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"Ix?" Charlotte called, knocking on the door to the bathroom. "Everything okay in there? How's it coming?"

There was a long silence on the other side of the door, then Charlotte stepped back when she heard the lock turn. The door opened and Ix stepped out, her eyes on the floor.

"Oh, *hon*," Charlotte said.

The dragon Sue hadn't burned Ix so badly that a trip to Medical was needed, but her hair hadn't fared so well.

"You weren't able to save any of it?" Charlotte asked.

Ix turned away and Charlotte averted her eyes to keep from staring at the scars that extended up the side of Ix's scalp. "She burned me bald on one side," she said dully. "There wasn't anything to be done."

"I'm sorry," Charlotte said, following Ix to the sofa. The newspaper made itself scarce at their approach.

Ix sat down slowly, rubbing her eyes. "It's just hair," she said, forcing herself to smile up at Charlotte. "It'll be back to its original length in a few months."

Charlotte could smell the despair rolling off her girlfriend. She sighed. "You're not going to leave the RC until it's grown back, are you?"

"No," Ix said, pulling her knees to her chest.

[BEEEEEEEEEEEP!]

"Well, except for missions," Ix said as Charlotte zipped to the console to silence it.

Charlotte let out a low whistle when she saw the report. "Oh man, Upstairs is getting nastier the closer we get to November, look."

Ix reluctantly got up off the sofa to see for herself. Her mouth fell open. "Am I reading this right?" she said after a moment. "She seriously has the power to copy and keep the powers of *any* vampire she meets?"

"Yep," Charlotte said darkly.

Ix shook her head in disbelief. “She’s like, like Rogue from *X-Men!*” she said, reaching up to grip her hair. When her fingers encountered smooth scalp, she dropped her hands, letting them dangle limply by her sides.

“I thought Rogue’s power absorption was only temporary?” Charlotte asked, but Ix shook her head.

“Only in the movies,” she said. “But either way...” She gestured at the console and shuddered.

“Yeah, this one’s going to be a nasty one,” Charlotte said, keying in disguises. “I’m thinking we both go in as vampires to start so she doesn’t smell you—no offense, Ix, but you do have a very distinctly human smell that would be out of place with the Volturi—and after they pop off to Forks and she gains Alice’s powers, we’ll go as werewolves. Or shapeshifters, whatever.”

“Fine by me,” Ix said, shuffling back to the bedroom to retrieve her brace.

Charlotte breezed past her and returned before Ix had made it two steps. “Here,” she said, holding out the brace. As Ix bent to put it on, Charlotte zipped back to the console and opened a portal.

The agents stepped through to the Volturi headquarters and Ix’s hand immediately went to her throat as she made an odd rasping noise.

“That’s the thirst,” Charlotte said, nodding. “It shouldn’t be too bad if you’ve eaten lately—” She caught a glimpse of Ix’s black eyes. “Er... well, we shouldn’t be stuck here for *too* long, at least.”

“I’ll be okay,” Ix said, and cleared her throat. “It’s not bad at all, just surprising.”

Charlotte knew only too well how bad the burning thirst could be, but she held her tongue and crept forward down the Generic Corridor to the sounds of shouting. Pushing open a door at the end of the hallway, she was met with the sight of an apparent Rosalie clone threatening to punch Alec in the face.

We were fighting over something, I don’t even remember what it was, which makes this entire thing seem stupid now.

“And we’re already off to a great start with the Sue and Alec’s abusive relationship,” Charlotte said, whipping out her notebook and pen.

Aro was apparently in the room as well, but since the fic had forgotten to mention as much until it was his turn to speak, he popped into existence to scold Alec and the Sue for fighting.

Alec called the Sue stupid and she punched him in the face, breaking her hand.

The doctor came in shortly and bandaged my hand up. It would heal in a few days, thanks to my to heal quickly because I’m half vampire.

Charlotte and Ix scrambled to stand against the wall when the Sue came storming out, closely followed by Alec. Even after she demanded he leave her alone, he pinned her to the wall, asking, **“Do you really want me to leave you alone?”**

“Oh, gawd, Alec’s a creeper, but even he’s not that bad,” Charlotte said, making a face when the Sue grabbed Alec and pulled him into her bedroom.

While the two of them began making out and undressing each other, Charlotte and Ix moved closer. Charlotte wrinkled her nose when she smelled sudden fresh glittery blood, but Ix gagged.

“Holy hell, is that what Sue blood smells like to you?” she asked, pinching her nose shut.

“Yep,” Charlotte said, trying to ignore the sounds of Alec sucking down mouthfuls of the Sue’s blood.

“And you actually *drink* that stuff?” Ix asked.

“It’s the most readily-available source of blood for me,” Charlotte said, shrugging. “It’s not my first choice of cuisine, I’ll tell you that.” She smiled. “I can’t wait to see what sort of foods human me will like to eat.”

“I’ll cook you my favorites,” Ix promised.

“Just so long as you promise to eat some, yourself,” Charlotte said, looking at Ix’s black eyes.

Ix grimaced. “Lottie, you know I have a hard time digesting—”

“We’ll work you up slowly,” Charlotte said, leaning forward to nuzzle her.

Ix leaned back. “You’re not seriously thinking of snuggling while Alec is sucking the Sue’s blood in the next room, are you?” she hissed.

Charlotte rubbed the back of her neck, laughing awkwardly. “Vampire thing?”

Ix gave her a flat look. “I’m a vampire right now, too, you know. And I’m a little bit distracted by the *stench* she’s giving off.”

“You get used to it,” Charlotte said, “but I getcha. No kissing until you’re back to normal.” She paused, listening to the Sue protesting feebly against Alec attacking her. For someone who was supposed to be the most powerful member of the Volturi, she didn’t put up much of a fight.

“I just want to add that Alec was physically twelve or thirteen when he was transformed,” Charlotte said. “So we’ve got this Sue, who looks like she’s eighteen, and Alec, who’s... eugh, even by my home continuum’s standards, that’s creepy.”

The Sue went limp while Alec sucked her dry, and the agents had to get out of the way when Jane went sweeping past them to tell Alec that a fresh batch of humans had just been brought

in. Alec didn't even need to be pulled off the Sue; he just got up and wandered off of his own accord, reeking of glitter.

"Lost control, my butt," Charlotte muttered. "If he was really consumed with bloodlust, Jane would've needed to zap him with her torture beams to get him off her."

The screams of the humans filled my ears and I cringed. I couldn't bring myself to drink blood, it would be like drinking myself.

"Case in point," Charlotte said, lunging and grabbing Ix around the waist when her nostrils flared. "Ix, get ahold of yourself!"

"Let go of me!" Ix snarled, struggling to break free.

Charlotte managed to hold onto Ix with one arm—even as a vampire, Ix wasn't very strong—and opened a portal to the next chapter, which was mercifully free of bleeding humans. In the vampire-filled throne room, which had only the pervasive stench of the Sue's glitter, Ix relaxed, slumping in Charlotte's arms.

"You alright?" Charlotte asked, stroking her back.

"Fine now," Ix said, shuddering. "You have to worry about that every time you get hungry?"

"Only if someone gets injured," Charlotte said. "And I haven't tasted human blood in years, so it's easier for me to hold back."

"Bet you're looking forward to becoming human," Ix said, shaking her head in disbelief.

"Like you can't even imagine," Charlotte said. Ix just gave her a flat look and Charlotte coughed. "Sorry, right. You probably have a good idea." She coughed. "So, uh, that's a charge, for someone being raised by the Volturi thinking there's something wrong with eating humans—"

She fell silent when the Sue came striding into the throne room, her cloak flaring dramatically behind her. Alec and Jane flanked her, their eyes even more lifeless than usual. Aro launched into a speech about how the Cullens had created an immortal child, and the Volturi would be going to Forks to destroy it. The Sue mused on the strange familiarity of the town's name, and Charlotte bit back a snort of derision.

"If the Volturi make it a point to keep tabs on other vampires, and the Cullens have pretty much laid claim to Forks, they would know," she said. "It's not like the Sue would've met Bella, Edward, and Alice a few years previously during the events of the second book or anything..."

Aro dismissed the gathering and the agents followed the Sue and Demetri to the kitchen. The Sue began bustling around, making herself a bowl of Generic Cereal while she stupidly asked Demetri who the Cullens were.

"If you've been around for a couple dozen decades, surely you've *heard* of the vampires Aro's been trying to get under his control?" Charlotte hissed. "It's not like Alice and Edward were two of his biggest targets or anything! Nope, this is your first time ever hearing about them!"

Demetri and the Sue wandered back to the throne room, and before either agent could glance at the Words to see what was next, they were thrown into the next chapter, landing in a tangled heap at the back of a Generic Plane. The flying kind, not the flat kind, though in badfic, that wasn't always an easy distinction.

The flight to Forks seemed eternal but I managed to find ways to entertain myself on the flight there.

"Selene, would you mind showing me that again?" Master Aro requested and I nodded, summoning the darkness to my hands and creating several weapons that could be used in battle. "Magnifico! You cease to amaze me, my dear."

"She ceased to amaze me a long time ago," Ix muttered, pushing Charlotte's elbow out of her nose. She looked around the Generic Plane and decided there wasn't much they could do to avoid drawing the Sue's attention, so she let herself slump down against the wall and watch sulkily as the Sue began conjuring figures made of light.

Charlotte managed to shove her hand between herself and Ix to pull out her notebook. "Light and darkness manipulation," she muttered, writing it down. "Should we count those as two separate powers or just one?"

"Might as well make it two," Ix said.

Alec complimented the Sue on how pretty her light creatures were. Before the agents were subjected to another round of snogging, the scene changed and dumped them in the snowy clearing where the Cullens and Volturi were preparing to face off.

"Right," Charlotte said, sitting up and shaking snow out of her hair, "that's another charge for terrible transitions. You okay there, Ix?"

"Considering I'm a vampire just like you at the moment, I could probably stand to be a little worse for wear," Ix said dryly. "Twi-wolves now, right?"

"Before the Sue gains Alice's powers, yeah," Charlotte said, digging into her bag for the D.O.R.K.S. She pulled out an apple and eyeballed it. "Don't remember packing that," she said, and sure enough, was able to find buttons hiding under its surface. "Here we go."

There was a bright flash of light, but the agents appeared mostly unchanged save for a sudden flush of color to their skin.

Charlotte lifted her arm to her nose and sniffed curiously, then recoiled.

"What is it?" Ix asked.

"I can smell vampire!me on me," Charlotte said, a look of disgust crossing her face. "And it smells *wrong*."

"Good, that means the disguise is working," Ix said. She squinted across the clearing where the Sue was glossing over the events of *Breaking Dawn*. "Wow, you can really tell she's racing ahead to when she'll be important, can't you?"

Sure enough, Aro called the Sue forward—and when she made eye contact with Rosalie, canon shattered into a million pieces.

"No! Please, don't take her! She's just a child, she's not a threat! Please!" The woman pleaded, holding a little girl in her arms.

"She will be a great addition to our guard. You must give her to us or we execute you all." Aro's words were harsh and demanding, causing the woman to become frightened, as well as the man behind her to hold on tightly to his mate.

"Oh no," Charlotte said. "She didn't. She did. Holy hell in a handbasket. That is so bogus."

I made my way over to Demetri and looked him in the eye. "Those are my parents, aren't they."

Selene-"

"No, I want the truth! Rosalie and Emmett are my parents."

"Normally, I'm all for the spotlight being taken away from Renesmee, but even this is too much," Charlotte said, her fists clenching.

When Aro confirmed that Rosalie and Emmett were the Sue's parents, fire shot out of her hands in anger. Charlotte could barely write, angry as she was.

"Want me to do that?" Ix said quietly, and Charlotte thrust the notepad at her, muttering curses under her breath.

They watched, Charlotte's curses getting progressively more colorful, as the Sue used her fire powers to cow the Volturi into admitting she was, in fact, Emmett and Rosalie's daughter. Declaring she'd had enough, the Sue walked across the clearing to join the Cullens, and the chapter ended.

"So... it's a charge for the Volturi letting her go so easily, right?" Ix said.

"Oh, you'd better believe it," Charlotte said. "Anyone as powerful as her would be the prize jewel in Aro's collection. He wouldn't give her up without a fight. And if Alec and the Sue really are mates? They wouldn't want to be parted so easily, either."

The chapter ended and transitioned to the next one smoothly—though the Volturi all popping out of existence was somewhat jarring.

You-You're really here." I turned around and my blue eyes made contact with Rosalie's gold ones. **"Sh-She has your eyes, Emmett."**

"She might have my eyes but she looks like you, Rose. Beautiful." Emmett spoke, his voice was deep, and he was taller up close than from afar.

I was taken by surprise when Rosalie, or, my mom, pulled me into a hug.

The Sue described the hug as warm, at which Charlotte snorted. "She'd be freezing," she said. "Half-breeds have a higher body temperatures than humans—which makes *no sense*, but hey, this is Twilight—so if she's feeling two vamps hugging her as warm, something is way wrong with her biology."

"You mean even more so?" Ix said dryly. Charlotte scooped up a snowball and lobbed it at Ix's head. Ix let it poof against her scalp, shivering slightly at the tickling sensation of melted snow running over her skin. "Jeez, Twi-wolves really are warm."

"I always did tell you you were hot," Charlotte said, grinning when Ix blushed bright red.

Ix cleared her throat and nodded at the Cullens, who were busily welcoming the Sue into the fold. "We should probably go after them," she said, and began trudging through the snow.

Charlotte frowned, but followed. One of these days, she'd find a compliment that didn't embarrass her girlfriend.

"Demetri used to tell me that I was more pure than everyone else, but that isn't true, Renesmee is." the Sue said as the agents crept closer, skirting the edge of the treeline.

Charlotte sighed, pinching the bridge of her nose. "When one Sue calls another purer than her... Oh, god, I think I'm gonna throw up."

"Aim it away from me," Ix said, leaning back.

The Sue bragged for a bit about how good she was at killing werewolves and that she'd been training until she was fully grown to become a full-fledged member of the Volturi, at which Charlotte snorted.

"So that's, what... seven years? Half-breeds grow really fast—or did you forget that?"

Rosalie and Alice declared that they would have to take the Sue shopping for new clothes and furniture.

Her enthusiasm caused me to giggle. How can one person get so excited about shopping? I never really liked it but Jane enjoyed it, surprisingly.

"First she's excited, then she's dissing it, and then she throws Jane OOC and acknowledges it," Ix muttered, scribbling in the notebook. Her untidy scrawl looked out of place compared to Charlotte's calligraphy. "Say, Lottie?"

"Mmm?"

"Will you be able to write this well once you're human?"

Charlotte laughed. "Of course I will. That's not a vampire thing, you know—I had to practice to get good at it, same as anyone else."

Ix raised an eyebrow. "Will you be able to write this well at the same speed?"

"...Probably not." Charlotte looked thoughtful. "You know, it's been so long, I don't even remember what my normal handwriting looks like? If I even had it to begin with?"

Ix smiled. "Just something else you'll get to find out, I suppose."

"No doubt." Charlotte gave a nervous smile. "It's just... kinda crazy that we've only got a few more weeks to go before I can be with you forever."

"Yeah," Ix said quietly.

Charlotte frowned. "What's the matter?"

"It's just..." Ix took a deep breath. "Every time you've *not* been a vampire, for missions, you've used the disguise generator. Short of accidentally changing species permanently, it just kinda... lays the disguise down over top of your real body, you know? So even though you're a, an Elf and do Elfy things, you're still a vampire inside. But when you morph a human, you're going to have a human brain, and human emotions, and human... reactions." She turned her head so the scarred side was facing Charlotte, and she jabbed an angry finger at her face. "Will you really be able to look at this, every day, and not feel disgusted?"

Charlotte took a step closer to Ix and put her hands on either side of her face, making Ix look at her head-on. "You want to know something?" she said. "Even if my human brain *does* decide it's going to take issue with your face, that's not going to be a problem. I fell in love with this." She pressed a finger over Ix's heart.

"You gonna keep your penchant for sappy lines, too?" Ix said, smiling faintly.

"I hope so," Charlotte said, leaning up on tiptoes to kiss her. "Though I also hope I'll gain a few inches. I feel so short next to you."

"You have a promising career as a chinrest," Ix deadpanned.

Charlotte flicked her. "We should probably head to the next chapter," she said. "Though I'm not exactly looking forward to the Sue's shopping spree..." She pulled out her remote and opened a portal.

They appeared inside the Generic Mall and lost themselves in the crowd. It wasn't hard to spot the Sue and Alice; the pair were plowing their way from store to store, weighed down by an obscene amount of bags.

We had already made three trips so far, and Mom had to call Dad and Uncle Eddy to bring their car for the rest of the bags.

"You know what the worst part about this is?" Charlotte muttered to Ix. "I'm not even sure if I should charge for that or not. Excessive spending like that is seriously the kind of thing Alice would do."

"I'd say charge," Ix said. "Buying **everything in the stores** is excessive even for Alice. Also, I love that her parents are making her go to high school. Never mind that she looks like a teenager—she *isn't* one. But I guess that's the rules of the canon or something. All vampires must attend high school. Forever."

"The literal definition of hell," Charlotte agreed. "I remember having to sit in on Bella and Edward's chemistry class and listen to my *friend* hiss curses about Bella under her breath. High school, man."

"Hogwarts was pretty much the same way," Ix said, her voice hollow.

"Didn't anything good ever happen to you there?" Charlotte said, even though she already knew what the answer was going to be.

Ix, however, smiled, leaning against the wall to watch the Sue and the Cullens sitting at the food court. "Christmas holidays," she said. "When the castle was decorated with a thousand twinkling lights and everyone but the teachers went home for the holidays. I could change in the dorm by myself, I could sit in the common room by the fire for once, and never had to worry about being disturbed in the library..." She sighed wistfully. "There was so much food and nobody to stop me, so I ate myself sick almost every day. And the suits of armor would sing carols. One of them even took requests—I named him Bedevere my first year and sometimes I'd sit for ages by his pedestal to ask him to sing for me. At least, until Peeves stole his enchanted helmet."

Charlotte smiled and wrapped an arm around her. "You know, the PPC does get pretty decorated for various holidays, too," she said. "Maybe you can come out of the RC for the celebrations this year. There's always a really awesome Halloween party."

"Maybe," Ix said, though she didn't look too thrilled at the idea.

"You know, they put mistletoe up in some of the hallways during Christmas," Charlotte said, grinning.

Ix finally laughed. "Like you need any excuse to kiss me," she said.

Charlotte leaned forward and pressed a kiss to Ix's cheek. "Hmm. Do I?"

Ix twisted around to return the kiss.

"I'll take that as a no, then," Charlotte murmured. Reluctantly, she pulled away and held up the remote. "We should probably move on. Sue's about to change scenes on us."

They portaled to the Cullens' freakishly clean house and skulked in the hallway to listen in on the conversation in the living room. They didn't need to worry about their werewolf stench giving them away; Jacob's pack's smell invaded the rest of the house. Charlotte peeked around the corner to watch the Sue **[make] light and darkness into a swirl before releasing it**.

Emmett complimented the Sue on her abilities, and she attempted to gain some sympathy points by momentarily **look[ing] down at the ground** as she remembered how she'd killed a vampire in Egypt for her light control powers.

"You seriously can't expect me to believe she's one of the Volturi's best members if she acts like that," Charlotte said, glancing back at Ix.

Ix just grunted and leaned around the corner as well to watch Emmett ask the Sue about what other powers she had.

"Well, I can look into your eyes and immediately know everything about you, every memory, dream, nightmare, stuff like that. I was born with that gift. I can also manipulate darkness, light, the elements; I can cause you pain, track people, identify relationships. I'm also a shield, I can read minds, predict the future, and control emotions, now that I have met you all." I tried to remember all of my abilities but there is so many that they're hard to name.

Charlotte could feel her eye twitch. "And that—that right there—that's exactly why this one was given to us," she said. "And I have no idea how we're going to *kill* this one! She'll just incapacitate us, gloat for a bit, and then burn us to death before sobbing about how she had to kill us!"

Ix gnawed on her lip thoughtfully as she eyed the Sue, seeming to size her up. "I think I have an idea," she said slowly. She watched the Sue wander outside with her family when Alice announced she had a surprise.

"Charlotte," she said suddenly, turning to her. "Do you trust me?"

"Ix, whatever you're planning, don't," Charlotte said, grabbing her by the shoulders. "What's my count now? Three hundred and...?"

"Nine," Ix sighed. She put her hands on Charlotte's and gently pried them off her shoulders. "Lottie. I have a plan, but you have to trust me. Please."

Charlotte hesitated.

"Have I ever let you down?" Ix said softly.

"If you die out there, I'll kill you," Charlotte said, swallowing.

"So that's a yes." Ix bent down and kissed Charlotte gently. "I'll be right back."

And she limped off, giving Charlotte a small wave.

She trailed after the Cullens, who were excitedly leading the Sue into the woods, past Bella and Edward's house, to an identical-but-totally-not-the-same cottage **decorated with flowers and a small walkway along the outside with small stones and lights lining the path.**

Ix winced at the run-on sentence but moved closer, flitting from tree to tree like a ghost and sending a silent thanks to her old mentor for his training. She pressed up against the wall of the cottage and risked peeking inside to see the Sue running from room to overly-grand room, describing an interior that was much bigger than the small cottage suggested.

"It's smaller on the outside," Ix muttered to herself. She cocked an ear, listening to the Sue gushing over her **ensuite bathroom.**

Deciding she'd seen enough, Ix slunk around to the front door and knocked.

There was a muffled exclamation of surprise and then the Sue opened the door; the rest of the Cullens stood behind her, each of them wearing identical looks of disgust when they saw the sorry specimen on their doorstep.

"Hello," Ix said brightly, though her heart clenched at their staring. *They're Meyerpires, don't care what they think*, she told herself, and cleared her throat. "So, the young lady in the front, you're Selene Rose, correct?"

"What's it to you?" the Sue said coldly.

"I just wanted to clear up a question I had," Ix said, forcing her smile to not waver. "You're Emmett and Rosalie's daughter, yes?"

"Yes," the Sue said slowly.

"And you're a half-vampire, yes?"

"...Yeees?"

"So, tell me," Ix said, tilting her head curiously, "how is it possible for you to be born, when Rosalie was turned into a vampire two years before Emmett was, and female vampires can't have children?"

The Sue's bored expression barely changed to one of horror before she disappeared with a *pop!*

The house rumbled and vanished, and the Cullens looked at each other in confusion.

"What are we doing out here?" Alice asked.

Ix held up her neuralyzer. "That's a very good question."

Charlotte was pacing anxiously in the Cullens' living room when she heard Ix's telltale footsteps, and she shrieked, running forward and tacklehugging her. "You're alive!" she cried, kissing her.

Ix blushed to the tips of her ears, but she looked rather pleased with herself. "I am," she said. "And the Sue's gone, too, but I didn't want to risk charging her beforehand."

"Postmortem charges of being an uncanon daughter of the characters, being stupidly powerful, and dating a preteen, then," Charlotte said, shrugging. She smiled and spun Ix around. "But you're *alive!* How?"

"Let's get back to the RC before the Cullens return," Ix said, and Charlotte opened a portal.

Safely on the other side, Ix sat down on the sofa, stretching out her leg. Polly jumped up on her lap and Ix rubbed her ears. "I just logicked her out of existence," she said.

Charlotte stared at her for a moment. "Oh. *Oh. Duh.*"

"I, uh, that was alright, wasn't it?" Ix asked. "It just seemed too much of a risk to charge her before... I just wanted her to stand still, and..."

Charlotte sat beside her and draped an arm around her shoulders. "Nah, you did fine," she said. "Better than fine. That was great."

Ix rested her head against Charlotte's, breathing a small sigh of relief. "Glad to hear it."

Charlotte ran a hand over Ix's prickly scalp. "You're gonna be alright?"

Ix nodded. "It'll take a while, but... yeah, I think so." She glanced at Charlotte. "Maybe you could help me think of a good Halloween costume in the meantime?"

Charlotte leapt off the sofa like she'd been tasered. "YES! I mean, yes! I was hoping you would ask!"

Ix coughed. "With the understanding that I can leave the costume party at any time I need to, right?"

Charlotte beamed. "Absolutely."