hoped I could assist you with?”  Dakkon asked apprehensively.

“I have some of Constance’s associates and need someone to watch them until we meet. Thirteen to be exact,” I replied.

“Oh!” Dakkon commented.  “Were there more than thirteen to start?”  He asked, seeing if perhaps I had killed anyone.  It did not sound like he was too concerned if I had.

“There were just thirteen.  A few are in rough shape and probably need medical attention,” I replied, trying to sound unconcerned.

“Uh-huh.  Apollyon, I will send two teams to hold your guests,” Dakkon said, stressing guests.  “Is there anything else I can help you with?”

I did not mind owing Dakkon something for this; my only other option was Kiri’s preference, which was to bury everyone five feet under.   Releasing them at this point was a terrible option. I told Dakkon, “No.  Thank you for your assistance in this matter.”  I hung up, having decided not to reveal I would also be visiting Agatha.

I sent him a GPS pin of our location and waited.  Kiri asked, “Do you think this is a good idea?”

“No.  I do not have many allies.  If Rincewind was around, I would send you and Eilina to him for protection.”  I walked to the thirteen bound elves.  “I have good news.  You are all going to live.”  Five were unconscious, but some of the remaining eyes looked hopeful.

My phone buzzed fifteen minutes later, and I answered it, “Apollyon, I just talked with Constance.  She is flying up immediately.  I will take a flight out of Berlin in an hour to mediate the meeting myself.”

More likely, Dakkon was coming because he wanted to know what was going on in person.  “Thank you for the promptness of arranging it.”

After I hung up, I addressed Kiri, “I think Agatha is going to have to wait.”  I went to sit in the SUV and review the night.

At least the violence I had committed had satiated my anger.  Anger?  Violence? I tried to come to grips with my anger and how good it felt beating on the elves.  I realized I did not feel remorse.  It was like I could not find it in my emotional spectrum.  I began to panic a little as my morality seemed to be slipping.

I tried to tell myself that if these elves had captured Eilina, they would have killed her.  There was enough truth in that thought that I could live with it.  Deep inside, I knew passing judgment on the henchmen was wrong.  To distract myself, I went onto the Magus Arcanum site to look into buying some doppelganger remains.  There was a whole page of the Bazaar that had ingredients listed.  Doppelganger body parts were very expensive, but I remembered they were used in enchanting morphing charms, so they were hunted heavily.

I went with a set of ribs from a female specimen.  Doppelganger bones were not used in alchemy, and it was more than enough for me to create a construct in my mind space.  They were also available to pick up at the DC bazaar tonight, so I went with the female ribs.

Dawn’s early light started to break the trees, and my phone notified me of a text.  Dakkon’s men were five minutes out.  Three black vans came down the dead-end road.  My abyssal sight told me they were all wolfkin.  I recognized many of them from when I opened the portal in the Bermuda Triangle, including Armon. Armon was a martial arts master that I had sparred with in my teenage body.

They were dressed in black soft tactical gear, and the leader approached me, “We are here to take thirteen packages off your hands.  We have a few medics with us to check them out.  You are all clear, sir.”  He walked past me, and his men swarmed the vans.

Kiri came to me, and we took the elves’ black SUV to leave.  As we drove away, Kiri noted, “I hope your trust in the wolfkin is well-placed.  “Do you want to come to the meeting with Constance?  We can leave Elinia with Bedelia, Vida, Iris, and Artica.”

Kiri was thinking about it, and my phone beeped.  I looked and relayed, “It is tonight at eight in DC.” I used my phone to find the address, “Looks like a dance studio in an old warehouse a little south of the city.”

Kiri drove in silence up the driveway and parked, “Okay, I will come.  Do you think Jade would send Frost as well to guard Eilina?”  Kiri asked.

“I will check.”  I called Jade, who was breathing heavily on the phone, probably doing a morning workout, “Jade, I want to ask a favor.”

Jade sounded somber, and she probably assumed my call concerned Agatha, “I am at your disposal, Caleb.  The Catkin Council has sanctioned Agatha.  It is more symbolic and just prevents her from making requests of the Council and hiring bodyguards from their training facilities for the next six months until a review of her actions.”

“That is good. I have not visited Agatha yet.” I took a deep breath, “Jade, someone is trying to abduct Eilina.  I am going with Kiri tonight to get to the root of the matter.  We were hoping that Frost could help guard Elina tonight while we are away.”

It took Jade a moment to process, “Yes.  I will bring everyone.  The cabin?”

“Thank you, Jade.  Has Agatha contacted you?”  I asked.

“No.  She talked to my father and knows how far she has overstepped.  He thinks she is scrambling to foster allies among other demis.  I do not know how successful she will be,” Jade did not sound enthusiastic.

We entered the cabin house, and Artica was back from the hospital.  Artica, “I am ready to go pay Agatha a visit.”  She cracked her knuckles.  “Monsoon healed my shoulder,” she did a windmill to demonstrate.  Her face still looked like a car ran over it, black and blue and slightly swollen.  Monsoon had limited healing capacity and probably expended his aether on her shoulder.

I held up my hand, “Rain check.  We have to deal with the elves first.  You are going to stay here to help watch Eilina while Kiri, and I head to Washington tonight to meet an elf,” I informed Artica.

Aritca stepped in front of me in a challenge, Her small frame blocking me, “I am your bodyguard.  I am going with you,” Artica sounded determined like a petulant child.

I ignored her for now.  “Where is Abigail?”

“Studying down in the library.  And I am going.  You need someone to watch you back.  Elves are devious.  No offense, Kiri,” she said with a smile.

“I take it as a compliment.  I need you to be my sister’s bodyguard tonight.  I trust you,” Kiri’s tone was pleading, and I thought she was an excellent actor.  Three hours ago, she had been ready to kill thirteen elves and bury them in the woods.

Artica stormed off like a child, knowing she was going to lose the argument.  Elina and Vida came down the stairs to join us.  Bedelia was behind them, “I heard.  Artica is still on painkillers, so she is a little loopy and not herself.” She smiled at the catkin, who huffed loudly in the other room. “We are happy to guard Eilina.”

Bedelia was wearing a black silk one-piece nightgown, and her upper body curves were highlighted. She noticed my appreciation and gave me a moment, teasing me by innocently rubbing between her chest, which instantly got her nipples to show on the silk fabric. Bedelia smiled and said, “You should ask Aurora to help us.  She is staying at a small cabin a mile down the road.”

I was confused.  Bedelia explained, “I have been spying on her.  She has been practicing her binding magic.  She is good.  Could be even better if her core was stronger,” she hinted to me.

Iris came up from the basement. Obviously, she had been listening and volunteered, “I will go ask her.  She likes me and Abigail.”

Bedelia held up her arms in surrender. “I know I was a little pushy, but that woman is so used to being told what to do, I thought it would work. Besides, Caleb needs life essence and new partners.” I told Bedelia how I increased cores and got diminishing returns from the same partner. Abigail and Iris knew as well. Abigail worked harder during sex to make up for the deficit.

Iris looked at Bedelia’s nightgown and rolled her eyes, “Caleb, I will get Abigail. She has redoubled her magical studying to learn healing magic. You are probably going to have to talk to her before she burns herself out. And Artica,” she called to the pixie cut woman, “Get some sleep!”

“I will check on Abigail,” I went downstairs to the library to check on Abigail. She was studying at the desk with four books in front of her. I put my hands on her shoulder and started rubbing and giving her a massage. She relaxed into my administration.

“That feels good,” she mumbled. I started to rub her back, and she shifted in her chair to direct my hands. “Iris, had you come to talk to me?” She asked after a few minutes. “Caleb, I just want to be able to help people. Everyone tells me I have all this power now, but all I can do is light candles. I am just so frustrated when I see people I love get hurt, and I can not help them.”

I moved to sit next to her. “Abs, it will come with time.” Abigail started to shed tears. “What did I say?”

Tears flowed as Abigail blinked them away. “When we were in Australia, all the books I read were translated from books that were hundreds of years old. It made me think I do not have time, Caleb. Not like you. If I can master the magic of Medicus Magicae, I can slow my aging and help people—and stay by your side.”

“Abs, are you having a mid-life crisis at eighteen?” I asked jokingly.

But she nodded slowly, “Yes. I am in a sort of crisis. I feel blessed and cursed at the same time. Before you, life was simple. I was simple. Now, if I do not learn all this,” she gestured at the books in the library. “I will grow old, and you may not…”

I pulled her into my lap and kissed her, “Abs, I will always love you. No matter what you look like.” I kissed her again and ran my hand along her thigh. When the kiss broke, I added goofily, “I may not want to have sex with an old, crinkly woman, but I will always have strong feelings for you.” She knew I was joking but still punched me.

I found that consoling Abigail it was helping me as well. I did care deeply for her. I did not know if it was love, but it was definitely an emotion I wanted to foster and keep. After my rage this morning, I decided when I made the doppelganger in my mind space, I would focus on this aspect of myself when I animated it. Maybe I could salvage my humanity by preserving it in my mind space? It was a wild thought, but I would try.

Abigail wiggled a little in my lap suggestively to get my attention. I let my stiffness come to show my appreciation for her firm buttocks. Her lips came to mine, and she began to suck on my tongue. She wanted saliva, and I gave her a taste. My hand snaked under her skirt to rub her labia folds through her underwear. I added my vortex to her aether core.

Everyone was upstairs, but a large floor-to-ceiling glass wall was looking outside the library. It had been a bedroom converted into a library. I did not care about being spied. I lifted Abigail up and, dropped my pants, and sat back down. Abigail turned and faced me. Her skirt rode up, and my heated phallus rested against her underwear, feeling her eager wetness spreading rapidly.

We focused on kissing, and we both slid our mouths to each other’s necks. I took my hands and placed them on her buttocks so I could rock her hips across my shaft, pressing into the underwear. Abigail joined in the motion and groaned into my neck, “Good, this is good.”

I returned, “I will never get tired of you, Abs; you smell, feel, taste, and look amazing!” Abigail stood for just a moment to pull her underwear aside and line up my glans. She came down hard and fast with a satisfied grunt. Her muscled runner’s thighs ground on my lap slowly as our lips returned to each other.

She squeezed my length inside her, and I could feel her tighten around me as she came for the first time, followed by an increase in fluid release along my shaft. With her fitness improvements, I assumed this was going to be a long session. She came again and stopped for a moment, whispering, “I love your body heat. Do you know I can feel the heat of your cock inside me? It is the most amazing warmth.” She kissed me and continued rocking as she quickly came for a third time. She slowed her hips, and we kissed each other, me still inside her.

I had a thought and checked on my essence. My pedestal room was empty of constructs, and I checked my banner. I had 128 life essence. I looked at the ability I wanted to raise.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Elixir Seed of Recall | Lower | Tier 1 | 100 life essence | If your partner absorbs your seed, they increase their memory |

I raised the ability to upper tier one with 100 life essence. I returned to Abigail and felt my balls tingling with the changes. I needed to give the enhancement time to take hold, but in the meanwhile, I started bouncing Abigail on my lap, “You are being selfish Abs; help me finish.”

She gave me a weary look, “You told me you can come any time you want.” But she started to help me by bouncing in my lap, about six inches at a time. My glans felt her heat and tightness every time it dove back into her. I increased the temp and made sure the enhancement was ready. When I felt her squeeze me again in a fourth, I pulled her down hard and held her as my scrotum tightened and my phallus twitched inside of her, releasing the improved elixir in three quick spasms.

Abigail got a little lightheaded and woozy. I kissed her dazed lips as I held her in place, making sure she absorbed everything. She said, “What did you do?”

I kissed her, “I improved your memory again.” A realization came on her face, and she passionately returned my kiss. With the improvement, it would help her speed of learning and help her recall details.

“Thank you, Caleb. I will not let you down!” After a few minutes of kissing, she got off me and went to take a shower. I heard Iris asking her to come with her to talk to Aurora.

I evaluated my decision to expend the life essence. If lower tier 1 was the power of a normal human, then the upper tier 1 recall should give Abigail and the others the peak of human ability. I would need to upgrade Bedelia, Paige, and Eilina’s recall enhancements when I got the chance. Next weekend, I was meeting Paige in Tennessee. Making those around me stronger was a great idea, but the fact that this investment did not raise my life essence cap made me reluctant in the past. My storage cap of life essence was 240, and I needed 400 to raise my basic abilities to lower tier 3. I was basically deciding between improving myself or my companions. My incubus side was saying just focus on myself, and my human side was saying, my companions.

I went to the master bathroom to shower, and a still woozy Artica joined me, “Bet I can convince you to let me come.” I let her push me against the shower wall as she dropped to her knees and started to clean my body from the ankles up, pausing at my shaft. After she cleaned it with the luffa, she cleaned it with her mouth. It was a long shower…

When we emerged, I found Iris, Abigail, and Aurora in the living room. Aurora was blushing slightly, and I guessed we had been kind of loud—well, Artica had been when I had lifted her, hooked my arm under her knees, and bounced her on my erection. She had challenged me to go faster, and I thought I did an admirable job.

I did not show embarrassment and just sat down, “Aurora, thank you for coming and helping watch Eilina. I was surprised you were still in the area.”

Aurora fidgeted, “I did not know where to go.” Her excuse felt flimsy.

I offered, “Iris is alone in her house. She would welcome you there. If not, Iris, you can stay at the cabin in the master bedroom. I do not want you alone.”

There were some looks back and forth, and Aurora finally said, “Yes. I would appreciate that.”

I excused myself to go home and check in with my parents. Only my father was home as mom was out with Amelia. We talked briefly, and it pained me to realize that I was just going through the motions with Dad.

When I returned to the cabin Saturday afternoon, Kiri was ready to go, and everyone else, including Aurora, was watching Netflix. We took the Nissan Pathfinder to drive to DC. We gave ourselves plenty of time to stop at the Bazaar so I could pick up my doppelganger ribs.