

The Alpha's Contract

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Chapter 0271

Dane

Damien and I waited at the gates. It was still dark outside though the sun would be rising shortly. I was curious and cautious about this Abraxas guy. He had agreed to come here far too easily and that wasn't necessarily a good thing.

The call with Mallory was even stranger. The guy didn't speak, yet Mallory told him to ask a question, specifically to Neah and I still had no idea why. The line went dead just as quickly and a sleepy Neah stared at me as if I had just pranked her.

The cars come to a stop on the other side of the gates. Klaus is the first to exit the car. Shortly followed by an angry Eric.

"I told you to not stick a fucking gun in her face!" Eric yells as he turns towards the vehicle behind them.

"You can never be too careful." An unfamiliar voice retorts. Though his tone appeared to be emotionless. "And I warned all of you, I didn't want any surprises. You can chill now, she is still alive!"

"It's okay Eric. It was my fault." Mallory mutters. "He hates Blair so I had to tell him about Neah. I didn't want him to accidentally shoot her because they look alike."

'What the hell happened out there?' Aero asks me

'That's what I'm trying to find out.' I mumble back

The four of them move towards us. Eric and Mallory walk behind Abraxas, while Klaus keeps his presence close to him. The guy didn't seem to care. He strolled forward like he was on an evening walk. A bag slung over his shoulder, his hands shoved in his denim pockets.

He comes to a stop in front of the gates, his hazel eyes locking with mine. "Dane."

"People outside my pack refer to me as Alpha."

“Yeah, ain’t doing that. Not when you let scum in your pack.” His eyes momentarily move to Damien and he spits on the ground. If there hadn’t been gates between us, Damien would be wringing his neck.

“Show some fucking respect.” Damien growls.

“Respect is earned.” Abraxas snarls back. “And I have no respect for your kind, Rogue.”

“I’m not a Rogue!” Damien’s nostrils flare as he grips the bars of the gate.

“But you were. And you still feel the pull.” Abraxas grins at him. “How long before you are pushed over the edge, Damien? A week? A couple of months. Either way, I’m happy to end your miserable life.”

“You told him?” Damien demands as he glares at Mallory.

“No, I swear.” Mallory mutters. “It’s like I said, he just knows things.”

‘A mental case by the sounds of it.’ Aero rumbles

Abraxas stares at me but points to Eric, “Why don’t you tell him, Blondie!”

“My name is Eric!” He snaps back. Eric moves forward, frowning, “The guy claims he can tell the difference between Lycans and Rogues. Calls himself a Hunter.”

“It’s not a claim, Blondie. It’s a fact. A centuries old fact.”

“Whatever, just keep away from my mate or I will put a bullet through you.”

Abraxas laughs like it’s a challenge. “Now are you going to let me in? You lot did ask me to come here.”

“Why did you agree so easily?” I press

“She made me a deal.” He points to Mallory. “And if that deal doesn’t hold, I’m going to go on my own little killing spree. Starting with her.”

Mallory puffs her cheeks out. Whatever she had said, she had done it to protect herself. I don’t blame her for that. But the decision isn’t up to her.

“I’m the only one around here who gets to make deals.” I growl

“Is that right?” He mocks me

“He can tell the difference.” Mallory blurts. “I said he could kill the bad Lycans. It will be easier than growing blood of wolfsbane. Word won’t be able to get out.”

“Is that true?”

“It’s what makes me a Hunter.”

“As long as I get to kill something, I’m happy. So it’s your choice Dane.” Abraxas smirks at me. His lips peeling back over his teeth into a grin

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If I said yes, I was letting a mad man onto my lands. If I said no, a mad man knew of our location.

“Tell me more about being a Hunter.”

“The info is pretty much in the title. What more do you need?” Abraxas smirks at me

“Do you kill Wolves?”

“It’s happened.” He shrugs his shoulders

“Your priority is Rogues?”

He dips his chin at me.

“You won’t touch my mate or my sons.”

“Are they Rogues?”

“No. They are all Lycans.”

His lip curls up, “You got Lycans for kids? how fucking unlucky.”

I step forward, the bars of the gate the only thing separating us. My eyes lock on to his. “You don’t touch them and you don’t harm them.”

“Have they started training yet?”

“They are babies.”

He cocks an eyebrow and looks down, muttering “so much for the breed dying out.” His hazel eyes flicker back up to mine. “I won’t touch them.”

“Or harm them.”

He rolls his eyes. “Fine.”

I pull the gates open, letting him and the others in. "When do I get to meet this female Alpha?"

"A few hours," There was no way I was waking her up again.

"I ain't waiting hours."

"If you want to kill some Rogues. You will wait." I snap. It was my pack. I wasn't letting some psycho tell me how to run it.

Abraxas sits in the corner of my office, taking apart his gun and cleaning it as the others tell me what happened. Every now and again he would chip in, confirming what the others were saying, but never adding any new information.

"Hey," Neah's voice travels down the stairs, "I can smell a..." she trails off as she enters the office, staring at Abraxas.

Abraxas is on his feet. "You weren't kidding when you said she was identical." He gazes at her far too long for my liking.

"Who are you?" Neah's defence was up immediately. Her arms fold across her body as she glared at him.

"Your knight in shining armour." He muses, bowing in front of her. "And a Rogue's worst nightmare."

"I don't need a knight. This isn't some fucking fairytale where you slay the dragon." She stares at him. Her whole body is tense.

"Blair." He mutters her name and sits back down, returning to cleaning his gun.

"You've dealt with Blair?" Neah asks with a small frown.

"I have unfinished business with Blair. But I hear many of you do." He shrugs his shoulders and chuckles. "I would like to be the one to kill her, but I heard there was a queue."

"What did she do to you?" Neah questions

"More than enough and she needs to pay for that. You see Neah, I want to put a bullet right in the centre of that pretty little head of hers. I want her to pay for everything she did to me. Every damn little thing. I want my eyes to be the last thing she sees."

"She did more than kill your parents, didn't she?" Mallory asks, stepping towards him. I watch Eric reach out to try and grab her, just missing her arm.

“You don’t need to concern yourself with that. As long as she dies, then my day is made.” Abraxas tells her

There was obviously something he didn’t want to share or maybe wasn’t ready to share, yet I couldn’t help wondering what else it was that she did to him.

They ask him more questions. Most he doesn’t answer, swerving them with his own questions. Other answers were short and abrupt, but I also see him watching Neah. His eyes following her every movement. He wasn’t just curious about her, he seemed fascinated.

Was it because she looked like Blair or was there some other reason that he was yet to tell us?

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Abraxas

It was almost uncomfortable how much she looked like Blair. I knew it wasn’t her.

Apart from the eyes, her soul gave her away. The darkness hovered in her, but she hadn’t gone Rogue yet. She was fighting it and she had been fighting it for some time, a long time.

No other Lycan I had come across had been able to fight it off for so long. Once the darkness sets in, they have weeks, maybe months at most. Yet somehow, Neah had been fighting it for well over a year, maybe even most of her life. Unaware that it was even there.

A Hunter’s instinct would be to kill her. To put her out of her misery. To end her before she does too much damage. But even I could see there was something different about her.

The edges of her soul are tinted black, but unlike others, the majority of it is bright. It shouldn’t be possible and yet, here I was, seeing it for myself. Like she was in a constant battle. She hadn’t won it yet, but she was trying.

They ask more questions, trying to get more answers from me about Blair. Mallory tells them that Blair killed my parents, but there is so much more to it than that. And that is something I didn’t share with anyone. But they wanted to know and they kept pushing and pushing apart from Neah who was quiet.

They didn’t need to know anything else about me. I came to do a job and that was all that mattered.

Neah stands and I find myself standing too. I tuck the gun into my waistband as Dane leans down to kiss her cheek. A similar gesture that I would make to my mate.

I wanted to speak to Neah alone. I wanted to see if the colour of her soul would change. "Can we speak?"

"Why?" Her walls go up immediately as she stares back at me. Big blue eyes trying to process what my plan could be.

"I'm used to working alone. I'm used to hunting in a certain way. If I'm to work with you, I need to know how you operate, what your intentions are and what you are planning." It was a lie. I could already see how she worked. Act first, think later, common for those that have lived a life of trauma. Maybe that was when the darkness started.

"I don't think that is a good idea." Crimson eyed Dane mutters.

"Is she not capable of making her own decisions?" I challenge. She was his mate and technically a Luna of his pack and an Alpha in her own right. She was far from weak.

"It's not her judgement I'm questioning." He mutters back.

"I said I wouldn't hurt her. Unlike you predictable Wolves, I am able to control myself."

I flick my eyes back to Neah who was hovering by the office door. Her hand already on the handle ready to leave and yet she hadn't.

I pull the gun back out my waistband. Her eyes follow it as I drop it onto Dane's desk. I could still kill her if I wanted too. But maybe this would make her feel at ease. Instead, I see something else.

The light of her soul dims to grey and her eyes darken. It took a lot less time than I expected. I wonder if she knew what was causing the darkness. Or whether she had been convinced it was something else.

Her hands clench into fists at her side and she shakes her head, puffing out her cheeks. It takes a minute before her soul is glowing with light again. She had more control than what her Lycan liked. Her Lycan is the darkness at the edge of her soul, feeding on her pain, her anger, pushing unwanted thoughts into her mind.

"Go see your boys." I mutter. Her soul instantly brightens, pushing the edges back until it's so bright that I have to look away from her.

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I know she is confused. She hadn't mentioned her sons to me.

“What the fuck was that about?” Damien snaps at me as Neah leaves

“Wind that fucking head in. I’m not here to help you.” I snarl back at him. His eyes flicker to my gun on the desk. “Go ahead, do you think that’s the only one?”

“ENOUGH!” Dane snaps

“You saw something when you were watching Neah, didn’t you?” Mallory asks with her brows knitted together. “The same as how you didn’t shoot me.”

I don’t answer her and turn my attention back to their leader.

“She was bound, right?” My guess was two or three times, which in theory should have killed her.

“Four.” Dane tells me “How the hell did you know that?”

“Hunter.” I mutter, trying to understand how she could have been bound four times and still be alive. But it did show one thing. How fucking powerful she really was. “Does she shift?”

“Not anymore. Why?”

“Her Lycan is the one responsible for pushing the darkness on her.”

“That doesn’t make any sense. We don’t have Lycan spirits.” Damien is shaking his head at me. “If that’s how you turn Rogue, that makes no sense.”

“You don’t, but I know what I see.”

They stare at me like I’m mad. A look I was all too familiar with. I laugh at them, so fucking predictable.

“I’m not in the mood for games.” Dane speaks, staring at me.

“Yet you let those fuckers in your life. You know that’s one of the things Rogues do, right? They play you to get what they want.”

I see Damien clench his teeth. He was so furious that it was fucking hilarious. “I am not a Rogue anymore.” He seethes

“So you told me. It doesn’t mean I have to believe you. I would rather trust what I see.”

“What does that mean?”

“Exactly what it sounded like.”

“Damien, go check on Raven.” Dane tells him.

“Another Lycan?” I muse. How many were already hidden here?

“No. My sister.”

“I would want someone more trustworthy to check on my sister.”

“They are mates.”

“Another one? What the fuck is going on here?” Wolves and Lycans don’t just get paired up. I had been watching Lycans and Rogues for years, learning everything about them. Wolves were never in the picture, well not as mates. “Who was mated first?”

“Neah and myself. Why?”

“You know that isn’t normal.”

“World is changing.” Mallory mutters

“Yet one thing stays the same.” I rise to my feet again and move to the window, running their words through my head. “What’s the connection?”

“What?” Blondie mutters

“Neah and Dane. Damien and Raven. Blondie and Mallory. Who else?”

“It was Jenson and Jess. Jenson is Raven’s twin. Jess died.” Dane purses his lips together and glances at Blondie, “And now Jenson is mated to Blair.”

I raise an eyebrow, I did not see that coming.

“It’s not what you think.” Mallory tells me. “He got himself mixed up in some weird shit with her and now he is in the hospital dying. They aren’t fated mates. He claimed her.”

“Did he now?”

“He was pissed off with me.” Dane groans

“I can put him out of his misery.” I offer

“I’m capable of doing that.” He snaps back at me.

Fucking Wolves. They are all so damn touchy when it comes to members of their pack. there was nothing worse than seeing someone suffer. Their death dragged out in the hopes they would heal.

“Can he get information to her?”

“He’s in a coma.”

It takes a lot to put a Wolf in a coma. Something else must have been happening. Though I know he won’t be waking up ever. They never did. Yet as I look at Dane, I realise he has hope that the guy will survive. If he does, it would be a fucking miracle.

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Damien

“I don’t like him. He is fucking shifty. He claims to know stuff about Lycans and Rogues. It’s a load of bullshit.” I mutter though Raven isn’t listening to me. She is busy staring at Jenson.

The guy is hooked up to every machine possible and she spends all day here, watching for the tiniest clues. Looking for something that just isn’t there.

The only reason he is alive is because of the machines.

Turn the ventilator off and the other one that’s keeping his heart pumping and that would be it, but she couldn’t accept that, even with her vast knowledge of medical stuff. Or maybe it was more that she wouldn’t accept it.

Big black circles sit under her eyes from the lack of sleep. Her lips are chapped from the lack of fluids and every piece of food I put in front of her went uneaten. Even her favourite ice cream.

“This wasn’t supposed to happen.” she whispers, gripping Jenson’s unresponsive hand. “We were supposed to stick together. Look after each other. And you had to go and ruin it!”

A single tear trickles down her cheek as she stares at her brother. “You couldn’t just accept it, could you?”

“Raven, he can’t hear you.”

“You don’t know that!” She snaps at me. “He could still wake up.”

Even Dane knew it wouldn’t happen.

“Raven, you need to sleep.” I press. I needed to get her out of here, even if it were only for a few hours.

“I can’t leave him.”

“He won’t be alone. I’ve asked Klaus to come and sit with him.”

“It has to be me. If something happens...”

“Then Klaus will link you. This isn’t good for you. You need to rest. To eat. It’s no good if you are making yourself ill too. You won’t be able to help him if you are making yourself suffer.” I press, hoping that she would finally understand what I’m telling her.

Her dark eyes flicker to mine. “I can’t leave him, Damien.”

“You will only be in the packhouse. You are not leaving him.”

She sighs and slowly peels her hand from her brothers as Klaus appears.

“Anything Klaus, promise me if there is anything, you will tell me.” Raven pleads with him, “A finger or a toe twitch, the machines. I need to know. Please.”

“Of course.” Klaus nods. He takes her seat beside Jenson and I still have to drag her away.

Tears fall more freely when it is just us. In bed, she lets me curl around her until her body is perfectly nestled into mine. I hoped my presence would be enough to make her feel something other than sadness and fear.

She cries and sobs into the pillow like nothing I have ever seen.

Being like me, you come to learn that death was expected. It truly is the only guaranteed thing in life.

We are born and we die. What happens in between is up to us. And though my own death is not something that scares me, the idea of losing my mate to it does. The worst thing is, I could feel everything she was feeling, but I couldn’t make it better. Only one person could and he was being kept alive by machines.

She falls asleep from crying. Her eyes are left puffy from all the tears and her cheeks are flushed red from her hands constantly brushing them away. But she was asleep and I wanted to keep it that way. At least for a little while.

Carefully moving away, I watch her for a moment, making sure she doesn’t wake. A tiny snore escapes and I knew she was out and unlikely to wake for at least a few hours.

The house is empty and I find Neah sitting on the steps in front of the house. A deep frown etched on her face as she stares at Abraxas performing some sort of martial arts.

"Dane?"

“Dane took the boys and Dorothy to Eric’s parents.”

“Is that a good idea?”

“They miss their own grandsons, well, the ones they thought were theirs. Dane thought the kids might cheer them up.”

“And he thought it was a good idea to leave him alone.” I nod my head in Abraxas' direction.

“This is all he has been doing for the last hour.”

“You offered to watch?”

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She nods. “Dane told him to stay where I could see him. He has done.”

I watch other Wolves stop to observe him. Abraxas doesn't acknowledge them, like he is in his own little world. He moves with precision and ease, probably following training patterns that he had mastered over the years.

“I don't like him.”

“You don't like anyone.” she smirks at me and takes a sip of water from her bottle. “But I get what you mean. He's strange. His movements, his words. How can someone know things like he does?”

“They don't. It's normally a result of research and watching, or he paid someone for information.”

“Hmm.”

“You think it's something else.”

“I don't know what to think.” She mutters and pulls her bottom lip between her teeth. “Dane wouldn't have left him if he thought there was a problem.”

“Maybe he is performing his own test.”

Her big blue eyes turn to me as she nods in agreement. From what I had heard, Dane did like to test people and he had odd ways of doing it. It probably also means that Neah is not the only one watching this nutjob throw himself around fighting an invisible force.

I'm assuming he tested me at some point too. But I was here and he had chosen me as Beta so I must have passed.

Abraxas makes his way towards us.

Neah watches him with curiosity as he pulls a towel from his bag and begins wiping the sweat from his body.

"You train funny." She mutters

"Training is training." He cocks a brow, flashing his eyes in my direction. "Not all of us need to spar with someone to test our strengths and I definitely don't need to beat the shit out of a bag."

This guy's obnoxious attitude was on another level and I was more than ready to put my fist through his face.

"No, you just take the pussy's way out and stick a gun in their face."

He smirks at me, a dark glint in his eyes. "You have no fucking idea, Rogue."

I get up, growling. "Call me a fucking Rogue one more time!"

His smirk turns into a grin. A laugh rumbles from inside of him and he turns away from me.

"Fucking prick!" I snarl

The dickhead stops, keeping his back to me. He turns his face a little over his shoulder, not quite looking at me, yet enough to show that he is challenging me.

Neah grabs my ankle. "STOP!"

It was an order. Something that I couldn't refuse. If I wasn't annoyed, I would be impressed that she had been able to do it.

"I'm not a Rogue, Neah. I swear on my life that I do not want to go back to that way of living."

"I know that."

"Then let me smash his face in."

"No."

"Do you believe the shit he spouts?"

“I didn’t say that.” She murmurs with a frown.

I wasn’t sure how to respond. Curiosity wasn’t a bad thing, or was it that he wanted Blair dead too? Either way, I decide to stay with her until Dane comes back.

The guy trains like no other. He is incredibly quick and moves with perfection, better than I had seen here in the pack.

I could see Dane heading back our way with the twins and Dottie. She’s skipping along next to him, carrying that bear from the hotel when she stops dead to stare at Abraxas. I watch her arm coil around Dane’s leg as she hides herself behind him.

When I look at Abraxas, he has stopped too and is staring at my girl. I hurry over to them and Dottie practically claws herself up into my arms. Her arms loop around my neck as she hides her face against me.

She’s not crying and she’s not scared but her heart pounds like crazy against her chest. “Who is he Daddy?” she whispers

“You don’t need to worry.”

I start moving towards the house to get her inside only to find Abraxas catching up with us. “Dorothy?” He mutters

I didn’t care how he knew her name but he was not hurting a hair on her head. “Stay away from my kid!” I growl, pulling her away.

“Your kid?”

“Yes. Stay the hell away.”

“She’s not yours. She’s mine.”

Chapter 0277

Neah

This wasn’t good. I had arrived just in time for Abraxas to demand that Damien hand over Dorothy.

“Fucking liar. I knew there was something dodgy about you. Is this what you do, you take little kids from their homes?” Damien snaps

“I’m not the one taking them from their homes. She’s my daughter!”

“Right. And I’m the King of England.” Damien snaps. His arms are tightly wrapped around Dorothy as Dane puts himself and the twins between the bickering men. My twins. Already I feel my stomach tying itself up in knots. How could he forget they were in his arms? How could he put them in the line of fire?

“How else do you think I know her name?” Abraxas growls.

“I’m sure you weeded it out of someone, because that’s what you do, right? Pay for information, make it seem like you have some kind of magic. Trick people into believing you. How did you con information out of Mallory?”

“Give her to me, Rogue! Give me my daughter!”

Damien growls, taking a step back.

The movement is quick and I’m not even sure where Abraxas pulls it from. He points a gun directly at me.

“Hand her over or I kill the person I’m supposed to be helping.” His hazel eyes lock with mine. I couldn’t tell if it was just a threat not until his finger moved over the trigger.

Rage fills my body. How fucking dare he threaten me!

‘Kill him.’ Nyx mutters

‘Shut up!’

“Lower your weapon.” Dane demands

I watch Abraxas laugh. “That tone doesn’t work on me. I’m not from your pack and I don’t believe in Alpha status. So maybe you need to rethink your question and who you are aiming it at. Your mate is all of a minute away from shifting and I won’t hesitate to put her down.” He winks at me

I close my eyes. If I shift, he will kill me. If I move he will kill me. I couldn’t let the darkness win. I take a deep breath and open my eyes to find him staring at me with a cocked brow.

“How do you know she is yours?” I ask, trying to keep my voice level.

“I thought I could smell her in the house. I thought my mind was playing tricks on me. How did she end up here?”

“Damien saved her.” I mutter

His eyes momentarily shift to Damien, “I want to know what she did to her?”

“Who?”

“Blair.”

“She wasn’t with Blair.” I whisper, confused. “She was found chained in a bar full of humans. About a year ago. Damien brought her back here. We took her in because she is a Wolf and.....” I trail off, I wasn't prepared to tell another stranger about my past or how I felt I had to save Dorothy because no one had saved me.

“A Hunter.” He mutters. But he still watches me, like he knew I had something else to say.

“Blair took her?” Dane asks as he tries to keep the wriggling twins in his arms.

Abraxas lowers the gun, but his finger still hovers on the trigger. “Dorothy and my pregnant mate were with my parents while I was on a hunt. She killed all of them except Dorothy.” He laughs, “Fucking whore took her. I guess she got bored with looking after a toddler and pawned her off.”

‘You should still kill him.’ Nyx growls. ‘Just for pointing that shit at us.’

“That doesn’t prove anything.” Damien snaps as I try to ignore my Lycan

I watch as Abraxas slips two fingers into his jeans pocket. He pulls out a small photo and hands it to me. A pregnant woman stares back with bright green eyes and a smile that could light up any room. A small girl leans over the woman's shoulder, beaming at the camera. Dorothy got all her looks from her mother, including the dimples when she smiled.

A sadness fills me because his mate looked to be due at the time of the photo which means she was killed shortly afterwards. Abraxas had lost everyone in the blink of an eye. Including the only person to survive Blairs attack on his family.

Dane moves towards me and both boys reach out for me as I show him the photo. He saw it just like I did. There was no mistake that the young girl was Dorothy.

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“Are you really believing this shit?” Damien demands

“Damien put her down.” Dane tells him.

“You have got to be kidding me. Look at her.” He points to the girl clinging to him

I had. She hadn’t made a sound. But there were also no tears and she wasn’t panicking. She had been listening to everything as she hugged the one man that she truly trusted.

“Damien!” I didn’t want to order him, but I would if I had too, especially now that I was getting the hang of it.

He stares at me for a few moments and mutters, “She’s my kid.”

“She’s his too.”

Reluctantly, he lowers her until her feet are touching the grass. Dorothy grips on to his hand as she stares at Abraxas. It was like everything slowed down as she let go of Damien’s hand and ran into Abraxas’s open arms.

“I’m here, baby girl. I finally found you.” He reassures her.

Damien turns and starts to walk away when Dorothy calls out to him. “Daddy don’t go.”

He turns his head over his shoulder. “I’m not going anywhere, Dottie. I’m just going to check on Raven.”

When Damien is out of sight, Abraxas asks us why we have been letting a Rogue look after his kid.

“You said she is a Hunter too.” Dane smiles. “Well she chose him to be her safe person. He’s the only one she confidently talks too about what happened to her. Whether you like it or not, she chose

him and he will always be a part of her life.”

Dane steps forward, putting his hands over Dorothy’s ears. “Point a gun at my mate again. I will pull your organs out through your ass and feed them to you.”

“Fair enough. Though you would need to be quicker than a bullet.” Abraxas smirks back

“Then I suggest you sleep with one eye open.”

Dane takes the boys up to the house. He wanted me to go with him but I found myself rooted to the spot, staring at the strange Wolf.

“Dorothy, could you go and help Dane.” I didn’t want to separate her and her father, not after just getting her back. But the way he had been staring at me was like he knew something else about me.

I see Eric appear twenty metres away. I’m guessing Dane linked him when I didn’t follow my mate away.

“Blondie has been watching for a while.” Abraxas tells me

“He doesn’t like you calling him that.”

“I’m not here to make friends.”

“Would you really have shot me?”

“The moment your beast was free.” He nods

“In front of Dorothy?”

“She’s a Hunter.”

I pause, I remember how Damien had said Dorothy hadn’t really reacted to the slaughtered humans in the bar, and even her nightmares weren’t filled with them but with the things that had been done to her.

“Thank you for keeping her safe.”

His words take me by surprise. A few minutes ago, death was staring me in the face.

“How did you know?”

“That you were on the path to shifting? I see it. I see the darkness moving in. My question to you is, how do you hold it off?”

‘What is that supposed to mean?’ Nyx presses. She sounds annoyed. I had felt her anger towards others. But Abraxas seems to have sent her to a whole other level.

“Why do you want to know?”

“Never seen anyone do it like you do it. I’m curious.”

“I was given some advice.”

“From the other assholes? I would take that with a pinch of salt. There is a difference between them and you. They have already gone Rogue.”

“They shifted back. Mallory more easily than Damien and they both have been fine.”

“In my experience, it doesn’t stay that way.”

“They’re different.”

“You keep telling yourself that. There will come a time when something triggers them. Something throws them over the edge and they are unable to return from it.”

“You don’t know them.”

“I’ve been doing this a long time and right now, I’m more concerned about that Rogue that has attached himself to my daughter.”

Chapter 0279

Abraxas

“She adores him.” Neah tells me. I could see that myself. Dorothy wasn’t old enough to use her Hunter abilities, to her, she may have seen the man who saved her, but to me, he is a ticking time bomb and I don’t want her anywhere near that.

“Would you let your boys near someone you deemed unsafe? I saw the way you looked at Dane when he stood between me and the Rogue. Two squirming babies in his arms. He put them directly in the line of danger.”

“Obviously I wasn’t happy.”

“You still held it together.”

She frowns at me. But it is a frown born of confusion, not anger. If it were anger, she would have that little crease that formed between her brows earlier. Something that surprised me considering I had pointed a gun at her. Even Mallory had acted like she had been jabbed with a taser.

“I’m sorry she did that to you.”

An apology was the last thing I expected. She was a little more unpredictable than I first thought. Maybe she was what all the Lycans needed. Maybe she could be the one to keep them all in line.

“It’s not your place to apologise. As much as you look like her, you were not the one to slit my family’s throats while they were sleeping. You were not the one who took my baby girl and handed her off to fucking humans.”

She nods, her eyes flicking to Blondie in the distance. She gives him a tiny shake of the head.

“You knew he was watching, didn’t you?” She asks me quietly.

“Yep. He’s not the only one. Two back there, hiding in the trees. An older woman is watching me from her bedroom window. The couple down there who are acting like they are on their phones. Plus a few others.”

She stares at me with wide eyes as I smile, "I wouldn't be a successful Hunter if I'm unable to tell where the threats are." I muse

"Are you part Witch?"

"Fuck no." Why did they always jump to that? It's not magic. It's a gift that has been built and developed through generations of Hunters. We came preloaded with information and anything we learned got passed on to the next.

She nods and a small smile appears on her face. Her soul glows brighter too. She turns from me. "I need to go and check on something."

I watch her walk away. She is an odd thing. So different from other Lycans. Powerful too but only if her Lycan doesn't ruin it for her.

"Come on then, Blondie, let's hear it. You've been watching me for the last hour." He had been moving closer even after Neah had told him no "Seen anything exciting?"

"You really think you are something special, don't you?"

"Nah," I brush past him and give him a wink. "I know I am."

I duck before his fist hits me, easily swaying out of the way of the following punches. They always went for the punch first, and always to the face. Why is it that pack Wolves have become so predictable? I yawn as he throws another fist in the direction of my face, only this time when I duck, he accidentally hits his mate in the centre of her forehead.

He should really pay more attention of his surroundings

Her feet end up higher than her head as she's knocked through the air. Her brown eyes wide with shock by the sudden impact. Her body crashes onto the ground with a painful crack of something breaking.

"Mal, Mal. Talk to me, are you okay?" Eric drops to his knees by her. Flustered that he had hurt his own mate.

She groans as the bruise on her forehead quickly appears before it starts to heal and I watch her leg snap back into place.

"You made me hit my fucking mate!" Eric growls, getting back to his feet, leaving his mate to groan on the grass.

"Can't say I would hit a woman. But then again, it wasn't me that clonked her in the forehead, was it?"

He growls at me.

“Maybe you need to use your eyes and ears a bit more, Blondie. Take notice of what is going on around you. Maybe tell her it's not such a good idea to stand right behind people, you never know what might come flying your way.”

“Wanker!” He snaps at me as he sits Mallory up.

I shrug my shoulders, I had been called a lot worse, especially by those at the end of my gun.

Was it my intention for him to hit her? No. Did I enjoy it? Maybe a little.

“Go tell your leader.” I muse. “I didn't lay a hand on either of you, so it sounds like a you problem.” I spit on the grass and turn to the packhouse. I had missed years with my baby girl, I wasn't about to miss anymore.

Chapter 0280

Her voice travels through the house. She's giggling about something. It was like music to my ears. A sound that I hadn't heard in so long, it made my chest pound with pure happiness. If only her mother could see her now.

I would come home from a hunt to find my baby wide awake and playing games with her mother. She was always so excited to see me and my mate would tell me the same thing every single time. Dorothy couldn't sleep without a goodnight kiss from me. That last night, I never even got to tuck her into bed.

My heart had more than shattered. It was made one hundred times worse by the fact there was no trace of Dorothy anywhere. Just a fucking note from Blair with the words, “I win!” She had covered their tracks perfectly.

Following the giggles to the kitchen, I see Dorothy laid on the floor as the Lycan pups crawl all over her. Her giggles echo throughout the house.

I look at the twins, one identical to Dane while the other had Neah's features. Neither of them had a bad soul, yet. At this age, they have tiny balls of light to reflect their souls, not a millimetre of darkness to be seen anywhere.

“She loves playing with them.” Dane tells me.

“They are Lycans.”

“You have been raised to believe they are all bad. But take it from your kid, they are not all like that.”

“The boys are just pups, they haven’t developed yet.”

“I’m not talking about them. I’m talking about Damien and Mallory. She loves them both.” He points to my baby girl.

“Is Daddy mad?” Dorothy asks quietly

“No, I’m not mad.” I offer her a smile and drop down to her level. She looks directly at me without returning the smile. Her eyes are just as bright as her mothers.

“Not you, my other Daddy.” I feel a tightening around my heart, it feels like it’s being crushed

“He’s not your Daddy, baby girl.”

“Yes he is. He saved me. Daddies save us.”

My kid loved a Lycan as though they were family and I hated that.

“Daddy Damien isn’t mad.” Dane tells her. “He had to go and check on Raven.”

“Raven’s sad?” Her small voice asks

“Yes.”

“Jenson made her sad because he is dying?” She squeezes a little teddy bear to her chest.

Dane goes quiet. He stares at my little girl. I recognise the look, it’s the exact same one I get when I say something and they don’t understand how I know.

“She hasn’t met him has she?” I ask as Dorothy is distracted by the boys

“No. She shouldn’t know.”

“Hunter genes.” I murmur with a smile. “And by the look on your face, this isn’t the first time she has thrown you a curveball, is it?”

Dane calls for an omega to take the kids away so that we can talk. When they are gone, he gestures for me to sit at the table.

“She makes a few comments, now and again. Nothing major but we started making sure she wasn’t in the room, just in case she was paying more attention than we first thought.”

“You won’t be able to hide anything from her. You are lucky she is young, wait until she is old enough to read souls.”

His crimson eyes don’t give away his surprise, but the straightening of his spine does.
“You can read souls?”

“How do you think I know random information? Got any beer?”

He gets up and moves to the fridge, pulling out a couple of bottles.

“That’s why you don’t like Damien, because of what you can see?”

“Bingo!”

“Why do you wind Eric up?”

“Because it’s easy. By the way, you might want to check in on him. He gave his mate a cracking punch.”

“She’s good.” I add when he locks eyes with me.

I take a swig as he decides how to reply, when I fire my own question at him. “How long has she been calling herself Kitson?”

“Neah has always been a Kitson.”

“Not her, the other one. Kitson doesn’t come from her fathers side, but her mothers, passed down like her fancy blood. They shared the same father, correct?”

He nods at me. “What did you know her as?”

“Blair Everwood. It’s funny.”

“What is?”

“Changing her surname to one that comes from a long line of powerful Lycans. It sounds to me like she is trying to convince people that she is the long lost female Lycan that they all need.”

The Alpha’s Contract #Chapter 0281 - Read The Alpha’s Contract Chapter 0281

Chapter 0281

Dane

'Everwood.' Aero murmurs. 'Why does that sound so familiar?'

'There was a pack called Everwood years ago. Down in the south. But that was a long time ago, before I was even born. They were wiped out.' Part of my training as an Alpha had been to learn what had killed off certain packs.

Everwood was not wiped out by a pack war or anything like that. It was a disaster. There was massive flooding, followed by a landslide. My father had said they had either been killed in the process or had been buried alive. We may be able to heal from a lot of stuff, but things like that take out everything in its path. Destruction at its finest.

"Everwood were a pack of Wolves." I mutter to Abraxas with a frown.

He smirks at me and shakes his head.

"Lycans?"

He takes another swig of beer and nods. "A lot of packs masqueraded as Wolves. Easier to keep their identity hidden. Wolves can't tell the difference, as you are aware."

Moonshine had done just that. But they had also led Neah to believe she was a Wolf her entire life.

"You've killed packs?" I press.

"I kill Rogues. Though my parents and grandparents did wipe out packs. I decided to focus on the real problems."

"Are you trying to tell me that Blair is from this Everwood pack? Because that can't be possible."

He grins, "My grandparents blew up a dam not too far from their location. Made it look as though the thing cracked and then whoosh everything was gone."

It was impressive. A single act that wiped out so many. But it also made me question how many Lycan packs I had actually dealt with unknowingly.

"You think Blair's mother got away?"

"Maybe or maybe she wasn't there at the time."

"That's why Blair came for your family when she was old enough. Payback."

"In my line of work, every action has a consequence. My grandparents should have made sure everyone was dead. That was their mistake and a mistake that I am now having to clean up."

“But why take Dorothy from you, what was the point in that?”

“You can mourn a death. You never get over knowing your child is out there, alive somewhere. You wonder if they are thinking about you or if they even remember you.”

I could only imagine what that must have been like. If someone tried taking one of my boys, I don't think anyone would be safe. Actually, I know they wouldn't be safe.

“Mallory ended up in a situation with Blair.”

“I heard.”

“Blair let slip something about a pack. About being skilled from training before she went Rogue. She caught herself and reacted badly. If Everwood were wiped out, what pack is she talking about?”

“That is something I haven't figured out. There are several packs that still reside in this country. Others moved overseas when the Wolf numbers started growing again. I've watched and never

seen them at any of them. I wondered if maybe she led Wolves to believe she was one of them.”

It didn't sound ridiculous.

“Did you know about Moonshine?” I challenge

He looks me dead in the eye. “No, well, not at the time you are thinking of. They were recorded as wiped out.” He looks at my annoyed face, “Being a Hunter does not make you suddenly aware of all packs. Yes I can tell the difference. Yes I can smell their strange odour. Yes, training skills are passed down through generations. We do record information on packs, and I can assure you, there is only the one recording of a Moonshine. The one that says deceased.”

He taps his empty bottle on the table, “Why did you accept her? Even after you knew what she was, you still let her stay and thrive.”

“I was looking for my mate for a long time. When I found her, I knew there was no way I was letting her go.”

“She's a Lycan.” He stares at me with his hazel eyes.

“Sometimes we can't help who we fall for.”

“Did you feel sorry for her? I mean you did save her from a terrible situation.”

“She told you about that?” I ask, surprised. It wasn’t something she voluntarily discussed. Things would slip out now and again, but mostly, she tried to keep it buried in the past.

“She didn’t need to, I see it in her soul.”

Chapter 0282

‘There’s that soul shit again.’ Aero mutters. ‘I don’t understand how someone can see a soul.’

“Are you saying her soul is tainted?” I ask Abraxas. I wasn’t sure what to think of him saying he could see souls. At one time, I also didn’t think someone could be bound four times. I’ve learned a lot in the last couple of years.

“More like it has cracks in it.”

“Cracks?” Aero and I mutter in unison

“Everyone’s soul starts off as a small ball of light. It grows as the person grows, gradually taking shape of the person. Sometimes, it gets to a certain size and never grows anymore because a person is trapped in a cycle that they can’t get out of. Others, like those who have experienced levels of trauma, develop cracks. When the cracks meet, the soul breaks along with that person.”

“How bad are hers?”

“She should have broken long ago.”

“Is that how the darkness got in?”

“No.”

“How can you be sure?”

“It was already there, just waiting to be freed.” He laughs to himself. “Do you know, I’ve never really spoken to Lycans before, or Rogues. I’ve spent years watching, hunting, killing. Listening to them plead for their petty lives. I have to admit, Neah was not at all what I was expecting.”

“So if her soul is cracked. What’s keeping her together?”

“Still figuring that out. Got anymore beer?”

“No, limited amount.”

“Because of Blondie's issues, gotcha!” He smirks at me with a cocked eyebrow. “You don’t believe me, do you Dane?”

He gets to his feet and takes the empty bottle to the bin. “You believe in Witch magic though, don’t you?”

“Let’s say you are telling the truth. You said her darkness was waiting to be freed. You are talking about her Lycan, right?”

“Bingo. But you’ve been wondering that for a while, haven’t you?” He sits back down opposite me. “Neah has a surprisingly good level of control over her Lycan. I watched her force the darkness back out. Something I have never seen before.”

“Never?”

“Not once.”

He seemed to be fascinated with her. I couldn’t tell if it was a good or a bad thing. But if you linked it to how much he hated Lycans and Rogues, it wasn’t a good sign. I had to find a way to make sure he was on her side.

“How do I help her deal with her Lycan if Nyx is causing the problems?”

“Who knows.” He shrugs his shoulders at me. “Her cracks show that she shouldn’t be here. She is constantly fighting with her Lycan. Bound four times and survived” He keeps talking to himself. Listing all the things that I already know.

He looks at me. “Maybe binding her is what saved her.”

“You are deranged if you think I’m binding her.” How fucking dare he think that’s even an option.

“You are not listening to me Dane. You asked me what was holding her together.” He drums his hand on the table, working through things in his mind. “Humans are full of cracks. Little tiny ones that snake through their soul. None of them ever quite meeting each other.”

He grabs Dorothy’s colouring book from the corner of the table and flips to a blank page, quickly drawing me a body.

“Humans crack all the time. Pressure, stress, money worries. But each of their cracks become a part of them. They learn from it. Basically like putting a plaster on the edges. Some humans end up in psych wards when their cracks start to tumble apart.”

“Neah isn’t human.”

“I’m not saying she is. But she almost was. Her body learned to defend itself. To survive. A cracked soul isn’t something we can heal from Dane, yet somehow, she has managed to stop the cracks spreading further.”

His lips curve up into a smile. “Fascinating.”

“Fascinating?”

“Just when I thought I knew everything there is to know with Rogues and Lycans, something new comes along.” His hazel eyes are wide with delight, they give him a sinister look. One that I didn’t like.

“You won’t touch her.” I warn him

“I won’t touch her, can’t say the same about the other two.” He winks at me. I assume he means Damien and Mallory, not the twins. Though I have no intention of letting him kill any of them.

Chapter 0283

Damien

Raven isn’t in bed when I return. The hours of sleep she needed once again evaded her and I already knew she would be back at Jenson’s bedside. Praying for a miracle.

I don’t stop when I hear Dane and Abraxas in the kitchen. He was spewing some bullshit about seeing souls like he was some fucking God or maybe that was it, he just had a God complex.

Bringing him here was a mistake and I would prove it.

In the hospital, I find Raven exactly where I expected her to be. Hunched over Jenson, fighting sleep, gripping his hand.

“You are supposed to be in bed.”

“Can’t sleep.” She whispers

“Klaus was watching him.” I remind her

“I know.”

She’s clinging to his hand again. Her thumb circled the back of his hand as though that would wake him up.

“Did something happen? Did Klaus link you?”

She shakes her head, a large tear rolls down her cheek.

I stand there, watching her, trying to think of something to say when I hear his voice. Why the fuck was he here?

I pull the door open to face Dane and Abraxas.

“You’ve got to be fucking kidding me!”

“Nice to see you too, Rogue!” He grins at me and Dane rolls his eyes.

“Why are you here, asshole?” I snap back. If he was going to continue to call me Rogue, then I had a few choice names for him too.

“I asked him to come here.” Dane interrupts us

“So he can look at Jenson’s soul?” I mutter sarcastically.

“Exactly.”

I stare at Dane, surely he didn’t believe the crap this asshole is sprouting.

“His soul?” Raven whispers behind me.

“Raven, this is Abraxas. Abraxas, this is my sister Raven and the guy in the bed is my brother, Jenson.”

The asshole stares at me, waiting for me to move. I position myself next to Raven and the idiot smirks at me. As soon as we are alone, I’m going to stitch his lips shut so he can never smirk again.

He settles into a chair on the other side of Jenson, propping an ankle on his knee as he stares at my mate's brother.

“He’s a Wolf?”

“Thought you could tell the difference?” I sneer

“That’s not why I was questioning it, Rogue. I’m questioning how he can be a Wolf.”

“I don’t understand.” Dane frowns

“You told me what he did to himself. That he practically killed himself to get rid of his Wolf so that he didn’t have a connection to Blair.”

“Yes.”

"Hmm" He's staring at my mate in that strange way he looked at Neah.

"What?" Raven mutters. "What is it?"

The asshole frowns as his eyes move down to my mate holding Jenson's hand.
"Humour me, let go."

"Why?" She mutters.

"Curiosity."

He said that quite a lot. It was annoying that he never explained himself. Not unless he wanted to.

"I can't." Raven whispers. "I'm not ready."

"He's not going anywhere," The asshole tells her

She nods her head and her hand slowly retreats. Why did they listen to everything he said like it was law? How could I be the only one not to trust him?

A smile appears on his face after several minutes of silence. "Okay, you can hold him again." He mutters and leaves.

"I will be right back." I tell my mate and follow Dane and Abraxas from the room. "What the fuck was that about?"

"He's not dead." The asshole mutters.

"The machines....." Dane starts

"The machines are letting him heal, very very slowly." He runs his hand through the stubble on his cheeks. "Twin Wolves both in essence and spirit. Much like mates, they can connect on more levels. Surely you know this."

"I know their bond is different." Dane replies.

"You should prepare yourself, your sons have the same bond."

"Really? Do you really get off on spewing this crap? Those machines are what are keeping him alive."

"Nah."

I square up to him and he laughs. "You should never have come here, asshole."

“Neither should you, Rogue.”

His movement is quick and I feel a gun pressed to the side of my head.

“Abraxas!” Dane growls.

“I promised not to hurt your mate.” He smiles at me as he stares me dead in the eye. “I didn’t promise I wouldn’t kill the Rogue.” His eyes narrow. “Your brain will make a lovely piece of art, smeared against the wall to our left. I might even put a frame around it.”

“Son of a bitch.”

“You shouldn’t talk about someone else’s mother like that. Not when you have your own family problems.” He pushes the end of the gun firmly against my temple.

“You two are worse than squabbling children!” Dane snaps. “Abraxas put the gun down. Damien go to Raven.”

“Looks like it’s your lucky day.” The asshole grins at me. “I was quite looking forward to hanging a frame. I was going to add a little information. ‘Here lies the remnants of a Rogue. He thought he knew what he was doing, but the darkness took him instead.’ Has a nice sound to it, doesn’t it?”

A low growl rumbles from my chest and he laughs. He taps the gun against my temple twice. “Remember, I’m always prepared, Rogue.” He winks at me and turns away, acting like it was his decision not to shoot me.

Chapter 0284

“Are you going to tell me what that was about?” Raven asks quietly as I slam the door. She doesn’t look at me, her eyes are only on her brother.

“That asshole claims to be a Hunter.”

“Isn’t he a Wolf?”

“A Hunter of Rogues and Lycans.”

She puffs out her cheeks and drags her dark orbs away from her brother to look at me. “Why would my brother bring him here? With you and Neah, Mallory and the boys”

“The guy has issues with Blair too.” I groan “And Mallory roped him into helping Neah.”

“He’s Dorothy’s father?” She is staring at me as I break the news. It’s the most she had looked at me since Jenson had landed himself in here. It was a good thing, to get her tired mind focussed on something else even if it's just for a few minutes.

“Apparently.”

“Are you sure?”

“I saw the way he looked at her. It’s the same look Neah and Dane have when they look at their boys.”

“How is Dorothy taking it?”

“Surprisingly well. She seemed to know who she was.” I frown, thinking about the way she hugged me. I thought she had been scared but now I wonder if she had been overwhelmed with her

feelings. “She ran into his arms.”

“She won’t stop loving you.” Raven gives me a small smile.

“I’m not her father though, am I?!” It felt like my heart was being torn apart when I thought about it.

“Don’t give up on it just yet. Dorothy adores you. You are the only one allowed to call her Dottie. She won’t just fade from your life.”

“She will if he takes her. This is her home Raven. She loves everyone here. She’s a pack Wolf.”

“If he is helping Neah, he will be here for a while yet. Blair hasn’t shown herself since you last saw her. Dorothy isn’t leaving your life that easily.” She scowls at me “And you can’t kill him. That will destroy her.”

Her gaze lowers to her brother and I knew I had lost her again. As she falls into silence, I mull over what the asshole said. ‘Twins in essence and spirit.’ And the machines weren’t what was keeping him alive.

I knew Raven said that their Wolves were twins too. Surely he couldn’t mean it was Midnight keeping Jenson alive?

As much as I couldn’t stand the bastard, I needed to know if that was what he meant.

Dane and the asshole hadn’t gone far. They were still outside the hospital.

“What did you mean the machines are not keeping him alive?” I demand

He smirks at me. I really wanted to wrap my hands around his throat and crush his windpipe.

“He was just saying that it’s Raven.” Dane tells me

“Come on then, let’s hear your amazing theory behind this.”

“Do you actually want to hear it, or are you just being an idiot?”

Dane’s crimson eyes lock on mine. He doesn’t say anything and I don’t need to ask to know he wants me to choose my words carefully.

“I want to hear!” I mutter through a clenched jaw

“He lives because of her. Twins who share twin Wolves are as rare as Neah is. But you know that, right?”

“I’m aware.”

“Their souls are intertwined.” He slots his fingers together.

“And how is that supposed to work? He left the pack.”

“They leave a part of themselves with the other one. When I say she is keeping him alive it’s because....”

“Part of her soul lives in him” Dane finishes for him. “She’s not dead, so he can’t move on.”

“Nailed it!” The asshole claps his hands together and winks at Dane. “And that is why you, Dane, were able to feel his death and carry on. She can’t, she’s stuck.”

“Does he have a soul?” Dane asks with a creased brow

“I think you already know the answer to that.”

“Okay then, wise one.” I mutter in my most sarcastic tone. “What do we do with him if my mate is the one keeping him alive?”

“There is nothing you can do. You have to leave it to the higher powers. The machines are allowing him to heal. But no one can survive without a soul. Maybe if they think he deserves it, they will give him a new one. But you better pray for it.”

“Fucking nutjob.” I mutter, turning away. Never have I heard so much crap.

“You love my baby girl.” He shouts after me. “She will grow up to be just like me and if somehow, I decide to let you live, are you going to make her believe she is losing the plot?”

“You can’t guarantee that she will be just like you.”

“It’s genetics and I have already seen it.”

I was about to answer when Neah’s voice echoed in my head. ‘This is your Alpha. Your presence is required in Black Shadow.’

I look up, confused, I was already in Black Shadow. I was about to ask Dane what was going on when I see Mallory running towards us with a massive grin.

“She did it! She sent out a link to everyone.”

Chapter 0285

Abraxas

“She actually did it?” Dane asks in surprise. He turns to face the direction of the pack house. “How?”

Mallory shrugs her shoulders. “I wasn’t with her.”

Dane scowls and not because he didn’t want it to happen but because Neah had managed to do it without guidance.

“I saw Damien over here with you two and just...” She stops and her brown eyes shift up to the hospital doors with a frown. She doesn’t question why we are here even though she wants to.

“We need to prepare.” Damien stares at me. “But I’m guessing you are already prepared for this.”

“This was why I was asked to come here. To put down the Rogues.” I wink at him

He rolls his eyes at me and turns to Mallory. “You are coming with me where I can keep an eye on you.”

“What about Raven?” She questions. “That’s why you are here isn’t it? Is Jenson still alive?”

“Raven will be fine.” I tell them and again I’m met with irritated glares from Damien. He was so easy to wind up. I just needed him to explode, then I will have an actual reason for putting him down and no one will question it.

He gives me one final glare before walking off and tugging Mallory with him, leaving Dane and I behind.

“You have got to stop doing that.” Dane warns me. “He is my Beta, he has done nothing but help this pack and Neah for that matter. He has spent the last year raising your daughter. You need to at least respect him for that.”

“There’s a reason Wolves and Lycans don’t live together, Dane. The Lycans run the risk of tipping over into the Rogue life every single day. Wolves don’t, it’s as simple as that.”

“Is it? Because if you haven’t noticed there are several of us that are mated to Lycans now. A bond created just for us. If we are not supposed to live together then why were we mated in the first place?”

I open my mouth to answer but he continues

“You’re telling me that you have had centuries worth of information passed down to you, yet somehow, you are still stuck living in the past. Living by your insane made up rules that were created however long ago. Have you ever actually taken the time to get to know a Lycan?”

I don’t answer because I could see that he one hundred percent believed himself.

He shakes his head at me. “I think for someone that can read souls. You are blind to a lot of things.”

“I’m a Hunter by birthright.”

“You are also a Wolf by birthright. You shouldn’t forget that. Now come with me. We need to see my mate.”

I trail a little behind him as we head towards the packhouse. Mulling over his words. I was born to be a Hunter. It was in my blood. I couldn’t change that, nor did I want to change that.

Neah is pacing in the office. Her eyes are cast down as she moves back and forth. She only stops when Dane clears his throat.

“I did it. I sent out a link.” She murmurs unsure of herself.

“So I hear.” Dane smiles at her and I watch their souls explode with love for one another. Their kind together was wrong, but at the same time, their souls were made for each other. What the hell were the higher powers up to?

“It was the right thing to do though, wasn’t it? It’s what we said I needed to do?” Neah checks with him

"Yes." He reassures her as he pulls her against him. "How did you manage it?"

She smiles, "Dorothy."

Dane cocks an eyebrow as he looks back at me. "Dorothy helped you?"

She nods and a part of me feels sick yet proud that she called already tap in to her Hunter abilities. Though my Hunter daughter had helped a Lycan. A shiver goes down my spine.

Chapter 0286

"Obviously I haven't told her what we are doing. But she was sat with me when I was changing the boys and just told me to remember that I had the power to do it. And then it just kind of happened. No one replied though."

"They don't have too. They will come." I frown. "Some out of annoyance, some out of curiosity, But they will come and Blair probably will too." I mutter Her big blue eyes rise up to meet Danes crimson orbs. "The last time we had a lot of people here, bad things happened."

"The difference is this time we are expecting some of them to be trouble." Dane tells her. "That's what he is for." He gestures to me.

"Right." Her tone is full of uncertainty and he helps with that.

Their relationship was stronger than anyone I had ever met. Stronger than the bond I had with my mate. It shouldn't work and yet somehow it does.

I needed to watch the bonded mates more. Especially those with Lycan mates.

Neah panics a little more, suggesting that she had made a big mistake. "What if I shift?"

"Then we will deal with that when it happens." His tone is softer around her, not like when he is speaking to me or anyone else.

"Promise me you will look after the twins." She mutters. "If I...."

"You won't shift"

They both look at me as though they had momentarily forgotten that I was in the room.

"I won't let you go Rogue." The words roll from my tongue, surprising me in the process.

Stopping Lycans from going Rogue was never of interest to me, only ending their miserable life. But for some reason, I liked Neah. Maybe I was too fascinated by her

cracked soul and how it reacted. Maybe it was just a job. But I also knew I can't learn anything from her if she goes Rogue and ends up dead.

Two days and a handful of Lycans had turned up.

Every single one of them was laid in front of me with a bullet lodged in their skull.

They had hated her. They hated that she was their leader. They hated that she was mated to a Wolf. They hated that she had children with him. They were livid that she had called them in.

I had watched their souls darken as Neah spoke to them. They were a threat and I put them down before they had a chance to do something stupid. And no one, not even Damien questioned me.

I took the bodies to the edge of the pack, planning on burying them. Instead I make a fire, toss their bodies on and watch them burn.

The smell of burning Lycans is

putrid. Even worse when the bodies had already started to swell from the gas. It invades your sense of smell for days and everytime you think it's gone a little tiny reminder would make its way into your senses. Still, after all this time, I hadn't adjusted to the stench.

"Done." I mutter when I return to the house. Damien, Blondie and Dane are standing out the front.

"You set them on fire?" Blondie asks

"There might be too many to bury. This way, we just have to get rid of a bunch of bones." I shrug my shoulders.

"Bet you are enjoying this, aren't you?" Damien folds his arms up across his chest as he glares at me.

"I'm doing a job." I mutter back. I

wasn't going to tell him that I feel sorry for Neah because the first people to turn up wanted nothing to do with her. Feeling sorry for a Lycan, that was a new feeling. "Any sign of any more?"

Dane shakes his head. "Not yet."

"They have lived without a leader for a long time Even her mother didn't possess the same power that she does. She has to understand that a lot of them won't like it. A lot will

fight it especially after being free this long."

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Chapter 0287

"She knows." Dane growls

"What about the other packs?" Blondie asks. "We know Moonshine had a leader."

"No packs have a true leader unless they are Wolves. They choose someone, if they don't like it, they kill them and replace. Isn't that what Moonshine did to Neah's parents?"

"It is."

"Then this will be different."

"Thought you don't believe in Alphas?" Blondie tuts

"I don't, but I believe in power."

Dane frowns at my words but doesn't speak and focusses his gaze on the direction of the packs main entrance. They all seemed to be expecting more. Believing that people will jump at the chance to have a leader.

"Incoming." Dane mutters as Mallory strides up the drive with two new people. A Lycan and a Wolf, hand in hand with one another. The Lycan has a fresh mark on her neck and her hand is gripped a little too tightly around the guys. There is no darkness to her soul, but there is fear.

Mallory stops just in front of us and I watch the girls fingers grow impossibly tighter around the guys hand or so I thought. Looking closer, I see that he is holding on to her. His knuckles are white, and the skin on her hand is sunken from the pressure.

"This is Madison and Enzo." Mallory smiles. "Madison is a Lycan mated to a Wolf." I knew she was saying it for my benefit as she smiles smugly at

me.

"Maddie." The girl whispers her chestnut eyes briefly settle on me and she sort of bows, making her red waves fall over her face..

The movement is subtle, but enough for me to see that Enzo is the one forcing her into a bow. She gulps, but doesn't make another sound as she slowly straightens. She had probably convinced him to come here because of Neah's instructions. But really she was using it as a way to ask for help.

"Maddie." Dane steps forward and I

knew from his tone that he had seen the same things I had. Maybe it reminded him of how he met Neah. "Mallory will take you through to meet Neah. Enzo, you will stay with us."

"If it's all the same, Alpha Dane, I would like to meet the Lycan Alpha that dragged me and my mate from our holiday."

"You will." Dane steps forward. "Meetings are done individually so everyone can be verified."

"There are other Lycans here?" His eyes flicker between us.

Damien steps forward and gestures to himself. "Yes."

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"I would still prefer to attend the meeting with Madison. I want to know what this Alpha wants with And she wants me by her side."

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Enzo glares at Maddie until she whispers that she was afraid to be alone with a stranger.

"Nothing will happen to her." I smile at him though I had ideas for what is about to happen to him.

"Can you guarantee that?" He cocks his head to one side and stares at Dane.

"I can guarantee nothing will happen to her." Dane practically states the same as me. He knew what was coming.

Enzo frown's but let's go of the pretty redhead. Two minutes." He mutters to Maddie and pulls her in, planting his lips on the corner of hers Her soul pulsates with fear. S

"Mallory." Dane gives her a nod. Mallory smiles and links arms with Maddie, encouraging her to go into the house.

Enzo's brain ruptures out the back of his skull just as the door closes behind the women.

Chapter 0288

Blair

My eyes focus on the brats playing in the front garden. They are spitting images of their father. They looked happy as they kicked a ball between them. Giggling and laughing until the younger boy slips on the ball, landing with a heavy thud.

The sound of their happiness is quickly replaced with cries and the elder boy screaming for his mother.

She comes rushing out of the house, an apron tied around her waist, a small dish towel tossed over her shoulder, her jet black hair tied up into a high bun. She drops to her knees, pulling the small boy in against her chest and rocking him. Promising him that everything was going to be okay.

She had raised them to be wimps. There wasn't even any blood. If I had fallen from a tree at their age, she would have told me to get up and shake it off. 'You're better than this. Grow a backbone! Be better!'

They are all smiles and the tears have stopped as she promises them cake and ice cream. I roll my eyes, I would have been lucky to get a decent dinner at that age.

But here I was, needing a place to lie low, a place to think. I had returned to my mother's home in the hope that she will welcome me in, even if it's just for a night or two while I figure things out.

Forcing myself out of my new blue BMW, I straighten up, my bones cracking. I had only just managed to force myself to shift back yesterday. It took a lot, but for now I was back in human form and I needed to keep it that way.

I step towards the house, throwing my eyes up and down the small cul-de-sac. Every house here is full of Lycans. The remnants of what was once a great Lycan pack.

The white gate creaks as I push it open. I see the curtains twitch. A moment later, the front door is ripped open and there stands my mother's husband, glaring at me with his deep blue eyes.

"What the fuck do you want?" Ryken demands

"Not you, clearly." I retort, "I came to see my mother and my brothers."

"She's not here and the boys have no idea who you are."

He starts shutting the door, I stick my toe in the door and he glares at me.

"You must be stupid if you think I believe that mum's not here. I just saw her." I hated him so fucking much. Almost as much as I hated Neah and her little crew.

"What do you want, Blair?" He steps out of the doorway, making me back up as he folds his arms across his chest in a defensive stance. "You are not welcome here and don't give me some bullshit about wanting to see your mother. You haven't been here in five years. I bet you can't even remember your brothers names."

I take a deep breath. He wasn't wrong. The youngest had only just been born when I left. "Maybe it's time I get to know my brothers." I offer

"So you can warp their minds too?" He snarls at me. I could kill him. I had thought about it so many times, but for some fucked up reason, I just couldn't do it. He made my mum happy after she had spent so long being sad and angry at the world and I didn't want to be the one that takes that away from her again.

"I know I haven't been around." I cast a glance up and down the street, I really didn't want to be seen by the others.

"Thank fuck for that, you almost led that Hunter asshole to our door." He runs a hand over his shaved head.

"I killed his family."

"But you didn't kill him. Big fucking mistake."

"I..."

"Blair, this is not a good time."

I hear a baby start to cry from somewhere inside. "You had another pup?"

"Yes. You have a sister."

"Mum shouldn't be having pups at her age." I retort

He doesn't answer me, though his deep blue eyes remain on me like he was waiting for me to say something else.

My mother appears, cradling a pup that's less than a few weeks old.

"Blair." She whispers when she sees me, but she doesn't smile. "Why...why did you come here?" watch her hands tighten around the pup and she takes a step back, scared of me.

"Well?" Ryken demands. "Your mother asked you a question."

"I already told you. I want to get to know my brothers... and meet my sister." I force a smile

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"You mean you are on the run and need somewhere to lay low." mutters. His blue eyes move to my neck "You have a mate now where you?"

is he? Why isn't he prote

"Doesn't matter." I mutter in annoyance was furious with Jenson. I don't know what he had done or what had happened to him, but I knew he was dying. I could feel it though I couldn't link him or read his mind anymore.

"What did you do, Blair?" Mum asks. Her eyebrows shoot up her forehead.

"I fell in love with the wrong fucking man." Her eyes narrow as I hit that nerve. History has a habit of repeating itself.

"Watch your fucking tone." Ryken growls. "This is our home, you don't get to bring that attitude to our doorstep."

Chapter 0289

I roll my eyes at him and look at my mother. "I found her."

"Who?" She asks with a frown

"Daddy's favourite little girl."

Her brown eyes widen a little and she shakes her head. "That was a long time ago, Blair. You need to let go of the past."

I had a feeling she was just saying it because Ryken was standing right here. If it had just been us, I know she would be smiling. It's what we had both wanted. I knew deep down she wanted revenge for what my father had done to her, done to us.

Ryken points a finger at me. "You are fucking nuts. You do realise who she is, right?"

"Yeah, everything that I should be."

He laughs and I feel that white hot rage creeping up inside of me.

"You were never going to be an Alpha, Blair. Your dad wasn't an Alpha, it was a fucking lie you stupid cow." He prods his thick finger against my temple. "Why can't you get that to go in that thick skull of yours?"

"He lied, Blair." My mum whispers sadly. Where was her anger? Where was her rage?

"Are you really that stupid?" Ryken shakes his head, "You are an Everwood. You could have had a chance at leading this small pack, but you fucked that up by going on this wild goose chase of yours."

I laugh, looking around at the houses. "There's like thirty people in this so-called pack and my name is Blair Kitson."

He laughs at me while mum just stares at me with a deep rooted sadness

"You would rather take your half sister's name then be proud of our own pack?"

"If it gets me my place."

Ryken laughs. "You are fucking delusional. Looks like the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. And I'm not talking about your mother."

"You are saying I'm like my father."

"Exactly like him. Why do you think your mother spent so long despising you?!" He mocks

"Mum?"

She turns away without uttering a single word and heads deeper into the house. Ryken throws a glance over his shoulder and then stares at me. "You had a chance here, Blair. A chance at a fresh start. I was willing to take you on as my own, to raise you into a loving family. Give you everything you missed when you were a child. But you threw that away because you can't let go of this stupid idea of yours. Now leave, you are trespassing." He slams the door in my face and my heart drops into my stomach. I had really hoped mum would welcome me with open arms.

Slinking back to my car, I watch the house for a while, mulling over Ryken's words. Every now and again I would see one of my brothers appear in the window. They never

looked at me, but they were so damn happy. A million miles away from how I had felt growing up.

Mum had changed, she had gotten everything she ever wanted. A happy, loving family and I wasn't part of that. A tear leaks from my eye. I'm quick to wipe it away. Crying was not happening. Mum had moved on without me. Speeding down the road, Neah's voice vibrates through my head, telling all Lycans to come to Black Shadow. "Fuck!" My hands slam against the steering wheel. I knew this day would come, but why had she waited until now?

Turning the car around, I head back to my mum's place. I needed to see if they would go. Neah's request wasn't an order, but that could change and then I would be forced to go too.

Would she have them killed because of me?

I stop at the end of the road. They

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were already loading up their car with bags. Mum had the baby cradled in her arms as Ryker moved back and forth, slotting things into the car like he was playing a game of tetris.

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They weren't the only ones either. Every house had people loading up cars. They were all going. They were all fucking stupid.

Slamming on my brakes, I block their car in. My mum stares at me with wide eyes and backs off towards the house as my sister starts to cry. "You are making a mistake." I mutter

"It's our decision." He snaps back at me and slams the car door shut with the boys inside. He goes to say something and instead shakes his head in disbelief. "What the fuck have you done, Blair?"

I had been fighting Wolves, Lycans and Rogues for years. I had been thriving on my own. Yet somehow he always makes me feel like a little kid with no power. A little kid who had done something really, really bad. The strength and confidence I usually have in any situation fades to nothing.

"BLAIR!" Ryken growls "What danger have you put the pack in?"

"I..."

"You didn't just find her, did you?" He snarls at me

"Let me talk to whoever is in charge."

"You are looking at him."

"You are in charge?" I ask in disgust

"As voted by the others. Now I have to speak to the Lycan Alpha about the mess you created."

"She will probably kill you."

"Then the death of your family will sit firmly on your shoulders alone."

Chapter 0290

Neah

Mallory guides a crying woman into the office. The red haired woman has her hands clutched to her chest, almost hyperventilating as a wide eyed Mallory ushers her into a chair.

"He can't hurt you now." Mallory tells her.

The bang made sense now. Abraxas had killed someone else. Someone that he had deemed unworthy to even meet me. By the mark on this woman's neck, my guess is the person was her mate.

"I'm sorry." I mutter, knowing there would be no words to actually soothe the loss of her mate. She is most likely in agony.

"He's really dead?" She splutters through tears.

"Yes." Mallory offers her a smile

"Good!" The woman looked so relieved to here the confirmation. Now I was even more confused. "The bastard marked me when I received your link."

"You weren't his mate?" I ask as even more questions develop in my head

'It's a trap.' Nyx mutters.

'You think everything is a trap.' I snap back

"No." The redhead mumbles. "I was sold to him."

I was starting to see why Abraxas had shot him. "You were sold?"

She drops her gaze, her long red hair falls down over her face "It's not the first time."

"You've been sold more than once?" Mallory mutters in disgust.

The woman nods her head. "When I received your link. I saw an opportunity. I told him I had to come. That you had sent an order."

"He was a Wolf." Mallory adds, explaining why the guy hadn't heard my link

"It was the only thing I could think of. But he marked me. Told me that he needed to keep tabs on me." She runs her fingers over the mark on her neck.

"Why didn't you just shift and kill him, Maddie?" Mallory presses.

The woman's brows knit together and she presses her lips into a thin line. "I can't shift."

'Lies!' Nyx snaps

"You can't?" I ask while trying to ignore my Lycan. I was starting to feel like there was something seriously wrong with Nyx. She was so up and down. She made me question myself far too much. She constantly tried to make me see the bad in everything. Sometimes it seemed like I wasn't just fighting the darkness but her too.

Especially when she started hating the idea of me trying to link everyone. Something she was on board with at first and suddenly changed her mind

over.

Maddie shakes her head at me and fidgets with the ends of her waist long hair. "I knew you are going to ask me and I don't know the answer." "Were you bound?" Her tears had finally stopped

"No, I was just their plaything. I can

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do everything else. I heal quickly, I'm fast. Uh, have a great sense of smell and hearing. Obviously you can link me. I have just never been able to shift. I can prove the other stuff if you like. Do you have a Knife?"

'Bullshit. She has to have been bound.' Nyx growls

"You said you have been sold multiple times. Did any of them drug you?" I press

She shakes her head at me. "They didn't need to."

"What do you mean?"

"A long time ago, I learned that if I just did what they asked, they wouldn't hurt me."

I wasn't following her at all. They bought her but didn't hurt her? Trey, Cassandra had found an excuse to hit me for any reason, even when I did conform.

"You had sex with them?" Mallory breaks my thoughts. She looked horrified by the thought

Maddie bobs her head. "It might sound crazy to you. But as long as I did that, they didn't hurt me. None of them did until...."

"Until Enzo?" Mallory asks

Maddie's eyes drop to the floor

again. She had figured out what she

needed to do to survive and it

sounded strangely like she had

come to terms with what happened

to her.

"How old were you when you were first sold?"

"A week short of fourteen. They gave me a year thinking that maybe my ability to shift was late. When it didn't come....." She shrugs her shoulders. "Your parents sold you?" Mallory frowns

"Yep." She was very open with information. Not something I expected from someone who had gone through that. It had taken me ages to share anything with Dane. "I wasn't worthy of being their child."

She gets to her feet and flicks her red hair over her shoulder. "Thank you for getting me out of that situation. You have no idea how much it means to me."

"More than you will ever realise." I mutter

She gives me a smile and Nyx mutters something about reminding Maddie who's presence she is in.

"Can I ask why you asked us to come here?"

"Have you heard of a Lycan called Blair?" Mallory asks

She shakes her head at us. "Not a name I'm familiar with. But then again I have spent the last ten years mostly in the company of men."

"How did you know where Black Shadow was?" I ask. We weren't the easiest pack to find, especially for those that had never been here. "Enzo said he knew the Alpha here."

Mallory stands behind Maddie and shakes her head at me. 'Dane didn't act like he knew him' She links me.

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Chapter 0291

'See, lying.' Nyx presses

'If you don't stop nagging me, I will find a way to block you!' I snap back at my Lycan

"Can you get Dane and Abraxas?" I ask Mallory.

"Sure."

Maddie's eyes widen a little and her heart starts to race all over again. "Are you going to let them shoot me?"

"Just need to check something." I offer a smile

She sits in silence, fiddling with the ends of her hair as we wait.

Dane is the first through the door, he walks around and presses his lips against my forehead. Maddie's chestnut eyes follow the movement and I see a tiny hint of a smile.

"Where's Abraxas?"

"He's coming. He was cleaning up his mess." Dane tells me.

Maddie shudders and combs through her hair with her fingers. "He really is dead?"

"Yes. Are you okay?"

"It hurts, but that's because he marked me, right?"

I explain to Dane that this Enzo guy wasn't actually her mate. That he was keeping her as his property. It made me so angry and I'm a little disappointed that she didn't get to kill him. There wasn't anything quite like watching the life drain from those you hate.

Shaking my head, I close my eyes and focus on my sons as I push the dark thoughts away when I catch the scent of Abraxas.

"Blondie and the surfer guy are keeping guard." He mutters, but he is watching me again with an amused expression. He watched me alot.

"You mean Eric and Klaus." Dane reminds him of their names

"Yes. They said they will let you know when more Lycans arrive." His hazel eyes move to Maddie. "You've told Neah you can't shift?"

Her head snaps back over her shoulder to glare at him. "How did you know that?"

Abraxas smiles. "I know a lot of things." His hazel eyes move to me. "I believe you wanted to see me?"

"What else do you know?" I still wasn't a hundred percent sure if I believed everything that he had said, but he did know an awful lot. He casts his eyes over her, "All good."

"What's happening?" Maddie asks, her voice going up a notch.

"Can you shift?" I repeat, but keep my eyes on Abraxas.

"No, I swear."

Abraxas yawns, "She's telling the truth."

"Are you some kind of psychic?" Maddie mutters

Abraxas laughs. "No, I'm a Hunter."

Maddie almost falls out of her seat as she tries to back away from him. "You lured us here to be killed by a Hunter?" She demands, edging

behind the desk toward me. Content

belongs to S

"You are right to fear me." Abraxas tells her, "Though right now, you are of little interest to me." He shoots her a wink.

She turns to me. "I know you are the Alpha, but what the hell are you thinking?"

Dane growls at her and I hold a hand up to him.

"You know about Hunter's?"

"Most Lycans do, so why is he here?"

"Abraxas wants Blair dead, as do I and several others." I tell Maddie

"Hunters kill our kind." She splutters as her eyes dance between us. "You are making a mistake. He will turn on you."

Abraxas laughs again. "Don't make me change my mind about you gingernut."

"Brax!" Dane snaps at him

"I will be outside unless you need me for anything else."

"It's fine." I take a deep breath and watch Abraxas head out with a grin on his face. Maddie, you don't have to help us. You don't even have to stay here. But if you want to, you are more than welcome." I had already decided that I wasn't going to force any of them to help. Something Dane and I massively disagreed on.

For so long, I had hoped for Lycans to die out, especially when I was told that they are a dying breed and then I got pregnant, with my own Lycan sons.

"With him here?" I didn't think Maddie's voice could go much higher, but it does.

"You can stay at mine." Mallory offers

Maddie drops her shoulders and looks around the office. She probably didn't have anywhere to go, especially if she had been passed around and sold.

"Abraxas did want me to give you

this." Dane mutters, dropping a wallet on the desk. "He took it from

Enzo before he threw his body in the fire. After all the stuff you've been through, he thinks it's only fair for you to have access to Enzo's money."

"Why would he do that?" She asks as her brows shoot up. "He's a Hunter. I'm a Lycan. He kills our kind. Is it some kind of trick?"

"No one really knows how his mind works." Mallory mutters

"I shouldn't take it, should I?" Maddie asks quietly.

"Yes, you should. I think you should think of it as payment for what he did to you. Compensation!" Mallory mutters happily

Maddie slowly picks up the wallet. "He has millions."

"I will get Klaus to set you up your own account and move the money across." Dane smiles at her. "Welcome to Black shadow."

Chapter 0292

Dane

Mallory takes Maddie with her back to her house leaving Neah and I alone.

"This is tiring." Neah mumbles with a slight crease to her brow.

"You've only met half a dozen." I offer, reminding her this is what the plan was. "We have no idea how many more there could be."

She rocks in my chair. "Do you think Abraxas did the right thing, shooting the other guy?"

"He saw the same things I did when it came to Enzo. The guy had a tight grip on her arm, just the same as Trey had on you when he opened that basement door and didn't expect to see me. Everything she said was a cry for help, just carefully worded, just like you. We just had to make sure she was away from him before Brax killed him."

"Since when have you been calling him Brax?"

"He asked me too. Told me only his mate called him by Abraxas."

"You trust him, don't you?" She questions

"He is an egotistical asshole, but he promised not to hurt you. Does that mean I trust him? No. But I can keep an eye on him and right now, that works for me."

"Roan also said he wouldn't hurt me." She snaps a little harshly "and Abraxas keeps calling everyone by a nickname, which they don't like. Why surfer boy for Klaus?"

I smirk, sometimes I forgot how little she knew of the outside world. She had learned a lot since I found her, but there was still so much more in the world. "He looks like a guy that hits the waves."

Her frown deepens and her eyes narrow. "I don't know what that is supposed to mean!"

"I will show you later." I press my lips to her cheek. 'Aero remind me to show her some videos later.'

'Sure. Or maybe we can just take her to the beach with the boys.' He had a point, but right now, there is too much going on.

"Why don't you go and spend some time with Raven? You haven't seen her much in the last couple of days."

"She doesn't really talk anymore. Even Damien can't pry her away from Jenson." Her eyes soften as she looks at me. "You don't speak about him either. It's not good, is it?"

"It's complicated."

"It always is." Her shoulders drop and she slumps back in the chair

"In that case, come with me?"

She lets me lead

her from the office

and up the stairs. Though we don't even make it into the bedroom before I press her up against the wall. She gasps as I pin her body between me and the wall. "You wanted to do something to take your mind off of all the crazy. And right

now, we have some time alone."

I force her thighs apart with my knee and press my hardening cock against her as I drag my teeth along the mark on her neck.

"Dane." She whispers, her beautiful blue eyes lock with mine as her lips part a little. The beat of her heart quickens.

I mould myself against her, inhaling her scent and locking my lips against hers. She rolls her hips against me, pushing her breasts up into my chest as her back arches off the wall.

Lifting her, she instinctively wraps her legs around my waist and I carry her into our room as her need for me grows. My cock painfully pushes at the zipper of my jeans. Her hands free me, gliding up and down my length as I drop her on the bed.

"Neah." I growl as my dick jerks in her hands, she always did have the perfect touch.

She lets go and unzips her hoodie, showing me that she was wearing nothing underneath. I take a nipple into my mouth, rolling it between my teeth as she moans and arches her back.

Her nails drag along my shoulderblades, sending a shudder through me and making my cock jerk against her pussy. Only a thin piece of soaked fabric separates us.

Trailing my lips down over her torso,

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I pull the leggings and lace panties from her dripping pussy, admiring how wet she always gets for me. Dragging my tongue across her clit and lapping up her juices, she bites her bottom lip to keep her moan contained. It escapes anyway.

As I slide a finger into her, she thrusts up against my face. Wanting both my tongue and my fingers.

"Oh Dane." She cries out and grabs the back of my head, holding me in place between her thighs as I suck and bite her clit. She arches her back again, crying out in delight as I plunge a second finger into her.

Chapter 0293

Her muscles clamp around me, she bites down on her bottom lip, letting go of my hair as she squeezes her eyes shut.

"Let me see those blue eyes or I will stop" i mutter, pausing what I'm doing.

She peers at me through slits, rolling her hips but still trying to keep the orgasm from ripping through her.

"Look at me." I order.

As her eyes shoot wide, I remove my fingers and drive my cock into her tightly clenched pussy. Her fingers dig into my arms leaving half moons behind as she grits her teeth. Desperate moans ripple from her as I spread her legs wide, fucking her like there is no tomorrow.

Jamming my lips against hers, she finally lets go. Her body jolts against mine but I keep my lips on hers, letting her enjoy the moment, letting her moans vibrate through her until I could no longer wait.

Flipping her on her front, I pull her ass against me and slide back into her swollen pussy. She lets out a low moan as her face drops into the sheets, her hands balling up as she tries to keep her balance.

She glances back at me and something about her look drives me fucking wild. I slam into her over and over, spanking her ass with each moan until my own teeth are clenched together from the pressure and she screams out my name.

Neah sits at the opposite end of the bath to me, a content smile on her face as the water lapped at her chest. Her knees are pulled up in front of her because she likes to claim that I take up most of the room.

I was quite tempted to read her mind, but I held off because we had agreed that I would only do it if I was worried or during sex.

I watch her happy, content blue eyes become sadder with every passing second. "Will we have to send them away?" she asks quietly "The boys?"

She nods. "When we had the threat before, all the children and the elderly temporarily left the pack."

"I don't intend to send anyone away this time. They are safer here with us where we can see them."

"Right."

I was waiting for one specific question. One that she hadn't asked since she had learned what Brax claims to see. Maybe she didn't want to know. Maybe she already knew.

"What about Abraxas, when this is all over? Do I just let him go?"

"I think that is something we will need to discuss when the time comes."

"But you don't trust him. That is what you said."

"And I stand by that."

There's a knock on the door and I inwardly sigh. "Stay put." I mutter, getting out of the bath. Neah sinks a little deeper into the bubbles as I wrap a towel around my hips.

"What?" I pull the door open to Klaus

"More Lycans have arrived."

"How many?"

"A small pack. Maybe thirty-forty."

"A pack of Lycans?" Neah calls out

"The guy said they are called Everwood Pack." Klaus shouts back

"That can't be right. According to Brax, Everwood was wiped out.... Though it seems Blair's mother had gotten away, what if more had? "We will be there shortly. Take Damien and Eric and make sure Brax...."

"They are already with them." He runs off down the hallway and I turn to find Neah already out of the bath and dressing.

"Are you sure you are ready for this?"

She nods. "I asked them to come."

We make our way over to the training hall. Cars I don't recognise are parked out front while arguments take place inside. More Wolves are hovering outside, waiting for permission to do something.

Neah doesn't hesitate, ripping the door open and marching in.

A bald man with deep blue eyes approaches us. But he won't look at Neah properly. He offers his hand to me and introduces himself as

Rykem As I take it, he yanks me

forward and whispers. "Why the fuck is there a Hunter here?"

"Precautions." I mutter back.

My eyes quickly find Brax. He's looping the training hall. His eyes darted between each one of the Lycans. Making them move around like a school of fish. Trying to put distance between themselves and their predator.

"Has anyone here gone Rogue?" I ask Ryken

"No, not any of us." He tells me confidently

"Then you will have nothing to worry about."

"Wait, what do you mean by 'not any of us'?" Neah presses. "Are there more of you?"

His thick brows settle into a deep v.

"He's talking about his stepdaughter." Brax mutters as he makes his way to us. "Blair Everwood."

Chapter 0294

Damien

"Well it had to happen at some point. Though Blair gave me the impression that her family is dead." I mutter to Eric

"Exactly what I thought." He's carefully watching everyone. I half expected him to be annoyed that I was given his position in the pack, but he seemed to be happy enough with a secondary Beta role.

A woman makes her way through the crowd, clutching a small baby to her chest while two young boys hold on to either side of her dress. They were mini versions of the man talking to Dane. But I recognised the woman from the photo Blair had given Neah. Blair's mother.

We move closer as Arbraxas moves off to do another lap of the training hall. He gives me a quick wink before putting all his attention on the crowd of Lycans.

It was an odd feeling to see this many in one place. There had been just a dozen Rogues where I was, a tiny amount in comparison, and probably even less than the amount that might turn up. The bald guy also said they are a small pack.

"I want to make it clear that we," the bald man gestures to all the waiting Lycans, "had nothing to do with what Blair has done."

"She turned up a couple of days ago, right before we received your link. Looking for somewhere to stay. She's not welcome in our house." Blair's mother adds

"Why?" I hear Neah ask

The woman clutching the baby stops in front of her. "She put us all in danger. Years ago, she almost brought a Hunter to our door." She glances back over her shoulder. "In fact, it was him. He was hunting her. Before she turned up the other day, we hadn't seen her in over five years. We knew she was alive, but that was it."

"She blames me for what our father did." Neah tells her.

The woman reaches out a hand and cups Neah's face, "I know and I'm so sorry for that."

"It's not your fault." Neah sighs. "You didn't know and from what I understand, my father lied to you too."

"He did. And there is something else you should know. Your...."

"Tara and I tried to talk sense into her." Ryken cuts her off and gives his mate a strange look. "My mate took a long time to recover from what he did to her, but Blair she has

never been

er been able to let go. She didn't even know the man, but still she has been on a lifelong vendetta to achieve something that is

impossible. And I'm sorry to say, death will be the only thing that

stops her."

A tear runs down the woman's face at Ryken's final words. It must be hard to admit that killing your child was the only thing you knew would work. But everyone seemed to be glossing over the interrupted answer of Blair's mother. Or maybe I was just imagining things.

"She knew you were coming here?" Dane asks

net

"She had already come to us that morning and had sent her away. She reappeared when we were packing the car. I'm guessing because she heard the link too. She didn't want us to come, but if there is a chance I can protect my children from her then I will do what needs to be done." Ryken tells us

"She is your child too." I mutter, testing Tara

"She stopped being that a long time ago."

"They ain't lying." Abraxas mutters as he comes back past us. He doesn't stop and keeps moving, making the crowd of Lycans move from one side of the hall to the other as they try to put distance between themselves and him.

Ryken's deep blue eyes follow Abraxas. "I'm not sure why he is here, but Everwood is not the pack it once was. We live in the suburbs. Most of us have jobs and a family to support." He gestures to the others. "Some rarely shift because of the risk of being caught."

It was the life that Mallory had dreamt of.

"Did Blair speak of any plans?" I question

"No. Though she said that you would kill us. I told her if we died, it would rest on her." Ryken shakes his head. "That girl had so much potential for good and she threw it away."

"Because she became Rogue." Neah mutters

"Yes, she learned what happened to the original Everwood Pack that her mother was part of." Ryken reaches out and gives his mate a shoulder squeeze "She completely lost it Caught up in her own fantasies. It was something neither of us

understood. How can someone be so content on righting past wrongs when it's nothing to do with them?"

Chapter 0295

"She thinks it will make her look better." Neah replies, though she isn't looking at them. "Make herself look like a hero." "To make her look worthy of being an Alpha." Dane adds

"I tried." Tara whispers. "I tried so hard and..."

"It's not your fault." Ryken tells her. "So many people tried to help her. We cannot help those that don't want to be helped."

"SHUT UP!" Neah screeches and the entire room goes silent.

"Get her out of here!" Abraxas demands

"I've got her!" I mutter, "You stay here," I tell Dane and hoist Neah on my shoulder and charge out of the training hall.

"Put me down Damien." Her hands smack against my lower back as I carry her across the grounds. I really hope she doesn't shift. She would be able to rip my back apart in seconds.

"Not until we are back in the house." I mutter, locking my arms around her legs so she couldn't kick me.

"Damien!" Her tone is dark, I drop her on her feet as soon as we are inside and slam the door shut. Her eyes are a solid black as she stares back at

me.

"Get out of the way!"

"Neah," I grab her face, forcing her to look at me, "Don't let her out. Think of your boys. They need you, they need their mother. You can't let her win." She stares back at me, a tiny hint of blue appearing around her eyes. "My babies need their mother." She whispers back

"Yes and Dane needs you and the Lycans need you."

She rubs her temples, closing her eyes. When they open again, they are back to their usual colour. "It's her isn't it. She is my darkness."

"We believe so." I have had my suspicions for a long time. Everyone's darkness is different and triggered by different things, but Neah's seemed to be her own Lycan spirit and Abraxas was certain of it. "Why did you tell her to shut up?"

"She keeps accusing everyone of being a liar. Telling me to kill them. Telling me not to trust them. Sometimes she talks when I'm trying to listen and...."

"The words blur into one dull noise?"

"Yeah. It makes it difficult to hear anything. How did you know that?"

"You were close." I had been silently keeping an eye on her since we first discovered that she was close to going Rogue. Every now and again she would discuss it or ask

et

questions, but mostly I had watched at a distance. And until today, I had never heard her shout at her Lycan.

She throws her arms up as she moves away from me. "How am I supposed to be an Alpha of Lycans when I can't even control what is happening in my head?"

I can't believe I was even

considering it. But the asshole knew

a hell of a lot more about Lycans than did, especially those that are pure bloods. I can't believe I'm even considering asking for his help.

Neah's pacing the office when Abraxas raps his knuckles on the open door.

"Where's Dane?" I ask, glancing out into large hall

"Talking to the other Lycans." He replies, but his frown is focussed on a pacing Neah. "She's still close to the surface."

"Why do you think I'm still here?"

"Has she said anything?" He continues to watch her.

"She asked me if Nyx is her darkness and I told her." He finally looks at me. "How do we deal with it? How do we stop her Lycan from breaking her?" "We don't." He goes back to watching her movements

"Are you fucking mad?"

"You are not following me, Rogue. Her soul isn't like anyone else that I have met or come across. Maybe it's the bloodline, I'm still unsure. But what do know is that Neah@s the only one that can control her Lycan."

"I can hear you." Neah snaps

"It wasn't a secret." Abraxas smirks at her and I really wanted to punch him in the face.

She comes to a halt in front of us. Her hands on her hips as she drags her teeth over her bottom lip. "She doesn't control my abilities, does she?" "No." Abraxas answers

"But she only appeared when....." She trails off and her cheeks flame "And then everything else came around the same time. The smells, the hearing."

"If that were the case and she controlled that part of you, every Wolf and Lycan would have an inner spirit." He tells her.

"Right?!" She starts pacing again, "Can I bind her?"

Chapter 0296

Abraxas

"Well, is it an option?" She asks, growing frustrated when she doesn't get an immediate answer.

"No Neah, of course that is not an option." Damien tells her. "You have been bound four times. You should be dead and somehow you survived it. If you do it again, it might actually kill you this time."

"I'm not talking about me. I'm asking if binding her is an option, has it ever been done?" Her head twitches and she closes her eyes. The darkness keeps seeping in and out as she fights against her inner spirit, but now I finally see how it's working.

It seeps into her cracks, working its way through them like it's following the bends of a river. But it meets its end with nowhere to go and the darkness is forced to try a different route until it ebbs back.

The cracks don't meet and it forces her Lycan to push more. Is that what she wanted? To try and break her in any way possible. I had never seen the darkness work so strategically. The darkness of someone's soul doesn't usually have a mind behind it. It doesn't have a chance to hover and develop for years and years.

And I couldn't help but wonder what her Lycan's plan was. Turn her Rogue and then what? She would be incapable of leading anyone, unless she convinces others to go Rogue. The world would be fucked.

"She's not been with you for long, has she?" I needed a better understanding.

"Before I was pregnant." Her scowl deepens. "Less than two years. Why?"

"And you are twenty three now?"

"Yes, why? What does that have to do with anything."

Years and years her Lycan has had to stew, trying to break through. Her Lycan must be angry that it's taken so long to be able to speak to Neah. Because the reality is, they are always there. They just can't get through until the host comes of age. And in Neah's case, it had taken even longer. "Trying to fill in the gaps." I murmur

"Well?" She asks me, staring at me with big blue eyes. "Please tell me it's possible!"

I shake my head. It's not something I was aware of even throughout the history of Hunter's knowledge. But then her Bloodline is rare too. I will have to ask surfer boy about that tga book that's allegedly written by her ancestor. See if there are more clues about her.

"So it will happen. At some point, I will become the very thing I hate." Her face falls and her eyes become glassy with tears.

I was expecting Damien to chime in and tell her that we would figure it out. But even he is silent, wondering if what she is saying is true.

The black of her soul continues to

retreat until it's at the edges again. I knew her Lycan could hear every word I was saying which is mostly why I hadn't spoken to Neah about what Nyx was doing to her. I didn't want to give her Lycan any ideas and I would really prefer it if I didn't

have to put Neah down in order to

stop her.

I wouldn't get all my answers if she was dead. I wouldn't be able to prepare Dorothy for the future Lycan Alpha's that she will need to deal with.

"So what can she do?" Damien asks

"Thought you didn't believe me." I cock a brow at him

"Not about the other stuff, but I can't deny the knowledge you have on Lycans He mutters in annoyance. I could see it was taking a lot for him to admit it. Even if he did want to hit me the entire time.

"I need to look at my families recordings." I mutter, maybe there was something I was missing.

"I need to see my boys." Neah puffs

Damien gives her a smile. "I think that is a great idea. I will take you to them."

"Stay with her." I add as they head out, if she was going to turn Rogue, everyone needed to be ready.

Everyone thought standard Rogues were bad, dealing with one that has a bloodline like hers will be something else entirely.

As they head off to wherever her sons are being kept, I return to the training hall. Dane is still talking to the Lycans as Eric and Klaus chat to some pups.

Chapter 0297

A shiver goes down my spine. The last time I had been surrounded by this many Lycans, I had been hunting Blair.

I guess it's my gut that's making me feel a little off. Hunting is in my blood and to not be slaughtering this breed was more difficult than I had expected it to be when they are so readily available

Tension builds as the Lycans take note of my return, but so far, not one of the Lycans in here showed problems or appeared to be a threat. Their souls are clear and I'm almost annoyed. Even Blair's family were crystal clear.

"Do I need to go to her?" Dane asks as I stop by him.

"Damien is keeping her company."

"Look at that, you used his name." He scans the crowd. "Are we good here?"

"Annoyingly, yes."

"Good." He turns to the people. I see how he hesitates as he prepares to make Neah's speech. "Neah has said that if you do not wish to help her, she understands and you are free to go. If you are staying, you can follow me to accommodation."

The last few days had seen the Wolves clearing trees and knocking up log cabins at the side of the pack in preparation. I told them it was a stupid idea, but apparently, the idea had come from Neah and I said no more.

There are mutterings between the adults and Ryken steps forward. "We are all in agreement." He does a final check in with his mate, Blair's mother, who nods her head. "Blair needs to be stopped."

Blondie and surfer boy lead them to the log cabins as Dane stays behind with me. "I know what I feel when it comes to Neah, but I need you to tell me the truth. How bad is it?"

"Really fucking bad." I say calmly and I see his shocked face. I explain to him what I saw, about the darkness using the old trauma cracks to creep in. "I thought she had more control over her Lycan. But it turns out, the unconnected cracks are what is stopping it."

"Damien and Mallory..."

"They don't have cracks like

Neah. They have some small ones

from their time as humans, but

e

nothing like Neahs. Nyx is using the cracks. At first I thought she was using them to take over Neah, but I

think she is trying to fill them. Make them whole. Make them hers."

"To embed the darkness in her."

"Something like that. But she did make a request. Something that I don't have the answer to."

"What?"

"She asked if her Lycan could be bound."

He stares at me with wide crimson eyes. They slowly narrow until they are slits. "It will kill her."

"And it still might kill her! She has been through enough."

"I may know a lot about Lycans. I may have spent most of my life hunting them. I may also be able to see and read souls. But I can't see those of the people that are not here. What I can do is some digging."

"You should speak to Klaus. He's pretty good at finding information."

"Perfect. I will go find him."

"And don't call him surfer boy. You might just get the punch you've been waiting for!"

Chapter 0298

Neah

Damien knocks on the door and gives me a tight smile. I knew he was only following me because he was concerned, but it did make me feel a little uneasy.

Eric's mother, Athena opens the door with Logan in her arms. "Neah, perfect, come with me." She grabs my wrist and pulls me through to where Eric's father, Sebastian, is encouraging Evrin to walk.

I watch my son take a few steps before dropping onto his bum. Sebastian cheers and both Evrin and Logan clap in excitement. I can only imagine what Eric's parents were like when he went through his firsts.

A smile stretches across my face and everything that I was worried about falls away. Logan had mastered walking a couple of days ago and now Evrin could join him. Though they were still both early walkers. Abraxas had said it's their Lycan gene.

Sebastian and Athena didn't care that the boys were Lycans either. Insisting that the boys were just like any other baby. And somewhere along the line, they had become the unofficial grandparents to my sons.

I didn't mind, neither Dane or myself had parents.

Logan and Evrin loved seeing them as much as Sebastian and Athena did. And they are more than happy to take the boys without a single question.

I swoop Evrin up into a hug, breathing in his delicious cinnamon scent. He buries himself against me as Damien asks me if I feel better.

I had briefly forgotten he was here with me. "Yes."

Athena takes my hand and smiles. "Is it bad again?"

"Nothing that my boys can't fix." I give her the same answer every time she asks. I knew she was only asking out of kindness. I also knew that if she thought my boys weren't safe with me, she would call Dane and she hadn't done that yet. Hopefully she will never have to do that.

"Any news on the Lycans?" Sebastian asks Damien.

"Last I checked, they were still in the training hall with Dane and the others." He replies

"The Hunter hasn't shot any then?"

"No. I think if he had, you would be the first to hear it." Eric's parents lived closest to the training ground.

"None look dead." Athena is looking out the window. "However, they are on the move."

Sebastian joins her. "Looks like those cabins are going to be put to use after all."

Athena elbows him and he winks at her. It almost reminded me of how Dane looks at me.

"I'm going to take the boys home." I thank them for watching the twins

"Are you sure? Athena asks. "Your Hunter acquaintance is on the move and not with the crowd."

Damien shoots out the door like a rocket and I give Evrin back to Sebastian. "I will be back as soon as I can."

Damien is already charging towards Abraxas demanding to know where he is going.

"To see a man about a book." Abraxas doesn't slow down.

"Why?" He pushes as I catch up with them both

"Curiosity."

"I'm going to need more than that."

Abraxas comes to a halt. He slowly turns his face towards Damien. "It was suggested to me. Now if you have a problem with that, I suggest I you take it up with Dane." S

His answer surprises me, "Dane told you to speak to Klaus?"

"I hear surfer boy is pretty good with research. So I am going to speak to him and see if there is a way we can help you with your request." "Oh."

"Maybe I should accompany you." Damien mutters.

"No need, surfer boy is a Wolf and am more than capable of handling shit on my own." There's a flash of

anger in Damien's eyes. "Mare you

should go and help Dane." S

Damiens cheeks pulse as he clenches his teeth, though he manages to keep his fists at his side. He stalks away before the rage bursts free.

"Why?" I mutter. "Why do you do that?"

"It's nothing." He snaps at me. His tone throws me off. Even when he threatened people, his tone was usually very level, pickled with amusement and a sarcastic

vel

comment. Now something else was going on.

Chapter 0299

"Did my darkness...."

"No." He mutters before I get a chance to finish

"Did...did something happen?" Athena had said there were no dead bodies.

"You don't need to concern yourself with my problems, Neah."

"Is Dorothy okay?"

"Dorothy is fine. Let it go!" He starts walking again and I run to keep up with his long strides.

"What is wrong?" It had to be something bad, but the guy could protect himself. I had seen it more than once.

He stops again. "I came here to do a job. The job is what I will do. I will try to help you with this other problem. After that, Dorothy and I are leaving." He looks up at the sky. "You are taking the piss!"

I was quite tempted to ask who he was talking to, but my mouth stays shut. When Abraxas starts moving again, I don't.

'He's plotting to kill us.' Nyx mutters 'It's easier to keep secrets when you don't have to talk to them.'

I close my eyes, trying to find my own way to block her when I smell Dane coming towards me.

He comes up behind me. His hands gliding over my hips and moving around until he laces his fingers together. "We will find a way to get through this."

"I hope so." I whisper back. "I'm just...."

"They will find a way. We will find a way."

"Not that. Abraxas is being weird."

"Brax is weird." He presses his lips against my neck

"Weirder than usual." I mutter. I knew something was up

"Maybe he is just pissed that he didn't get to kill anyone today. If he has been hunting and killing almost every day for the last twenty years, this must be a little boring for him."

"Well Dorothy?" I ask as she sits next to me in the office.

"I think I like them."

"Are you sure?"

She looks at the women sitting across the desk. She sweeps her bottom lip with her tongue and nods.

Abraxas practically broke down the door to drag the guy out while I forced headphones over his daughter's ears.

Three weeks had passed since the first Lycans had turned up and now, we easily had a couple hundred here from all walks of life and so far, no issues.

Dorothy leans across the desk with stickers to give to the women who were watching her with fascination. "You passed." Dorothy beams at them. "You have to wear these so my Daddy can see."

They raise their brows at her. "You can go." I tell them. "One of the men will show you your accomodation." I did worry that we were putting Dorothy in danger, by letting her meet the Lycans. She is the daughter of a Hunter.

"Can I go see Daddy now?" She mutters as she neatly puts away her stickers.

"Abraxas isn't back yet and Damien is with Raven." It wasn't always clear which one she was asking about as she continued to call both 'Daddy much to Abraxas's annoyance t also made them compete forher attention.

"Is he forgetting about me again?" Her bottom lip sticks out.

"No, he never forgot about you before. You were just very hard to find." Her brow creases into a frown. "And he said he would be back by dinner time."

She looks up at the clock even though she couldn't tell the time very well and puffs out her cheeks. "Can I go play?"

"Sure." She hops off of the chair, leaving her stickers behind and races past Mallory coming in.

Mallory takes the seat opposite me and sighs heavily. She had started coming to sit in silence in the office, especially when it was just us. It had taken a long time, but I was finally getting used to Mallory's presence. Though today she seemed a little deflated.

Chapter 0300

"Everything good with Eric?"

"He wants kids." She doesn't even hold back.

"And you don't?"

"It's not that. His boys were killed not that long ago. I know they weren't his, but he still raised them."

"You think he is trying to replace them?"

"I don't know. I mean.... I never saw kids in my life, ever and then I was mated to Eric and things have gone crazy...."

"I never saw kids in my life either."

Her brown eyes lock with mine. "But you are a great mum. I became just like my dad and what if I pass that on?"

"You do know who you are talking to, right? My parents had me bound twice. My uncle had me bound twice. My parents tried to abandon me. How do you think I felt about having the twins?"

"Gotcha." she mutters

"Just talk to him."

"Good idea."

She doesn't move.

"Is there something else?"

She taps the armrest with the side of her fist. "I think... I think Abraxas might need to look at Maddie again."

"Why?"

"She hasn't said anything. But she's become a little off in the last couple of weeks. Some days she refuses to leave the house, muttering something about someone finding her. Other days she is quite happy to leave and goes back to her normal self."

"She was in a messed up hostage situation."

"But the guy is dead. And no one else has turned up here looking for her."

'Told you.' Nyx murmurs. 'She is plotting to kill us'

'Not everyone is a murder.' I snap back

'But you are Neah. You like to see them lose their life. You like to watch their heart stop beating.'

'And I can't wait until I see you die.' I growl at my Lycan

She stops talking to me, finally.

"I will come over." I tell Mallory. "Is she home now?"

"I think so."

Maddie is sitting in a corner of the kitchen. Her knees are pulled up to her chest with her arms locked around them. Her chestnut eyes dart up to me and I notice how sweaty she is. "Is she ill?"

"Shouldn't she heal."

"He's watching me." Maddie mutters

"Who?"

"He's always watching. It's wrong. It can't happen. He's watching."

Mallory looks at me with a face that screams 'help'

"Maddie, who is watching you?" I push

"My mate." She whispers as her eyes bulge and she starts to rock.

"The guy who marked you is dead." Mallory crouches down to her.

"Enzo's dead. Enzo's dead." Maddie mutters over and over. Her words dropped to a whisper. "He will kill me."

"Who?"

"My mate!"

Mallory stands up and pulls me away. "Do you think we need to take her to the hospital? It seems like she has lost the plot."

"I will link Damien to come help."

Damien puts Maddie on a hospital bed and drags Raven away from Jenson. Maddie continues to mutter

mate will kill her as Raven her a quick once over Content

belongs to S

Raven grabs a syringe from the draw and jabs Maddie who eventually passes out.

"What's wrong with her?" I quiz

"It seems she has the same issues

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you had." Raven mutters with no emotion. All this time she is spending at Jenson's bedside was not doing her any favours. She was becoming a shell of herself. She turns to leave.

"What is that supposed to mean?" I push

"She fears her new mate." she glances back at Maddie, "She will be out for a few hours. Now if you will excuse me, I need to spend time with my brother."

"Her new mate?" I turn to Mallory and ask if Maddie had been seeing anyone.

"No, like I said she will leave the house for a couple of days and then spend days inside."

"Like she is avoiding them."

"I guess."

There was only one person that was in and out of the pack for days at a time. I almost wanted to laugh. Maddie is a Lycan, the very thing he hated.