

The Alpha's Contract

#Chapter 0331 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0331

Chapter 0331

Neah

Eric hadn't said anything for a while. He had sat completely still the entire time, holding my hand as we waited for some news from Klaus.

It had felt like hours, maybe it had been. I wondered if Dane had felt this way every time I had ended up in here. Wondering if he was never going to hear my voice again.

And somewhere along the line, I had become concerned about Mallory's survival.

I watch the room like a hawk, waiting for the slightest change. Klaus must be nearly done, though I still wish that Raven was here to help. She is good at what she does.

The door finally opens and Klaus steps out in a gown that is soaked in blood. I pull Eric off the floor and to his feet as we wait in silence while Klaus moves towards us. "She is alive. Just." He lets out his own sigh of relief

'Thank goodness for that.' Nyx whispers.

"Thank you Klaus."

"It wasn't easy, but she is a fighter. She didn't want to go."

Eric's hand tightens around mine. "Her heart stopped."

"And we got her back. She is very weak though and she has lost a lot of blood. I will have to see if any of the Lycans are a match to help her." "Me." I mutter

"No, Too risky." Klaus mutters

"Can I go see her?" Eric mumbles

"Of course. Just give the nurses a couple minutes to clean up in there. She is out cold and will be for some time."

"I will tell Damien." I will do it in person rather than through a link. "I will ask him to come over and get checked."

I wait until Eric is given the all clear to go and sit with his mate. I decide to head over to the house. I had a feeling Damien had gone to question Raven about why she wasn't helping. I wanted to know why too.

Something feels off as I enter the packhouse. It almost reminded me of the day the boys were killed in Dane's office. It just had an eerie feeling to everything.

I could hear Dane calling someone delusional, followed by Raven screeching. "I am not the delusional one! You are the one who can't see what is right in front of you."

Slowly, I make my way up the stairs, listening to them argue. It wasn't just Dane and Raven. Damien and Abraxas were here too. Though they could barely get a word in over the siblings arguing.

"Raven, this isn't you." Damien mutters, though he sounds a little lost. Like his usual tricks to calm his mate down wasn't working.

"Maybe this is me, right. I mean you said it yourself, didn't you Abraxas. My soul died. Or was that another lie."

"It wasn't." Abraxas replies coldly. He

was probably staring at her in the

I

same way he did when he was curious about my reactions. Or maybe his hand was already resting on a gun, ready to blow Raven's head off.

I hoped not.

'Something is off about this whole thing.' Nyx groans. 'Why wouldn't she help? It's what she does.'

'I don't know. I want to say she is grieving, but that doesn't seem right. She checked over Maddie after the fire.'

"So you can tell the truth about some things." Raven's tone is full of sarcasm

"That's enough Raven!" Dane warns her

"I don't think it is." She shouts back and I hear glass breaking.

Hurrying to her room, I find Dane and Abraxas holding onto Raven, the window behind her is shattered. Her dark eyes settle on me and a grin spreads across her face. "You

should never have come here. We were happy before you. We powerful before you. We had control before you."

'Doesn't this seem a little out of place for Raven?' Nyx asks. 'It's not like her. She's gone from quiet and grieving to flat out being a bitch.'

I stare at Raven, struggling between

the two men. Something was wrong

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and it was more than just her losing her twin. The way she talked sounded just like Jenson. Too much like him when he didn't get what he

wanted.

'You don't think...!' It didn't feel like it was Raven. I could smell her scent. It looked like her, but the words coming out of her mouth sounded nothing like her.

'I don't know if that's even possible.' Nyx mutters back

'There's only one way to find out.'

I move closer to Raven. "You couldn't help Mallory because you didn't know how, did you?"

Chapter 0332

"What are you talking about?" Dane frowns.

I don't look at him but press a finger against my head. Hoping he understood that I wanted him inside my head to listen to my thought process. If I was right.... I didn't want to be right.

Raven smiles at me. "I don't know what you are talking about."

"Yes you do."

Dane is staring at me now, like I have lost the plot. But stranger things had happened. And it was common knowledge that Raven and Jenson shared more than just a birthday. Abraxas had said they shared a piece of each other's souls.

Abraxas also talked about how the darkness seeps in. It finds a spot and grows. What if that is possible between twins who share twin wolves? They did have a piece of each other in them.

"You moved them all in when I wasn't paying attention." Raven mutters. She stops struggling against Dane and Abraxas. "You moved more Lycans in when I wasn't able to do anything to stop them."

"What's happening?" Damien asks. "Someone tell me what is happening!"

I watch Dane hold a hand up to him as I carry on questioning the person in front of me.

"Where's Raven?" I demand and Damien stares at me in utter confusion.

"I knew you were smart Neah, the very first day that I laid eyes on you. You were peering out from around the corner at Moonshine. Barely" "Raven wasn't at Moonshine." Dane mutters.

"No, but Jenson was." I stare at Raven's face. She had made me feel at home here before Dane had. Her advice at the time was brutal, but I loved the honesty from her. Now, I didn't even recognise the person standing in front of me.

How could someone's soul be taken over by another's?

My eyes burn as I try to hold back the tears. Was Raven even in there? She must be. Damien is still connected to her.

"How long?" I demand

Her lips curve up but she doesn't answer. I grab her face. Claws inching out the tip of my fingers. She lets out a growl as they begin to pierce her cheek. "How fucking long?"

"Neah!"

I ignore Dane. I wanted answers and I wanted answers before anyone thinks of leaving this room.

Her dark eyes hover on mine. There is an emptiness to them like never before.

"It started in the hospital." Her dark eyes move to Abraxas. "You told us about our souls. How a part of us lives within the other. I heard you and wondered if becoming my sister would work and look, it did."

Blood spills from her cheeks, but I keep my claws steady. No more could come out or I will kill her... him...them, I don't even know what to call it. "Where is Raven?" I demand

"Almost gone."

"This is impossible." Damien mutters. "You can't take over someone else's soul! Raven, come on, this is just because you are upset about Jenson. We know you are grieving."

"You're right, am grieving. I am

grieving over how pathetic this pack has become. Full of fucking Lycans in every direction I turn. One as the Luna, one as the Beta. What's Next, oh that's right, the heirs of the pack are Lycans too."

My claws grow a little more, settling deep into the skin. "You were sleeping with one."

"I wanted to see what it was like to fuck you. To see what it was like with you underneath me, moaning my name. I didn't see Blair, all I saw is you Neah Kitson."

My stomach ties itself up in knots, disgusted by Jenson. I knew he had gone to her because she looked like me. I knew he was trying to get something that wasn't his, just like he had done with others.

'I'm going to kill him!' Nyx growls.

'No. Not yet.'

I keep my claws locked in place, more blood leaks out as I bring my face in really close. That was the thing about Raven and Jenson, they looked so similar that when you are close enough, you can forget everything but the face right in front of you. I wanted to see him as I say my next line.

"But you will never have the real thing."

Letting go, I watch the blood spurt from the wounds. They healed quickly as my claws retreated

"Bitch!"

A gun goes off, almost deafening me. As Raven's body hits the floor, I turn expecting to see Abraxas pointing it at her, but it's Damien.

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Chapter 0334

Damien

Her body falls back against the wall. Blood spurts from my mate's collarbone. I had purposely shot her there rather than her heart. Her body could heal from that. Her body couldn't heal if I killed her.

I wanted to know if Raven was really gone.

Abraxas stares at me as he checks for the gun that he carries in his belt. He frowns when he realises the gun I am holding is not his and that his is firmly stored away in its resting place. He frowns at me but keeps his mouth shut.

I wasn't stupid. I knew how to use a gun correctly. I used them when I was human and with a Hunter in the pack, I figured it would be better to carry one again. Though sometimes, I'm a little impressed with myself that I hadn't pulled it on him yet.

"You shot me!" Roars Raven or maybe it was Jenson. I didn't know anymore.

I could see my mate, but at the same time the words coming from her mouth sounded nothing like her.

It didn't seem possible that Neah could be right. That a soul could take the place of someone else, but then again, there was a time in my life when I didn't believe Wolves existed and definitely not Lycans.

And now I was prepared to kill the person who looked like my mate.

I honestly thought I would never use a gun again.

I keep the gun steady as Raven clutches her collarbone and slips down the wall, leaving a smear of blood. I wasn't sure if I could go through with killing my mate, even if it wasn't her anymore, but I could slow her down.

"Damien." Dane glares at me. "What the fuck do you think you are doing?" His hand rests on the gun, but I refuse to let go.

I stare back at him. "She's become a threat whether you like it or not."

A laugh erupts from Raven. A laugh that didn't sound like her as her body straightened up. "You will have to do better than that, Lycan!" "Give me the gun, Damien."

"No." My finger moves on the trigger and Dane let's go and steps in front of his sibling. "You can't kill her Damien. She is your mate." Why hadn't he said she was his sister first?

"She is, but he isn't. I can kill him."

I feel a dull ache start in my heart. It beats quickly and erratically as it grows heavier and heavier by the second. Sparks of pain shoot out in all directions of my body. I was losing Raven and fast.

"Why are you doing this?" Neah demands as she stares at my mate. I notice the small trail of blood coming from her left ear. She had been right next to Raven when the gun went off.

"Second chance." The voice replies

"You've had more than a second chance." Dane snaps. "It's like your a fucking cat with nine lives."

"Big brother, you know me so well." My mate smirks at him and lets go of the wound in their shoulder. It had almost healed. The bullet had gone straight through.

Dane pulls Abraxas aside and asks if there is any way to get Raven back. I see the tiny head shake while Raven watches me.

"Maybe if we had a Witch, but by then, it would be too late." Abraxas whispers back

"I can put her in the dungeon." Dane tells him

"You will still be too late."

I stare at my mate as Dane continues to come up with possible

ideas. Why had Raven let this

happen? Why had she given up? Why hadn't she fought for her place in this life?

'Please come back to me Raven.' I try linking her, hoping to hear her voice. Her face stares at me and a slow smile creeps across her lips.

"She can't hear you anymore. She's resting now!" I wanted to slam my hand into his face. But I wouldn't be hitting him, I would be hitting her body.

I look over at Abraxas as it feels like my heart stops. "She isn't in there anymore, is she?"

He turns to face Raven's body and looks her up and down. "No."

Chapter 0335

"Can she come back?"

"When a soul has completely left, no."

I raise the gun, my finger on the trigger. I couldn't see anything but her. The voices around me were echoes.

Images of how we met replay in my head. How I saw her from the gates. How I followed her into the forest and watched her talk to herself, though that turned out to be her Wolf. The first time I kissed her. How her skin was so soft under my fingers. The way she would snore yet insist she didn't. She had opened herself to me and now, I could feel her slipping.

My lungs grow tight until I can barely breathe. She is supposed to be my mate for life, but she had lost herself in her grief. She had been forced out. She had given up on us.

I drop the gun and back out of the room. She was dead. She was gone. It wasn't her.

Neah shouts something about not letting Raven out of their sight. She appears in the hallway seconds later. "You shot her."

"It's not her." I look up into my Alpha's blue eyes. Somehow, through it all, she had kept a level of calmness. She had seen something that we hadn't. "What do you think we should do?"

"Abraxas said she was gone. Do you feel it?"

I nod. I had never had a need to curl up in a ball and hide from the word. I always faced it head on. But losing a mate was like nothing I had ever felt. It is painful. It is full of sorrow. And everything no longer feels straight forward.

"She gave up." I slam my fist against the wall. "She fucking gave up after everything!"

Neah doesn't say anything. She lets me hit the wall over and over without so much as a flinch.

When I stop, my busted up knuckles are already healing which just irritates me more. I turn to face Neah. "Why haven't you said anything?" "I'm not feeling what you are feeling."

"Why would he do this to his own sister?" I ask, trying to understand even a little of what has happened.

"You won't like my answer and you already know what I'm going to say."

"Jenson is a self centred bastard?"

"Among many other things. It's like Dane said, he couldn't ever cope with not getting what he wanted. He always had some kind of hissy fit. thought that he might change, but that was a long time ago. And if anything, he is worse." S

"How are you so calm?"

"Give me your hand."

She takes my hand and presses it on her chest. Dane would have a fucking field day if he saw what was happening.

"The exterior doesn't always match the interior." It was a phrase I had used. A way to tell her that not everything is exactly what you see. And now she was using the same phrase on me for Raven.

I feel her heart beating below my hand, but it's doing more than just beating, Neah's heart is practically humming, yet to look at her, you would think there was nothing going on beneath the surface.

"I feel Dane's pain even though he

will never admit it." She sighs, "I feel the loss of a friend. I feel stuck

between a rock and a hard place et

when the decision that needs to be made will affect everyone. You are not capable of making this decision about Raven or... Jenson." She frowns "Neither is Dane. It should be

me."

She turns from me and faces the closed door where Raven's voice could be heard, demanding to be let out of the room. "I am Dane's Luna. I am the Lycan Alpha. It has to be me that puts an end to the suffering."

"Do you think this was always his plan?"

"How could it be? He didn't know it be?"

until he heard Abraxas talking about souls. If he had been anyone else, he would be long dead. Raven kept him hanging on long enough so that he could force his way in. And we all fell for it except Dorothy."

Chapter 0336

Neah

The room is oddly quiet as I step back inside. Abraxas has his hazel eyes firmly set on Raven. Dane is silently pacing, deep in thought.

It hurts to feel how much pain he is in. You wouldn't think it if you looked at him. His crimson eyes are full of rage instead of hurt. A frown sits on his face, but that's all. No clenched fists. No heavy breathing, he was...a certain level of calm. The kind of calm before a storm.

His eyes flash over to me and it stops him in his tracks, he knew what I was going to do. I feel Damien step in behind me. He closes the door quietly, a gentle click is the only thing that could be heard as the handle slots back in place.

'We've got this.' Nyx whispers as though the others could hear us. 'It's the right thing to do. We both know it.'

That didn't mean it was any less difficult.

"You won't kill me, Neah." Raven mocks. "I'm your best friend." I stare at her familiar face. I had to remember it wasn't her anymore. That she was gone.

"You're just a soul, trying to survive in someone else's body." I spit back

She smiles and I hear a subtle crack, Jenson was forcing Raven's body to shift. I wasn't going to let that happen. My hand wraps around Raven's arm as the bones crack beneath my fingers. If he thinks he can shift and run, he has another thing coming.

I start shifting too. My hand is first. Claws appear as fur spreads up the length of my arm. My own shift seems to slow Jenson down. Maybe it wasn't what he was expecting.

Though for someone who had a knack for war, he should have expected this. He should know that he wouldn't get away with this. Or maybe it was because he didn't know me, not like he thought he did.

Familiar dark eyes find mine. So much hate. So much anger.

"I'm sorry that I couldn't help you Raven.

Sutter just as my

My claws sink into her

the pounding heart. Content

belongs to S

I keep my eyes in front of me, if I look at any one of the men, the tears that I'm holding back will erupt like lava.

Her dark eyes move down to my sunken claws. Jenson probably thought I wouldn't go through with it because it was her body, not his

Retracting my claws free's her body

and Jenson stumbles back against

the wall. A hand clutches at the

wound as the other slams against t

n

the wall, trying to keep the body upright, but it's no use and she ends up on her ass. Blood pours down the front of her half shifted body, spilling out over her legs and onto the carpet. Her dark eyes stare up at me until she slopes over onto the floor, still and as silent as the room.

My heart thunders in my chest as the room becomes hazy. I had killed my friend. I had killed Dane's sister. I had killed Damien's mate.

'It wasn't Raven.' Nyx reminds me 'And it was the right thing to do. He was out of control.'

'I need.... I need air.'

I back up and crash into Damien. He just stares at me as I spin around to face him. He knew it was what was going to do and yet somehow, I felt

I

like I had betrayed him and Dane.

Pushing him out the way, I power through the door. Feeling the pounding of blood between my ears.

'It was the right thing to do.' I mutter to myself, repeating Nyx's words over and over as I crash through my bedroom door.

'It was.' Nyx confirms.

I knew it was, I knew Jenson had to be dealt with, but then why did I feel so sick?

Chapter 0337

'Neah, you are panicking.' Nyx is calm, to calm

"I killed Raven." I mutter as I shift back to human form.

'No, you killed Jenson. Raven was already dead. Damien confirmed it and you can feel what Dane is feeling. Her body was just a shell!'

I knew I was panicking. I don't know why I am panicking. I had already made it clear to Damien what I was going to do and no one tried stopping me. They all wanted it too, right?

'Yes.' Nyx agrees even though I wasn't asking her.

Quickly, I pull on some leggings and a sweatshirt and jam my feet into some boots. I needed to get out. I needed to think.

My legs power me out of the house, or maybe it was Nyx. I'm not entirely sure. It was hard enough for me to focus and I didn't really care as long as I could get some air.

Killing people that had harmed me or were a threat had been easy up until now. I keep telling myself it was Jenson as I run into the forest, yet all I see is Raven.

'Neah, we have to stop.' Nyx mutters.

I can't, but I wasn't trying to run away either. I just needed to keep moving.

'NEAH!' My own name roars out inside my head and I come to a complete stop. 'Neah, it's okay to feel like this. I liked Raven too but there was nothing you could do to save her. She was already gone.' Nyx continues to remind me.

I slump down on a fallen tree trunk and the tears break free. I look around, half expecting to see Dane or even Damien, but neither one had followed me. I was alone.

'You are not alone. I am right here. This is a new feeling.'

'Right.' I swallow the lump in my throat

'We couldn't let him parade around as Raven. Not after everything. Not after every lie he has told.' Nyx tells me. 'You know this, Neah.'

Nodding, I take a deep breath and I hear a twig crack not too far behind me. Wiping my tears away, I'm on my feet and sniff the air. A Lycan was heading towards me, someone from the pack that I didn't know that well.

"Neah?" The voice calls out. "Neah, it's Ryken, is everything okay? I saw you running and I wanted to check...."

"I'm fine." I mutter back but he steps through the trees anyway. He somehow looked odd in the middle of the trees, like he didn't quite fit.

He frowns when he sees me. "Do you want me to get Dane or someone else?"

"No."

"Has something happened?" He parks himself on the fallen tree a little way from me. "Is it Blair? Is she here?" His eyes dart around the nearby area

I snort, with everything happening, I hadn't really thought about her. "No, nothing to do with Blair."

"The girl, Mallory, is she okay? Did she make it?"

"She's in good hands."

"That's good news. The others are in the training hall are being guarded."

I had forgotten all about those Lycans too. I didn't even know where they were. "Right."

"It's not my place to tell you what to do, Neah. And considering what my stepdaughter has done, I more than appreciate you letting us stay here. But if there is anything I can do, I am only too happy to help." Content

belongs to

"Ever killed someone you care about? Or sort of cared about?" I wasn't sure how to explain what had happened with Jenson and Raven's souls.

I feel his gaze on me. He's quiet for a few minutes, choosing his words carefully.

"If we kill someone we care about, it

is normally for good reason. Something that's been thought about, options have been weighed up. I am certain you had a good reason. I've watched you from afar. You don't rush into things, but when you are forced, your decisions are valid."

Chapter 0338

"But are they the right ones?"

He raises an eyebrow at me, waiting for me to continue.

"I knew that they had to die. They were a troublemaker from day one and they did something unheard of." I was trying to keep the details vague. Maybe Dane wouldn't want anyone to know his sister is dead. "I have only ever killed those that were dangerous. Those that would put our lives at risk. This one was...." I trail off as Raven's smiling face fills my head

"You wouldn't make it as a leader if you didn't question your decisions." He sighs. "I've heard the stories about you. I've heard where you came from, what happened to you, how you were raised and everything since. It takes most people years to train to become a good leader. Dane would have been training since he was a pup. I was thrown into it, though I was never an Alpha of any kind. You've had what, three ish years?"

Is that all it is? It felt like a lifetime had passed. "And a year of that was spent learning who I am." I mutter

"Neah, you've been propelled into something that is bigger than what any of us can imagine. And you are more than capable. Your decision is just that, your decision."

"What if it's hurt those around me? What if they cannot accept what I did?"

"Maybe the key is that you have to accept it first." He shuffles on the tree, it was probably a little uncomfortable for him as he is quite big. "Who would have thought I would be giving advice to you."

I look at him, and he seems to be smiling to himself.

"Is that how you feel about Blair? You had to accept that she needs to die and that's why you are okay with it?"

"Yes. Tara has known for a lot longer than I have, her own mother. I guess on some level, I thought I could be the father she needed, but the only thing she has ever learned to care about is herself."

'Just like Jenson.' Nyx sighs. I could

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feel her worrying about me. But I don't regret what I've done, I just can't get the image of Raven out of my head and that's what's messing with my thoughts and feelings. It was just like poisoning my parents afPover again.

Ryken and I turn in the direction of footsteps. I'm hit with Dane's woody scent and feel my body tense up Ryken had come out here before Dane Dane hadn't even bothered following me which could only mean that he is angry.

"I will leave you to it." Ryken walks in Dane's direction. He pauses briefly but I don't hear what they speak of.

'I can feel his anger from here.' I mutter to Nyx. 'He is angry, frustrated, and hurt all because of me.'

I stay completely still as he strides towards me. If it weren't for his scent, I would know it was him by the way he walked.

My body stays rooted to the tree as

my chest aches from my pounding heart. I keep my eyes low as he stops in front of me. That feeling of preparing to be scolded lingered heavily. He was the only one that

could still make me feel like that. Yet

he had never hurt me. Content

belongs to

His hands latch around my wrists and he rips me to my feet. My eyes remain down and slowly he tips my head back until I'm forced to look at his brilliant crimson eyes.

"You should not have done that."

I open my mouth to protest.

"You were not ready for that. You should have let me end his life."

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Chapter 0340

Abraxas

The funeral was not something that I wanted to attend. Death is inevitable. If you want to say goodbye, beside the coffin is not the place to do that. Funerals are not personal. They are a gimmick for those that believe the person is going to a better place.

Neah clings to Dane. His hand firmly clasped around hers as she leaned against him. She didn't seem to know what to expect. Her eyes continually moved between the coffins and Dane. Maybe she had never attended one before.

Death didn't mean everyone got a funeral and in my opinion, Jenson definitely didn't deserve one. Not after the shit he pulled.

The area is packed. Mostly Wolves who stood shoulder to shoulder.

The Lycans kept their distance. This didn't have anything to do with them and they were probably happy to not be involved.

Damien stands on the other side of Dane. He hadn't said much since earlier. His soul is full of confusion and frustration, so I find myself waiting and watching. Wondering when he will finally tip back over into the Rogue life. That was why I was really here.

I had expected him to lose it when Dane left to find Neah. But he had just stood in one spot, watching the blood weep out of Raven's body.

Dane clears his throat and mutters a few words. He asks if anyone has anything to say and everyone's eyes shift to Damien. They expected him to talk about his mate, to say a few heartfelt words. He gives Dane the tiniest of head shakes, barely visible to the human eye.

The coffins are lowered into the grounds, right next to their parents. Though if Dane had any sense after what had happened, he should have burned the bodies.

As they start taking it in turns to toss some dirt on top of the coffins, I catch Madison's strong jasmine scent. It invades my head so quickly it hurts. Glancing over my shoulder, I see her standing not too far away. Her hands are jammed into her pockets as she toes a stone on the ground. Her chestnut eyes flicker to me before she looks away again. At least she had stopped overreacting to my presence.

Well, today at least. Her emotions are more erratic than a pregnant woman who is hungry.

Her eyes snap up to mine again, she thought I had looked away. They open wider as she realises she had been caught. A pink tinge rises up her neck, quickly spreading up her whiter than white face.

She frantically looks around, but unless she runs into the forest, there is nowhere to hide on this side of the pack.

Slipping away from the funeral, I stride past her and head into the forest before she gives herself away to the entire pack.

Just as I expected, she follows me, "What are you doing Madison?" I demand when we are completely out of sight.

"I wanted to tell you that I'm not scared of you anymore!"

"Is that right?" I try not to laugh, wondering how long she had been building up the courage to tell me that. "Dane is out there, burying his siblings and you want to tell me you are no longer scared?"

"Yes!" She mutters confidently

"So you don't plan on hurling yourself into another fire anytime soon?"

She drops her gaze to the forest floor and shakes her head. "It hurts." She whispers. She wasn't talking about the fire.

"You're letting yourself get wrapped up in this idea of yours."

"It's not an idea and you know that. I just want to know why you haven't rejected me?"

I don't answer her as she shifts her

weight from one foot to the other. She had asked me several times now and as much as I denied being mated to her, I could never answer her question. Why didn't I just say those words? She would be free to

be mated to someone else. Content

belongs to

I feel sick at the thought of another man touching her. It was bad enough the mark from Enzo still hovered on her neck.

"What do you want from me, Madison?"

"I don't know. You are in my head constantly." She frowns. "And not in a good way!"

I cock a brow at her. "I shouldn't be. I'm a Hunter."

She leans back against a tree, folding her arms up under her

breasts and looks away from me. I

"I've dealt with shitty men for years. You are not the first."

"And if I remember correctly, I put a bullet in one of them. So what's changed? Where has this new found confidence come from?"

She scowls, "Why do you feel the need to mock me?"

I keep my thoughts to myself

"Do you think that's her game? She makes us suffer to see if we can handle it."

"Who?"

"The Moon goddess obviously."

"I don't think the Moon Goddess has any control over your life. In fact I don't believe in her."

Her jaw drops, "You don't? You are a Wolf."

I shake my head at her. "I believe in higher powers, but not her. If it were her, don't you think it's sick that she forces her own creations to fight against each other? Nah, this stinks fight between higher powers."

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The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0341 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0341

Chapter 0341

She stares at me with complete confusion. They all did when I mentioned higher powers. Like it had never crossed their mind that there might be more than a Moon Goddess that rules the population.

"Think about it, Madison. Rogue Lycans are there to keep the human population under control. I'm a Wolf that kills Lycans. Lycans were kept a secret from the average Wolf until Neah came along. This is all higher power shit. A way to test us. A way to see who is on top."

"So why do you think they are pairing Wolves and Lycans together?"

"It wouldn't be the first fucked up thing they did."

A mixture of emotions crosses her face. She wasn't sure how to process what I had said. "Have you.... Have you told the Alpha?"

"No. And before you ask, I'm not going to either. She has other things on her plate. She doesn't need to listen to my theories too."

Madison sighs and drops her arms, picking at the bark on the tree. "The others don't trust me."

"Who?" Something annoys me about her comment. And for a second I feel that same fucking thing as I did when she tried to throw herself in the fire. I cared.

I shudder, but she doesn't see it.

"The Lycans. I can't shift and that makes me weak."

"Have you ever shifted?"

She shakes her head at me and the light of the sunset breaks through the trees, bouncing off of her deep red waves. "It's true what I told you before. I can do everything but shift. You saw the burns, I still healed. I can link Neah. I just can't....shift." I was expecting her to sound disappointed but she sounds more defeated.

"Why are you telling me?"

"I thought because of the....." she trails off when she realises I'm frowning at her. "I just thought, maybe you could be the one to help me?"

Multiple footsteps come running in our direction. Many were still going ahead with the pack run tonight. Some would find it beneficial to burn off their worries and frustrations. Others just wanted the freedom and power they felt under the full moon.

I was supposed to be going too.

I grab Madison by the bicep and pull her away from the incoming crowd. "Go home Madison."

"If you are not going to reject me, you won't be able to hide this forever. Neal already knows and Mallory does too!!" She half shouts at me and I slam her into the tree, pressing my hand to her mouth. count to thirty to see if anyone had heard her, but howls and running feet fill the air, they weren't even slightly interested in us, they were already caught up in the haze.

"Are you trying to get yourself killed? Is that what this is?" I growl. "You have some insane death wish because you can't fucking shift?"

She shakes her head as I keep my hand over her mouth. She stares deep into my eyes. There was only one other person who had looked at me like that. Like she could see more than what was just on the outside.

Lowering my hand, Madison pushes herself off the tree, forcing a closeness between us. On her breath, I could smell the dinner she

et

had not too long ago. She shakes her

head again, "You don't have to help me, I just thought I would ask because..."

"Because you need a man to save the day?" I sneer as her jasmine scent makes my head pound. I so badly wanted to push her away, but I could also quite easily fuck her right here.

It had been a long time since I have felt like this about anyone and the close proximity was making it a hundred times harder to walk away.

"No!" She's frustrated with my response. "Because you know a lot and I guess... I thought maybe you had come across this before. That's all." She glances away. "You tried to help Neah."

She looks over my shoulder and presses her rosy lips into a thin line. There was no one behind me. I would sense it long before she did.

Her chestnut eyes shift back to me. "I should just go."

She wasn't talking about going back to the house she has been staying in since the fire.

"No, you need to be where I can keep an eye on you." Until I decide what I want to do. I needed her to at least be kept safe.

"Why? You can't stand me!"

"When did I say that?" I counteract. Her heart skips a beat. "I have told you twice that you need to be where I can keep an eye on you. If you are out there, alone, I won't be able to save you from yourself. Again!"

play mind

"I have spent years having people games on me. I won't live like that anymore. I refuse to continue living like that. Just

net

because I am less of a Lycan than the others, it does not give you the right to mess me around. Do you hear me?!"

I press my lips against hers. She doesn't move. Thrown by my reaction. As I back off, her eyes are like saucers. "Loud and clear."

Chapter 0342

Blair

"He won't find you here. I'm not sure why you won't believe me. I've been here five years and he hasn't even come close."

"How would you even know?" I frown as I scan the open fields and Sammie continues to collect eggs from her chickens. Unphased as I keep my guard up.

I had been here nearly a week and I still couldn't settle. It didn't matter how many times I said it, I still expected to see Cooper and his weird glazy eyed nurses coming for me.

Sammie had shared some of her story from the prison, but other than what I had told her, I couldn't bring myself to say anymore. It was a memory I wanted to forget, yet at the same time, I couldn't let it go because I was still waiting, preparing myself for a fight I knew I would lose.

A part of me wanted to go back. To drive a knife right through his heart. To help the others escape. But I didn't stand a chance. Not anymore. "Can I ask you something?" I say as she closes the chicken coop. "Do you feel like you deserved this?"

"The farm?" She asks, confused.

"No, losing your Lycan."

She slowly walks back to the house with her wicker basket full of eggs. A heavy set frown. She stops just outside the kitchen door and turns to face me. "I didn't at first. After a while, I understood why Cooper did what he did. Sometimes I still battle with myself about wishing I had certain capabilities, like smelling when the storms come, being able to heal, being able to run without getting out of breath. Stitches are bitches!" She winks at me.

"You think you deserved it?" I ask, surprised by her response.

"No, but I have learned alot about myself in the last five years and to be honest, I wasn't a good Lycan. Maybe it did teach me a lesson. Maybe it was already written in my story so that I could help you." She gives me one of her wide smiles

"You believe that?"

She shrugs her shoulders at me and drops the basket of eggs on the counter. I watch as she expertly pulls up her long blonde hair into a bun. My hair now made me look like a toilet brush with how short and spikey it is.

"It doesn't matter what I believe, Blair. But we do know I'm right about some things, you survived without that stupid drip bag. You didn't want to believe that either."

I look at my arm where the connection tube had been, a lovely giant purple bruise still lingered on my arm, though it was shrinking day by day and part of it had turned a putrid green colour. Humans were so feeble and I was one now. I couldn't be reckless anymore.

"That was the worst night of my life." I mutter

"But you survived, just like I said you would."

"I thought I was going to die!"

Sammie gives me a lopsided grin. "So dramatic. Though I'm still waiting to hear more about this half sister of yours."

Apparently I had muttered

something about Neah when I was in excruciating pain and blacking out. Sammie had asked me a couple of times since but I always shut down. It might be a different story if I met her under different circumstances.

She pours me a glass of juice and sets it in front of me. "Blair, I'm going to ask you something and I don't need you losing your shit over it, but want

I do want the truth." She takes

a

deep breath, "Was Cooper holding you because you did something to your half sister?"

"No."

"Blair, don't lie to me. I'm trying to help you out."

"It wasn't because of her. In fact he didn't even know she was my sister, not at first. He would have if he had met her."

"That's all I need to know."

"Seriously? Why don't you want to know more?"

"It's not about what I want to know, it's about you telling me the truth."

"Would you have even known if I lied?" I ask curiously

"You're human now, of course I would have."

As the fire. It

a warm glow to the

bin Sis, Sammie lights the

small sitting room and I decide

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the bullet and tell her. S

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Chapter 0343

"My half sister's name is Neah Kitson. She is the female Lycan Alpha." I mumble, staring into the orange flames.

"What?"

"It's true. We share the same father. In fact, if you looked at us, you would think we were twins. We are not, we have different mothers."

"Why have you waited until now to tell me this?"

"Would it have changed anything?"

She smiles at me, "Yes, I could have helped you get to her. She can put a stop to Cooper."

I shake my head, going to her wasn't an option. She would kill me and I couldn't even defend myself.

"I tried to screw her over." I blurt out

In the prison that Cooper was holding me in, I had nothing but time to think over every little movement I had made. At first I blamed Jenson, then myself for getting involved

with him. And instead of cutting him loose, I had made him suffer every time he failed at something. Hoping that he would improve to my levels. I had fallen for him, yet anytime we argued, he would bring her up, comparing us. I had wondered if he told them that before he died. But ironically, none of that was what got me into trouble.

So many had tried to warn me that I was making the wrong move, trying to take something that isn't mine. Even my own mother. But I had been hellbent on getting what I wanted, what I thought I deserved. Maybe this was what I deserved.

"I tried to take what was hers." I mutter, keeping my gaze on the orange and yellow flames "But Cooper didn't know about any of that. He punished me because I almost revealed our kind to the human eye. Apparently he has been cleaning up my mess for years."

"I could go to her. I could tell her all of that. I can explain what happened."

"And if she doesn't believe you, or chooses not to believe you, she will kill you. Then who will look after your chickens?"

She rolls her grey eyes at me. "I don't think she will kill me. She doesn't know me. Maybe she will at least be reasonable and listen."

"And what are we going to achieve by you doing that? We won't be Lycans again. We will be stuck this way until the day we die."

She creeps over to where I'm sitting. "At least your conscience will be clear."

"How are you so optimistic?" I ask. Somehow, she saw the good side of everything.

She gently cups my face with her warm hand. "I'm free and you could be too. And we could be together."

We stayed up until late into the night, talking. tell her as much as I can. I answer every single question she throws, at me, no matter how difficult it was to share. Sammie fills a glass of wine and hands it to me and shake my head, something that I wouldn't have done before Cooper, but it turns out I now can't stand the taste of alcohol, no matter the quality.

Sammie did have to keep reminding me that things are completely different now that I have lost my Lycan.

It's almost seven in the morning

when I think we are done. I'm tired. My brain hurts. I feel more exposed than when I was being watched in the showers. Sammie had hugged me multiple times, and I had cried more often than I liked. Content

belongs to

I wouldn't have done that before. I would have taken myself off, or forced the tears back.

"I have to go to her before Cooper gets a chance too." She mutters

"You said he would go to these places. Places where he thinks he can find me. For all we know, he might already be there. He might be whispering things to Neah. He could get his hands on you."

"She needs to know about him, Blair. She is his Alpha."

"You can't go alone. I've been there. They have guards. Let me come, I can show you where to go."

"You can't come with me. You are still weak and malnourished. I can't risk you collapsing on me."

"I won't let you go alone."

Chapter 0344

Mallory

I got shot. I got fucking shot. The bastard shot me in the stomach.

My head is fuzzy, yet being shot is the only thing that is clear.

"She's waking up." I hear Eric and I hear the relief in his tone.

Warm fingers lock around my wrist and another set presses against my neck. "Pulse is strong."

I squint one eye and see Klaus smiling at me.

"I was shot." I mutter, opening my eyes fully. I'm met with silence. My fingers move to my stomach. Bandages cover my entire torso. I start to pick at them. I needed to know how bad it was. I was pregnant.

"Mal stop." Eric's hands grab mine, pulling them back as I let out a whimper

"But I'm pregnant!" It wasn't how I wanted to tell him. It was supposed to be a surprise. I wanted to tell him tonight, when everyone is on the pack run.

It's funny how silence can be deafening. It takes me seconds to connect the dots. I had been shot in the stomach. The bandages that wrapped around me suggested that my wounds were extensive. Which could only mean one thing, I had lost our pup.

"Mallory...." Klaus starts

"No. I already know. I was just...." I turn my head towards Eric. "I'm sorry." I'm trying to hold it together but my chest is tight and my lungs burn with the need to scream.

I could see it on his face, there was something else he needed to tell me.

Eric squeezes my hand. "The shot did too much damage, Mal. It, um... it...." I had never seen him lost for words. The news was worse than me just losing a pup.

"It's like Raven's leg." I whisper, knowing what he couldn't say. "It can't heal." Not only had I lost the pup. I had lost the ability to have them. "Mal, I'm sor...."

"It's fine." My body was trembling. It wasn't fine, but I had to focus on something else. "Is Brax dead?" He was the fucker that shot me.

"No." Eric replies calmly. I was expecting him of Damient to have ripped Brax's guts out for what he did to me.

"Why fucking not? He is why I'm here. He is why I lost the pup. He fucking shot me and he knew I was pregnant!"

"Mal, it wasn't him!" Eric stops me

"What are you talking about? He is the only one with guns."

"A Lycan was fighting him over it. The guy was going to shoot Neah. Brax tried to get it off of him, but when it went off, it hit you. Neah killed the guy." Klaus tells me

I should feel better. The idiot that shot me was dead. But I don't, I just feel sore and empty. How something so tiny could leave you feeling so empty was something I didn't understand.

"You should go on the pack run." I mutter to Eric. "I will be okay here. I will just..." I look around the room. "I guess I will just rest."

"Mal, the pack run was two nights ago. Because of the damage, your body has been slow to heal."

"Oh."

"There is something else I need to tell you."

How much worse could it get?

Eric runs his hands through his blonde hair. "Raven's dead."

I stare at him with my mouth hanging open as Eric and Klaus fill me in. I still didn't fully understand what had happened and I almost felt like I was in some kind of dream or maybe an hallucination from all the drugs. What he was telling me didn't seem real. A soul taking over another soul.

"How's Damien?" This could be the very thing that tips him back into Rogue habits. He told me Raven was his light, that she kept him grounded. With her gone, it was a matter of time.

"That's the thing everyone is worried about." Klaus mutters

"Please tell me he hasn't turned Rogue?!"

"That's just it. He hasn't. He is quiet but getting on with his Beta duties. He isn't acting like someone who lost a mate. Brax is watching him constantly."

"That's going to make things worse."

I sigh while shuffling in the bed. It would be so much easier if they just stood on the same side rather than

making me turn my head back and forth.

Chapter 0345

"He's also started carrying a gun." Eric tells me.

"What?" I was certain I had misheard him.

"You don't need to worry about what is going on out there. The rest of us have it handled. I just need you to rest." Eric stares at me, waiting for me to agree.

"I need to speak to him."

"Mal, you need to rest."

"Please. I just... I know him better than anyone."

"I will get him." Klaus gives me a small smile and hurries out the room.

"We need to talk about this, Mal. I feel your pain and the ache in your heart."

I shake my head at him, the tears already blurring my eyes. I can't talk about it, not yet.

"I knew."

"Huh?"

"I knew. I did a sweep of your house after the fire. I saw the tests."

I drop my gaze. "It was supposed to be a surprise and I was nervous, after what happened to the boys. I knew you wanted it and now.... Now, I can't ever give you a pup."

It's odd, because it's only now that I'm realising how much I wanted it. I've always known that I wanted to be a mother, to have my own little crew. I also never saw it happening, not until I saw those two lines.

"I'm sorry." I mutter again and he grabs both my hands.

"Stop apologising, this wasn't your doing. You didn't know this was going to happen. No one could have predicted it. This is not your fault."

It didn't stop feeling like it was my fault.

I plaster on a smile as Damien makes his way in.

"I will give you guys a minute." Eric mutters, then makes a point of looking at me. "Stay in bed."

"I was going to come and see you." Damien speaks quietly, and peers through the blinds of the window. "Are you okay?" I ask

"I should be the one asking you that question. I guess they told you."

I nod, though he isn't looking at me. "I don't really understand. I thought Jenson was dead."

"It doesn't matter. They are both dead now."

"She was your mate."

"Was! She gave up, Mallory. I didn't see it. I couldn't see it, or maybe I didn't want to. But she gave up. I wasn't even worth holding onto, She loved him more than she loved anything else. Twins in life, twins in death."

"So you are good?" I ask with a head tilt

"Yes."

I stare at him. "I don't believe you."

He makes his way to the chair next to my bed. "Everyone is watching me. Waiting for me to break down. Brax has his beady little eyes on me at every opportunity. He's probably pissed that I am in here and he can't see me. I don't need you watching me too, Mallory. You need to focus on your own health."

"I've seen people lose their mates. This is not how they react."

"Maybe, maybe not. Or maybe I've just been preparing myself to lose her since first met her." He groans, "I knew a time would come where I would lose her or she would lose me. Though I never imagined losing her to her own fucking brother."

I wanted to gag, I really hoped he didn't mean what I thought he meant.

"Like I said. Twins in life. Twins in death."

I had seen Damien do a lot of stuff, including the shit he did as a Rogue, but this, this had me feeling the most unsettled. He was too calm, too understanding. Or maybe he was right, he was too used to death.

"I swear Mallory, you don't need to worry about me."

I dip my head in acknowledgement, though his comment just left me more unsettled.

"Oh, I'm taking the oath tomorrow evening. Being Beta is hard without being able to link Dane and with this many Lycans, there needs to be someone who can link both."

"Right." I was so weirded out by our conversation. Eric had said he was acting odd, but he wasn't, he was acting like his usual self and that's what was odd. Maybe he was having some kind of delayed reaction?

Chapter 0346

Damien

"Daddy?" Dottie had dropped her spoon in her cereal bowl and was staring at me with wide bright green eyes and a stuck out bottom lip.

"You should finish your breakfast. You have a big day today."

She screws up her nose. "I can't eat."

"And why is that?"

"You're sad." She mutters with a tiny frown "And if I go to school, I can't keep an eye on you."

"Is that right?"

"Uh huh!"

"Well, I have a lot to do today so you don't need to worry about me. I'm taking the oath later to officially be part of Black Shadow. And it's important that you start school."

"Why?"

"Because you are a clever little girl. Besides, school is here in Black Shadow so I won't be far and you get to hang out with kids your own age."

"If I'm clever, I don't need to go to school. Neah didn't and she is an Alpha!" She pouts at me and hugs herself

I sigh, Dottie had an answer for everything these days.

"But I wish I had got to go to school." Neah mutters as she makes her way into the kitchen with her boys toddling along next to her. It's not as fun learning to read and write when you are an adult."

Dottie hikes her shoulders up around her ears. "Fine, I will go!"

We had been making plans for this for about a week. A lot of the Lycans had brought young kids, pulling them from schools to be here. They were worried that their children would fall behind so Dane had agreed to set up a small school. And I think now, Dottie's nerves were settling in.

She turns to Neah, "Will you look after Daddy? He's sad."

Neah's blue eyes flash in my direction as she settles Logan into a high chair. "Sure."

I wish Dottie would stop telling everyone I was sad. Raven was dead, that was the end of it.

"Do you think my other Daddy will come with us and walk me to school?"

"I can ask, but you need to finish your breakfast. I know you Dottie. You will be hungry again in ten minutes."

She gives me a guilty smile and starts shovelling cereal into her mouth.

Dottie holds my hand with a tight grip as we walk across the grounds to the small building that had been turned into a school. She was more jittery than usual. Her eyes darted all over the place. Probably because Brax hadn't turned up like he said he was going too.

She isn't the only one who is

hesitant. Other kids are protesting too. Ryken has his youngest boy trapped under his arm as he carries him towards the school with a look that suggested he had also had a rough morning convincing the boy to go to school.

"He's scared." Dottie whispers to me.

"He hasn't been here that long. Remember, you were scared when you first came here. Maybe he needs a friend." "Like Auntie Mallory is your friend?"

"Exactly."

She nods and straightens out her pink dress. Confidently, she strides away from me, stopping in front of a Ryken. "My name is

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Dorothy. I can be your friend." She offers her hand to the boy but Ryken

just stands there, staring at her like she had some kind of disease.

I hadn't considered that the Lycans wouldn't be happy that a daughter of a Hunter would be going to the school.

"She is just a kid!" I snarl as I get close.

"I know." Ryken mutters. "But do you think it's wise? The room will be full with young Lycans."

"I think you are worried about the wrong person."

Dottie's hand slides back into mine. "It's okay Daddy, I can just go home."

I force a smile for her. "No, you have the right to be here just as much as anyone else." I turn my eyes to Ryken. "Doesn't she?!"

"Of course." He mutters, but there is no truth behind it. And if I can see that, she could too.

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I make sure she is settled before I leave, though the way the parents are looking at her doesn't go unnoticed. I was starting to think it was a good idea Brax didn't turn up. He would have shot every single person in this room and maybe he knew that.

Kissing Dottie on the cheek, I promise to pick her up later and make my way to the teacher.

"Any problems, anything at all, give me a call immediately." I slide my number across the table to her.

The sooner I take this fucking oath, the better.

"Wait!" Ryken calls as I stride back towards the house.

"What?"

"I'm worried about my boys."

"You're their parent, you should be." I snap and carry on walking.

"You know that is not what I'm talking about! And you are one of her parents in that weird relationship you have going on."

I glare at him. "She is a little girl that has probably seen more horrors than all the kids in that classroom combined. But more importantly, she just wants to learn. Why do you have a problem with that?"

"Damien, you know exactly what I'm talking about. She's a Hunter of our kind. She is a threat."

Chapter 0347

"Like I said, you are worried about the wrong person!"

"So if she gets into trouble, then what, her father is going to come for us? You're going to come for us?"

"Yes. I will warn you once and only once. If you or any other Lycan tries anything stupid, it won't just be me or Brax that you have to worry about. Dottie is a part of Neah's family. How do you think Neah will feel after she invited you to stay here?"

"I fully support our Alpha, but I don't want the Hunter child hanging out with my kids."

"Why, worried they will turn out like Blair?" I walk away without waiting for his reaction.

Neah is standing with her hands on her hips as I walk through the front door. "You're threatening other Lycans now?"

"It wasn't a threat. But I'm glad to see they can link you when needed."

She sighs and sits on the bottom step. "Damien. I'm sorry, okay. I had to do it. I couldn't let you do it."

"Stop apologising Neah. I keep telling you that I understand. You don't need to keep apologising to me."

"But..."

"I don't blame you, Neah, not for anything. I blame her, she took the easy way out. She didn't even try to fight for what was hers. And honestly, I have more important things to worry about."

"If you need to talk, I..."

"I don't."

She puffs out her cheeks. "Are you going to tell me what happened with Ryken?"

"I'm sure he has already told you."

She rolls her eyes at me. "I prefer to listen to both sides."

I sit on the stairs next to her. "I won't let anything happen to Dottie."

"I know that. But we all need to make it work. We've got the original Wolves, we have Lycans, both bitten and pure bloods and then we have several Hunters. Though I'm not really sure if I can class Klaus in that category." She smiles at me. "I will speak to Ryken."

"He's a prick, Neah. Don't fall for his shit."

"It's my decision."

I nod "Where's Dane?"

"Down at the gate. Apparently there is another one."

"And you didn't go?"

"I was waiting for you to come back. Athena came and got the twins and I was going to go, but whoever is at the gate. isn't important. You do get that right? That you are not alone here. Just because she's gone, it doesn't mean you've stopped being family."

"Good, because you are stuck with me!"

I walk down to the gates with her. There's a woman standing on the other side of the gates. Her arms folded against her chest in defence. And she is human. How the fuck had a human made it out here?

She has strange grey eyes. "You don't believe me do you?" I hear her mutter to Dane

"Why would there be a human here?" Neah whispers

"There's only one way to find out."

The woman's strange grey eyes move to Neah as we approach and her lips part a little. "Shit!"

I immediately pull Neah behind me. Her life was worthier than mine and I didn't need another prick trying to take her out.

"How did you find this place?" Dane demands

"I was shown it."

"By who?"

"Someone else like me."

"Another human?" I demand

"I'm not human. Or at least, I wasn't. It's complicated. I was a Lycan and then I had my abilities taken from me."

"You weren't bound. If you were bound, you would still have a scent. But the only thing you stink of, is human." Dane tells her.

"I don't know what he did to us. I just know that I was never the same again."

"Bullshit!" Dane snaps

"What if I told you the same thing has happened to Blair?" The woman announces.

"What are you talking about?" Neah pushes her way around me.

"Blair isn't a Lycan anymore."

"Not possible."

"She was the one who showed me where your pack is. I came here to warn you."

"Really, what is Blair threatening me with now?!" Neah demands

"It's not Blair.

r. Blair didn't want me to come here, but we had no choice. The guy that did this to me and many others is probably on his way here, looking for her. She told him she was your half sister." The woman shakes her head at Neah.

"I'm not scared of one man!" Neah snaps back. "Whatever happened to Blair is nothing less of what she deserved."

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Stads her head. "She did

a lot

things, and instead. she had everything

her. That's what he done?

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Neah snorts.

"What's your name?" Dane asks.

"Samara, but no one calls me that. Sammie or Sam is fine." She shakes her head. "This man is dangerous."

"Is it a trick?" Neah whispers to me.

"She seems to know a lot."

"She isn't lying." Brax saunters up next to us. His hazel eyes linger the inoman. "But you are not let t either, are you Samara?"

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Chapter 0348

Abraxas

Samara's grey eyes hover on me. "You don't know anything about me!"

"I know what I see."

"What is that supposed to mean?" She looks over to Neah. "You have Witches here too?"

I laugh. Why did they always jump to that conclusion? "You can't smell me can you?"

"I told you, this is what he does. He takes everything. I lost everything because of him. Blair has lost everything because of him and I know that she did some bad things. She told me all about it, but this guy will look for her. He will come here."

"He can fuck off because he won't find her here!" Dane snaps

"I know that, you know that, but he doesn't." Samara frowns

"It's funny, because you haven't mentioned a name." Damien mutters, he was still half blocking Neah.

"His name is Cooper, if that's even his real name." Samara mutters as she runs her fingers through her long blonde hair. "It's not just Lycans he hurts, it's Wolves too. He strips our abilities, do you know what that's like? To not be able to smell or hear like I once did. To become breathless when doing too much. Not to be able to heal. It's soul destroying."

I snort.

"It's not funny!"

"Being stripped doesn't destroy your soul."

She glares at me. "Like you know anything about it."

I watch Neah, but she doesn't say anything. If there is anyone here that understands, it would be her.

"Why did he do that to you?" I press

"I don't know."

"Yes you do, you are just withholding the information."

She narrows her eyes and clenches her jaw, I was pressing buttons that she didn't like.

"Stop talking like you know everything."

"Never claimed I know everything, but I can see when someone isn't sharing everything."

Her cheeks pulsate with annoyance. "Blair was right, you lot just care about yourself."

"Funny that," Neah mutters. "I could say the same about Blair. Be careful she doesn't betray you because that is something she likes to do. Just ask her mother."

Samara sighs. "She isn't like that anymore. What he did to us, it makes you question everything. All the bad, all the good. All the mistakes. Maybe on some levels Cooper was right, it's the punishment we deserve."

She's actually telling the truth about that.

"Almost six years ago, he convinced me that he was my mate." she shakes her head. "I had killed a human and someone else saw. I bumped into him and I could smell this divine scent. It's funny now, can't even remember what that scent was. He played this game of getting to know me, making me fall for him in ways I could never imagine. He led me away and I remember being hit over the head and something being injected in my neck and nothing was ever the same. I am not the first and I definitely won't be the last."

"So he lures women away?" Dane asks

"No, there were men being kept there too. But the point is, he punishes those that he thinks deserves it."

Neah laughs.

"You think that's funny?!" Samara mutters in disgust. "You are the Lycan Alpha. You should be protecting us."

"How much has Blair told you?" Neah asks

"She's told me everything."

"Has she told you that she wanted to

be the Alpha? That she wouldn't accept that the gene didn't pass to her because it came from my mother's side. Has she told you that she destroyed her mate, to the point he lost it? Has she told you that her mother is here in my pack, along with her brothers and baby sister? Has she told you that she knows exactly how to wrap people around her little finger to get exactly what she wants? I could go on..."

"She isn't like that now." Samara cuts Neah off

"She killed a pregnant Wolf and took away her toddler, sold the kid to humans." Damien growls as he speaks of my baby girl.

Samara lowers her eyes. "She didn't tell me all of that but that doesn't mean she hasn't changed."

"Where is she?" Neah demands.

"She's not here. She said you would kill her."

"Smart move." I muse

Neah rolls her eyes at me. "What do you want from us?"

"Nothing."

"You came here to tell us all of this, but you don't want anything?"

She shakes her head again. "I

thought I did, but I prefer my new life. Cooper goes to places, places that he knows we would have been in the past where we might seek refuge. Because that is what he does, he tortures people for information. He will look for Blair and he will come here, just like I

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said. He wants what he thinks belongs to him."

"And you lot think I have a God complex." I muse

"It isn't funny." Samara snaps at me and turns back to Neah. "I don't care if you think Blair and I deserved it. We are better off by ourselves. But what

do you think he is going to do when he comes here? He doesn't like anyone that he thinks is better than him. You have two Alpha's in one place."

"He's one man." Neah mutters

She looks Neah dead in the eye. "There is always someone worse." Samara turns away and strides down the drive.

"Do you believe her?" Dane asks me.

"She believes what she is saying. Her soul didn't falter once like it would if she was bullshitting."

"How could someone strip abilities that are way past the level of binding someone?" Damien asks. "Because surely if it could be done, Trey would have done that to Neah."

Chapter 0349

"I'm more concerned with the guy thinking he is better than everyone else." Dane murmurs

"I wouldn't worry about it. You have more than enough people here to protect everyone." I shrug my shoulders.

"What if he is already here?" Neah asks. "Lycans have been arriving in groups for days. Some have even said they found each other on the way here. What if that is what he did?"

"There is no one here by the name of Cooper." Damien mutters. He had been keeping a checklist of everyone.

"You heard her, 'if it was even his real name.'" Neah scowls

"I wouldn't worry too much, every asshole shows themselves eventually." I turn to walk away and Damien stops me.

"Where were you this morning?"

"Do I really need to answer that?"

"Dottie was looking for you."

"I was watching."

"She didn't need you to watch, she needed you to be present."

"I saw you Damien. You wanted to punch Ryken into the ground, how do you think I would have handled it? My guess is, you already know the answer. Now if you will excuse me, I have some business I need to attend to."

I walk off across the grounds, disappearing behind Mallory's burnt out home and dip into the forest.

It's not long before I could hear Madison talking to someone.

"I don't know. It's always been like that." She tells someone with a heavy sigh, like she had been repeating the same thing for some time.

"I don't buy it. Lycans always have their Lycans. You don't just wake up without one." A male responds

"I didn't! I told you, this is how it's always been. Not that it is any of your business."

I quietly make my way through the trees.

"Sorry." The guy replies. "I'm just curious about these things. I didn't mean to make you feel uncomfortable. Did you hear that our Alpha didn't have her Lycan for most of her life?"

"I did, but I don't think that is really any of our business. She is still our Alpha. And if you keep asking, people are going to think you have some sort of problem with it."

"You are right. Sorry. I guess, I dunno, you seem different to the others. I thought maybe you could help me understand a few things, like why we are here, what does she want from us."

I roll my eyes, and start making a lot of noise as I make my way to them.

"Someone's coming." The guy mutters

"I know, I'm not stupid or deaf." Madison retorts.

She seems to have this tendency of throwing sarcastic comments out, but not actually taking in what is happening around her. He was trying to get information from her.

"Brax." she mutters when she sees me and lowers her chestnut eyes

"We're not doing anything." The guy mutters

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"No, you just happen to be following a woman into the forest." He has strange eyes, green with little blue flecks. "I didn't catch your name." Though remembered his arrival yesterday. He was difficult to read. Not necessarily untrustworthy, but not open either. Dorothy had given him one of her stickers and I had to trust my daughter's opinion. It didn't mean I couldn't keep an eye on him.

"I was just going for a walk." Madison tells me.

"And I was just making sure she is alright." The guy gives me a huge grin with perfect white teeth. "There is a lot going on around here. You can never be sure." He looks me up and down. He knew very well who I was. And he is suggesting that Madison needs protecting from me. Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"What's your name?"

"Ash, Ash Thomas."

"Right."

Madison smiles at me. "Ash was just going."

"Are you sure? I mean...." He gestures his head at me.

"I've been here a while, Ash. If he was going to shoot me, he would have done so by now."

Ash bobs his head and weighs up whether or not he should go.

"I suggest you go." I mutter, taking the choice from him.

He looks back at Madison. "Are you sure?"

"I'm fine, like I said, Brax won't hurt me."

He nods and walks away. Madison goes to speak and I put my hand over her mouth, listening to the footsteps move away.

She waits for a few minutes and then pulls my hand away. "What was that for?"

"I don't like him."

"I would never have guessed."

"Was this for my benefit, Madison? To have someone follow you into the forest so I would come running."

"No. And how did you even know I was here?" She stands on her tiptoes and kisses my cheek.

"I know a lot of things, but if you want him to stay alive, I suggest you don't let him touch you."

"You can't keep me a secret forever, Brax."

She starts unbuttoning her shirt, backing up against a tree. Trailing my fingers across her stomach, my tanned skin is a stark contrast to her paleness. She shudders against my fingers and her arousal is quick to fill

the air.

It was wrong, but I found myself less and less capable of refusing her, especially when she tasted so good against my tongue.

Her body tremors as my tongue circles her belly button and her hands slide into my black curls. I'm just starting to loosen her jeans when the guy calls out.

"Hey Maddie, I forgot to ask....."

Chapter 0350

Abraxas

I'm on my feet seconds before his face comes back into view. Madison hovers behind me, her fingers working quickly to fasten her shirt.

The guy stares at me, I wasn't stupid, I knew he could smell her arousal but he doesn't say anything, he just turns and walks away, his fists clenched either side of him.

My hand fumbles for my gun, but Madison stops me, "Don't, it will just bring more attention. I will talk to him."

I grab hold of her wrist as she moves past me. "You will stay away from him."

"You don't get to make that decision for me Brax." She pulls her hand away and hurries off after him. I hear her calling his name, which gradually fades the further away she gets.

Bollocks!

If he doesn't keep his mouth shut, they are going to think I'm a pussy. The Lycans will think they have the upper hand over me. I will become a joke to other Hunters. I needed to speak to Neah or Mallory, they were the only ones who knew the truth.

Making my way out of the forest, I couldn't see Madison or that prick anywhere, nor could I smell her, maybe she had taken a different direction and I hadn't paid attention.

I was closest to the hospital here and make my way over to it, hoping Mallory would be alone.

Thankfully she is.

She wipes her tears away when she sees me and paints on a smile. "Do you want me to get Klaus or Eric?"

"No, no, it's okay. Come in, come in." She waves me in.

"I want to say I'm sorry." I murmur. Mallory didn't deserve this. She is different from the other Lycans. I knew she had gone Rogue, but it wasn't the same and her soul is full of cracks like Neah's, I just hadn't told anyone. And now, there was a new one that worked its way through her soul and I felt responsible for it.

I may not have pulled the trigger, but it was my weapon that had caused all the damage.

"You didn't shoot me. Damien told me. Though for a moment, I did think it was you."

I nod.

"But that's not why you are here, is it?"

I scratch through my stubble and press my lips together. I could still taste Madison. "I am not the type of person to ask for help or advice." I force the words out. It even felt wrong to say it, like they were somehow going to scold me. "But you and Neah are the only Lycans I can tolerate."

"Ah, this is about Maddie."

"How did you know?"

"It was either that or to do with Dorothy and Damien's connection." she shuffles on the bed and screws her face up from the pain.

"Madison and I have been meeting up." I leave it at that and wait for her response.

She smiles at me and then frowns as she clutches her stomach, "Oh I wish you didn't try and make me laugh, it hurts."

"It wasn't supposed to be funny." I grumble.

"Okay, so you're meeting up, and?"

"She's a Lycan."

"Yep, we have already established that." She mutters sarcastically.

"This was a bad idea." I get up to leave.

"Don't go. Please, this takes my mind off of...thinking." Her sigh is full of that same sadness she had when I first walked in here.

I stare at her and drop back into the chair

"So?" She questions

"I can't get her out of my head and I can't get past the fact that she is a Lycan either and the problems that it will cause." "I'm a Lycan." She protests.

"I don't want to fuck you!" I snap and she rolls her eyes at me. It's a far cry from the way she was looking at me the night she arrived at my house. If I remember correctly, her mate had to keep reminding her he was there too.

"Fair enough." She frowns. "But you are a Hunter of Rogues, correct?"

"Makes no difference. If they are problems, I deal with them. You've seen that."

"Is Maddie a problem?" She puffs

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out her cheeks as I shake my head. "Then why don't you just claim her? She is your mate and from the sounds of it, you wouldn't be forcing her into it either. At the end of the day yes she is a Lycan, but she can't shift, so what are the odds of her going Rogue?"

"What if I kill her?"

"What if you don't? Look, Eric was not my greatest fan either. When he marked me, it was an accident. In the same way you are having issues with Maddie, he had them with me, yet he couldn't stay away from me either. At the end of the day, you are the only one who needs to care who your mate is, screw everyone else!"

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0351 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0351

Chapter 0351

"There's a good chance a Lycan knows about us."

"And you didn't kill him?" She sounds surprised.

"Madison wouldn't let me. She thinks she can talk him into not telling anyone."

"Then beat him to it. I already know, Neah knows, there is probably a good chance Dane knows because Neah pretty much tells him everything or if she hasn't, he can read her mind, the same as Eric can read mine. Neither one has said anything because they are both mated to someone unexpected. And from what I know of Maddie, she hasn't got a problem with what you do. You did kill the man that marked her and was holding her hostage."

I nod, mulling over her words.

"Did you know then?" She asks. "Did you know she was your mate when I brought her to the house."

"Yes."

"And you've held off for all this time?"

"Yes."

"Because she is a Lycan?"

"Yes and because I would be replacing my dead mate."

"So you think that's it? That you are never allowed to have someone love you again?"

"It's more than that."

"It really isn't." She mutters

"It's complicated."

She chuckles and then scrunches her body up as the pain ripples through her. "I told you not to make me laugh!"

"I wasn't trying too."

"You think this is complicated?! This is the simplest problem you could have. At least she isn't human, could you imagine having to explain all of it then?"

Maybe she was the better person to speak to, Neah would have me questioning more than helping me find answers. Or I would get lost watching her soul.

"There is only so much I can say." Mallory smiles at me. "At the end of the day, you have to make the decision, not me, but if you can't handle it, let her go. It isn't fair, not after all the crap she has been dragged through."

"That's part of the problem."

She cocks a brow at me.

"I can't let her go either."

"Or maybe you don't really want to." She shrugs her shoulders at me.

"Annoyingly, I think you are right."

"I generally am." She continues to beam at me with the 'I told you so' look

I look around, the hospital is dead, not a single soul other than us. "Where is everyone?"

"Eric went with Klaus to pick up supplies."

"He left you alone."

She bobs her head and the smile has gone. "I told him too because everytime I look at him, I want to cry."

"He doesn't blame...."

"I know he doesn't. It's like your problem, it's complicated. I know he can feel what I'm feeling and that somehow makes it a hundred times worse, when it should help. Does that make sense?"

"If I couldn't see your soul, I would

say no, but you have a tiny hole in a place that was once complete. A hole that Eric doesn't have. He feels the loss, it's a little different for you, but he still feels it, don't push him out, he lost it too."

"At least you didn't tell me I would get over it."

I frown at her. "Who would say something like that?"

"When I was human, my father said it to my mother right after he beat the shit out of her. She lost a baby because of what he did to her."

"Then it was a good thing you killed him."

She nods and looks past me, I could smell Eric heading this way and prepare to leave.

"Thanks for coming." She smiles at me

"I will see you later, I need to go and find my mate."

I head back into the forest where I

had left Madison. Her jasmine scent still lingered in the air, I follow it until I reach the back of Mallory's burnt out house. But oddly, her scent changes direction and heads south back into the forest. She's accompanied with the scent of a Lycan, a scent that belongs to the dickhead that was trying to get information from her. Content

belongs to

I follow the scents and the tracks deeper and deeper until they stop. Her scent comes to a clear stop too.

"MADISON!"

She doesn't answer, but one of Dane's Wolf's appears. "Is there a problem?"

"How far south am I?" I demand

"You are almost at the border."

"No one has passed you?"

"I would have seen them if they had. Is someone missing?"

"To be determined."

I squat down, running my fingers over the last of the tracks. My eyes automatically go up into the trees, but I see nothing. Wolves can't smell Lycans in Lycan form, but I could and someone had shifted here.

The fucker had taken Madison!

Chapter 0352

Neah

"There are three Ash's here, but none by the name of Ash Thomas." Damien tells me as he tosses the clipboard onto the desk in front of me. He turns to Brax "Whoever gave you that name is lying!"

"Or the name he gave you and Neah was a lie." Brax retorts, "And that is his real name."

I look at the names highlighted on the clipboard and search my mind for the connections to them, while trying to ignore Damien and Brax as they argue. They were worse than kids.

Finding the link to each one, I summon them and request that they come to the office immediately. Maybe one of them had given us a different surname out of fear.

Three men appear within minutes and Brax shakes his head. "It's not any of them."

The men look at one another, confused by why they had been called here.

"Do you know Ash Thomas?" I ask

Two of them shake their heads and tell me no. The third one nods. "He came yesterday. He asks a lot of questions too."

"About what?" Brax demands

"Anything and everything. I just put it down to him being new here."

'Samara said that Cooper guy would come here. What if she was right? What if he is already here, using a different name?'

'Brax would know.' I murmur. 'The guy wouldn't get past us. Could he?'

'It's just what that woman said. That this guy comes to places where he thinks his prisoners may be hiding. All the questions he is asking, it sounds like he is looking for someone but trying to be tactical.'

'If he was trying to find Blair, why would he take Maddie? What if this is Blair's idea? What if this is another scheme of hers?' I challenge

She doesn't answer, because she knew as well as I did, there were too many 'what ifs' surrounding the situation.

"What does he look like?" I ask Brax, so many people had arrived recently, I couldn't remember everyone's names, but I could remember faces. He gives me a description as soon as he mentions the green eyes with flecks of blue, I know who he is speaking of.

"You let him live." I frown. The guy he was talking about had been in the office with me and Dorothy. Dorothy had stopped drawing the moment he walked through the office door and just spent the entire time staring at him without saying a word as I asked him questions. When he left, she wouldn't even tell me what she saw or what she felt and had asked to leave moments later.

Brax frowns, "He had one of my daughters stickers on. I didn't like the guy, his soul is more than questionable but I have to trust my daughter's awareness."

Damien shakes his head and folds his arms across his chest. "She is seven years old. Seven, Brax. She shouldn't even be doing this shit anyway. Kids make mistakes."

"She didn't give him one." I declare

"What?" Brax mutters

"She didn't give him a sticker." I confirm. "He must have seen someone else with one and taken it, knowing that it would keep him alive."

"Fucking idiot!" Damien mutters at

Brax. "Of all the ones you have killed because you've seen something bad, you let this one live. And in less than twenty four hours of being here, he has kidnapped a Lycan."

"Why Maddie though? She can't even shift, why bother taking her?" I ask

Brax looks away. "He saw us together."

If I wasn't so concerned about Maddie, I would be happy for Brax. It's about time he owned up to being mated to her.

"You were with a Lycan?" Damien asks and a smirk appears on his lips. All signs of his previous anger, gone.

"Yes, and you can keep your opinions to yourself!" Brax snaps, his hand moves to the gun in his belt.

"So Maddie is...." Damien leans against the wall, practically grinning from ear to ear as he waits for an answer. "None of your business!"

"You were the one who came in here, demanding that we need to find her, so as Beta of the pack, it makes it my business. I will ask you again Why were you with Maddie?" Damien teases. He already knew

what the answer is. Content belongs

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"I haven't got time for this!" I snap, getting out of my seat. "I need to know what is happening and who this guy thinks he is."

"Can't you just link the guy?" Damien asks

"There is no link to anyone called Cooper or Ash Thomas. The other option is to order all Lycans to come here into my office so you can single him out."

"No." Brax mutters. "I need to find Samara, she gave me the impression she knows exactly where this Cooper guy takes them."

"I'm coming with you." Damien snarls.

"No, Damien. You need to stay here." I tell him. "I will go with Brax."

Chapter 0353

Both sets of eyes are on me. "You don't know what's out there or if something is waiting for you." Damien protests. "And I'm pretty sure Dane won't agree."

"I can handle myself. I am the Lycan Alpha, Maddie is a Lycan. She is my responsibility."

Dane isn't impressed with the idea of me going. His crimson eyes hover on me, his brow creases into a deep frown. Anyone would think I had asked him the worst possible question.

"I have Brax with me and we will be back before the ceremony tonight." I try reasoning with him.

"You don't know that. You don't know what you are walking in too. You don't know if it's a trap."

"You don't always know what you are walking in too. You didn't expect to find me or all the shit that came with finding me."

"That's different."

"Because I'm female?" I scoff and I feel Nyx eagerly waiting for the answer.

"No. Because I have more experience of being in situations where I have no idea what's about to happen. You don't go out of the pack grounds, Neah and as much as that usually means I know you are safe. I am also minutes away from you at any time. I won't be if you go out there without me. And I am not okay with that."

'He's worrying too much.' Nyx mutters

'He's allowed too. He said it himself, he won't be with me.'

I sigh and pull my bottom lip between my teeth. "If it was one of your Wolves that you were missing, what would you do?"

"You already know the answer to that."

"Then I have to do this too." I knew he could feel how important this was to me and maybe that was why he wasn't arguing with me, but making it a point for me to know how he feels about it.

"You keep your eyes on her at all times." Dane snaps at Brax. I had half forgotten he was in the office with us.

"The deal was always to protect her." He is busy checking the bullets in his guns. "I don't break my deals, Dane. You should know that, you're a man of contracts."

"If anything happens to her."

"I know," And Brax shrugs his shoulders, "but if it were to come to that, you will have to find me first."

Dane and Damien accompany Brax and I down to the gates. Dane pulls me in against his large chest. "Don't block me at any point."

'I won't' Nyx mutters and I repeat her words.

Dane's lips mould against mine. He kisses me like he needs all of me, or maybe it's because he thinks this is the last time he will get to kiss me. When he pulls away, my lips feel bruised and tender as his crimson eyes focus on mine. "I'm coming back." I whisper.

"I expect you too."

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"Let's go!" Brax mutters. He gets in the driver's side of the car that's waiting for us. I slide into the passenger seat and look back over my shoulder at my mate. He hated this.

"You good?" Brax asks as he starts the car.

I nod, keeping my thoughts to myself.

He doesn't say anything else, but stops the car periodically to get out and check the ground. It probably would have been easier if we just went on foot.

"You haven't asked." He cocks a brow at me as he gets back in the car.

"Asked what?"

"Why we didn't just walk?"

"You say you can't read minds but you have this terrible habit of knowing exactly what we are thinking."

He laughs. "You haven't spoken

since we left but yet I see your face everytime I stop and get out of the car. You know walking would be just as effective, if not more, especially while tracking yet you continue to keep your mouth shut. It's the most likely thing that you are thinking about."

'He is so annoying.' Nyx mutters with a yawn. She was bored and wanted to see some action.

"Is that how you know things?" I ask

He shrugs his shoulders "Nine times out of ten. So are you going to ask me?"

"I'm guessing it has something to do with me?"

He claps his hands and starts the car again. "Dane's idea. He thought it would be too risky if any Lycans came across you in the wild." "They will be able to scent me either way."

"That's what I told him. You wouldn't have got a chance to leave the pack at all if hadn't agreed to the car. Not that a car would slow anyone down if they wanted to get to you."

"Then why didn't you stop me from coming?"

"I knew there was no point."

Chapter 0354

Abraxas

"Why did you really want to come?" I query.

"Maddie is my responsibility." She keeps her eyes on the road ahead

"No, she isn't. She is a woman that came to you in the hopes of getting out of a shitty arrangement, that doesn't mean you owe her anything." "You may think that, but I don't." She pauses. "I don't want people to be loyal to me just because of my title. That's not true loyalty."

"You continuously surprise me Neah Kitson."

"Dane will do anything for his Wolves. I want to do the same for the Lycans. I lived in a lie for so long before I met him. I was brought up watching Trey and Cassandra run a pack and I will never be anything like them. Dane has taught me alot."

"Looks like you are finally finding your feet." From the corner of my eye, I see her smile. She just wanted confirmation that she was doing the right thing.

I stop the car to do another check and Neah grabs hold of my arm. "I know this place."

There is a dim light coming from a nearby house. A dirty Porsche sits on the drive, the grass in the garden is as tall as my knees. If it weren't for the small light, I would have said the house was abandoned.

"This is Blair's house." She mutters

"You've been here?"

"No. When they were holding Mallory hostage, this is the house number she gave me. Why would Blair return here after what Samara told us?" She scowls and her knuckles are white as she clenches the door handle. "Surely it would be too risky?"

"Stay here, I will go and check it out."

"No." She pushes the car door open and hurries towards the house. I quickly follow and her hand pauses before she knocks on the door. I see her sniff the air, checking that we are alone and she pounds her fist against the door, making the people on the other side scream.

I had to hold in a laugh. You don't tend to hear Wolves or Lycans scream from being startled. It's hilarious. Though they weren't really Lycans anymore. This is going to be fun.

I hear Samara trying to whisper on the other side of the door. Something that doesn't get past my ears. "Who would know we are here?"

An answer is followed by Blair. A voice I hadn't heard in a long time. "No one! No one saw us come in. Do you think he found us?"

"I don't think he is the type of guy to knock!"

Neah looks at me, "I can't believe I'm saying this, but don't kill her. I need answers."

"She killed my family." I mutter coldly. It was the only reason I wanted to find them. To get some answers and then put her down for good.

"So this is why you wanted to come here? To get your revenge?"

"You saw what happened to Dorothy. She also killed my mate, my parents and my unborn child."

"And if you kill them, you will probably never see Maddie again!" Neah knocks again. "It's Neah, I know you are in there."

Blair rips open the door, her brown

eyes hover on Neah before moving to me. She takes a step back, shaking her head as she pulls her jacket around her. "You brought the Hunter to my door?" Content

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"You seem scared." I mutter with a wink and Samara appears, pulling Blair back, taking her place on the threshold.

"It's in the past. She can't change what she did." Samara mutters.

"Her time will come." I reply and Neah elbows me in the side.

"She's had everything stripped from her." Samara defends "How?" Neah asks

"I told you, I don't know. He drugs us with something, or maybe it's done after he drugs us. You lose track of time." "Right," Neah mutters. "We have reason to believe that he was already in the pack."

"So why are you here?" Samara asks, as she continues to guard the entrance. She had no plans to let us inside

"One of the female Lycans is missing." Neah tells her

"If he already has her, you are too

late. She won't be a Lycan anymore. Because that is what he does. He punishes us by taking away our

abilities. We don't heal, we can't

even smell you. And you can forget about us even considering the idea of shifting, it's gone. All of it." She screws her face up. "We are Human."

"Prove it." I dare.

She turns around, "Pass me that knife."

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My hand moves to my gun as Blair hands over a knife. Samara swipes it down through her palm with a whimper. She squeezes her hand into a fist until blood drips out the bottom. When she opens her hand to show us, the wound is still bleeding, no signs of it healing.

"You can stare at it all day," Samara shrugs her shoulders. "When it stops bleeding, it will scab up and then take a good couple of weeks to heal and I will be left with a scar."

Chapter 0355

Blair hands her a cloth and Samara wraps it tightly around her hand.

"So he keeps you prisoner. Where exactly?"

"North. It's not designed to let people in or out."

"So how did you get out?" Neah asks.

"I did what I had to do and escaped."

I could see Blair over Samara's shoulder. "What about you?"

"I... Someone opened the doors and I just got out."

"Someone opened the doors?" Neah mutters. "As in, they let you out."

"It seems that way, but I don't know who or why anyone would do that. You may not want to believe me Neah. I definitely don't deserve to be believed. Sammie was the one who wanted to come and tell you."

"Someone let you out." Neah repeats. I don't think that she was paying attention to anything else Blair was saying.

"Yes. The bolts on everyone's doors were released."

She looks at me. "He did it on purpose."

"He let me out?" Blair asks, "Why would he do that?"

"Take it from someone who knows it was a test. He let you out to see where you would go. You led him straight to Black Shadow."

"He said he wasn't interested in you." Blair mutters.

"That doesn't mean he isn't interested in anyone else in my pack." Neah growls

"You don't know that." Samara mutters as she continues to cling to the door, blocking our entry.

"You escaped." Neah mutters. "She was let out." She turns to me. "I have to link Dane, I said I would keep him updated." Her eyes move to the women and back to me. "Don't do anything stupid."

I nod and she heads to the end of the drive.

"You think this is a set up?" Samara asks

"Given what you have shared so far, it's pretty clear. You both lost your Lycans due to his scheming. I would say what he did to you was cruel." "You think she deserved it?" Samara asks

"If it wasn't for her." I point to Neah at the end of the drive as she leans against the dirty Porsche. "I would be driving a knife through Blair's heart and maybe yours. But even that wouldn't be enough for what she did."

Her grey eyes are wide with curiosity as Blair looks away.

"I know everything." Samara mutters. "She told me every single detail. I won't let you kill her though."

"Do you really believe that you are capable of stopping me? It's like you said, you have no abilities anymore."

"I still have knowledge of your kind."

I smirk. For someone who had lost her abilities, she wasn't afraid of me. "Did you ever go Rogue?"

"No."

"She did." I point over her shoulder at Blair.

"I know."

I raise an eyebrow, "That doesn't bother you?"

"Do you see a Rogue standing behind me?!" She spits

Neah makes her way back to us. "Damien is doing a head count, confirming that everyone else is accounted for."

"What do you want from us?" Samara asks

"Where did he take you?" Neah asks

"Nowhere near here." Samara mutters with a frown. "But if he thinks there are potential threats here, he won't take them too far. Just far enough that he thinks you can't find him."

"You've hardly spoken a word." Neah glares at Blair

"Whatever I say or don't say will be wrong." She mutters and moves out same of sight. She wasn't quite the

as she was before. Almost full of sorrow it didn't mean she was

anywhere close to being trustworthy and I was even further away from finding Madison.

I turn to Neah. "We should go, we have got as much as we are going to get."

She looks between me and Samara. "Are you sure there is nothing else you can tell us?"

"No, I don't....." She trails off, frowning. "I already told you that he somehow does something that tricks us into believing he is our true mate."

Neah opens her mouth to speak and I shake my head. They didn't need to know that the woman taken was mated to me. If they are hiding anything, I will find out.

She turns, ready to leave, but

suddenly spins around and forces the door back, startling Samara and making her jump. Blair is standing at the far end of the room, tying a blue scarf around her head, trying to hide the short fuzzy hair.

Blair freezes, maybe she felt as though her death was imminent.

"Everyone wants you dead, Blair. You screwed over so many people, but Samara is right, losing your abilities is a better punishment. Death would be too good for you. Death would be too easy." Neah declares

"That's not fair!" Samara mutters. "We came to warn you!"

"She never wanted to come back here. She knew the risk would be too great. She came here because of you. Because you are her only ally." I reply.

"You're wrong. Being this way, it changes everything. And if Cooper thinks we are bad. What do you think he will make of you, a Hunter?"

Chapter 0356

Neah

"Let's go!" Brax grabs my arm and starts hauling me away like I'm some piece of furniture that's slowing him down.

"Let go of me." I snap, prying his fingers from my skin. "I still have questions!"

"If we don't leave now, I'm going to put a bullet through Blondie's head."

'It was only a matter of time.' Nyx mutters

"Because you didn't like what she was saying?" I protest as he ushers me around to the passenger side of the car and practically pushes me onto the seat.

"No." His voice drops to a whisper. "I wanted whoever is watching us to hear me say that."

I start to turn my head. Moments before knocking on the door of Blair's home, I had a feeling someone was watching us, but there were no scents other than ours and I couldn't see anyone.

"Keep your eyes on me, Neah. They need to think we are unaware of them. If you start looking around, you will draw more attention."

"I can't smell anything." I mutter as Nyx makes the same declaration.

"We're not supposed to. They are masking their scent, it's why I cannot pinpoint a location. There could be more than one." He whispers back to me. "We are going back to Black Shadow. If they choose to follow us, it is on them. But I made a promise to keep you safe and that is exactly what I am going to do. Now buckle up."

He slams the door shut, barely missing my fingers and I curse him as I pull the belt around me.

"Do you think it's this Cooper/Ash guy?" I ask as he speeds in the direction of Black Shadow.

"I'm not sure. Even if he had found a way to mask his own scent, I'm certain I would still be able to scent Madison as he was the one who took her. Madison's scent wasn't there."

"We don't know if they were watching us or Blair and Samara."

"Us." He replies and the car seems to gain more speed. My fingers coil around the belt as though it was going to somehow save me if we crash.

"How can you be certain?" I ask as I grip the belt tighter.

"There is a car following us and it has been since we left."

I look over my shoulder and the silver car is starting to fall back. It eventually slows to a crawl and pulls off on the grass as we turn the bend. 'They knew that we knew they were following us.' Nyx growls

"Lycan or a Wolf?" I ask Brax.

"I believe they are Lycan."

"Believe?"

"Masked scent makes it trickier, I may be wrong, it could be Wolves, but I would rather not stick around to find out."

"Is it easy to mask scents?"

"No. It takes a lot and is a well thought out process."

I stare at him. There was so much that I didn't know about him. Only little bits of information came through when he decided to share. He wasn't the type of Wolf that you could force information from either.

I look over my shoulder again. I couldn't see the car anymore. "They're gone."

Brax bobs his head, but doesn't slow down. We almost hit a car coming in the opposite direction. He finally slows down until we come to a stop and I breathe a sigh of relief. I had only been in cars a handful of times and they made me nervous. Content

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"You're worried about Maddie. We will find her." I offer, hoping it would make him feel better.

He takes his eyes off the road for a second to look at me. His face is unreadable, but slowly, a smile appears. "You're right, we will."

Just as he starts the car, something.

slams into us from behind. The

seatbelt constricts around me as att

my organs are thrown forward and I have the urge to vomit. Sharp pain

rips through my chest and stomach

as the seat belt cuts into me.

I look over to Brax, but he isn't in the driver's seat, his body is stuck halfway through the windshield, broken glass cutting into him as blood spurts from multiple wounds.

'Neah don't move.' Nyx tells me, but she is just as dazed as I am.

"I have to help him." I mutter back, fiddling with the belt clip

Chapter 0357

'Dane is coming.' Nyx groans. 'Just stay put.'

I don't listen and unclip the seatbelt, pulling it from my flesh and sending my own blood splattering across the car.

It takes me a moment to find the door handle as Nyx continues to tell me to stay still. 'He's coming. I can hear him. Dane's coming.'

I couldn't hear him. All I could hear was her and the blood rushing between my ears. My head ached and I could barely see straight, the smell of fuel fills my nostrils. I fling the door open just as I'm thrown forward again. My wrist cracks as I'm slammed into the dash followed by a crack in my pelvis as I try to move.

The contents of my stomach reveal themselves along with huge amounts of blood.

I'm thrown a third time and my head hits something sharp before I fall back in my seat. It was getting harder and harder for me to breathe. Everything inside of me felt torn up.

"BRAX!" I force out, but it comes out all breathy with no real sound. He wasn't moving as I cough up more blood.

"We haven't got time. We have to get them now!" A male voice hollers.

"We've got plenty of time." A woman mutters

"She's mated to Dane. He's probably already on his way." Another man snaps

"Then we better hurry up. She is an Alpha too, remember. If she's not dead, she can heal quickly. We need to get this done now. Before he comes looking for her.

I close my eyes as the footsteps move closer, willing myself to heal. I needed to heal just enough to fight back, just enough so I can shift and rip their fucking hearts out!

"Kill him first." The woman mutters. "We don't need that bastard shooting everyone. Or learning about us."

I hear more glass shatter, and the sound of something heavy being dragged across the ground. Seconds later, a round of shots are fired and a single tear creeps down my cheek. Brax hadn't stood a chance against whoever these scentless people were.

'Nyx, we need to shift and I can't do it on my own right now.' I beg. This was the only way I was going to survive.

'We are too weak.' She tells me as a new wave of nausea hits me

Someone grabs my wrist and I prepare to swing my broken one at the person. "Neah, it's me." Brax mutters. "Open your eyes, look at me."

I stare at him in shock. "You... you're alive?!!" I feel the blood seep from the corner of my lips. He uses his thumb to wipe it away.

"I had to play dead. It was the only way to get you out of here. Can you walk?"

I shake my head at him and a sharp pain goes up my neck. I fight to keep the vomit down. "I'm not... I don't think I'm healing." My lungs are barely filling with oxygen.

He glances over his shoulder, trying to decide what to do.

"Did you kill them?" I cough and more blood comes up.

"To fucking right. Fucking arseholes. And now need to get you out of I here." He slips an arm behind my knees and forces the other behind my back. "This is going to hurt."

Brax lifts me out of the car as I cry in pain. Somehow, the breaking of bones when you are not shifting is so much more painful.

He places me on the ground and

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adjusts my legs and hips as

footsteps come running towards us.

Dane's scent is strong and I'm so

happy that Nyx was right. He drops

down next to me as my pelvis clicks itself back into place. Content

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He cups my face and uses a cloth to wipe the blood from my chin. "Don't talk. I've got you. You are going to be fine."

"What the fuck happened?" He demands from Brax as he picks broken glass out of my face.

"These fuckers crashed into the back of us." Brax tells Dane.

I turn my head, ignoring the pain in my neck to see who Brax was talking about. Three dead people lay on the side of the road. Eric stands over them with a frown. Each one had a bullet lodged in their skull.

I knew all three of them.

Wolves from Black Shadow.

Chapter 0358

Neah

I push myself upright too quickly and feel the blood rush to my head.

'Nyx, are you good?'

She groans back at me and I leave her alone. As long as I could still hear her, she was still with me.

"Neah, stay still." Dane tells me

"No...it's fine. I'm almost healed."

He reluctantly holds out a hand to help me as I get on my feet. I think he knew that I was going to get up regardless and there was no point trying to stop me.

Dane continues to hold on to me as we make our way across the road towards the three dead Wolves, like I was somehow going to fall face first into the ground any second.

The Wolves were interesting, even after death, neither one of them had any scent. How had they masked it from us? Especially Brax, he had always been able to single out the different species. However they had done it, it must have been recently.

"We need to get them out of the road." Dane tells Eric. "If someone comes along here, it will draw too much attention. We don't need any more unwelcome visitors at our gates."

He hadn't said anything about them being part of Black Shadow, but he is livid.

"Wait." I mutter as Eric grabs the nearest man. "Have you searched them? They might have some information about why they did this or who they did this for."

Brax stares at me "You're expecting me to find a phone number?"

"I don't know, maybe!" I retort

"The problem isn't them, Neah." His eyes shift to Dane. "The problem is how many of your Wolves have turned against you."

"They wouldn't." I snap. "They didn't turn against Dane. It was me and you that they tried to kill."

Eric checks them anyway, but ultimately finds nothing. Brax and Eric move the bodies from the road and into the trees as Dane guides me back in the direction of Black Shadow. His anger is rolling off of him, though he keeps his eyes forward.

"Dane?"

"I didn't want you to come out here. You could have....."

"But I didn't." I cut him off. "I am not weak, Dane. The car slammed into us three times. I should be dead. If I was human, I probably would be, but I'm not. You couldn't have expected this to happen. We went to speak to Samara and Blair. None of us could have prepared ourselves to be attacked by Black Shadow Wolves, Wolves from your own pack."

I pause my movements and have to blink a few times. I still had a haze that came and went.

"Are you okay?" Dane presses, watching me carefully.

I nod, but Nyx is still unusually quiet. "You have Aero. When you hit your head, can it make them dizzy too?"

"Yes. Some would say it's a curse.

But the reality is, they are part of us

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in every way. Give Nyx some time to rest and she will be okay. You should be resting too." Usually he would smile when he was giving me words of reassurance, but this time, he doesn't.

"What are you going to do?" I ask as we start moving again.

"Get Klaus to check you over."

"You know that is not what I'm talking about. Do you think this guy that took Maddie has something to do with all of this?"

"It would be a big coincidence if it

wasn't him. Brax said the guy was asking Maddie questions. One of the other Ash's said the same. It's a possibility that Cooper has

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corrupted them. Maybe twisted their words to make them question themselves."

"Black Shadow has always been a strong pack. They have always been respectful of you as their Alpha. So whatever he is telling them, it's enough to convince them."

"The problem is, a lot of things are changing. There are now more Lycans in the pack than there are Wolves."

"You think the Wolves feel threatened?"

"It's a possibility. It might only be a few that have fallen victim to his lies."

"But Cooper is a Lycan. If they have a problem with Lycans, why would they work for him?"

He stops me and cups my face. His crimson eyes searching my own. "Do you trust me?"

"Yes. You know I do." I mutter, confused. "Why?"

"When we get to the road that leads up to the gates, I'm going to carry you in. I need you to pretend you are out of it." He looks me up and down.

I frown, "You're testing them?"

"You know I have my own ways of weeding out the unloyal ones. All I ask is that you don't make a sound and you stay in the house, unseen for a few days."

Chapter 0359

"What about the boys?"

"I will be present and so will Damien, Eric, Mallory, Klaus." He sighs "And Brax if needed. Besides, they can't talk yet so it's not like they can tell anyone where you are or how you are."

"What about Dorothy? She could tell someone. I don't want to ask her to keep a secret, she is just a kid. She's only just started school."

"Dorothy will stay with Athena and Sebastian tonight. We will work out a plan going forward. Though it might not be needed. Carrying you through the gates should be enough to show me if anyone else is planning on fucking with the pack. I'm hoping it's just those three idiots. But if there is anyone else, it will be dealt with promptly."

"That might work for your Wolves, but how do you think the Lycans are going to react when they find out it was your Wolves that attacked me? They came here and have shown that they are here to support me. We could be starting a war on our own doorstep. I'm not prepared to do that."

I had asked the Lycans to come here and now because of one man, everything was about to be ripped apart. A war on our own land would be perfect for someone like Cooper.

"That's what he wants." I murmur as reality hits me

"You think a war is what he wants?"

"Yes."

Dane cocks a brow at me.

"The Wolves, when they were making their way to us, they were talking about getting something done. If they wanted to kill me, they would have done so first, but they went for Brax. They muttered about doing it quickly because I would heal, they needed to get him out of the way."

I shake my head, piecing the bits of information together. "They are Wolves who know you, Dane. Most likely know how you operate. If they are working with him, they would have told him that. And what is one thing that you are guaranteed to do?"

"Protect you and our boys."

I speed up, "Where are the boys?" I have a brief moment of panic, but I know they are fine. I would feel it if something was wrong.

"With Damien and Mallory. Damien won't let anyone near them."

"Good. But if you carry me back into the pack, it's going to start the wrong kind of attack. We should go back in like nothing has happened if anyone questions it, tell them it was car trouble. Technically it's not a lie. And if anyone does question something that doesn't fit what we said, you will have your answer as to who is involved."

"Is that right?" There's a twinkle in his eyes, he was impressed with my idea. He grins at me. "The problem is, you are covered in blood."

I look down at my tee. There is a large hole ripped through the front, right where my stomach is, it was also soaked in my own blood. My jeans are

splattered with deep red streaks and spots and so are my arms. I can only imagine what my face looks like.

"You can't walk in the pack looking

like that, it will draw too many eyes, especially if we are going to act like everything is normal." He grabs my hand and pulls me into the forest. "There's a stream nearby. We get you cleaned up and Klaus can bring you some clean clothes.

"Klaus?"

"It will look too suspicious if Damien leaves as well as me, plus he is watching the boys and Mallory is still not a hundred percent. Klaus can leave without anyone questioning him."

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We head further into the forest until we find the fast flowing stream. Crimson eyes lock on mine as he rips my tee apart and peels it from my shoulders, leaving me in my blood soaked bra and jeans. He pulls off his own shirt and hangs it on a nearby branch. Crouching down to the water, he soaks my ripped tee while frowning at the streaks of red all over my abdomen.

"Come here." He orders.

I step closer to him. Using the tee, he gently wipes the blood from my stomach, paying close attention to the area where the seat belt had buried itself into my flesh. There are no marks left, but his fingers glide over the non-existent wound.

"I'm healed." I whisper

"It should never have happened." His hands move to my waist as he stands.

"I'm not as fragile as I once was. Anyone could have been hurt."

"But it wasn't anyone was it? It was you."

Chapter 0360

Neah

He wipes the wet cloth over my face and his eyes follow the droplet of water that travels down to my chin and then down between my breasts and into my bra.

"I've lost enough people." He mutters as he continues to wipe blood from me.

"I'm not going anywhere, Dane. I'm yours, I will always be yours and I will fight for my family." I had intention of going anywhere. There might have been a time that I would have just given up, but that wasn't me anymore.

He pulls me in against him with enough force it knocks the air out of my lungs. His lips are on mine before I have a chance to take a breath.

In one fluid movement, he lifts my legs around his hips and drops us to the ground. His tongue dives into my mouth and he thrusts his hardening cock against me in desperate need.

His lips move to my jaw leaving behind soft kisses that seem to be sending little spikes of electricity through me. He continues down to the mark on my neck as his breath ignites my skin.

"Dane." I whisper as he rips the bra from my chest.

His lips collide with mine as he squeezes my breast, rolling my nipple under his thumb before sucking it into his mouth. My hands lock in his hair as my back arches and a breeze hits my thighs as he rips my jeans from me.

He sits back staring at me as I try to catch my breath when suddenly, he runs a finger straight up the centre of my black panties, sucking a gasp from

me.

As he strokes me, he pushes my thighs apart and presses his face against my wet pussy. Using his teeth, he rips apart the panties and pulls the ripped fabric from me like they were the only thing that was stopping him.

His tongue glides over my centre as his hands slide around my ass. He pulls my hips off the ground, plunging his tongue deeper inside of me.

Biting down on my bottom lip, I hold in the moan as his tongue licks me clean. He squeezes my ass as I grind against his face and his crimson eyes lock with mine. There was something about him watching me as he brought me closer and closer to an orgasm that makes me want more.

He stops "Trying to hold those noises in?"

I nod, very aware of where we are. Someone could be watching us and we would have no idea. Especially if they had no scent.

He drives a finger into me as his tongue flicks over my clit, watching me desperately trying to keep my moans to a minimum.

A second finger forces me to release my bottom lip from my teeth and the third finger has me shuddering around him.

He doesn't let me enjoy the moment. Instead, he pulls me up against his bare chest as his cock presses against the front of my pussy.

Dane locks a hand against the back

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of my head, desperately kissing me as his other hand teases my pussy from behind. He lifts me a little, letting the tip of his cock press against my entrance and holds me so can't slide down.

"I need you." I whisper.

He pulls on my bottom lip with his teeth and he thrusts just enough to be inside of me.

"More!" I plead and he strokes my pussy with his fingers with a huge grin on his face. He knew full well what I wanted.

He holds my chin between his finger and thumb. "Take control."

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I pull his hands away from my ass and press my lips against his as I sink down onto his solid cock. He groans when I start to ride him. His hands lock around my waist, his fingers dig in against my skimas the

desire in my centre tightens Content

belongs to

I move slow, enjoying how his cock fills every bit of me. My head tips back as my muscles clench around him. "Fuck! Ohhhh...."

Dane grips my arse, thrusting up into me each time I come down on him, forcing me to speed up until I can't take no more.

"Keep going." He growls and unexpectedly slaps my ass as he guides me up and down his length until he is swelling inside of me.

He sucks my nipple into his mouth and bites down as ecstasy hits. My own movements slow, riding him as ripples of delight shatter me.

Dane moves quickly, flipping me onto my back and pulling my right leg up over his shoulder. He plunges his length back into me. "I'm not done yet." And fucks me until I can barely see straight.

His heavy breathing matches mine. He thrusts harder and harder as I beg him to fill me with his load.

Pressing his whole body against mine, his teeth find the mark on my neck and sink into my flesh as he fills me with his cum.

As we lay together, his tongue

swipes over my neck, licking up the spilled blood from the bite. He runs his thumb over the wound as it heals. had never thought to

el.ne

question him about why he bites me and why he always seemed to enjoy tasting my blood, but I knew he never did it to hurt me.

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0361 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0361

Chapter 0361

"Come on." He gets up and holds a hand out. "As much as I would prefer laying with you, Klaus is on his way."

"And you ripped all of my clothes." I mutter, letting him pull me to my feet.

He walks over to the shirt he had hung on a branch and hands it to me. "Why do you think I took this off?" He presses his lips to my cheek then heads to the stream to clean himself up.

I fasten the blue shirt around me, grateful that Dane is much bigger than I am. The shirt swamps me and easily covers my ass and thighs. As Dane is fastening his jeans, he walks back to me, locking his eyes on mine as he rolls each sleeve back to my elbows. "I should bring you out into the forest more often."

The snapping of twigs alerts our attention to Klaus heading our way. He's carrying a rucksack and hands it to Dane. "Eric and Brax were wondering where you have got too."

"We will be home shortly. Did they say anything?"

"Brax said car troubles. Eric said you two probably took a detour." He winks at me and turns away. "So I brought another car and I will be waiting in it." I wait for him to go and

started pulling out the clothes. As soon as I saw underwear, I knew that Mallory would have packed it. Men don't tend to think about those things.

"How did Brax know to say that?" I mutter, pulling on the matching white underwear.

"It's like you said, it isn't a lie. Maybe it was the best option he could think of until he spoke to us."

He leads me back to the road where Klaus is sitting in the driver seat of a jeep, book in hand as he munches on an apple. He chucks the book in the back seat as he spots us. "Ready?"

Dane opens the door for me and wipes something from my cheek as I sit down. I see the red on his thumb and he quickly rubs it away and jumps into the front as Klaus starts the car.

Did he not trust Klaus anymore?

'He's being cautious.' Nyx mutters

'Finally.' It was so good to hear her.

'Please don't go getting hit by a car again.' She mutters. 'It messes with me.'

'It wasn't intentional.'

I feel her roll her eyes. 'Something so stupid, but does so much damage.'

'I don't intend on letting it happen again! Were you aware of the other things that happened?'

'Yes.' She groans

'Three members of Black Shadow.' I sigh. 'Three of Dane's own Wolves.'

'You are doing the right thing. It's what I would have suggested.'

"You're very quiet back there." Klaus murmurs. "Are you okay?"

"Just tired." I reply but I watch Dane stare at him.

'It's not him.' I link Dane. 'He is just

asking why I'm quiet, he didn't ask

anything about the accident. You know

Klaus, he wouldn't dou

Dane doesn't answer me, but I do see him relax, but not completely.

'I think Brax would know in a heartbeat if it was Klaus.' Nyx tells me.

I had to agree and I really hoped it was just the three dead Wolves involved.

Klaus stops the car just outside of the gate. Ryken and another Wolf are on duty. I was a little surprised that Dane would have agreed to it. He had said multiple times that he wanted the Wolves to have most of the control here.

"Where's Mako?" Klaus asks

"His mate has gone into labour. I was nearest, said I would keep watch so he could go be with her." He shouts as he opens the gates.

"I will send someone down." Dane tells him.

"No need, I've got this covered." Ryken bobs his head.

"Wolves man the gate."

'We don't know who else is involved.' I link Dane again. Having a Wolf that is plotting against the pack is not someone we needed guarding the pack.

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"Scrap that. You can do a shift." Dane tells Ryken

Ryken looks happy to be doing something useful. I guess he must be finding it hard, going from a position of leadership to suddenly doing nothing.

"Any problems, you will need to link Neah." Dane orders as Klaus drives us through.

Klaus takes us to the front of the packhouse and tells us he will be heading off to the hospital to do a check on everything.

"I thought you wanted him to check me over." I murmur to Dane as I watch him drive away.

"Did I not check you thoroughly enough?" He muses.

Even now after several years together, he still somehow made me blush

Chapter 0362

Dane

"It's the better plan." Brax nods as he messes with his mop of black curls. "Neah isn't wrong. If there are others involved, they would expect her to come back looking like a mess. Or maybe never coming back at all."

"And you don't want us to tell Klaus?" Mallory asks as she bounces Logan on her knees, "Why?"

"As much as I appreciate all the work Klaus has done for this pack and for Neah, I'm worried someone will use his desire for knowledge to get information from him. He is very open about answering questions and that might just get him into trouble. The only people that need to know what is happening are in this office."

Everyone nods apart from Neah. Her blue eyes lock onto mine but she keeps her lips pressed together. She knows there is more to what I'm saying, but chooses not to share.

"Any signs of Maddie?" Damien asks.

"No." Neah sighs as she rocks back and forth with Evrin in her arms.

"And you didn't kill Blair?" He presses.

"No."

"She was scared." Brax adds.

"You were scared?" Eric asks Neah, confused.

"No, Blair was." Brax smiles to himself

"She deserves to be after everything she has done." Damien frowns at Brax. "I thought you of all people would have ended her."

I watch Brax look over at Neah. She had told him not to, though I hadn't had a chance to ask her why.

'Maybe because she has lost her abilities.' Aero mutters. 'Maybe she doesn't see her as a threat anymore.'

"There were no others in the area. Eric and I did a sweep." Brax is telling the others. "There were no other tracks. It was just those three." "But there were also no scents." Neah adds. "There could have been more and we just didn't know about it."

"So they have found a way to completely mask their scent? How?" Damien asks

"I'm guessing Cooper has something

to do with it. mean, he took away Blair and Samara's Lycan abilities without binding them. And

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according to Samara, he's done it to others too, both men and women, both Wolves and Lycans. The guy doesn't have a preference. Neah tells them

"But Maddie?" Mallory asks. "She hasn't done anything wrong. She has problems, but who doesn't? So how does she fit in all of this?"

"He didn't like that he saw us together. I was going to kill him. Madison stopped me, she said she would talk to him. She should have let me pull the trigger."

"You didn't know he was going to do this." Mallory mutters.

"I should have trusted my instincts but....." He doesn't finish. We had all been there. Caught up in the moment with your mate, so much that you don't always think properly in the moment. A few seconds could change everything.

"Have you had any problems with the dead Wolves?" Damien asks, taking the attention away from Brax.

"No."

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"That's not completely true." Eric mutters. He looks over to me. "A couple of years back. Fallon was one of the ones questioning your decision to let Neah stay, just after you announced she was a Lycan. Remember, he was trying to get the pack worked up, but it just didn't happen."

"Why would he wait this long to do something?" Neah asks. "Why wait until there are more Lycans here? Why wait at all?"

"Because he is an idiot!" Brax mutters, cleaning his gun. "All he needed was someone else to confirm his problems. My guess is Cooper did exactly that. And now those three are dead. Nothing short of what they deserve."

"Will you put that away!" I snap. Brax rolls his eyes at me and slips the gun inside his belt.

"What about the others? Past problems with them?" Damien asks Eric.

"No, in fact they have always done exactly what they are supposed to do. There has never been any trouble from them. Jenson didn't fuck either one over. They have always been proud to have been part of Black Shadow." He turns to me "Just like everyone else. We could be dealing with any number of problems, Dane or we could just be dealing with this one Lycan. We just don't know."

"Can you tell?" Neah asks Brax

"Possibly,"

"I need a better answer than that." She snaps at him

"I will see what I can do."

"Don't go killing any of them without talking to me first." I tell him as he heads for the door.

Chapter 0363

"If it's self defence, there won't be time for me to bring their problems to you." Brax slams the door behind him.

"You know it wasn't just me that was attacked, he was too." Neah mutters "And you are treating him like the enemy."

"My priority isn't to protect him."

'But she has a point.' Aero tries to reason with me, 'He did exactly what you asked him to do. He protected our mate. The moment he killed them, he could have just got up and walked away, but he didn't.'

"He doesn't have to help. He could leave at any time, but he is still here." Neah sighs

"Yeah, because his mate is here." Damien retorts

"You found your mate here too, Damien." Mallory smiles sadly.

Damien frowns at her. He just didn't speak of my sister. He acted like it was nothing more than a blip in his timeline.

"I did too. It happens." Mallory continues

"This is different." Damien shakes his head

"How? You lost it when Salem took Raven. Just like Brax is pissed that someone has taken his mate. You two have more in common than you realise. Or maybe you do know it, you just won't accept it. I mean, you have even started carrying a gun again, just like when you were human."

"Mal," Eric starts

"No." Mallory stands up and holds Logan out to Eric. "I just need a minute."

Neah passes Evrin to me and follows Mallory out of the office.

"I should go after...." Eric mutters, trying to give Logan to Damien.

"Let Neah talk to her." I tell him I don't think any of this is about what happened out there this afternoon." I glance at Logan in Eric's arms. Mallory had been holding him, and bouncing him up and down, but not once did she look at him. It was more like she was just going through the motions. "Shit." Damien mutters. "I didn't think. She didn't say anything."

"She wanted to be here." Eric adds. "She would have said if it was too much. She loves the twins. Maybe for a brief moment, she.... forgot." He sits in the empty chair and leans forward while resting his elbows on his knees. "I wasn't paying attention."

"You can't be in her head twenty four/ seven." I offer. "She needs to let herself grieve."

"You're right." He sits up straight. "So what are we going to do about this Cooper?"

"We stick to Neah's plan, for at least a few days. Everyone of us needs to pay attention to the pack and people's movements. Especially those that come and go from the pack."

"And then?" Damien asks

"Then we can make a plan. But first of all, you need to take this Blood Oath and become an official part of Black Shadow. I need you to be able to link everyone and I cannot expect the Lycans to make an oath yet.

"I thought you had planned a fancy ceremony?" He cocks an eyebrow at me, a smirk lingers on his face.

"There was supposed to be one, but something tells me you would rather just get it over and done with." "Good."

"There is something else."

Eric nods his head at me. I had already told him my plan, but whether Damien would agree or not would be a different matter.

"What is it?" Damien asks, his gaze shifting between Eric and I.

"I want you to be a representative of Black Shadow."

"Doesn't my role as Beta already signify that?"

"Yes, but I want you to become a Black. Whether you like it or not, you are one of us."

He laughs, "You're joking right?"

"You do realise that as you were

mated to Raven, you are family. I know Neah, see's it like that. I see

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you as more of a brother than what Jenson ever was. I don't give a shit what your gic makeup is you are one of us."

He looks over to Eric. "He's serious?"

"About as serious as it comes." Eric muses

"Then why didn't you...."

"I took the Beta oath. Becoming a Black was not something I could do even if I wanted to. I have parents and they would hang me if I tried to ditch the family name."

I clear my throat. "The question is, Damien, how important is your surname? And do you see yourself being a complete part of this pack?"

Chapter 0364

Damien

My eyes move to Eric. Dane couldn't be serious. Especially not now, not with all that is happening.

"Well?" Dane mutters as he puts Evrin down on the floor. I watch him crawl over to his brother, completely oblivious to what's happening. It must be wonderful to only care about food, sleep, a clean nappy and feeling happy.

"Why?"

"I thought I had already made myself clear." Dane muses. "I honestly don't care that you are different." He points to his boys. "They are different from me, yet they are still mine."

"Neah?"

"Neah knows."

"Is she okay with it?"

"She thinks it's a great idea."

"Damien Black." I mutter to myself

"Suits you perfectly." Eric smiles

Mallory had always been my family. No one else, just me and her until.... And then it was just me and her again, surrounded by those I had become good friends with.

"You don't have to decide right....."

"I will do it. I want to do it."

Dane holds his hand out to me and shakes mine. "Welcome to the family."

He sends Eric to go and get Neah and Mallory, so they can be here to witness both the oath and my acceptance into the family.

Mallory loops her arms around me and apologises for snapping at me earlier while Neah makes a joke about putting me on uncle duties.

"First, I need you to formally accept the name." Dane tells me. "Give me your hand."

"You know what you are doing?"

"Yes. I had to do it when my stepmother accepted me as her own." He tells me.

I hold my hand back out and he takes it in his like he was going to shake it again. Eric steps forward with a rope, tying it around both of our wrists but leaves the back of our hands uncovered. He takes out a knife and positions the tip against the back of Dane's hand. He pushes the tip into Dane's flesh and starts dragging it towards my hand, splitting his skin open.

"Do you, Damien, relinquish all past ties and accept the Black family name as your own?"

"I do."

"Do you, Damien Black, accept me, Alpha Dane Black as your brother?"

"I do." Eric's knife pierces my flesh, splitting the skin across the back of my hand, mixing Danes blood with mine.

"Do you, Damien Black, understand that you will forever carry the Black surname and that you will represent Black Shadow for as long as you shall live?"

I couldn't help but smile. I could already feel a connection building with Dane that wasn't there previously.

His hand squeezes mine and his crimson eyes are wide as he waits for my answer.

"Yes, I do."

"And finally, do you, Damien Black, accept the position of Black Shadows Beta?"

"Get ready." Eric warns me with a smirk

"I do."

Eric rips the blade back up to Dane's hand, spilling even more of my blood. As it slices through Dane's skin, I feel more connections to people than I had ever felt before.

Dane's hand heals quicker than mine and Eric slowly unbinds the ropes. His eyes meet mine. 'And now you can hear all of us when needed.' His voice rattles through my head.

It was an odd feeling to hear a Wolf. But what's even stranger is the strength that I feel. Is that how Dane feels all the time?

The back of my hand begins to heal until a thin pink line remains, but even that fades more quickly than usual.

"How do you feel?" Dane asks.

"Different. How is that possible?"

"My blood." He murmurs

"But it's not a Blood Tie?" Neah asks with concern

"No. It's nothing like what Kyle did to you." Dane tells her.

"Why now?" I ask

"Shouldn't you have asked that before agreeing?" Eric laughs and Mallory elbows him.

"You made it sound like it's something you have been considering for a while," I say to Dane. "So why now?"

"You are right. It is something I have

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been thinking about for several months. But there has never been what I would consider the right time to ask. And right now, it doesn't seem like there is ever going to be a righttime, except for right in the moment. You were going to take the Béta Oath anyway, so why not offer you what I was hoping you would say yes too!"

"Now you will know if I'm in trouble, and I can link you if needed." He adds

I glance over to Mallory who winks

at me. Neither of us had expected anything to come out of living here My goal was simply to get her

somewhere where she could

actually live the life she wante

I

just had a simple goal of protecting the Alpha. Never did I think anything like this would happen.

"So now I'm officially a part of the pack, what are we doing next? I assume you want us to carry on as normal?"

"Exactly that. We will stick with Neah's plan unless something changes. We will re-evaluate when and if something happens. But everyone needs to be vigilant. I'm not letting some fucker destroy what I have spent years building. Dane scowls but his eyes are on his twins.

Chapter 0365

And even I had this strange need to protect them more than I ever did before.

The twins start getting grumpy and Neah tells us she is taking them to get some food. Eric and Mallory head off home leaving Dane and I alone.

"There's more isn't there?" I ask

"I'm putting precautions in place."

"In case something happens to you, right?"

He sighs. "There has always been a plan. I had siblings. But if something happens to me and Neah now, the boys are not anywhere near old enough

to step up. I need a Black that can hold the position until they come of age. And you are more than capable of running a pack."

"It's not going to come to that."

"Still, precautions." He mutters.

I nod. If I had known about his precautions beforehand, it wouldn't have made a difference. I still would have accepted.

"I also need to go through our history with you." He adds, "Just in case. But first, I want to check on Ryken."

We head down to the gates. The last place I expected to find Ryken. Dane informs me that the other guard had to leave because his wife went into labour.

Ryken is busy chatting to the second guard, but puts a hand up to acknowledge us heading towards him.

"What's that?" I could see something further up the road towards the main road. A dark object sprawled across the ground, almost hidden by the shadows of the trees.

I couldn't smell anything.

"Open the gates." I yell as I get closer.

Ryken gives me an obscure look but pulls the gate back just enough to let me through.

I tell Dane to stay back. If it was a trap, it was better for just one of us to get caught in it. I move forward until I catch the subtle scent of a Human. Slowing my steps, I scan the nearby trees, sniffing the air. But there's nothing other than familiar scents from the pack and the Human.

"Shit." Red waves peak out under the hood over her head.

"What is it?" Dane calls out.

"Get Brax." I yell back and roll the person on their back.

Maddie's eyes are closed. A large gash runs from her temple, over her right eye and down to her chin. She needed stitches and probably antibiotics.

I lift her off the ground, and hurry her back inside the gates. "Don't just fucking stand there!" I snap at Ryken and the other guard. "Close the gates!" How had they not seen her? How had they not seen whoever was responsible for this?

"Klaus is at the hospital." Dane tells me. I don't hesitate and charge across the grounds.

"Maddie?" Klaus mutters as I burst through the doors. "You found her?"

"She was outside the gates, like this. Dane is finding Brax. She doesn't smell like a Lycan anymore."

He ignores me and investigates the wound on her face. "She's not healing either."

He works quickly, cleaning the

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wound as I check her hands. Blood and bits of skin and hair are trapped under her nails. I have seen it so many times in my human life. She had fought the bastard. Tried leaving a mark. Had she gotten away from him? Had she made it back here alone?

"WHERE IS SHE?!" Brax yells.

"She's with Klaus." Dane tells him. "Just give him a chance to assess her."

"Are you sure it's her? All I can smell is Human."

I step out of the room. "It's her. He has done the same thing to her as what he did to Blair and the other woman."

He pushes past me and steps into the room, only to turn around and walk back out.

"Brax." Dane blocks him. "You need to keep it together."

"I'm not part of your pack." He growls back at Dane.

"Going out there when we have no idea how she made it back, is not going to help you or her."

"I think she made it back here alone." I tell them what I saw under her fingernails. "I don't think she was dumped."

Brax narrows his eyes at me. "Did you find her?"

"Yes."

"Where?"

"Outside the gates."

"And who was guarding the gates?" He demands

"None of your business."

He looks at Dane for answers.

"I'm with Damien on this one. I can't

have you shooting my pack when

we don't have any information. Now

sit

fast and hope that your mate is

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Brax glares at both of us but sits in the chair outside of Maddie's room.

Klaus comes out after a little while.

"She's a little dehydrated. I've stitched her up. Her body isn't even healing a little so she will scar and it's not the only scar she will have. I found deep scratches on her back too. Most likely from a Lycan. I would say from the cuts on her feet, she was running and then passed out."

And neither one of the men at the gates saw her.

Chapter 0366

Abraxas

My eyes trail over the wound on Madisons face. Klaus had done a good job stitching her up, Making it as neat as possible but it was like he said, she would have a scar, a permanent reminder of what happened.

She couldn't heal anymore, everything could hurt her.

Her breaths are slow and steady. Ugly purple bruises litter her pale skin and her soul develops cracks as I watch.

I couldn't feel a connection to her anymore. I couldn't scent her as my mate and yet I find myself unable to leave her.

Though I should go and shoot those bastards at the gate. Neither of them had seen her. Had she called out for help? Had they seen her and just ignored her? Did they watch her drop to the ground and turn a blind eye?

Stepping out of the room, I find Damien waiting. "How is she?"

"What do you think?"

He studies me. "Is she awake?"

"No. Where's Dane?"

"Gone to do some investigating."

"Then I should go too." I glance back at the room and start moving forward. Damien's hand hits me square in the chest.

"No, you should stay here with her. I expect she will want to see you when she wakes up."

"I never claimed her." I tell him. "I can't scent her anymore."

"So you are going to walk away?" He challenges me, "Just like that?"

Madison and I should never have been paired. I'm a Hunter, she's a Lycan. Was a Lycan. It should never have worked and yet I could not get her out of my head. I had met up with her every single day since she started the fire. At first, it was just to keep an eye on her and to make sure she didn't do anything else. Then the more I got to know her, the harder it was to stay away and I couldn't keep my hands off of her.

It was wrong, yet I couldn't stop.

"Well?" Damien asks

"This is new for me." I mutter. Making decisions had always been easy for me until it came to her. I had wanted to protect her even though our bond was wrong. I still want to protect her, but I could also just as easily walk away.

"We will find a way to get her Lycan back." Damien tells me confidently.

"You don't even know what we are dealing with. That Samara girl said she has been without her Lycan for five years. What if there is no way? What if this is her for the rest of her life?"

"She can stay in the pack. She will be safe here."

I snort. "You're actually being serious! Look around you. She was taken from the pack."

He stares at me but doesn't speak.

"Go on, say it asshole." I demand

"Why didn't you trust your instincts?"

"Are you trying to put this on me?!" I snarl

"You said it yourself, you didn't like the guy. But you let him go because of one of Dottie's stickers. You put your trust in a seven year old. A kid that can't even remember what she had for breakfast."

"Trust me, I won't be making that mistake again."

Groans come from Madison's room and Damien continues to glare at me as I back up and slip inside to check on Madison

She moans in pain as she stretches out. With her eyes closed, her hand moves to her face. Her fingertips run across the freshly stitched wound. "Ow."

"Leave it." I tell her.

"Brax." She whispers, peering at me through slits

"I'm here." I pull her hand into mine

"I made it back." She winces, "Everything hurts."

"I know. Just close your eyes and sleep. We can talk when you have rested."

"His name wasn't Ash." She

murmurs closing her eyes. "His

name is Cooper." Her grip on my

hand loosens and her heartbeat slows but stays steady as she drifts back into unconsciousness. Content

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"It was just as we suspected." I mutter to Damien, knowing he was standing in the doorway behind me.

"How did she get away?" Damien mutters.

Chapter 0367

"She didn't say and I'm not waking her until she is ready. Samara escaped. Neah thinks Blair was purposely released. It's possible Cooper wanted her to come back here so she could show us what he is capable of." I look over my shoulder at him. "I will make him suffer. I will rip him to shreds." "I don't doubt it."

Silence settles between us.

"You don't have to blame me." I mutter after several minutes, "I already blame myself. She is my mate and I didn't protect her. I failed because I couldn't decide whether I wanted to mark her. I couldn't decide if I should just accept her. She is the first person to truly make me question my thoughts. Do you know what that's like?"

"Not the questioning, but I failed Raven." He takes the seat by the door. "I couldn't keep her safe from her own mind or her twin. I didn't see what was right in front of me."

"You haven't spoken about her since the incident."

"Because I haven't been able to." He sighs and leans back while shaking his head. "Every single person in that packhouse loved her. Her brother was there, her friend, her nephews, Dottie."

"Exactly! People who loved her. People that are waiting for you to talk about her."

"None of them understand losing a mate. None of them understand how close I came to killing my own mate, not really."

I nod and look at Madison. I had considered putting a bullet in her brain when she first arrived, but I never could bring myself to do it. Just like Damien only managed to shoot her in the collarbone rather than her head.

"That's why Neah shot her right, so you wouldn't have to kill your own mate."

"Yes."

"And it wasn't Raven in the end."

"It still looked like her." He frowns, "I've killed a lot of people. When I was Human and when I turned. But watching her die has been the hardest thing I have dealt with."

"Losing a mate isn't the same as losing others to death. And you know, Damien. You know deep down that it wasn't her."

"Why didn't I see that she had given up?" He asks me

"You told me her mind was in chaos. That wasn't because of her, that was because of him. But take it from someone who has lost a mate and a child. Let yourself accept it. Don't block it out. It will kill you otherwise."

He scowls at me. "Do you see something, is that what you are trying to tell me?"

"You don't strike me as the type that would actually want to know." Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"You are right. I don't." He rises to his feet. "Dane is linking me. Let us know when she wakes."

"You took the oath?" I ask, surprised. I was fully expecting him to back out. Maybe he was stronger than I thought.

"And I became a Black."

Maybe that would be the very thing he needed. Time will tell.

I pace the corridor. Klaus is with Madison, checking her vitals and I had to leave. I couldn't stand seeing another man's hands on her, even if he was only helping her and if hadn't left the room, Madison wouldn't be getting the help she needs.

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The door to her room opens and Klaus cautiously steps out. "Are you going to hit me?"

"No."

"Good. Because I will fight back."

I stare at him. I had never seen him at training, yet somehow he keeps a very muscled and toned physique. He had to be doing something. "How is she?"

"Still out. I've changed her IV, and did some x-rays. Nothing is broken. Whatever happened to her, it looks like she had a lucky escape."

"Does she need anything? Anything

that you might not have here, you know, because she is ultimately Human now? I can go and pick up some things."

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"I have everything. Raven kept the place fully stocked because of Neah and she has done since, just in case."

"She was always prepared."

Chapter 0368

"More than any of us." Klaus confirms

Maybe if I had spent more time around Raven, I could have seen what was coming before it was too late. Or maybe, this was how it was always meant to be. The higher powers worked in fucked up ways. That was becoming more and more obvious.

"How long will she sleep for?" I ask

"Possibly a few hours. As you are probably aware, it will be different for her now."

"Good, I have somewhere I need to be."

"I think you should stay." Klaus blocks my way

"You said she isn't going to be awake for a while and I need to make some fucker pay for this!"

"Who?" He challenges.

"I don't know yet. But I will find out soon enough."

"Let Damien and Dane get answers. I'm sure someone saw something." Klaus tells me, his words full of optimism. He really wouldn't have survived as a Hunter. Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"I can't just sit by her bedside. That's not how I operate."

"And what do I say to her if she wakes up?"

"Tell her that I'm going to kill the person who did this to her."

I push past him and fling open the hospital doors. Everything is dark and the pack is quieter than usual. There are still some Wolves and Lycans plodding around, but not much else was happening.

Jogging down to the gates, I wanted to see who was on guard duty, but I also wanted to go out and check where Damien had found her. Maybe there were some tracks that had been missed. Maybe I could see something they couldn't.

Ryken is standing at the gates. His attention focussed on the area outside the pack while the Wolf faced inwards. It was better than what I usually saw. Normally Wolves would stand chatting to each other.

"Ryken?!" I call out, but he doesn't move from his spot.

"Hunter!" He growls back. "Is the girl okay?"

"Yes, seen anything?"

"No."

"You didn't see Madison either, did you?"

"I thought it was a fallen tree." He mutters back. "There was no movement, no sound and no scent."

"You have to be a little closer to smell Humans." I mutter and the Wolf eyeballs me.

"Dane has informed me. I guess I have spent too long around Lycans rather than Humans. It won't happen again, trust me."

I had no reason to trust him yet. I probably never would.

"You took over from Mako, correct?" I press

"Yes."

The Wolf had stopped looking at me. In fact, he was now trying everything in his power to stop our eyes from locking on one another. Even when I step closer to him. He focuses on something over my shoulder.

"You are very quiet." I smile at him "What's your name?" I was quite tempted to just call him pussy, because that is how he is acting. "Emerson!" He spits out

"Friends with Mako?" I query

"I have nothing to add." He glares at me with his green eyes

"No? Because I would say by the level of avoidance that you are trying to master, you actually have a lot to say."

"I didn't see anything." He grumbles

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"Not a very good guard are you?" I muse. He was trying to hold his ground, but was also preparing to get himself out of here and away from me. "I will have to let Dane know. He wouldn't want someone as weak as you on the gates."

"I just mean...."

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"What the prick is trying to say is that he has an issue with me being on the gates." Ryken remarks. "That's what we were discussing when Dane and Damien came down here and saw the girl. I have told them both."

"Lycans shouldn't work the gate." Emerson snarls at me

"Is that your decision?" I muse "Or maybe you are just saying that because you know a little more about what happened to Madison."

"I don't know what happened to her."

The annoying thing was, he was telling the truth about Madison, but he was definitely hiding something.

Hey everyone. Hope you are all well.

To all my new readers; welcome. I hope you are all enjoying the story.

As always. Thank you for the gems, comments and reviews. I have to say, it's more than I ever expected for this story. I could thank you all a thousand times and still wouldn't be enough. Your feedback and predictions is also brilliant.

There is no update 30th June, but be prepared for July, alot of chapters are coming your way.

For those asking, this story has a lot more to come.

On my last author note, there was a comment to say someone had been charged for reading it. You shouldn't be as it's not a part of the storyline. If you do, please let me know and also contact goodnovel support.

See you in July.

Taylor West

Chapter 0370

Dane

Mako hands me his newborn son. It was customary in the pack for the Alpha to meet newborns and welcome them into the pack.

Swiping my thumb across his forehead with a tiny drop of my own blood, I officially welcome him as a member of Black Shadow. Mako beams at me, his blue eyes shining in delight.

"Sorry, I had to leave the gate." He murmurs. "I couldn't let my mate do this on her own. Though he was already here by the time I arrived." His mate was allegedly still in the bedroom being checked over by one of the nurses that my sister helped train. Yet I couldn't scent her presence.

'We should go and check.' Aero declares.

'We will,' I tell him. 'We just need to choose the right time.'

"It's no problem." I tell Mako, handing his son back.

"Ryken is a good guy." Mako tells me. "I was so grateful he was passing by."

"Emerson wasn't happy though, was he?" Damien asks

"Emerson is never happy." Mako mutters as he coos over his pup. "The guy wouldn't be happy if he had a million pounds and women dangling from his arms every second of the day. But things are changing here in the pack. He can't live in the past forever."

"Is that right?" Damien questions

"Well it is, isn't it! We have a Lycan Luna. You are mated to a Wolf. Mallory is mated to a Wolf. Rumour has it that the Hunter is mated to a Lycan too. Everything is changing. Maybe that is what the Moon Goddess has always wanted."

"The Moon Goddess." Damien muses. Maybe he was actually starting to side with Brax a bit more. Brax was always talking about higher powers. Whether that was true or not, no one could be certain.

Mako nods, not really getting Damien's sarcasm. "She has a plan for all of us."

Damien keeps his mouth shut and turns to the window. "Looks like you have another visitor."

Brax always knocks in the same way, almost as if it was his own secret code to tell us it was him. I open the door to him and his frown. "Is Maddie okay?"

"She's sleeping. Klaus said she should be good, though she will have scars." His hazel eyes flicker to Mako and the pup in his arms and then move back to me. "I have some things I need to discuss with you."

'Stay here.' I link Damien, 'Do some digging. Tactfully.' It was so useful being able to link him.

He bobs his head at me as I follow Brax. "Are you sure Maddie is okay?"

"What I said about Madison is true, something weird is going on down at the gate."

"I'm well aware that Emerson is pissed off with Ryken being there. He made that very clear to Damien and I."

"It's more than that. I got the impression Emerson was hiding something but he was also telling the truth about not seeing Madison."

"But you still think he is involved?"

"I need to do some more digging."

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He turns away, but quickly turns back. "The pup is not Makos, nor was it born today. Maybe yesterday or possibly even the day before Remember they are born with tiny souls."

"It's not his?"

"And it's not his mates either." He walks away. "You should question that."

'Why does he have to be so cryptic?' Aero frowns

'It's just the way he is.'

I make my way back into Mako's home just as Damien was asking "So you just took him?"

Both sets of eyes move to me.

"You are not going to believe this." Damien shakes his head.

I sigh, "Where did you find him?"

"In the city, yesterday." He lowers himself onto the edge of the sofa, cradling the pup.

"But you said your mate went into labour?" I ask, glancing to the stairs and Damien shakes his head at me.

Mako reaches into his pocket and pulls out a scrunched up piece of paper. He holds it out to me. "I should have come to you with this when I found it two days ago."

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I glance down at the note, 'I can't be here with all those beasts. They are taking over. They are ruining our pack. They will kill us all. I can't raise my pup here.' It wasn't Kira's writing.

"She took my unborn pup and left." He takes a deep breath. "When I went into the city, I found this guy, wrapped up and dumped down an

alleyway. I thought it was meant to be

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