Chapter 85

I woke with paramedics setting up a defibrillator next to me and my parents, Artica and Maya, watching nervously. I didn’t see Lord De Roy. A light flashed in my eyes, “I have pupil dilation response,” a focused voice said.

“Pulse is still 24, but I do not see signs of a cardiac incident,” a feminine voice added. I focused and tried to increase my heart rate. “Pulse is rising…settling at 50.” I tried to sit up. “Don’t move,” I was advised.

I stopped trying to rise and closed my eyes. What did Andromeda do to me? I felt weak, and she had incapacitated me when I told her I was dealing with vamps. I was sore, and I felt a pain in my chest. With my eyes still closed, I located an abnormality within my core that contained my aether. A foreign energy sphere, that was bright and powerful. It was drawing on my aether to feed itself. I examined it with my senses and intuitively knew I could draw out this filtered energy and direct it into the real world.

In my mind space, I looked at my banner.

Cleanse Death Essence Upper Tier 2

It was written in shimmering gold lettering and looked like it didn’t belong. It felt like Andromeda had burned out a space inside me and shoved in that globe of foreign energy, and it was now a parasite feeding on my aether. If it worked as a deterrent for vamps, it might be worth my current discomfort. I returned to my body on the floor of the restaurant.

I found out I had vomited a black sludge and then collapsed out of my chair. I was being strapped to a gurney and brought to the hospital for observation. At least my vitals were not setting off any red flags for the paramedics any longer.

My mother joined me in the ambulance, and on the way to the hospital, she asked, “Caleb are you doing drugs? Steroids? It is ok to tell me. I won’t be mad.” I almost laughed as I was, in essence, a dealer of steroids with my elixir.

“No, I don’t do drugs,” I thought furiously for an explanation for having puked up black sludge. “I had caviar for the first time a few hours ago. I think it didn’t sit well. I was feeling nauseous the last few hours.”

The paramedic looked alert, “Radio in, probable food poisoning. A full spread of antibiotics and gastric lavage suggested.” Great, this was going to be fun.

I spent the next six hours in the hospital, having my stomach pumped, my vitals monitored, and my worried parents hovering around the entire time. There was a big stir when the male nurse had trouble getting the needle in for the IV. After the first needle bowed, he went to a large needle and, with effort, got it through the skin. It took a lot of focus and effort to cool my body temperature down to under 100. My human form naturally ran hotter, but I could affect it with effort.

They finally released me in the morning with seven days of antibiotics and some Pepto. I had to answer some questions about where I got the caviar. I told them I bought it at the grocery store but couldn’t remember the brand or even the packaging. The last thing I wanted was a full recall of caviar because of my cover story.

Leaving the hospital, I found Artica in the lobby, but my parents didn’t notice her as she had changed her hair to black. My parents left me in my room to sleep. About twenty minutes after they left, I texted Maya and asked where she was and if she wanted to come over. She texted me back and asked if I had brushed my teeth, followed by a vomiting emoji. I took a few minutes to brush my teeth and use some mouthwash. A few moments later, Artica knocked, and I let her in.

She scanned the room and she asked, “What happened? I know you didn’t eat caviar today.”

I hesitated and then said, “It was the presence of the vamp lord. I was developing a defense.”

Artica looked confused, but I wasn’t going to reveal anything until I had confirmed Artica was loyal. My phone chimed with a text. Maya was in the lobby. I invited her up, and she came in and paused for a second when she noticed Artica but entered anyway, “I brought some red.” She held up a bottle of wine and a package of cups.

We all moved to the bed, poured the wine, and began drinking. It didn’t take long before the bottle was empty, and Maya and Artica were tipsy. Maya was next to me, and Aritca was on the other side of her. I activated my lust aura even though I knew it would have little effect on them since they tier two cores. I was wrong. Artica leaned into Maya and kissed her. At first, Maya looked confused, but soon she returned the kiss with enthusiasm.

I watched as Artica’s hands caressed Maya’s side, and it encouraged Maya to invade Artica’s mouth.  I could see Artica’s eyes as they kissed, and they told me she was doing this for me.  Or at least to ensure I didn’t ask her to leave and care for Maya alone.  She wanted to be involved.  I attached my vortex to Maya’s core and a second vortex adjacent to Artica’s fragile and healing core.  If I was correct, the adjacent vortex

I moved to the head of the bed and took on a spectator role.  Artica broke the kiss and pulled her shirt over her head with a grin aimed at me.  Maya looked over her shoulder at me, and I said, “You two get each other warmed up.  I will watch two sexy women go at it.”  Maya took her shirt and bra off and pressed a willing Artica to the bed.  Their young and firm breasts pressed into each other as their nipples hardened and teased each other.  Maya started moaning softly, and Artica added a low purring to the passionate symphony.

Their hands were roaming across their bodies, seeking erogenous areas of the partner.  Both were wearing jeans, having changed from the dinner dresses while I was in the hospital.  They started to dry scissor each other, seeking arousal through the layer of denim for their partner.  Both young women had lean and muscled upper bodies, and I studied their contracting and relaxing muscles under their flesh. It was mesmerizing.  I started to rub my own hardness as they continued to play and roam on each other, half-dressed.

The show was amazing, and Maya caved first, unbuttoning her jeans and kicking them off.  Artica followed shortly after, and the smell of the women’s sex was clear in the room.  Now, with just panties on, their grinding was taken to a new level.  The tangle of firm legs and shapely hips added a play for dominance between the two.  Maya had longer legs, but Artica had the strength and combat experience.  Artica’s smaller frame soon pressed Maya down and was on top.  Artica had straddled one of Maya’s thighs and raised her other leg to her chest. Their panties were mashing together, and Artica was grinding hard into Maya, who just lay there enjoying the sensation.

I wanted to give them some saliva but didn’t want to interrupt the spectacle.  My pants had found their way to my knees, and I stroked my straining member.  I wanted to join, but I wanted them to play out their pleasure first.  Artica started growling, and her free hand went inside to pull her panties to the side and rub her clit, and her pussy erupted.  Maya responded with her own orgasm.  Maya was still breathing heavily as Artica straddled her belly remaining on top and in control.  Artica looked at me and slapped her ass with a snap of her wrist.  I took the invitation and stripped.

I was soon positioned behind Artica’s ass.  Maya’s pussy was pinned below her, and both had wet panties.  I pulled Artica’s panties aside and began to rub her engorged labia.  She began to rock back and forth on my hand and attacked Maya’s lips with her own.  I smirked as I started dribbling saliva onto my hand and rubbing it into Artica. I was correct, and her fragile core wasn’t in danger of pulling aether.  A few drips continued down to Maya’s hips below.  Both of them started to heat and rub their bodies mindlessly together, bodies now getting slick with passionate sweat and sexual fluids.

I had multiple targets hovering in front of my straining shaft.  The most inviting was Artica’s pussy, that I was rubbing with my hand.  Her brown star was just above and, at this moment, seemed to tease me—how surprised would she be if I chose a different entrance?  Below Maya’s slick panties clearly outlined her own sex.  I pulled Maya’s panties aside, spit my saliva on my rod, and rubbed my tip across Maya’s folds.  Her hips bucked under Artica in pleasured surprise.  I entered her as Maya gasped and moaned loudly.  She was tight and squeezed me hard.  Artica looked back and was disappointed. I choose to fuck Maya over her.  I spit heavily on my hand and used my index and middle finger to penetrate Artica.  She yelped at first but then began rocking back and forth, doing the work for me and happy to get my secondary attention.

I began to pump my hips, enjoying my head sliding in and out of Maya while still using my hand to pleasure Artica.  It took minutes before both spasmed against each other in a mutual orgasm.  I abandoned Artica and continued to slide in and out of Maya.  My body weight pressed Artica down into Maya, pinning both of them.  I enjoyed the power I felt with two beautiful women beneath me.  My hand abandoned Aritca as my phallus got deeper and deeper into Maya, who was grunting with each thrust.  Artica, being trapped between me and my target, just reached between her legs and administered her ignored sex.

Maya came again and then again as I worked her.  I checked on her core, and she was perfectly able for more.  I switched to Artica’s core.  My vortex was keeping the ambient aether from entering her core, so it was not under any stress as I had intended.  My build-up had reached its zenith, and I couldn’t hold back any longer.  My testicles were more than ready, and I released strength seed into Maya with a final thrust.  I twitched twice and rested my weight on Artica’s smooth back.  My heavy breathing was matched by the two underneath me.

I held myself inside Maya, not wanting to have her lose the enhancement I was giving her.  After a few minutes of rest, I pulled out, and Maya moaned in pleasure at its extraction.  Aritica had been patient as I extracted myself.  She said, “I get a ride if you are not going to take me from behind.”  I soon found myself on my back with Artica above me and lining up my still-hard shaft.  I let her bounce and build herself to an orgasm.  I hadn’t reset my vortex, so this was just sex.  When Artica reached a body-shuddering orgasm, I enjoyed the feeling of the massage on my buried dick.

I let her bask, but when she was ready to dismount, I smirked, grabbed her hips, and muscled her up and down.  She didn’t resist but didn’t help as I used her body.  She did balance herself and had a purring groan as I worked her body on the length.  After almost five minutes, I released into her.  My mind was slightly clouded from the pleasure along my penis, and I switched to the endurance seed and used it on Artica.  I had planned to wait until she had acclimated to her gains but ignored my own plans in an attempt to reward Artica’s efforts in arousing Maya for this encounter.  Artica was spent, even more so as the seed was absorbed.  Just like the strength seed, she would need more calories to integrate the changes.  I guessed she would eat 40,000 calories of chocolate again.

After I was sure the seed was secure in her, about sixty seconds was what I was finding, I pulled her off my and rolled the exhausted catkin to the pilows, and she curled into a ball.  I sat up, and Maya was splayed at the base of the bed with only her stretched panties.  She was sleeping with a grin on her face.  Her mostly naked body was too inviting to ignore, and I knew her core had more to offer.  I crawled to her and began playing with her nipples until they hardened and she stirred.  I added my vortex and then began dosing her with saliva, kissing her all over her body.

She mindlessly rubbed her lower lips and, finding the stretched panties there, quickly kicked them off.  She butterflied her legs, inviting me to pound her again.  I complied, sliding between her legs and back into her.  This time I was able to hook my arms under her shoulders for leverage and kiss her neck and lips as my hips thrust my cock deep into her.  She grunted *yes* every time I spread her with my shaft, which spurred me on.  As she started to come, I joined her and gave her my endurance seed, a thank you for the visit, and the life essence I had gained from using her aether core.  I rested on her sweaty body as she drifted quickly back to sleep.  Artica moved after and pushed herself into both of us to stay in contact as she fell asleep as well.

I took the time to go into my mind space and get my rest there.  After a full rest, I walked before my banner.  Thank you, Maya!  I had enough life essence for the *discern truth* ability. Maya gave me 80 life essence. Once again, I knew I needed to find partners with stronger cores.

Something was wrong with the banner. I stared for a while and finally guessed what had happened. My life essence was 123/210. My maximum life essence had jumped, and the only reason to explain it was the ability that Andromeda had granted me. My cap had increased past 200, so now I could accumulate enough essence to raise my lower tier two abilities to upper tier two. I decided to unlock the *discern truth* ability rather than save up 200 life essence at this time.

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| Discern Truth | Lower | Tier 1 | 100 life essence | read a person’s thought to confirm what they believe is true |

My life essence dropped to 23/220. My max had increased, and now I had a goal to reach 200 life essence. My mind space felt odd—quiet. I walked to the dojo and thought about making another construct. This construct would be limited to the dojo and only have access to my martial knowledge. A training dummy. The question was, who should I use as a template for the body? Kiri or Jade as they represented the people I associated with combat in the real world. When I manifested Pandora’s construct, it had been shortly after spending hours with Chloe so I wanted to study Kiri or Jade first. I left the room and went to my park room.

I spent some time doing some landscaping in here, adding bushes and flowers. It was partially therapeutic but reminded me I needed to study objects in the real world to get perfect replicas here. Could I make something in my mind space and manifest it in the real world? I actually already had a strong feeling that it would not work.

After a while, I returned to my room to find Artica stroking me while she was pretending to sleep. I realized I had left my lust aura on and clicked it off. I separated from them, and Maya stirred. Artica, with her eyes still closed, asked, “Where are you going?”

“I am going to shower and get us some food,” I said, walking to the bathroom. As I showered, both of them joined me, Maya washing my front and Artica washing the back. When she was sure my front was clean, she moved to get me dirty again, but as the cock blocking gods were watching, a loud knock came at my door.

My parents were here to check on me and wanted to see if I wanted to go to lunch. I answered the door in my towel and told my parents I was fine and going out for lunch with Artica and Maya—that was why I was showering. I could see my mother peeking into the room, but thankfully the two had remained in the bathroom.

My parents left, and soon we were off to buy more chocolates at Puccini’s. I didn’t tell Maya about the enhancements, but she was hungry, and I encouraged her to eat her fill, $300 worth of chocolates—only slightly behind Artica. Artica even added a few more assortment boxes to ship home. We had an early dinner at De Plantage, a Mediterranean restaurant.

Maya and Artica went back to the hotel. Maya was flying out in the early morning to make connecting flights to Flordia to meet her rowing team for pre-season training. I was expecting a night of continued debauchery and life essence harvesting. We had just returned from the early dinner to Artica’s much nicer hotel room across the street when the familiar smoke invaded the room.

Lord De Roy manifested and stood before me once again. I groaned internally as he spoke, “You look much better.” He eyed the tokens on the table he had given me. I think he expected me to turn them in for the reward, but if I had, it would have been a signal that I had eliminated the two wolfkin and humans. The vamp lord sat uncomfortably, “I must apologize for disturbing you again. I tried my best to exclude you from the events, but I am struggling and have led Lord Van Holthe’s coven here. I regret I am injured and had no choice but to force you to aid me.”

Artica was immediately on alert, and I studied William De Roy. He was injured, and his aether core had no life essence. Artica asked, “How many and how strong?”

William looked up, “Seven lower tier-two and Lord Abraham Van Holthe. I eradicated all the lessers and half of his lieutenants.” He wheezed. “If you help me, I will reward you,” he pleaded.

Artica turned to the door, “Five in the hallway…maybe six.” I looked at Maya.

“Maya, can you fight?” I asked weakly, and she was shaking her head no. “Artica, guard Maya. That is an order. I can take care of myself. William, I got the ones at the door. You keep an eye on the windows.” Damn, I was really going to do this. I wished I had already assimilated weapons to my mind space that I could summon. I walked to the door and opened it.