

# The Alpha's Contract

## #Chapter 0301 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0301

### Chapter 0301

Neah

"Dorothy is waiting for you." I mutter as Abraxas approaches the house with a shotgun resting on his shoulder. He looked incredibly pissed off, like he had just heard the worst news in his entire life and he had only just arrived back.

"Right." He dips his head at me, "I best go see her." A small smile appeared but it didn't change his pissed off look, instead it made him look darker and creepier. What had happened out there?

"And your mate is in the hospital." I add as he brushes past me.

He freezes, but keeps his composure. "My mate was killed. I will never have another mate."

"We both know it doesn't work like that. Damien is Raven's second mate. Maybe it was time for you to be mated again."

He slowly turns his body around until he is facing me. "I don't know what you think you know, Neah. I. Do not. Have. A. Mate!"

Denial.

His hazel eyes narrow. "My mate was the love of my life. No one will ever be able to replace her. Do you understand?"

I nod back at him, though Maddie had already confirmed it was him. The moment she was lucid, she gave me his name. 'Abraxas Adler, the Hunter', there is only one of him.

As soon as she said it, my suspicions were confirmed.

It explained why she panicked when he was nearby and calmed down when he was away. All because she believed he would kill her. There was still a very real possibility he might do that.

Tears had flooded her face as she asked me how she could be mated to a Hunter. She asked why she would be punished this way and what she had done to deserve a mate

like him. I didn't have the answers for her. I was still trying to understand why Lycans had been mated to Wolves in the first place.

"How long have you been back?" He had to have been nearby for Maddie to be aware and go into a panic.

"I've only just got back." He replies coldly

"Really? You haven't been lingering in the forest, watching Mallory's home? Her house does back out onto the forest."

His face becomes unreadable as he stares at me. He was good at keeping things hidden when he was talking to people. Not so much when he was alone.

"I am not, nor will I ever be mated to another, especially not a fucking Lycan."

"You didn't answer my question."

"Because it wasn't a question that needed answering. I have been away, trying to solve your problem." He jabs a finger in my direction.

I roll my eyes, his denial is on another level. "Then why don't you just reject her instead of torturing her?"

"I don't know what you are talking

about Neah. He shakes his head. "To reject someone would mean I need to be mated to them and as have already told you, I am not mated to her." He spits on the floor, making his feelings very clear.

"She told me, Abraxas."

"It's a lie."

"Why would she lie about something like that?"

"Why don't you ask her? You are her leader." His answers are a short and snappy.

"I will."

His brow wrinkles up and his hand tightens around the gun on his shoulder. "Or maybe I should pay her a visit, put her out of her misery. Especially if she deems it suitable to make up these lies."

"You won't do that!" I warn him

"Try me." He growls back. "You know I'm not afraid to stick a bullet in someone. Now if you will excuse me, my baby girl is waiting for me." He struts into the house, plastering a grin on his face for Dorothy

I glance across the grounds where Mallory is sitting on the small porch in front of her house with a cup, watching me. 'He's denying it.' I mutter through a link to her.

'I get it.' She tells me 'He is a Hunter, she is a Lycan. I don't know what's going on.'

'He's in denial, or maybe it's his own way of torturing Maddie.'

'No, not him. The Moon Goddess is the one that pairs us, right? Why would she do this?'

I don't know if she could see my movement, but I shrug my shoulders and turn around to face the house, trying to decide on my next move. I didn't want a gun pointed at me again.

## **Chapter 0302**

"Did he tell you?" Klaus makes me jump

"Tell me what?" Klaus has a heavy set frown too. "I'm guessing by your expression that you found out it can't be done."

"Actually what I found has nothing to do with you and everything to do with me."

"You?"

"It took me by surprise too." He drops his gaze. "Do you remember what I told you when we first met?"

My brow creases as I try to remember our first conversation. I had been a nervous wreck at the time. "About being bound?"

He nods his head at me. "But also that I was born into a different pack or so I thought."

"You weren't?"

"Oh I was, but I wasn't part of that pack." He sits down on the steps. "Turns out, my parents had infiltrated the pack. It's where Brax and I have been the last couple of days."

"Why?"

"According to Brax, the pack was attacked about a decade ago by Rogue Lycans."

"Your parents?"

"My birth parents were killed just after my birth. The people that raised me and then had me bound were part of the pack but yes, they were killed in the attack. The Luna there confirmed it."

"They killed your parents? Why? Because they snuck into the pack?"

"My birth mother was heavily pregnant with me. She asked for help, The Alpha and Luna gave it."

"You said they infiltrated?" I mutter

"I guess that's the wrong word. My parents told the Alpha and Luna that Lycans were going to attack the pack. They didn't believe them because Lycans weren't a thing or so everyone thought. The Alpha thought it was a trap and the moment my mother started pushing me out, he had them slaughtered. I was taken in by one of the childless Omegas. Her and husband went on to bind me when I became a threat."

"You are hardly a threat, Klaus. All you like to do is help."

"Now. Being here probably helped. Being supported and given a home. My life was very different before I met Dane and if my parents hadn't been killed, I would be just like Brax."

"Don't be stupid. You are nothing like him."

"Turns out I am. My parents were Hunters, Neah. That's why they knew Lycans were about. That's how they knew the pack was going to be under attack."

"You're joking, right?" He shakes his head. "You are not a Hunter, Klaus. You don't hate Lycans. You like spending time with my boys. I see chatting away to Damien about stuff. You are not a Hunter."

"It came as a bit of a shock to me too." He lowers his head, as sadness fills his eyes

"You can see souls?"

"No." He shakes his head.

"Abraxas talks about information passed down through the blood. You've never...."

"I had an idea that you weren't a

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Wolf when met you. Besides being bound, you were just a little different, the kind couldn't quite put my finger on. How do you think I found the books with information about your kind so easily?"

"You had already been looking?"

He nods and gives me a small smile.

"I'm guessing a lot of it has to do with nature vs nurture. I wasn't aware that Hunters existed. I was

always a quiet kid. As I said, I was

bullied for not having a Wolf for so long. Maybe because I wasn't raised in that life, my brain just forgot." He smiles at me, "If you haven't noticed, I'm not much of a killer either."

"Does Dane know?"

"I thought I would tell you first. I don't want you wondering about the safety of the twins around me. And I would also prefer to keep that part of my life quiet because I definitely don't see myself as a Hunter."

I nod. "Are you related to Abraxas then?"

"Not that I'm aware of and he doesn't seem to think so. He isn't the only Hunter in the world Neah." Why had I never considered that? 'Because you can be stupid.' Nyx mutters. She had been quiet for a little while now, but suddenly this conversation was of interest to her. "So there's more." I scowl, ignoring my Lycan again.

"Yes and they could be a problem, especially if they learn that Lycans are on the move to come here."

"We will be sitting targets."

## **Chapter 0303**

Hey everyone, hope you are all good and well.

I just wanted to drop in and thank you all for still reading. For those that have shared their precious gems with me, thank you so much, it means a huge amount to me as an author. The same with reviews and comments, thank you all.

Just to give you all a little update, there will be no chapter releases until 2nd June as I am having a couple of days with the family to relax and recharge which I'm sure you will all understand.

I will be see you on the other side

Take care

Taylor West

## **Chapter 0304**

Blair

Taking the booth, I settle my tired body just as one of the waiters brings me a glass of wine. It had been a long time since I had been here. I glance up, half expecting to see Jenson as this is where we met.

Though I knew he wouldn't walk through the door this time, it still hurt. I put my all into him, made him who he is and now he does this to me. The place is riddled with Wolves and Lycans. Far too many for my liking.

"Busy night?" The waiter makes small talk though he backs off as soon as I give him a look that says I wanted to be left alone.

The delicious deep red liquid hits the back of my throat and I let out a heavy sigh. All my plans were failing.

Being alone had never been a problem until Jenson wormed his way into my heart. I could move how I wanted, acted how I wanted and most importantly of all, the only person I needed to care about was myself, until he walked through those fucking doors.

My fingers graze the mark on my neck and I quickly hike up my jacket. I had given in to him. I had let him do the one thing I promised myself would never happen and now I have no idea what is happening to him.

Are they drugging him? Have they found a way to keep me out of his head? I knew he was hanging on. But that was all I knew. Maybe he was in their dungeon being starved to death?

So many unanswered questions. I hated being kept in the dark.

The waiter places another glass of red on the table. "I didn't order another one, dumbass!"

There's a flicker of annoyance in the wolf's eyes, but he keeps his face emotionless and nods to a guy at the bar, another Lycan. "It's from him." "Well you can take it back to him." I press my fingers against the base and start sliding it back to the waiter but he's

already gone. Straightening my back, it cracks a little and I down the rest of my wine, preparing myself to leave when the Lycan from the bar steps in front of me. "Hey, you must be on your way to Black Shadow. Mind if I join you?" His voice is husky and luring. But it's the scent surrounding him, calling to me. A cackle leaves my lips with a head shake as I try to ignore his scent. "I'm not going there." Well not yet anyway, I needed a bigger plan if she is rounding up as many Lycans as possible.

"Are you not curious about the female Alpha?" His sage green eyes have flecks of blue as he gazes at me.

I snort. "Already met her and I don't rate her."

He runs a hand through the five o'clock shadow on his chin. "Why?"

"Why do you want to know?"

He slides into my booth, blocking me in as his scent of leather and tobacco hits me hard. It hits me so hard that it almost takes my breath away was bound to happen with all the Lycans on the move, but

was already claimed. If he did anything, it would kill me

"I've spent most of my life hearing about how one day, we will have an Alpha unlike no other. No one knew when until we got that link." His husky voice sends a shiver down my

spine and I do my best to down my

keep

myself composed. It didn't matter that he was my fated mate. I was mated to Jenson. I had given myself to Jenson completely and I will get him back again.

"You believe that crap."

He nods, "Don't you?"

I let out a snort and he slides the glass of wine he brought me across the table until it was in front of me.

"Not a fan of the idea of an Alpha?"

"No. Not her anyway."

He raises a brow at me and nods. "I would still like to meet her."

"You would be wasting your time." take a swig of the wine, it wasn't to confirm wanted him, I just needed

the throb at the back of my head

to stop. Content belongs to

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He smirks at me and the blue flecks in his eyes seem to brighten. "Does she not like you?"

"It goes deeper than that."

"Right." He grabs my chin and turns my face towards his.

"Don't do that." I push his hand away

"To public?" He muses

I pull my jacket to the side so he could see the mark on my collarbone. His eyes turn a shade darker. "You let some other fucker claim you!" He growls.

## **Chapter 0305**

"Don't use that fucking tone with me." I lock my eyes on his, "I've killed men like you for breakfast."

"Then I will just have to kill him."

"Good luck with that. He's the Alpha's mates brother."

"What kind of shit did you get yourself involved in?" He demands.

"Nothing I can't handle." I slide out the other side of the booth feeling a little light headed. My back cracks some more as I stretch and he asks me how long it has been since I shifted.

"It's none of your business." I look him up and down as he stands to follow me. I didn't even know his name and I'm not even sure I cared. I wanted Jenson back, the man I had actually gotten to know.

He grabs the front of my jacket and pulls me up against him. His eyes close as he inhales my scent and I'm stupid enough to let him do it. "I don't even know your name," he whispers and all thoughts of Jenson fade.



"Blair." I mutter back, surprised by my own reaction. Though I couldn't say Kitson because he would be on to me. "Blair Everwood."

I hadn't used that name in years and it felt so weird coming from my own tongue.

"Nice to meet you, Blair Everwood." He smiles at me, showing me a dazzling set of perfectly straight white teeth. "I'm Cooper. Cooper Ash, but everyone calls me Coop."

"You can't do anything." I mutter as my heart races.

"Doesn't mean I can't watch you."

"I can't." I mutter, pushing his hands away from the front of my jacket. He was here to support Neah.

He frowns and takes a step back. "She wants you dead, doesn't she? What did you do, Blair?"

"None of your fucking business!"

"I'm making it my business." I almost feel like I need to tell him. The way his eyes lock on mine feel like he is sucking the information from me and I can't let that happen

"Fuck off!" I snap, turning away and heading towards the door. Stepping out into the cool night air, his hand locks around my wrist, spinning me back around.

"Not until you tell me the mess that you have gotten yourself into. Have you done something to the Alpha?"

I keep my mouth shut.

"Her mate?"

I press my lips together even harder, willing him to go away.

"You attacked her?"

I close my eyes, trying to drown out his questions.

He stops talking and when I open my eyes, Cooper is shaking his head. "I, Cooper Ash, reject you, Blair Everwood as my mate."

My mouth opens, but no sound comes out. Shock maybe? Rejection wasn't at all what I was expecting.

"Accept my rejection!" He demands.

"But...."

"Like you said, Blair. You have a mate." His words are full of spite

"I, Blair Everwood, accept your rejection. The scent of tobacco and leather fades the moment the final word leaves my mouth. He smells like every other Lycan. Shaking his head at me, he walks away.

A shock spasms through my chest at the breaking of the bond. I should be happy. I have Jenson and I will get him back. I didn't need Cooper. I didn't need the man who was actually chosen for me. Content

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Cooper disappears around the corner and my chest tightens. He was going to Black Shadow. He would tell them about me. I had to kill him. I couldn't let him give them information.

Pulling the small knife from inside my jacket, I run after him. Cooper's strides are long and he ignores me when I call out to him.

He stops suddenly and I swing the knife at him. Though he is prepared and catches my wrist, squeezing it tight until I'm forced to drop the knife. "That was a stupid move."

"You can't tell them about me!"

"Or what? You are going to stick a knife in my back? How about I beat you to it!"

Something cold plunges into my

back. It's pulled down from near my heart to somewhere more central. The pain doesn't kick in right away. Not until I feel the warmth of my blood trickling down my skin and soaking the back of my shirt.

It wasn't him that stabbed me though. One hand was still on my wrist, the other on my hip. He had been working with someone.

He lets go of me and I drop to the ground in agony, only to see the Wolf that had brought me the glass of wine. "Have a good sleep."

## **Chapter 0306**

Blair

"Look who is awake!" The tip of a finger presses against my chin, pushing my head up off of my chest.

The edges of my sight are still dark and the rest is blurred but I recognise Cooper's voice. "Took you a little longer to heal than I expected."

Pain radiates down my spine. The tightness of my skin tells me that the wound has only just finished knitting itself together. I try to straighten my back

to relieve the pressure but I'm unable to move and my head starts rolling back into a wall behind me, while fighting the need for more sleep.

A hand taps my cheek. "Come on, wake up you little whore."

"I..." what the fuck had they given me? My head pounded, making the pain of my spine seem like nothing in comparison.

"What strength did you use?" Cooper yells out. "She's still out of it."

"I doubled it just to be sure." Another man replies.

I try blinking to clear the blur, but the more I blink the more I grow desperate for the pain in my head to stop.

"You idiot. You were supposed to just use the normal dose. We need her alive!"

I try clearing the lump forming in my throat. "Where am...."

"Don't you worry your pretty little head about things like that, Blair Everwood or should I say Kitson."

No matter how much I try, I'm unable to force my vision to clear. I could smell the sterile room, but that wouldn't confirm my location. I could smell Cooper and the Wolf from the bar but no one else. If I could just shift, I could kill them.

Their voices begin to echo like the room had suddenly grown bigger. My heart pounds in my chest so hard it feels like my ribs might break.

I had been so caught up with my fated mate that everything else had slipped away. I had failed to see what was coming and now I was paying the price. I had lost my touch.

A hand taps my cheek, "Stay awake, Blair."

"Why?" I whisper. Why would my mate do this to me?

"Every Lycan and Wolf is gunning for your death. It will be a shame if this is how you die."

He had already met Neah. He wasn't on his way to Black Shadow, he had already been.

"You...you don't know....."

"That you want her position?" He muses. "Of course we know. Stepdaddy isn't so good at keeping your secret."

My heart beat drastically slows and my body slumps to one side, hitting a wall.

"No, no, you don't get to sleep."

"I'm not...." My breath comes out all gaspy, I wasn't getting the oxygen I needed.

"Shit!" He grabs my legs and yanks me down the mattress. A hand goes against my chest. "Her heart is fucking weak. We need her alive." "I'm not a fucking doctor!" The other guy growls back.

Something sharp pierces my chest and I'm out before I can say anything.

I wake with a gasp, my hands clutch

my chest as I check my own heart. It's beating a little fast, but not

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anything crazy. But I was alive, that was the main thing.

I'm in a windowless white room. A toilet sits in the corner and the only other thing in here is the bed. I'm on a drip feed that's connected to my inner arm. In the top corner, I see a camera. I had been wrapped in some sort of white gown while everything else had been removed.

How fucking long had I been here? And where was I?

The door opens and Cooper stands in it, his frame filling out the space. "Look who decided to join the land of the living."

"Where am I?"

"You don't need to worry about that."

"How long have I been here?" My back didn't feel tight from the freshly healed skin, in fact it felt amazing.

"Five weeks."

"Five weeks? Why would you do this? We were mated until you rejected me."

"Funny what a little concoction can do."

I climb off the bed ready to attack him when the tube in my arm pulls, sending a sharp twinge down my arm.

"Careful, that's keeping you alive."

"Fuck off!" I yank it out and charge towards him, ready to throw my all into beating the crap out of him when I start to feel a little woozy.

He catches me before I hit the

ground and carries me back to the

bed. He puts the tube back in just as I hear other women screaming, demanding to know where they are. What kind of place was this?

## **Chapter 0307**

"You seem a little confused." He mutters, checking how much is left in the drip bag.

"I thought you were doing this for Neah?"

"I have no interest in the Alpha. Daniel did, but Daniels dead."

"The Wolf from the bar?"

"Yes." He pulls the blanket up over my legs and it's only now that I realise my sense of smell is weak.

"What have you done to me?"

"I needed to make sure you couldn't shift. You cause quite a lot of problems for our kind, don't you Blair. I can't allow that."

"I'm paid and they all deserve it."

"Oh I know. Though I've been having to clean up your mess for a long time. Make sure the Humans don't discover us."

More screams and shouts ring out down the hallway, both men and women. How many were being kept here?

"All Lycans?"

"No."

As I stare at him, I try to drive my Lycan forward. If it means I eat him to be free, then I would. But nothing happens.

He smiles at me. "I wouldn't bother. It's not going to work."

My eyes move to the drip feed, it had to be something in that.

Cooper laughs. "You need it to survive. So your options are to live here without your Lycan or die."

He strides to the door. "Breakfast will be served shortly." He starts to pull the door shut. "Just remember this. You think you are bad, there is always someone a lot worse than you."

He has no idea who he is dealing with.

I lay staring up at the white ceiling. There wasn't a single speck of dirt on it. No tiles for me to count to pass the time, nothing. Whatever this place was, it was supposed to drive us insane. But I'm used to being alone with my thoughts.

Breakfast is oatmeal in a plastic bowl. Delivered by an older woman with salt and pepper hair. Her grey eyes are dim. It's almost like she is on autopilot as she moves. Not a single word leaves her lips. She doesn't even make eye contact. What did Cooper have over her?

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A different woman appears thirty minutes later to collect the breakfast dish. She's younger than the first, maybe in her thirties, but again, there is no eye contact. I was starting to wonder if I was dreaming because it just didn't seem real.

Taking my drip bag with me, I sit in the corner, directly under the camera. I had no idea if they could see me in this position, but I felt a little less watched.

I play with the drip feed, connecting it and reconnecting it, seeing how long I could go before I felt like I was going to die. I couldn't get past five seconds. It wasn't even enough time for me to attack anyone, but maybe I could use the tube, it was long

long

enough to wrap around someone's  
neck. Content belongs to

I jump when there is a knock on the door. Not being able to hear them walking towards you was uncomfortable. I keep quiet as the door swings open. Cooper's eyes find me immediately.

"Up you get."

"Why?"

"Full of so many questions, aren't you?" There's a slight smirk. "Get up."

I rise to my feet.

"Take it with you or you won't get very far."

I push the drip bag along with me as I step out into a white corridor, multiple doors lined it. Some people were banging on theirs while others were quiet or sobbing behind them.

"Walk!" Cooper snaps and shoves me forward.

My bare feet move slowly, one in front of the other as I try to guess how many people are here. And what they might have done to end up here. We get to a door and Cooper uses a key to unlock it. He locks it behind us too.

"Where are you taking me?"

He's silent as he pushes me on. "Is this for what I did to Neah?"

"I told you, I have no interest in the Alpha. Though many would call that treason." He directs me into another room and points me to the chair. "You've met her?" I was starting to think he hadn't. He may know her name, but he didn't seem to know she was mated either.

"What does it matter to you?"

"Because if you had met her, you would know that we are siblings."

## **Chapter 0308**

Damien

The number of Lycans here in the Black Shadow now surpassed the Wolves. They had done for about a week and it was the first time I had seen Dane looking a little uncomfortable. Even though he hadn't said it, more Lycans than Wolves were a potential threat. In theory we could overthrow the Wolves, but every single one of us are here for Neah.

Still, after five weeks, there were more turning up. I had always known there were more, but not this many.

Plenty had died along the way too. Abraxas had taken great joy in that and as much as he was an asshole and I still didn't trust him, he was sticking to his word and he seemed to be good for Dottie.

Abraxas moves around doing some of his weird training shit in the open space between the packhouse and the first houses. He had drawn in a crowd, especially young teenage girls who liked to watch him work out. As long as they were Wolves, he didn't have a problem.

"Watching him again?" Dane mutters as he steps through the front door.

"Just like you watch the Lycans."

"You know Brax is still trying to find a way to bind Nyx. He doesn't have to do that."

"He's been looking for an answer for almost two months. Don't you think he should have found something by now? Especially now he has the help of another Hunter."

"Klaus isn't like Brax. You already know that." The news about Klaus had been more than a shock. When comparing him to Abraxas, they were nothing alike. I just couldn't see how Klaus could be a Hunter, plus he loved Neah.

"Fine, but maybe it's not possible." I tell him. "And even if it is, we both know it might kill her. You can't risk that. Neah needs to find a way to manage it"

"What if I tell you he has already found a couple of options."

He had my full attention and I drag my eyes away from Abraxas. "What?"

"He has found a couple of options, but neither of them have a hundred percent guarantee that Neah won't get hurt in the process. One of the ideas came from a Witch, but once she found out Neah had been bound before, she told Abraxas it wasn't an option."

"Why have you not said anything?"

"I don't need to. She is my mate. I am the Alpha here."



"She is also our Alpha, Dane. Where is she anyway?"

"With Klaus and before you say anything." Dane watches me. "Neah can handle herself and Klaus won't hurt her."

I figured it was best that I don't answer

'Jenson moved!' Raven's voice echoes in my head

'Raven...'

'He moved!'

'I'm on my way.' I look to Dane. "Jenson moved?"

"It's probably just...." He doesn't answer me as his crimson eyes become glassy. "Come on."

As we start to head towards the hospital, he shouts for Abraxas to come with us and I roll my eyes. "What did Raven say to you?" I ask as we make our way across the grounds.

"His eyes are open."

"That's not possible." Abraxas frowns. Something that seems to be permanent these days.

We burst in through the hospital and

head to the room where Jenson was. Jenson has had the pillows removed from under his head and the bed has been laid completely flat. His eyes are wide open but unresponsive. The tube down his

throat continues to work to keep him

breathing. Content belongs to

"His hand moved." Raven mutters. Her own dark eyes are just as wide as Jenson's. "And he opened his eyes." She gestures to his face.

I look at Jenson's hands. They are in

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exactly the same place as usual. But this also wasn't the first time Raven had claimed he had moved. Her desire for him to live was making her see things that just weren't true. But this was the first time his eyes had been open.

Dane clenches his jaw as his eyes scan over his brother's body. He had admitted that he had said goodbye to Jenson a long time ago, but he believed Raven needed time. His crimson eyes move to Abraxas and Abraxas shakes his head.

"Raven, it's time to turn off the machines." Dane tells her

"You said he would heal." She's glaring at Abraxas

"He's not and he hasn't been for a

while." Abraxas replies. "I have said this a number of times, he is not healing. You have to let him go.

Otherwise you are forcing him t

exist in a world that no longer has a place for him. And you are giving up your life in the hopes that there will be a miracle. That miracle isn't happening."

"He's my brother." I feel her pain. Her ache for him is as strong as her will for him to just wake up. Her denial is just as bad.

"We can do this with you by his side or without you." Dane tells her

## **Chapter 0309**

"You can't... I'm the pack doctor. I know what's best."

Resting my hands on her shoulders, I give her a small squeeze. She wasn't alone in this, even if that is what she feels.

Dane flicks off the machine that is breathing for Jenson followed by the one that makes sure his heart pumps blood around his body.

Raven is already sobbing as we wait and watch for any signs of life. To no one's surprise, there is nothing, No movement. No twitch of a finger. No quiet beat of the heart.

Raven drops to her knees, as she goes into panic mode. Her chest heaves as she struggles to breathe.

"GO!" I shout at Dane and Abraxas as I pull my mate against me.

My mate claws at her own chest and I have to lock my hands over hers to stop her hurting herself. She thrashes against me, pummeling her fists any place she can with a desperate need to get away. I hold steady, knowing it was just the pain of acknowledging her twin was really gone.

I'm not even sure how long we are sat on the floor before she becomes quiet. Minutes, maybe even hours. She stares up at Jenson. "Dane turned off the machines." She whispers

"He was already gone, Raven."

"He took my brother away from me."

"No. This is what Blair did." She had to remember that it was Blair that made Jenson try and kill his Wolf. It was Blair that had made him weak. Dane was just doing what he should have done weeks ago.

"Blair." she whispers

"Blair turned him into something he never was. You saw it yourself. Remember what he was like before he met her."

"He loved everything." she says quietly. "He was fun. He was happy. A pain in the ass most of the time but happy."

Her tense body starts to relax into me. "Revenge ruined him, Raven."

"Why did he stay with her?"

"From what Mallory said, I don't think he had a choice. I think Blair was forcing him to live a life she wanted. Maybe she even saw it as an opportunity. She pushes herself up from my lap and moves over to Jenson. She removes the tube from his throat and gently closes his eyes. Cupping his face, she finally tells him goodbye. A silent tear stains her cheek as she pulls the bed sheet up over him.

Raven's head drops as she moves back to me. "I need to sleep." She whispers, keeping her gaze low. "Midnight needs to sleep."

It had been a long time since I hadn't had to force her to rest. "Then let's go home."

As she steps through the doors of the pack hospital, Dane is waiting and immediately pulls her in for a hug though she doesn't hug him back.

In some ways, I wish he hadn't let this go on for so long, but then I knew at the same time, he was trying to keep Raven's hopes up.

Klaus passes word and heads inside. Probably to prepare Jenson for his cremation. Though there wasn't much left to do, other than place him in the casket that Dane has had prepared for well over a month.

sus without saying a

"Let's get you home." Dane whispers softly to his sister.

There is an eeriness to the pack as we walk to the house. Wolves pause as we pass by, dropping their heads a little, but it was the quietness that made it seem strange. No chatter, no children charging around. They all felt the loss. Maybe it was more that they could feel Danes loss, though he doesn't show it.

Whatever it was, It was clear that the respect for their Alpha is strong.

Raven makes her way up the stairs, insisting that I didn't need to go with her. "I'm just going to crash." She gives me a weak smile.

"I will be up to check on you."

She shrugs her shoulders and carries on.

"She just needs time." Dane tells me as he turns into his office.

"Time? Says the man who left his brother on a ventilator. Raven's depression could have been dealt with long ago rather than watching her fade right in front of me."

"No one grieves the same way."

"Including you?"

"I accepted his death."

"Have you? Because what I just witnessed suggests that you still feel it."

"How I feel has nothing to do with you!"

There is a crash above us preventing me from disagreeing. I'm out the door before he is. Racing up the stairs two at a time with Dane right behind me. While I run in the

e

direction of my room, Dane crashes through his bedroom door. Content

belongs to

Raven is out cold on the bed. She didn't even undress before sprawling out like a starfish on top of the blankets. Quietly and quickly, I close the door just as Dane calls out to me.

In Dane's bedroom, Dane is standing in front of Neah with wide eyes. But Neah isn't in human form.

## Chapter 0310

Neah

"OW!" I land on my back a little hard and just lie here, stunned by the pain. My energy was almost non-existent and I was done practising for the day. There are only so many times I can deal with the breaking of bones in one afternoon.

'Better.' Nyx mutters "You have almost nailed it."

I had been practising in secret for weeks. Shifting into my Lycan without Nyx's help and it was far from easy. I wanted to give credit to all those that could shift without help.

I had given in a few weeks ago and actually spoke to Nyx, trying to find out why she was forcing herself forward and her answer was always the same. 'I'm just trying to protect us.'

My body and mind had worked so hard to keep her from entering my thoughts that it was becoming impossible to keep her out. She was a constant. A piece of me that I couldn't suppress no matter how much I didn't want her in my head.

I fought against her. Every waking moment I tried to keep her out of mind, wishing that she would stop sharing her opinion, hoping that she would just give up. But she never stopped and the more I pushed, the more she pushed back.

"I want the darkness to go away." I had muttered one day. "I want you to go away." I hadn't wanted to become a monster. I hadn't wanted to become something that fed on blood and flesh. I still don't.

'Do you know what makes us better than the rest?' She had asked me during one heated discussion, 'Our blood.'

'I don't know what that means.'

'We are better than the others. Stronger. Powerful. A leader of Lycans. And you know it!'

I had laughed at her words that day and caught Abraxas watching me from afar. A dark look on his face that had me disappearing into the training hall and out of sight. I didn't want or need his opinion, especially while he kept silently torturing his mate, Maddie.

'Does it scare you?' Nyx had asked me one night after I had put the twins to bed. I hadn't even needed to ask what she meant because I knew exactly what she was talking about.

'Of course it does. I'm not any of those things that you keep saying I am.'

'Because you still don't believe in your capabilities, Neah. You still don't trust me and that is what is holding you back. We are one, Neah. Neither of us can survive without the other because this is who we are meant to be. You treat me as though I am a separate being instead of accepting me as part of you. Look at Jenson, he is dying because he lost his Wolf.' Content belongs to

At the time, her words made me question a lot of things. But more importantly, was she right? Was I responsible for my own struggles? 'You need to practise shifting.' She had declared when I said I was willing to listen.

'I can't... I will become..'

'No you won't, Neah, you have to trust me. You have to trust yourself.'

Now almost three weeks later, I'm lying on the bedroom floor with

ne

Dane and Damien staring at me. The secret was officially out and I inwardly groan. I wanted to keep it quiet until I was a hundred percent sure I could shift without asking Nyx to do it for me.

"Neah?" That single word is full of so much doubt and annoyance from Dane as he stands over me. He hated it when I kept secrets. It wasn't supposed to be a secret, but a surprise, like tada, I figured out how to do something without his help.

I pick up my claws to acknowledge the men while my heart hammers in my chest. The shifting is getting easier and quicker, but I always end up crashing to the ground, unable to hold my balance.

When Nyx had pushed forward, she had always made it feel like a breeze. 'Because you keep moving. You need to practise while still.' she mutters in amusement.

Slowly shifting back, my neck cracks

and then my back arches off the floor as my bones realigned. Nyx promised it would get easier and the pain would be less but right now, my body felt like it was on fire as everything slots back into the right place and I'm almost grateful I'm naked.

# **The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0311 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0311**

## **Chapter 0311**

I had learned quickly to practise in the nude. Ripped clothes would be suspicious and only draw questions.

Dane grabs a blanket from the bed and quickly wraps it around me. His crimson eyes give me the once over. "Why?" He asks

"I've been practising." I mutter back, stretching myself out and feeling a few more bones crack. There was no point in lying, he would be paying close attention to my mind now.

"Too fucking right." He stares at me with his crimson eyes.

"Practising? As in you are letting the darkness in and then pushing it back?" Damien asks.

"No." I frown, because I still couldn't fully explain it. "You said it was hard. You told me that once the darkness gets in it's difficult to get back out. That it's almost impossible. That's not true. Mallory did it, Salem did and so did you."

"With a lot of hard work." Damien replies in annoyance

"Hard work for you." I mumble and he glances to Dane. "It's not for me, not anymore."

"What are you talking about?"

"Damien, you told me that there is a reason the Rogues have a darkness in them before they turn. You told me that it's different for everyone. That it was something from their past that made them that way. But me," I snort, because it has taken me far too long to see it. "I was born with this. It makes me who I am. I am not dark and I am not light either."

"Neah, that's Nyx talking." Dane frowns at me

'Of course he blames me!' Nyx mutters

"No, it's not. I spent so long fighting her. Thinking of ways to free myself from her. But I finally stopped to listen and I learned something." I shake my head and get to my feet, tugging the blanket around me, I tie a knot to keep it up over my chest. "I'm not supposed to get rid of her."

"Neah..." The men look at each other like I had lost it.

Dane shakes his head, "Neah, Brax said..."

"Abraxas said a lot of things. He told

you that the darkness fills my

cracks. And he's right, but his reasoning for why Nyx does is wrong. was trying to block Nyx, She was fitting in the gaps to try and make me whole, make me strong. To help me function better. It has never been about controlling her or her controlling me. I had to accept her. I had to accept what I am."

"None of us really know what Brax sees," Dane shakes his head. "But he has enough exper...."

"He's not dealt with a Lycan Alpha before." I say in a hurry.

I move in front of my mate, staring

up into his crimson eyes. "There was a reason my parents had me bound as a child. Don't you see, it all adds up. They were afraid. When the binding's failed, they pretended that Trey was the next in line, not me. But they created me. The last female Lycan Alpha."

Nyx cheers as I make it clear who and what I am.

"I'm not scared anymore. I know who I am."

"Show me." Dane mutters.

'You've got this.' Nyx chatters. 'Clear your head, stand tall, don't fucking fall over.'

My eyes shift to Damien. "Can you turn around?" I didn't care if Dane saw me naked, he was my mate and had seen me naked more times than I can count.

Everything cracks, my bones stretch and fur appears again. It's painful but tolerable and keeps going until I'm standing over him and he stares at me with a smile. "There you are."

## **Chapter 0312**

Mallory

"There you are" I beam at Damien as I enter the packhouse. He was making his way down the stairs, but he had an air of confusion surrounding him. "You good?"

"She did it."



"Huh?"

"She has control. She shifted."

"Seriously?" I feel myself grinning from ear to ear. "That's awesome, we have been waiting for this for so long. How did she do it?" I stare at him expectantly, waiting for the amazing news.

"Neah's different." He mutters. "She's bonded with her Lycan." His eyes settle on mine, "Which is good, right?"

"Of course it is. What's wrong with you? Why wouldn't it be good?"

Damien smiles at me, "Nothing. I guess, on some levels, I never thought it would happen. She's been battling her darkness for a long time. So long that I thought it would eventually win. The darkness has always won before."

"You're wrong. You and I are living proof that it doesn't always win."

He nods, "You're right. I'm just overthinking it." He looks over his shoulder up the stairs. "And she seems happy. They both do." His eyes return to me. "You were looking for me?"

"I need your help."

He follows me to my house and I point to the table. He sighs and steps up to it. His eyes scan over the items.

"Are these..."

"Yes!"

"And they..."

"Yes!" I snap

"And I'm the first person you are telling."

"Clearly. You are my best friend. Who else am I going to tell first?!"

He cocks a brow at me, and picks up one of the dozen pregnancy tests, "How about the father?"

I blow out my cheeks. "I've not told him yet. He asked me before about having one and I told him no. That it was too early, after what Salem did to his boys. And now, I'm pregnant anyway."

"I don't really think you have a choice, Mallory. You can't hide it from him....." He knits his eyebrows together, "Please don't tell me that you wanted my help to get rid of it?!"

"No, no, of course not. I was hoping for some words of wisdom. you are normally full of them!"

"You will make a great mum."

"That's your wise words?" I mock, "Anyone could have told me that?"

"But you wouldn't have believed them." I roll my eyes because it was true. Eric was my mate, but he still didn't know me as well as Damien did, no one did. "Congrats Mallory, I'm happy for you."

"What about you and Raven?" I ask. I knew she had suggested trying, but he hadn't confided anything to me.

He presses his lips into a thin line

and sighs. "We would have to be

having sex

make a pup." I watch his shoulders drop. "Since Jenson ended up in a coma, she hasn't been in the right frame of mind and now he's gone, I don't even know where we stand."

"Where is she?"

"Sleeping, finally."

"Maybe a good amount of sleep will help her see more clearly."

"Here's hoping." He mutters and his dark eyes move up to the clock. "I have to go and check on the Lycans." He points to the tests. "You need to tell him Mallory, because you know who will work it out and blab his big mouth to everyone. And I'm sure Eric would rather hear it from you."

I watch him leave and let out my own heavy sigh. He was right. Abraxas was the last one that I needed telling everyone.

I thought I would get used to Abraxas after all this time, but knowing that he is mated to Maddie and not doing anything about it, made me so angry

that I wanted to smack him in the face. Repeatedly

It made it a hundred times worse

that only Neah and I knew the truth. Maddie didn't want us to say anything she thought the other

net

Lycans would turn against her if they knew the truth. Neah had suggested leaving the pack, but Maddie

insisted that it was the first place

she had felt safe. Content belongs to

I grab a cup of tea and take it out to the porch. Before I even have a chance to sit down, Abraxas is making his way towards me. He stops a few metres away from me. "Have you seen Klaus?"

"Not since earlier." He nods and turns away from me. "He isn't like you."

## **Chapter 0313**

Klaus had been open when telling us what he found out about his past. And thankfully, Klaus and Abraxas were nothing alike and I wanted it to stay that way. Klaus was a kind guy, he wasn't an asshole like the Hunter standing in front of me and I didn't want him to change.

"I didn't say he was. And I'm not sure I care for your attitude."

"My attitude?" I snort and inhale too much tea at the same time, forcing it to erupt from my nose like a volcano as I splutter

He smirks at me and my fingers tighten around the cup, ready to launch it at him. His hazel eyes move to my hand and the smirk turns into a grin. "That pup seems to have got you worked up already."

"What the fuck did you say?"

He stares at me, yet doesn't repeat his words. Surely he couldn't tell already, I was barely pregnant.

Abraxas tilts his head to one side, "You heard me." He winks and turns away, I launch my cup at him anyway, only for his hand to reach out and catch

it.

He turns and walks right up to me, carefully placing the empty cup on the stone porch next to me. "I will let that one go, this time."

His eyes flicker in past the open door.

"She's not here." I mumble

"Who?"

"Your Lycan mate."

"I don't have a Lycan mate." He mutters as his forehead wrinkles into a frown. Liar, liar, pants on fire.

"Why are you denying it?" I push, "Just reject her."

"Rejecting her would imply that we are mated. As we are not, I cannot reject her. I have told Neah the same thing."

"It's not the truth." He denied any ounce of it being a possibility. Maddie was clear though. She knew exactly who her mate was and had no reason to lie about it.

He grins at me. "It's my truth, Mallory. My mate was a huge part of my life. I can not just move on."

"How long were you together before Blair killed her?" I ask. Abraxas never spoken about his mate, his unborn child or his parents.

"Twelve years."

"She was a Hunter too?"

"She was, and a fucking good one."

"I'm sorry that Blair took them away from you."

"It's not your apology to make. You weren't involved."

"Your child, the one who didn't make it...."

"He died in utero. Had already passed before made it home. I couldn't save him. My advice to you. Don't do anything reckless, protect that little one. We all know you rush into things and think about the consequences later. Now is the time to change that." It felt like he was trying to find a way to not talk about his family, but not in a way that involved telling me to shut up.

Damien has always said people have secrets that they don't want others to discover

"Why do you care? You don't like our kind?"

"I didn't say I cared." He wanders away without even looking back and quite quickly, a trail of young female wolves appear, following him as they giggle until they all disappear out of sight.

Linking Neah, I ask if she is free to talk. I wanted to tell her about the strange interaction I had with Abraxas. She tells me she will be over as soon as she can.

Getting to my feet, I smell smoke and burning wood. Peering around my house, Wolves and Lycans are running out of the forest, scooping up younger children and hurrying them out of the way as flames lick the tree trunks.

Many of the Wolves threw

themselves into action, making sure

everyone was as far away as possible while others charged into the trees to tackle the blaze. But the fire grows, spreading like crazy through the forest.

A hand locks around my wrist, pulling me back as embers fall on my house, igniting the roof in seconds. Everything I had built in the last couple of years goes up in flames right before my eyes.

"You need to move." The man holding my wrist mutters.

I look up to see Ryken, Blair's stepfather, I don't even know where he came from, but he tugs me backwards, away from the fire when I see familiar waves of red hair backing in to the fire.

"MADDIE!"

## **Chapter 0314**

\*\*\*\*

Trigger warning. Suicide. \*\*\*\*

Abraxas

Fire licks at my own skin as I rush forward to help. I wasn't even within touching distance of the fire, and nothing was happening to me, yet it burned me as though I am in the middle of it. This has never happened before.

I see Ryken holding on to Mallory, stopping her from running into the flames as she screams out for Maddie over and over. She tries to pull herself free, though Ryken keeps a firm grip on her.

Act first, think later. Mallory was prone to it and I'm almost grateful there is someone keeping her from running into the fire.

She was one of the few Lycans I could tolerate.

Sweat drips from me as my skin heats up. Smoke leaks up into the atmosphere as the Wolves and Lycans surrounding me rapidly try to put the fire out or pull young Wolves and Lycans away. Any time something dies down, something else goes up in thick orange flames, sending more dense smoke into the air.

If we weren't careful and quick. The smoke may draw the attention of unwanted bypassers.

Neah and Dane run past me. He joins the chain with others, throwing water on the roaring flames. Neah grabs hold of Mallory and with the help of Ryken, drags her further back, away from her burning home.

There is something different about Neah. The black ring around her soul isn't as dark and it isn't pulsating like it usually is. But every crack is filled with black, almost making her soul look as if the cracks had cleared. She had let her Lycan win or she had given up.

I didn't want to put a bullet in her, but I can't allow another Rogue to wander this Earth.

Mallory's scream refocuses my attention "She's your mate!" She cries at me. "You are just letting her die!"

Ryken frowns, confused by Mallory's declaration

"She isn't my mate." I say for the thousandth time and turn my attention to the forest. I see Madison's red hair, she's close to the ground and more fire runs up my back.

"Mallory. Mallory, look at me." Neah mutters, grabbing the Lycans face and forcing Mallory to look at her. "This isn't your fault."

As Neah talks to her, I slip away. Entering a part of the forest that had already been put out.

Madison's jasmine scent is easy to pick up, quickly followed by the sound of her crying. She lets out a scream and I feel the flesh on my back burn. "Madison!" She doesn't answer and I'm forced to call to her again. Even if it momentarily stops her from hurting herself.

Her chestnut eyes briefly pause on

me. "No, not you. I don't need you. Go!" She whimpers from the ground. She's laid on her stomach, the back of her shirt almost completely burnt off, while her back is laced with black seared flesh and wide open wounds that are fighting to knit themselves together.

el

She rolls over, pulling faces through the pain and purposely forces her own arm into the fire. Madison lets out a gut wrenching scream that makes my heart freeze as I feel the fire smoulder up my own arm. It was strange, feeling something that wasn't happening to me. hadn't even felt this with Dorothy's mother.

Grabbing Madison's feet, I drag her from the flames. She needed time to heal. But she tries to kick me. Shouting at me and demanding to let her go. "You have to stop!" I snap

"I can't live like this. It's too hard!"

I pull the small hand gun from my hip and thrust it at her. "Go on then, be my guest, do it." I was calling her bluff.

Her eyes widen as they dance between the gun, my face and the fire.

"It will be a lot quicker and less painful. Well, if you do it right."

She reaches up for the gun. A move that I wasn't expecting, though I manage to pull it just from her reach. She was willing to kill herself over all of this

"Screw you." She growls at me,

net

"You've been torturing me for over a month, do you know how it feels, knowing I'm mated to you of all people. Now let me go!" She tries to kick I me again, I block her with ease, already anticipating her next move as a foot comes towards my dick. "Just let me go. Please!"

## **Chapter 0315**

"I'm not letting you go anywhere."

She stares at me with her wide chestnut eyes, trying to understand me. I spot the matches nearby with a small aerosol can.

"You started the fire, didn't you?" I ask as the flames move from one charcoaled tree to the next.

"No." She mutters, but her answer comes out full of desperation and sadness. As if she was a child being scolded over spilt milk

"Your soul tells me differently. The evidence tells me differently"

She turns from me and starts crawling back towards the fire, dragging herself across the forest floor and ignoring every bit of pain she is feeling.

Pinning her to the ground, I straddle her hips as she lets out a sob.

"Why?" I demand. "Why would you do this to the person that took you in?"

"What do you mean?" Tears trickle over her soot smudged face.

"You've burned Mallory's house down."

"I didn't..."

"I've seen it. You've taken away the home of a pregnant woman."

"No." She whimpers. "That wasn't supposed to happen. It was supposed to be me."

Her heart races and she squeezes her eyes tight. Her sorrow and her pain weighed heavily on her.

"It wasn't supposed to get so big." She pushes against me, but she's weak and exhausted. The flesh on her arms is already healing. "You should

have killed me when you shot Enzo. Please, just do it." She struggles against me. "Or let me go. It will be easier for you."

"So you can walk into the fire, never to be seen again? I don't think so Madison. Not while I feel the fire licking at my skin like it is me that is walking through the flames."

She manages to grab my hand with the gun, and pulls it under her chin, locking her hands tightly over mine "I can't live in fear anymore. Please just kill me?" She tries to squeeze my finger over the trigger, though her weakness barely makes my finger move.



Death is what she is hoping for. Death was a way to escape me, but I wasn't letting her go anywhere. Not yet.

"I am not going to kill you, not yet. But you keep your mouth shut about what happened and how the fire started. Do you understand?"

Lifting her from the ground, I cradle her in my arms as she hooks a burnt arm over my shoulder. It had been years since I had held another

female like this. Her jasmine

invades every inch of me. I hated it

and I loved it.

I couldn't admit what she was to me, but I couldn't let her do something so reckless either.

Raven and Neah come rushing forward when they see us. Raven demands for me to put Madison down so she could check her over while Neah stares at me with a knowing look.

She pulls me to one side. "You saved her?"

"Clearly." I mutter back, throwing a glance over my shoulder to check Madison.

"Didn't think you liked Lycans?" Neah blocks my gaze as she folds her arms across her chest and narrows her eyes at me. She wasn't going to let this go anytime soon.

"I don't."

She rolls her eyes at me. "Have you accepted her?"

"Why the fuck would I do that?" She gives me that same knowing look. I turn the conversation to her. "What about you. What happened to you?"

"I don't know what you are talking about."

"Cut the crap, Neah."

"You don't want to talk about

Maddie. I don't want to talk about

I

what you claim you can see. But what I can do is order Maddie to tell me what happened in the forest. Actually, I think that is a good idea. I do need to test myself a bit more." She smiles at me and her brilliant blue eyes widen with excitement.

"Is Nyx in control?"

## **Chapter 0316**

Hey everyone, hope you are all well and the week is going well for you all.

There is no update tomorrow 7th June but I will be back on the 8th with a planned double update. \*Just need a day to make sure that everything is going the way it's planned.\*

As always, I want to thank you for all your comments, reviews and feedback. And I'm especially grateful for any of the readers that are still following along. I know many of you are silent but loyal readers and I really appreciate it.

See you on the 8th, but if you are impatient, please feel free to check out my other books on Goodnovel.

Take care

Taylor West

## **Chapter 0317**

Blair

Everyday I expected to feel a little better. Everyday I am wrong.

Cooper insists that the bag pumping liquid into my arm is keeping me alive and yet it made me feel like it was draining the life from me.

There's a knock on the door and the same daily routine starts. A nurse comes in and checks the drip bag. She puts a towel down on the end of my bed along with a tiny bar of soap and a toothbrush. I'm expected to follow her to the showers, pulling my bag of medicine along with me.

I had tried twice to strangle her with the tube that connects the drip bag to my arm. Both times I had been punished with withdrawing me from the medicine just long enough to make me suffer. Repeatedly.

Cooper had them do it to me for days at a time until I was begging him just to let me die. He always answered the same. "How do you think those that you killed felt? You deserve to suffer."

I follow the nurse to the showers. Most of the cells I passed are quiet. They had quickly learned that no one was coming for them. That screaming and shouting was a waste of time. But I always knew when someone new had been brought in.

Their fists would pound against the door. Their voices demanded to be let out until they grew tired. And after all these weeks, I still didn't know what Cooper is trying to achieve. Why make us suffer? Why take our abilities away to only keep us locked up in here. It made no sense. Killing us would be much quicker and we would be less of a drain on resources.

And if it isn't bad enough, I'm watched while I shower. Humiliation at its finest.

The old gown is taken away, and a fresh one is given to me before I make my way back to my room, where a measly bowl of porridge would be waiting for me and the nurse would leave. I had thirty minutes to eat it until the next nurse would come and remove the bowl.

Everything here was kept plain. Plain food, plain white sheets, plain white gowns. Almost as if it were a way of telling us we don't deserve anything more. They even gave me a hysterectomy.

I think that happened after my first week here. Something about not wanting me to spoil the sheets and gowns.

Bastards!

It was a prison and Coop had anointed himself as the man in charge.

I was a million miles away from the life I knew. The life that I had worked hard for.

Ironically, I would give my left arm just to be able to link my mother or even hear fucking Neah. I just need to hear another voice that wasn't my own or Coopers or someone begging to be freed.

Grabbing the bowl of porridge, I place it on the floor and curl up in the bed. Starving would be a better option than this.

The lock on my door is slid back. I feel a rush of warm air as the door swings open.

"Why are you not eating?" Cooper demands. I don't bother to look at him. "This is the third day. Do we need to hold you down and force feed you?"

"I am not hungry."

"It's not optional."

"I don't feel well."

"Impossible. Everything in that drip bag provides you with what you need to survive."

"This is what you call surviving? Is

that a fucking joke? If I had it my way, I would just rip this fucking shit out, but you always appear before my heart even gets a chance to stop. My eyes flash up to the camera. If we all had cameras and albidid it at the same time, who would he go to first?  
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"It's the punishment you deserve. Why should I let you die, Blair Everwood?"

"This is some fucking weird shit you are pulling." mutter and turn over so I don't have to look at him. "I've met some fuckers with God complexes over the years, but this, keeping people alive for your own enjoyment is fucked up." S

"It's a tiny amount of suffering compared to the destruction you have left behind. For example, your poor mother."

I sit up and glare at him. "You have no right to talk about my mother."

"She tried to help you and you repaid her by doing something awful."

"Shut the fuck up!"

"It turns out you caused her quite a lot of problems. You made her relive her horrible past because you couldn't accept what was. You clung to this stupid idea of yours."

"I deserve what is mine." I growl and he laughs. A deep belly laugh

"Unfortunately, that is not how life

works. Maybe things would met

been different if your mother

raised such a brat. Maybe you could have even gotten to know Neah."

"I'm done with this conversation."

## **Chapter 0318**

He smiles. "You talk about Neah being your sibling, but she isn't even looking for you."

"You don't know that. You don't know anything about me!" She would be looking for me. Maybe not physically but she she had a reason to want me dead.

He reaches out and tucks a strand of my chaotic hair behind my ear. "I know so much more than you. But I think it's time to get rid of this." His fingers fist in my hair and he tugs my head back as he calls for someone.

The older woman from my first day here appears with scissors, a can of shaving foam and a new razor on a tray.

"Now you better sit still, or I might accidentally slice something I shouldn't!" Cooper muses

He takes every strand of hair from my head. Cutting it as close to my scalp as possible. I watch as dark locks fall around me on the bed and could feel the tears burning the back of my eyes. I loved my hair, but I refused to cry for him and when I find a way out of this damn prison I am going to skin him alive.

When he's done with the razor, he grabs my face, his is centimetres from mine. "In future, make sure you eat."

"You shaved my head because I didn't eat?! What the fuck is wrong with you?"

He smiles and walks out the room with the older woman. The door is slammed shut and the bolt is pushed back into place. My hands go to my head. It's perfectly smooth, not a single strand left behind, like Cooper had done this a hundred times before.

I hated it. I hated him. I hated what he was turning me into.

Staring up into the camera, I wish I could rip it from the wall. It's too high for me to reach and the bed is bolted down so it couldn't be moved. I continued to stare, hoping that he was watching me. Hoping that he could see the hate that had been building inside of me.

He was the first person to truly outsmart me. I hated him more than I hated Neah. But I couldn't help wondering what she would think if she knew someone like him existed. Would she kill him? Or would she be grateful for him punishing us?

I had a feeling she would want him dead.

My eyes shift from the camera to the door. Something is happening just outside. I couldn't hear properly. Cooper had taken that away from me. Muffled sounds echo along with footsteps. Some running, some seemed to be skipping?

An alarm goes off. A big red beacon above my door flashes as the noise fills the room. The bolt on the door is pulled back and my door partially opens. No one comes in and I

hear more footsteps. I glance at the drip bag attached to my arm. I had maybe twelve hours at most unless I could find another one. Either way. I was getting out of this place.

Quietly I pull the door open. There are already bodies littered in the corridor, all of which do not have a drip bag attached to them. They hadn't learned

or maybe they hadn't been told. They had made it out of their room only to drop like a dead horse.

I look up and down the corridor. Every single door is open. Someone had broken out or someone was overthrowing Cooper. I didn't care which way around it is.

I dip into one room and quickly tie

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off what's left in the drip bag before making my way into the opposite room and find an almost full bag That's twenty four hours. I had roughly forty hours in total, but I had to move now. I had to get out of this place.

The building is like a maze. I try to remember all the areas that I had been taken too and map it out in my mind. I pass some other escapees, but they don't stop and it looks as if they are doing the same thing I am, collecting drip bags to make sure they survive.

One stops to look at me, his eyes move up to my shaved head and then to the bags in my arms.

"Don't fucking try it." I snarl. I needed enough to let me find a witch, that was all I needed.

"FUCKING FIND HER!" I hear Cooper roar and duck into someone's empty room.

As soon as he passed, I race in the direction he had come from. Pushing open every door until one leads me outside.

The sun is so bright it burns my eyes. Being kept inside in a windowless room had altered my vision, but I didn't have time to stop and kept moving.

As fast as my legs would carry me, which turns out, without a Lycan, I'm pretty slow.

## **Chapter 0319**

Raven

"You really couldn't find anything?" I mutter in confusion. It had been twenty four hours since the fire.

Dane shakes his head at me. "We've looked but there doesn't seem to be anything that caused the fire. Whoever did it, covered their tracks." "No scents?"

"The after smell of the fire is still strong, it wiped out any leftover scents." Damien adds. "I expect whoever is responsible, set it and then legged it." "So there is still a chance it can be Blair?"

"We are not ruling it out." My brother tells me and then he smiles. "It's nice to see you involved in pack stuff again."

I shrug my shoulders. "Jenson is dead, I have to be useful somewhere."

"You know that is not what I'm saying! What I am saying is I've missed having you hover around the house, finding you in random places eating ice cream. Neah misses you too." He smiles at me, though I don't return it.

I sigh. I had missed a lot of what had happened with Neah. Usually she would tell me everything, but we had barely spoken since I had been at my brother's bedside. I had missed watching the twins learn to walk too. "Well, I'm here now. When is the funeral?"

"Tonight. It's a full moon and I think it's the perfect night to say goodbye to him before we go on a packrun."

I hadn't been on a full moon run in months. "Are the Lycans taking part?"

"Some of us." Damien confirms, "But there are many, like the Everwood crew that don't do it."

"Blair's family?" I wanted to check that I knew who they were talking about. I still thought it was weird that they were here, but apparently Hunter Abraxas had verified them. "Is that wise?"

"Eric's not going. He will be staying in the house with Mallory, Neah and the twins."

"Oh, Mallory doesn't want to go?"

Dane opens his mouth but Damien answers for him. "She's decided not to. Her and Neah have been getting on really well and she wants to help Neah with the twins tonight."

"Neah lets her near the twins?" I try to keep the surprise out of my tone.

"I never thought I would say this." Dane smiles. "They get on well."

"Oh." I can't deny that I was a little jealous. "So Jenson is being buried in the family plot?" I ask, redirecting the conversation.

"Yes. No matter what he got himself into. He is still one of us. He deserves to be buried alongside mum and dad."

"Thanks." I mumble

"You don't need to thank me, Raven. He belongs in Black Shadow."

If only he had realised that in the first place. Damien clears his throat and is staring at me. Shit, he had read my mind.

"What time?" I ask quietly

"Sundown is shortly after eight. We will start then."

Making my way upstairs, I briefly check to see if Damien is following me, but I'm alone, though I wasn't sure that was what I wanted. I guess Jenson's coma had pushed us apart. Damien didn't understand why I spent every moment with my dying brother and I couldn't make him understand.

Wolves tend to move on quite quickly when someone dies. Minus a few exceptions. And from what I could see, Lycans moved on quickly too. They would grieve for a couple of days and then accept the person's fate.

I have seen so many people die and the sadness would pass quite quickly. But I guess this time, it's because I hoped for it not to be true. And Damien just didn't seem to understand that.

I hear the twins giggling and follow the sound. Neah is laid on the floor on her stomach as Evrin and Logan climb all over her.

Somehow, I had missed how much they had grown. Now they were like actual little people, little Lycans.

The twins climb down and toddle over to me. Pulling at my leggings for me to lift them up.

"They've grown." I mutter quietly

"Every single day." Neah smiles back. "Though they have missed their Auntie Raven."

I lift up Evrin first, staring into his bright blue eyes. His hands fumble in my dark hair as he giggles while Logan continues to pull at my leggings.



"Do you ever worry?" I ask in a whisper.

"Every single day."

"And that doesn't scare you?"

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"Are you kidding me? Logan bumped his head the other day and I went into full blow panic. And that was something he did to himself. Now that they are walking, they don't seem to understand that they have to duck to go under things that they once crawled under." She laughs. "The only time I'm not worried about them is when they are sleeping. You will know what that's like someday." She beams at me and I shake my head.

## **Chapter 0320**

"We talked about it, but then Jenson happened. Damien doesn't get my sorrow and I'm starting to think that our bond is broken." She screws up her face. "The advice I was given was to talk."

"I am talking."

"To your mate, Raven. He's the one that needs to understand you. He's the one that can read your mind, can feel what you are feeling."

"Then why doesn't he get it."

"Because you were a twin who shared twin wolves. I mean, I don't even fully understand how it works. I don't even understand who decides who gets who. I'm still learning a lot of stuff, but maybe, if you talk to Damien instead of shutting him out."

"I'm not shutting him out."

She sighs. "You've barely spoken to him. He has made sure you slept, you were fed, that you changed your clothes. He has given you the space you needed to deal with the situation. He made sure you left the hospital even if it was only for a few minutes to make sure you were getting some fresh air. You are wrong about your bond being broken."

I frown, I hadn't really thought about that. somehow in my haze of making sure everything was in place for my brother, I had missed everything everyone was doing. "Since when did you get so wise?" I muse

She gets up off the floor, takes Evrin from me and settles into the large chair by the window. "You aren't asking about being wise, are you. You want to know what's happening with my darkness?"

I nod and scoop up a begging Logan. "No one talks about it. Are you okay?"

"Damien and Mallory made me believe that I had to fight it. That I have to hold it back and stop myself from going insane. Even Abraxas said something along a similar line but Nyx was never trying to hurt me. Not in the way everyone thinks."

"I don't follow."

"She was frustrated. She had spent years not being able to communicate with me and then when she did, I kept trying to shut her down." "So you were never going to go dark?"

"I could have, if I had continued not to accept Nyx, I would have eventually gone Rogue." She frowns and bites on her bottom lip. "The darkness that makes the others Rogue is different, they become their Lycan, But I have a separate one. Nyx has her own thoughts, opinions and feelings. We had to become one. It was the only way."

"Dane mentioned that you were practising?"

Neah bobs her head at me and holds out her hand. Claws inch out of her finger tips, just enough for me to see before they disappear.

"It's getting easier. And I'm not landing on my face anymore."

I smirk and she returns it. "But you are okay, right?"

"Yes. I finally don't have this crushing sensation." She pats her chest and smiles. "And Nyx says about time. But we don't have to talk about me. We can talk about anything you want."

I didn't want to talk about Jenson, not to anyone.

"The new girl, the one that Abraxas brought out of the fire. She's a Lycan, right?"

"Yes."

"Why did he help her?" She opens her mouth. "I mean, he is a Hunter, right, so he should want to kill her, but he saved her. That's weird isn't it."

I look at my red eyed nephew. He is a mini version of Dane, even down to the way he looks at me. Like an all knowing look.

"I'm keeping an eye on him." Neah tells me, but it didn't feel like the truth.

Is this what it had come too? I grieve for my brother and they exclude me out of some things unless they feel I need to know it.

"Do you think Blair started the fire?" I had to know something. They couldn't keep everything away from me just because they think I'm going to break at any second.

"Honestly? I don't know. We haven't

seen her. She hasn't made an appearance. No one has picked up her scent in the forest. If it was something to do with her and she was using someone else then it could be a possibility. But they said the fire...."

"Took away the scents," I finish.

She presses her lips together and nods "You are asking about her because you want to punish her, don't you?"

"She destroyed my brother, Neah. He

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gave up his own life because of what she did to him. And he never woke up to tell me what she did to him. He was so stubborn that he kept the information to his damn self."

"You couldn't have saved him."

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"I know that now, but I can make sure she pays for what she did to him."

## **The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0321 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0321**

### **Chapter 0321**

Mallory

"Can you go and get Neah and Dane, please." Eric tells me

"I can just link her."

"I think it's better if you go in person." He stares through the gates at the group of people walking towards us. A huge amount of Lycans.

"Fine." I roll my eyes at him, I still hadn't had a chance to tell him I was pregnant. Or maybe secretly he already had guessed it. He hadn't questioned me at all when I told him I wasn't going on the pack run tonight.

I move quickly, but don't run as I didn't want to draw attention to myself. There were at least a hundred Lycans walking towards the gate and I don't care what Abraxas says, he can't kill that many in one go.

Damien and Dane are in the office. "Where's Neah?"

"Upstairs with the boys. Why?"

"More Lycans." They both start to leave. "You might want more backup."

Dane turns to Damien and instructs him to round up some Wolves and Lycans and meet him at the gates.

Neah was easy to find, I follow the sound of her voice and she seems to be having a bit of a heated conversation with Raven.

"So you think that I should let you kill Blair because of Jenson?" The irritation was very clear.

"Look what she did to him!" Raven snaps back

"Raven, you are not the only one that wants to kill her." Neah starts reeling off names of who wanted Blair dead.

"I can't help but notice you didn't mention yourself." Raven pushes

"Sorry, I didn't realise I needed too." Weirdly, it was nice to hear Neah stick up for herself.

"You've changed!" Raven snaps and Logan and Evrin start to cry.

"A lot has changed since you have trapped yourself in a hospital with your traitor brother."

I walk in to find Evrin clinging to

Neah while Neah is glaring at Raven. Logan was trying to push himself away from Raven. The pups could feel the tension and I'm quick to free Logan only to be met with a growl from Raven.

"You have no right to take my nephew from me."

"I do when you are acting like this. I will protect them with my life." Logan buries his face in my hair, his tiny hands pawing at me and as soon as he stops crying, Evrin does too. They certainly worked together.

I turn and face Neah, "There are more Lycans at the gate."

"Is Blair one of them?" Raven demands

"I don't know, didn't see her. But I will say this to you. You are blaming Blair, and you are right in the sense that she is a royal pain in the ass. Though if you remember, Jenson was the one who went to her if he hadn't, she might not even be on our radar." Content belongs to

Raven scoffs and takes a few steps back, shaking her head. "You were my friend."

"And I'm trying to be now. But you are stuck. You said it yourself, you have missed out on so much. A lot has changed in a short space of time and you have missed it all."

Her head turns between Neah and I. "You are supposed to be on my side. I helped both of you. I..."

"That's what we are doing now." Neah tells her. "You have been stuck and you have forgotten everything that led Jenson down this path. He is gone, Raven and that is something he did to himself."

She claps her hands. "Some friends you are." She storms out of the room and I feel a little bad for her, but she was forgetting everything and she needed reminding of that.

Neah sighs and I watch her squeeze Evrin a little tighter.

"She will come round, Neah."

"I'm not sure if she will and I think that will get her into trouble. Trouble that none of us will be able to fix."

The sad thing is, I think she is right.

I help her with the twins and we take them over to Eric's parents house, it was on the way to the gates anyway. Athena gives me a quick hug and a wink which was a little different to her usual greeting. Could they know? Surely they couldn't know it hadn't told Eric? Content belongs to

At the gates. Abraxas is already vetting the Lycans one by one and the crowd of Lycans are growing rowdy.

## Chapter 0322

Neah grabs my hand. Her eyes are a little wider than usual. "I can do this, right?"

Up until now, the amount of Lycans turning up had been smallish, some on their own, others in small groups except for Everwood, but their numbers weren't exactly big.

"Yes, you have more than got this, Alpha Neah."

She gives me a small smile and walks down to them and gives them her talk. It's the same one that she said to everyone, well rehearsed but it worked for her and that was what she needed.

Damien keeps his eyes on the Lycans as he makes his way over to me. "I thought Raven might have followed you two down here. I hoped that maybe she would want to see how Neah is handling all this."

"Have you spoken to her?"

"Of course I have, she is my mate."

"That's not what I mean and you know it. Have you spoken to her about how she is feeling?"

"She's shut down."

"I walked in on her arguing with Neah." His eyes widen at my statement. "Neah was telling her that she had failed to remember what actually happened with Jenson. Raven wasn't happy."

"And where is she now?" He frowns

"She stormed off. Damien I know she lost her brother, but Dane did too. She is so fixated on how Blair wronged him she has forgotten that Jenson went to Blair. She doesn't seem to remember that Jenson sought her out or maybe she is in some form of denial still? Though she shouldn't be, should she?"

"I will talk to her?"

"Do you think she is responsible for the fire?"

"No. I think she knows that the pack would turn against her if she did that." He sighs.  
"What has Neah said about my mate?"

"She thinks Raven is going to end up in a position where no one could help her."

I wince as Abraxas shoots someone.

It was still not a sound that I could get used to. But it silences the

bickering Lycans. They all stare at

the woman bleeding out on the ground and one by one, they drop to their knees in submission all except two and they are dead before they even know they've been caught out.

I had been surrounded by death for years. I had killed, I had watched others kill, but when Abraxas did it, it was as easy as him picking out a beer from the fridge. It meant nothing to him.

Ryken and another couple of Lycans that had been here for a while, move through the crowd and collect the bodies. They will take them to the far end of the pack and burn them just like all the others.

It was a tiring process. An idea that

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was mine. But I guess I thought there would be less Lycans that would lose their lives. The thing though that no one had questioned is that no other bitten Lycans had turned up yet. Each and everyone except for me and Damien, were pure bloods.

"Do you think it's weird?"

"Normally, I know where you are going, but you will have to give me a little more than that." Damien smirks

"We haven't seen any bitten Lycans. There has been none like us. Like not even the ones killed."

"Neah didn't put out an order. It was

just a request. I'm guessing they haven't come because they probably think they will be killed for not being pureblood. And that's if they are even still alive. We don't know if he has taken down any." He nods in Abraxas direction. "He doesn't mention them. I'm sure if Neah decides to make it an order, they will come. Why, feeling left out?" He

muses Content belongs to

"No, just curious, I guess." I inwardly sigh. There was always something that didn't make sense. "Where are all these going to stay? We are out of cabins. And what about the packrun tonight?"

"It's taken care of."

The gun goes off again and a sharp pain radiates through my stomach. I see horror on Damien's face and Eric rushing towards me. The sky rotates until I'm facing it and the men are standing over me.

Eric presses his hands to my stomach. I see the sheer panic on his face as I hear Neah order the Lycans drop to their stomachs. What about Abraxas, he had shot me?

## **Chapter 0323**

\*\*\*\* TRIGGER WARNING: MISCARRIAGE \*\*\*\*

Neah

"Everyone needs to stay fucking still!" Dane roars as I look over at Mallory.

Eric is desperately trying to stop her from bleeding as he slams his hands against her stomach. Damien cups her face, forcing her to look at him rather than down at Eric and talks to her, trying to keep her calm. From here, I can see her body trembling, blood already pooling around her. Dane grabs hold of my face and turns it to his. "You need to get them under control. You can't help Mallory otherwise."

'He's right. We have to do this.' Nyx mutters

'I'm not sure I'm ready.' I whisper back

'You've got this. Just like we practised.'

I take a deep breath, letting my lungs fill to capacity as I tune into my Alpha abilities. I only needed this lot to listen, not the others in the pack and definitely not Damien as he tries to help Mallory.

Homing in on the connections to every Lycan in front of me. "Everyone, face down on the ground, now!"

Everyone drops and Nyx is bouncing around in pure happiness that I was gaining more and more control.



Only two men were left not listening. Abraxas and another male Lycan who was still on his knees. They were fighting. And I see what they are fighting over, a gun. It hadn't been Abaraxas that shot Mallory, it had been the dickhead he was fighting with and Abraxas had already managed to get a few punches in.

Moving forward, I step between the face down Lycans. They were silent, including the kids while their hearts ran rampant in their chests. Not a single soul was trying to defend the bastard that had shot Mallory.

Abraxas manages to free the gun and points it directly at the shooter's head. "She is pregnant, you dumb fuck!"

'A pup won't survive that.' Nyx mutters

Anger floods through me and I see Brax's finger twitching on the trigger. I had let him kill whoever was a threat up until this point. But he does not get to kill this asshole.

"Stop!"

Abraxas shifts his hazel eyes to me in confusion. "He is a threat! He shot Mallory!"

"She's a Lycan Alpha, not a Wolf Alpha. And you are a dirty fucking Hunter. A disgrace to your own kind." The shooter sneers like he somehow thought I was on his side

"You're right. I am the Lycan Alpha. But you didn't obey my order. And the one you shot was a Lycan. You won't get a chance to try that again." The shooter slowly turns to face me. His piercing green eyes stare into mine with disgust. "You're going..."

"Who do you think let the Hunter in?!" There is a darkness to my voice. But unlike the other times, it brings a level of comfort. Nyx was standing with me and not against me.

"Trai..." He doesn't get a chance to finish his sentence as my claws sink into his chest.

His lips part and he lets out a breathy gasp. Shock and surprise linger on his face as his eyes drift down to the prating wound. "You...you can partially shift."

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His words are barely a whisper as my claws sink deeper, slicing holes into his lungs. A gargled sound rises up through his throat as he no longer gets the oxygen he needs. Blood appears in the corner of his mouth, slowly making its way down over his chin.

Immense satisfaction floods through me as I watch the life drain from him which is quickly washed away and replaced with guilt.

'You are just punishing a crime.' Nyx murmurs. 'He deserved this. He hurt Mallory. It doesn't mean anything else and you know it's the right thing to do. There would be too many put in danger if you allowed him to live. And we need them to know you don't mess around!'

The guy's knees buckle, forcing my claws up through his chest and into his heart. His eyes bulge from his head as he realises this was the end for him.

"It should have been you." He mutters with a final breath. Retracting my claws from his chest, he drops to the ground, dead before he even hits it.

I pause for a moment to look at my blood covered claws. It had felt so good to end someone who deserved it. Good and right, but guilt still sat heavily in my chest.

Turning around, I see all the Lycans

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still face down on the ground. Dane is watching me, his lips curved up into a smile. My eyes move to Mallory. But she had been moved. I needed to go and see her. The bullet had been meant for me not her and now she might have lost a pup because of it.

"Get rid of the body." I tell Abraxas

"Are you going to kill any others?" He asks amused.

"I don't know, do you want to join him?" Nyx bursts into laughter at my sarcastic response

## **Chapter 0324**

Abraxas doesn't answer and I knew without looking he was probably holding in a laugh, but I do hear him hoist the body up on his shoulder and trudge away.

I walk back through the Lycans to Dane. Not a single one tries to move. Fear or maybe shame that they had brought someone like that here. Whatever it was, I didn't care.

Dane slips his hand in mine 'How did it feel?' He links me

'It was the right thing to do.'

'You know that is not what I'm asking.'

I turn my eyes to his crimson ones. "It felt... right." I look at the Lycans and then over to where Mallory had been. Her blood still remained. "I need to check on her."

"What do you want to do with them?" Dane nods in the direction of the Lycans still flat on the ground.

I shrug my shoulders. I hadn't thought that far ahead.

"Let me handle it. Just release them from the order." He presses his lips to my cheek

"Are you sure?"

"Of course. I've got a bit more experience."

I let everyone up and run over to the hospital, expecting to find Raven, but it's Klaus shouting out demands and instructions.

Damien is sitting on a chair outside the room, his hands clasped together between his knees.

"Are you praying?"

His dark eyes flash up to me. "Someone's got to listen, right?"

"The pup?" I ask quietly. He shakes his head and doesn't quite meet my gaze.

"Klaus is fighting to save her." He whispers

"Where's Raven?"

"Raven wouldn't help." I see a flash of anger in his eyes.

"What? Why wouldn't she help?"

"Klaus is in there with a couple of others that Raven has helped train before. All we can do is wait."

That didn't answer my question

"Why did Abraxas do this to her, Neah? She told me he knew." He asks. I think if it had been anyone else that had been shot, Damien would be ripping the Hunter's throat out.

"It wasn't him."

"Of course it was. He's been waiting, biding his time."

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"It wasn't him repeat. "One of the

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Lycans got the gun from him or almost did, I'm not entirely sure. I think Abraxas was trying to get it off of him when the gun went off. That bullet was not for Mallory. The Lycan was aiming for me."

"You don't need to defend him." He growls

"I'm not. Ask Dane, he witnessed it."

His jaw clenches, "Where's the guy?"

"Dead."

"Abraxas killed him?"

"No, I did."

His eyes drop to my blood stained hand before flashing back up to my face. "Thank you."

I nod as I listen to Klaus fire out more instructions. It sounded bad, otherwise, she would be healing.

"Where's Eric?" I ask quietly.

He points to the nurses station. I

could see a hand sticking out from the end. He is still, sat on the floor with his back pressed up against the counter. There's no sound, no tears, just the steady rhythm of his heart. If he loses Mallory, I'm certain he will go right back to drinking again.

Eric has his knees pulled up to his chest. His shirt is covered in Mallory's blood. His eyes raise to meet mine, but they are hollow, like he had already given up.

"Klaus will find a way." I whisper and sit on the floor in front of him.

"She was pregnant."

"I know, I'm sorry."

He snorts. "She hadn't even told me."

"How did you know?"

"The fire. I did a sweep of her home after we put out the flames. There was an untouched test on her table. Several others too by the looks of it. But they were unreadable."

"That's why you didn't question her about the pack run?"

He gives me a sad smile. "I figured tonight would be the night she told me. But now, if she survives this, I'm going to have to be the one to tell her there is no pup and that there might not ever be a pup."

"I don't understand."

"The bullet blew her stomach apart. Much like Raven's leg, it can't heal what isn't there." His shoulders drop even lower which I didn't think was possible

"You can feel her." I try to hold back

my tears. I got the impression that Mallory had always wanted her own family, to raise her children

differently to what her father did

What She had been most concerned about was if it was too early for Eric to handle.

"Listen to her body. You know her better than anyone else because you can feel her."

He shakes his head at me, "She's barely hanging on. I don't need to be in that room to know that Klaus had already restarted her heart twice."

## **Chapter 0325**

Damien

I listen to them talk. Neah tries to keep herself calm as Eric tells her that Klaus has already restarted Mallory's heart twice.

Twice.

It wasn't a good sign.

We could heal to a certain extent, but if the heart decides to give up. It is rare anyone can come back from that.

Raven should be helping. She is the pack's main doctor. Not Klaus and not the others that she had trained. I had seen her work. She was precise, never missed a step, but she had point blank refused to come when I had linked her and now she is ignoring me.

I rise to my feet and Neah's blue eyes flash in my direction.

"Please tell me what happens as soon as you hear it." I almost choke on my own words. Mallory is my best friend, we had been through a lot together. I couldn't lose her because some fucking prick shot her by accident.

Neah nods at me.

I come to a stop outside the hospital. Trying to decide if I wanted to speak to Dane about his sister, or speak to my mate directly. She should be helping. I had to find a way to make her help.

Making my way across the grounds, I pause outside the packhouse, preparing myself for the argument that is already brewing.

Pulling open the door, Dorothy come's hurtling towards me from the stairs. Fear written all over her chubby little face as she throws herself into my

arms.

"Hey, hey. What's wrong?"

"There's something bad in the house Daddy."

"What do you mean?"

"It's dark upstairs."

I look up the stairs where sunlight is flooding in through the large windows.

"Don't go up there Daddy." Her bright green eyes are filled with tears as she glances up the stairs.

"Who is upstairs, Dottie?"

Her eyes find mine and quickly drop. She squeezes herself against my chest and whispers, "Raven." "Anyone else?"

Dottie shakes her head and shudders. "Daddy, can we leave?"

I back out of the house. I couldn't feel anything but the pain Raven was still feeling.

"Logan and Evrin are with Athena and Sebastian, would you like to go there?" I was trying to keep her calm, but whether she believed it or not was a different matter.

"Yes please." She nods her head frantically.

On some level, I hoped that she had just been napping and had woken from a bad dream. But the silent treatment from Raven and the lack of interest in helping Mallory had me concerned.

Sebastian opens the door, he looks surprised to see us, but beams at Dottie.

"Well, I wasn't expecting to see you today." The comment makes Dottie laugh and for a moment her fear is gone.

"I'm really sorry Sebastian, is there any chance you can watch her for a little while?"

He looks at my face. "No problem, she will be perfectly fine here and I do believe the twins are due to wake up. Why don't you come in, Athena is going to make some cakes."

She runs in without a second thought to me.

"How bad is it?" Sebastian asks

"Mallory is in critical condition. Eric and Neah are waiting with her."

"He can't lose anything else." He sighs, "But that's not what I'm talking

to make sure Dorothy was out of sight. "Dorothy mentioned

about." He glances down out ne

something about Raven when she was here yesterday. She was half asleep so it didn't make much sense."

"She came running down the stairs, with more fear in her than what I saw when I rescued her from that bar. The only other person upstairs apart from her was Raven."

"If she needs to, she can stay here the night." Sebastian replies, "Besides, Athena and I love having kids in the house again."

I didn't have it in me to tell him that there would be no chance of grandkids.

"I will let you know if I need her to stay the night."

I look around. Normally, I would quite happily handle this myself. Raven was my mate, but the fact that Dorothy had called her dark, has pushed me out of my comfort zone. Wolves didn't go dark. That was a Lycan trait.

"Is my daughter okay?"

I look over my shoulder to see Abraxas coming my way.

"Did you shoot Mallory?" I had to hear it from him

"I may be sadistic at times, and I love to kill Lycans, but I don't kill pups. They are still pure. And if you hadn't noticed, I could have taken any of you out at any time and haven't. So I will ask you again, how is my daughter?"

"Scared."

"I know that, dumbass. What is she scared of?"

"My mate."

His brows knit together. "She's helping Mallory, right?"

Did I just see a hint of concern? Did he actually like Mallory

"No, Klaus is."

As much as I despised him, maybe he was the one who could help me. After all, he claimed to see this darkness in people and I couldn't lose my best friend and my mate in one day.

I tell him what happened with Dottie. The fear, the panic and the need to get out of the house like she knew she was in danger.

"You think Ravens lost it?" He asks me carefully.

"I don't know what to think. I know

she is not the same woman I fell for.

I know she has shut down. I know she is still in pain, which she refuses to talk about. I can barely get inside her head and when I do....." S

## **Chapter 0326**

"It's chaotic." He finishes the sentence for me

"Wolves can't be taken by the darkness."

"I wouldn't be so sure of that, Damien." He purses his lips. It was weird hearing my name come out of his mouth, but it was better than everything else he had called me. His hazel eyes shift over towards the pack house. "Remember what I told you about them having twin Wolves and how a piece of them resides in each other?"



"Yes."

"Jenson is officially dead. She has a gaping hole in her soul and she lost the bit of her that was in him. Anything can get in. Darkness can run deep. She isn't like Neah. Raven's Alpha gics aren't as strong."

"Are you saying she is going Rogue?" I press

"I'm saying, we need to be careful."

"About what?" Dane interrupts us.

"Where are the Lycans?" I ask

"Being watched. How's Mallory?"

"Too soon to tell but she lost the pup."

I see the frown on Brax's face. He definitely liked Mallory more than he let on. The frown disappears as quickly as it appeared. "We need to be careful about your sister?"

"Raven?"

"You only have one sister. Don't you?" Abraxas mutters with a cocked eyebrow

"Isn't she in the hospital helping?"

"You would think, wouldn't you?!" Abraxas responds

"That doesn't sound like her. She's always wanted to help people. Even as a kid, the toys she asked for were doctor's kits. I even agreed that she could be the pack doctor instead of representing our family. Why wouldn't she help Mallory? She knows you're close to her." He points at me.

"I asked her to help. She said no. When I asked again, she ignored me. Klaus is doing the best he can, but when I left, her heart had already stopped twice."

"Is Eric still there?"

I nod. "Neah is sitting with him."

He turns on the spot and storms towards the packhouse. "Then I will make her help."

"I don't think that is going to work." Abraxas mutters quietly.

"He is her Alpha."

"If I'm right, it won't matter who he is to her."

"Then you can come with us." I shove him forward, encouraging him to follow Dane. He gives me a death glare.

"Don't you put your hands on me again. Not if you know what's good for you."

"Fucking move!"

"You know I can take away your ability to see my daughter."

"Whatever, just go and see what your daughter was talking about!" I snap, there is no way I was letting him take Dottie away.

He strolls after Dane. No desire to be in a hurry in any shape or form.

Abraxas steps into the packhouse. He's more tense than usual. His eyes dart up the stairs. "My baby girl wasn't wrong." "So something is wrong with my mate?"

I hear thudding upstairs and Dane demanding to be let in.

"You need to talk to her." Abraxas tells me. "Just choose your words carefully."

"If she will even listen to me!"

Dane continues to pound on the door as Abraxas and I make our way up the stairs.

"Raven, you better let me in, before I break the fucking door down." Dane yells

There's no answer. But I know without a doubt that my mate is on the other side of the door.

"Raven?" I call her name quietly, in the hopes that it will make her feel calmer

"Is she dead?" Her words are hollow, not a single ounce of emotion in them which was unlike her.

"No." I reply, I hadn't heard anything from Neah and I was clinging to that.

"She deserves to be."

I take a step back, stunned by her response.

"Raven,

people, Dane hollers through

out

door "Now get your fucking ass! è and go and help her." swo

It was a straight up order but there was no movement on the other side of the door. Something that seems to throw Dane and I watch him frown.

He throws himself against the door and it barely budes. My guess is she had pushed her very heavy dresser up against it.

He shoves it again and it moves a tiny fraction. "Come on." He demands

Together we are able to force the door open.

Raven is standing, staring out the window. "I didn't want you to come in."

"Why won't you help Mallory?" Dane pushes

"She didn't help my brother."

"If Mallory hadn't gotten herself kidnapped by Blair, do you think he would have even made it back here?" Dane snaps.

"She didn't tell us though, did she? She held that information in until you were going to kill him. And look, you did that anyway."

"Raven, you know he was already

gone. There was nothing that was going to bring him back to life. Surely it was better he died here than miles away at the hands of some wannabe."

She doesn't answer.

"I shouldn't have let this go on for so long. If you want to blame someone, blame me!"

She rotates herself around to face the three of us. "What is this, some kind of intervention?"

"Raven, I know you are hurting..." I start

"My brother died." She has a vacant look to her eyes

"He made his choices." Dane responds. "And none of those choices were in favour of us."

"You've been talking to Neah."

"No, I told Neah that."

## Chapter 0327

Blair

My lungs burn like they never had before. Being human like was hard. Even at a slow pace, I could barely run for more than a few minutes at a time.

Every step had intense pain tightening around my legs, forcing me to stop, along with the weird pain just off to the side of my stomach that seems to appear every time I'm out of breath.

I definitely took my abilities as a Lycan for granted.

Pausing against a lone tree. I take a few deep breaths, I was grateful for the drip bags, but I was dying of thirst. Cooper must have lied about the drip feed being everything we need.

I cast a glance over the field. The sun was starting to set and I had no idea where I was. I had stuck to fields and wooded areas rather than roads. But I hadn't seen any other of the escapees either.

I could slow down, but every hour that passes means I'm running out of time. I only had the full bag left and the partial one attached to my arm. I needed to find a Witch.

Going into a town seemed to be my only option. an option that I didn't want.

I start walking as quickly as I can. Though I'm pretty sure it's the equivalent of me running when I first left the prison. It doesn't seem like I'm getting anywhere fast.

Relief floods through me when I spot a farmhouse, and more importantly, clothes on a washing line. Anything beats the gown that I'm wearing. Powering on, I make my way over to the hanging clothes, grateful that they are at least dry. I pull on the jeans which are a little too big for me and grab the blue tee when someone clears their throat.

"SHIT!" I spin around. I hadn't heard them creep up on me.

A woman a little taller and curvier than me, has her arms folded across her chest, a wicker basket hanging from the crook of her elbow.

"For a moment there, I thought you were a man stealing my clothes." She stares at me

My heart thuds like crazy. I could barely defend myself.

Her grey eyes move to the drip bag and then down to the discarded gown. "You on the run?"

"Something like that."

"Lycan or Wolf?" My mouth drops open at the question and her eyes move up to my shaved head. "Trouble maker no doubt."

"Are you a Hunter?"

She bursts into laughter and is almost doubled over. Her blonde hair is practically touching the ground. She continues to laugh until she is crying at the same time. "No, not by a long shot."

"Then what are you?"

She straightens up, "I'm you, five years ago. So Lycan or Wolf?"

"Lycan but...."

"Cooper took that away from you?"

"You know Cooper?" What were the odds of finding someone in the middle of nowhere that knows the man who kidnapped me? More like odds that she actually worked for him.

"Fucking bastard ruined my life." The woman gestures to my neck. "Where's your mate?"

"Dead." At least I think he is, I don't know anymore. I just knew I couldn't feel anything for him.

"Shit, I'm sorry. You look like you are starving. Come on in, I will make you something to eat."

"I can't stop." I look at my drip bags, "I'm running out of time."

"No you're not. Come in and I will explain everything. But I want you to answer my questions too."

I wasn't the type to share, especially not with a random stranger, and one that could be messing with me. But I was het, tired and every inch of me ached. Food and somewhere to sit sounded better than good.

"I understand your hesitation, I was the same when I got out." she beams at me

"I'm so tired."

She nods and points to my hand

clutching my side. "That pain you are

feeling is a stitch. A common pain for Humans. Your leg muscles are tight because you are cramping, you are probably dehydrated. Again, something you didn't have to worry about before."

"What about the drip bags?"

"A gimmick. Come on inside and I will explain everything."

Hesitantly, I follow the woman inside. "I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name."

"That's because I didn't tell you. Samara Clarkson, but I prefer Sammie or Sam, your choice."

"I'm Blair Kits.... Blair Everwood."

She cocks an eyebrow at me but doesn't question it. "Well Blair Everwood. Welcome to my home."

Sammie shows me around the large farmhouse. Offering me a bedroom for the night. When I shake my head. She promises me that I will be fine.

I hold the drip bags up and she smiles at me. "They are not what you think they are Blair, you can take it out your arm."

"I will die."

"No, you will feel incredible pain for a

few minutes. You will feel like you are going to pass out and that Death is waiting for you, but I promise you, it only lasts a few minutes and then you feel normal. Well, as normal as normal can feel."

## **Chapter 0328**

"You're lying." Every part of me felt that this was a trick, but then why was I still here. Why hadn't I left the very moment she said she asked if I was a Wolf or Lycan?

"If I'm lying Blair, how do you think I'm still alive? I recognised the gown the moment I saw it." She turns around to a closet and pulls a dusty box from the top shelf. Inside was an identical gown to the one I had to wear at the prison. "The only difference from what I

can see, is I had to wear a stupid band because I had an allergic reaction to painkillers. Turns out when you take away our ability to heal. You learn what kind of things don't work for you."

Sammie passes it to me. Clearly stated on the band is her name and allergy type.

"And here." She passes me an empty drip bag. "I thought this was the end too. I thought, here we go, I have run out of time. I sat in that very corner and watched as the last few droplets disappeared into my arm. The pain was unlike anything I have ever felt. And I get that's why you think you are dying, but you will come out the otherside."

"I will get my abilities back?"

She sighs "No. I assume he told you the same as me. That whatever is in this bag takes it away and at the same time, you can't live without it."

I nod

"It's funny what our brains will believe when we think we have hit rock bottom."

"Why don't we get our abilities back?"

"Because that bad is not what took them away. Cooper did the moment he first drugged you."

"He's never found you out here?"

"The thing with making us Human, we lose our Lycan or wolf scent. We smell like every other human to them. But you do need to stay away from familiar places. He will check them and he will have others check them."

I frown. My mother, stepfather and siblings should be at Black Shadow, but I'm not even sure how long ago it was that I saw them. And I had mentioned Neah to Cooper. Would he go there to find me? Especially if he knew she was the Lycan Alpha.

"You have to say goodbye to your old life, Blair"

She leads me back downstairs and through to the large kitchen. She holds out her hand and glances at the drip bag.

"I'm not sure this is a good thing."

"Would you rather wait until it ran out?" Sammie asks softly.

"I would rather find a Witch to help me."

She shakes her head. "And how do you propose to do that?"

"I can track....." I trail off. I couldn't track scents anymore.

"I know it's a lot to take in. If you are not ready, we can try later."

I nod at her and she gestures to the small kitchen table. "Let me make you a sandwich."

She bustles about the kitchen as I sit quietly, weighing up my options. She sets a sandwich down in front of me with a glass of orange juice. "How did you get away?" I ask quietly

"A nurse was taking me for my routine shower. I just remember looking at that little bar of soap and thinking this is it. I had to do

something or I would never get away. So I shoved it down her throat and drove my thumbs through her eyes when she was choking. You see, there were no cameras in the bathroom. A perfect place to kill someone. I climbed out the window."

"There are bars on the window now." I mutter, spent every single day searching without moving from the shower. My eyes went over every nook and cranny, but there was nothing.

"I figured as much."

"You never went back, to help the others?"

Her face falls and her grey eyes become watery. "I believe the others were killed because I escaped. How did you escape?"

I frown, "Would you believe me if I

told you the doors just opened. I thought they were bolted but it

seems they were on a timer too.

Every single door was open and

almost everyone escaped. But that can't be right...." I look at the @rip bag, "I saw them dead in the hallways. They had taken out the drips." Content belongs to

"And they would only be down long enough for them to be captured. Not dead." Sammie tells me.



"Why are you helping me? Why are you giving me food and offering me somewhere to stay? You said it yourself, I must have been trouble?"

"Like I said. I was you once. And I wish that I had someone to tell me that this isn't the end."

## Chapter 0329

Abraxas

Raven's soul is so dark that it would give most Rogues a run for their money. You could feel it as you stepped into the house. And the bedroom just radiated her darkness.

When I had been talking to Damien outside, I had half hoped I was wrong. That my baby girl had just had one of her nightmares, but it turns out she was far more aware of souls than I realised. Maybe sitting in with Neah had brought it out in her.

Though in my years hunting, I had never come across a Wolf like this.

I had seen Wolves drown in despair. I had watched them become shells of themselves, barely surviving as they faded away. But to become so consumed by what they think is right, that it turns them into this, is something else.

"Did you even love our brother?" Raven demands as she glares at Dane.

Her soul pulsates, whatever answer Dane is going to give her, it isn't going to make a difference. She is just asking questions for the sake of asking. "Of course I did. I made a vow to our parents to look after you and him." Dane tells her

"But you stopped looking after him. You gave up."

"He was a fucking adult, Raven. An adult who could make his own choices. An adult who became so wrapped up in himself that he didn't care what he did to others." He shakes his head in disbelief that he was even having this conversation. "Have you forgotten what the fucker did to Eric? Or that he tried to take Neah away from me? Plus the many others he pissed off in this pack. It wasn't exactly like you were at the top of his priority list either!"

"You are wrong."

"Really? Where was he when you were suffering because Salem rejected you? Oh right, he needed to deal with his own issues. Fucking more women."

"Salem has nothing to do with this."

"Doesn't he, because if I remember correctly, he was the one that killed

Jess and that sent Jenson into whatever it was. When Salem

rejected you, I was the one that had

topick up the pieces." Content

belongs to

She glares at him. So much hate radiates from her. Damien moves to her, cupping her chin and forcing her to look at him. I'm assuming he could feel her hate through the bond.

Raven's eyes narrow to slits and she spits at him and snarls through gritted teeth. "Let go of me."

"Raven, this isn't you." Damien murmurs, wiping the saliva from his chin. "You need to snap out of this before you get yourself into trouble."

She smirks at him, "Why? Am I not your precious little mate anymore? Do I not do what you ask me to?"

He steps back from her and creases appear on his brow. "I don't recognise you anymore."

"I don't need you to recognise me." She seethes

"What is that supposed to mean?" Damien demands

Her dark eyes shift to me. "He's going to kill me anyway. And you can't stop him."

I lift my hands to show the men that my gun is firmly tucked into my belt. Though, if I wanted to, I could grab it quite easily. But was I willing to shoot the Alpha's sister? I wouldn't hesitate if it were a Lycan. S

Raven is the one Wolf I had least interaction with since I had been here. She had either been in the hospital with Jenson or here, asleep. I never saw her wandering the

grounds or talking to any sleep.

else.

But had wondered what losing her twin would do to her. How far would it drag her down? Content belongs

to

Turns out, pretty damn far.

"He won't kill you." Damien mutters. "Will you?" His eyes search mine, though I don't answer, because I couldn't give him an honest answer. "He will if I ask him too." Raven replies with a shrug of her shoulders. "It's what he is good at, killing Rogues." Her eyes shift to me, "Right?"

## **Chapter 0330**

"You are not a Rogue!" Damien snaps

"All the questions you have been asking Neah." Dane frowns. "You weren't asking about her, you were asking for yourself, weren't you?"

She keeps her lips pressed together

"You wanted to know what it felt like. You wanted to know how to control it." He continues. "You wanted to know if you were feeling the same thing as what she felt."

She shrugs her shoulders. Not giving a clear answer.

"What does your Wolf think?" I ask

She snorts at me. "Midnight hasn't spoken to me since Jenson's machines got switched off. Yet I know she hates me, she hates you." She points at Dane and then her mate. "And you."

Her hand moves to the mark on her neck and she faces Damien. "I thought this was forever, but you care more about your friend than you do me." "I've never said that and it is forever." Damien mutters. "You are my mate. I just asked you to help her. She has been nothing but kind to you!" "Until she swooped in and tried to take my place."

"What the hell are you talking about, Raven?" Dane demands. "Have you become that much of a self centred brat?"

"A brat?" She laughs, but the emotion doesn't reach her eyes.

"That's how you are acting." Dane growls. "You are not the sister I raised. You are turning out to be exactly like Jenson!"

She smiles smugly. "We are twins after all."

"Raven." Damien sighs

She puts her hands up and shakes her head. "That's why you are here now, isn't it? To force me to go and help the dying Lycan while I am dealing with my own problems."

"She's called Mallory and don't bullshit me. I know you liked her. So help her."

"No."

"You made an oath." Dane snaps. "You promised to help look after the people of our pack."

"I did."

"If you are saying Mallory isn't part of this pack, then you are saying that I'm not either!"  
Damien frowns

"Damien is the Beta here." Dane reminds Raven, though now, I was starting to think none of what they are saying is sinking in. She's too far gone. Trapped in her own little chaotic mind.

"And he couldn't even be bothered to

take an oath so that he could link you all." She half laughs, amused by her own comment. "That suggests he doesn't really want to be here. Or maybe he just favours his own kind over us."

Damien takes a step back. Frustration and confusion on his face.

"Dane, I need to speak to you." I mutter

He glances over to me and dips his head in acknowledgement.

"You can say what you need to say, right here, Hunter." Raven snarls

"Fine!" I smile back at her and turn to Dane. "Some promises just can't be kept."

"What kind of cryptic message is that?" Raven demands

"It's not cryptic and Dane understands exactly what I'm saying."

et

She glares at me. Every bit of her anger is aimed at me, but she stays completely still. There is silence between the four of us. Neither of the other men knew what to say to Raven and it seemed like she was waiting on us to say something.

"So what's your plan, Raven?" I ask

"Excuse me?" It wasn't what she was expecting to be asked.

"This, it's part of your plan, right? What do you hope to achieve? Do you want Damien to reject you? Do you plan on killing everyone in some kind of revenge plot for your

e

brother? What is it that you, Raven

Black, wants?" Content belongs to

"I don't know, Abraxas, maybe I want you to tell everyone how you are mated to a Lycan!" She folds her arms across her chest, seemingly pleased with herself.

Dane and Damien both turn to stare at me.

"Is this how it's going to go, is it? You are going to start telling lies about people."