

The Alpha's Contract

#Chapter 0251 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0251

Chapter 0251

Hey everyone, I want to apologise, there will be no update today. But I will be back tomorrow the 13th with a double update.

For those of you who are worried about Damien/ Mallory turning bad, you don't need to worry, you just need to let the events unfold and you will get more answers. Remember, everyone has a past and we have barely scratched the surface of Damien and Mallory, even after the conversation with Neah.

Any guesses who Mallory's mate is? She told Blair it was someone from the pack, but who? Hint, It's not Klaus This belongs to

As always, thank you for any reviews, comments and gems that you are willing to leave. They are more than appreciated.

Have a fab day.

Taylor West

Chapter 0252

Neah From

Since Damien and Dane had gone after Mallory, I had been pacing in front of the house, waiting for some news, any kind of news. Damien had been livid when I told him Mallory needed help.

Thankfully the twins were fast asleep when Dane appeared, dragging an unconscious Jenson across the ground. But other than that, they are alone which only ties my stomach up in more knots.

He is heading towards the dungeons.

Running to him, I ask what had happened.

"Mallory escaped, there wasn't enough time for her to explain what happened. I had to get him away." He gestures to Jenson. "The others stayed behind to see if she turned up."

“What did you do to him?”

“Nothing, he has been like this since we found Mallory dragging him into the forest. She crashed a car.”

I follow him into the dungeon, where he wastes no time in tossing Jenson into a cell. Jenson’s body rolls across the stone floor. Hitting the back wall with a thud. It reminded me of the time the same thing was done to Devon.

Dane turns to look at me, his crimson eyes lock on mine as he makes his way toward me. “You shouldn’t have let her go alone.”

“She already had. Yesterday. I didn’t know until this morning.”

“As soon as you found out, you should have told me, Neah. Maybe we could have planned for it. Handled it better than Mallory taking everything into her own hands.”

He’s annoyed and I find myself nodding, like a scolded child. There were still certain things that took me right back to my awful childhood.

“Is Blair alive?” I ask quietly as I watch Jenson.

“Yes from what I have heard. She turned up in Lycan form.”

His eyes glaze over, “And they are back.” Dane slams the cell door shut, locking it with a frown etched into his face.

Damien and Mallory are already in the house by the time we get back.

“That was a fucking stupid idea, Mallory!” Damien is snapping at her. “Of all the crap you have pulled over the years, you just walked straight into the lion’s den, without back up!”

“I was just getting answers!” Mallory growls back. “And I’m alive. Are you not grateful for that?!”

“Thanks to Neah.” Damien is glaring at Mallory when we enter the office.

“Really? It was alright for you to go hunting your brother for a whole month with no word if you were okay? You couldn’t even get off your high horse to contact anyone. Double fucking standards!”

“This has nothing to do with me!” Damien snaps. “This is you trying to prove something. If you hadn’t been able to link Neah, you would be dead.”

“No I wouldn’t”

“And you know that for certain?”

Mallory rolls her eyes at him. “Yes I do! Stop treating me like a child, Damien. I’ve been doing this shit a lot longer than you have. Is it because I’m a woman? Is that it? You feel the need to save the fucking day.”

“You know that is not what I mean.” He shakes his head at her

“That’s enough!” Dane snaps over the both of them. “Can we just be grateful that everyone is alive. Mallory, what happened?”

Mallory tells us everything except how she escaped.

“Did he let you go?” Damien quizzes.

She shakes her head and puffs out her cheeks. “I had help.”

“Who?”

“My mate.”

We all look at each other, because as far as we were aware, she had no mate. She had no mark on her neck, so she hadn’t been claimed either.

“Your mate?” Damien presses.

She quietly nods at us, but keeps her eyes lowered. “He’s a Wolf.” She mutters. “But he isn’t ready to tell anyone. Because...well, because everyone in the pack hates me.”

“He’s from my pack?” Dane asks, glaring at Damien

She bobs her head again. “When I linked Neah, it turned out I linked him too, but he was closer by. He was the one who knocked out Jenson.”

“Who?” Damien snaps.

“I won’t give you a name, Damien. I respect his decision.”

“You would only be able to link him if he claimed you.” I mutter.

“I know.” She lifts her top, showing us a mark on her stomach. A really random place to have a mark. Had he marked her there to keep his identity a secret? Because none of us would have known if it wasn’t for her telling us.

“How long?” Damien growls.

“A couple of weeks.”

“You never said anything.” Damien was so irritated that Mallory had kept something from him. “And it still doesn’t excuse the shit you pulled tonight.”

“Okay, but can you just hear me out? When she was attempting to torture me, I kept pushing and pushing, She wouldn’t shift so I assumed that she couldn’t. I pushed and pushed, expecting it to happen. When I questioned Jenson for information, he spilled that Blair is afraid to shift.”

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“Afraid?” Dane asks. His eyes flicker to me.

“Because she can’t control herself when she does.” Her eyes shift to Damien. “We both know everyone struggles with the darkness in different ways.” She sighs, “But she did anyway, I mean, we saw it. She ate that deer that I crashed into. Devouring it like it was a drug.”

“You still let her go.” Dane shakes his head in annoyance.

“Because she will come for Jenson.” Damien tells him. “She will come here, looking for him because he is her mate. We can trap her, keep her hostage and find out what her plan is.” From

“Or we could just kill her.” Dane mutters. “What good is a plan if she is already dead?”

Damien nods in agreement, but I still needed more answers. Answers that I would never get if they kill her.

“I need her alive.” I blurt out and feel everyone's gaze on me.

“Are you sure?” Dane asks

I bob my head. “She can’t be doing all this just because we share the same father. Because that isn’t my fault. I think there is more to her story.”

“We can see how much Jenson knows.” Mallory suggests. “Where did you put him?”

“Dungeon.” Dane answers abruptly and walks out of the office.

I follow him to the kitchen, where he starts to fill a bucket with cold water. Pure anger is written across his face. He moves to the ice machine and chucks the ice in the cold water.

“Dane....”

“We agreed no more secrets, Neah. I seem to be the only one that is doing that.”

I feel my heart drop. “I know... This wasn't supposed to happen.” I felt enough guilt already without him reminding me.

“I won't lose you Neah. The boys can't lose you either.”

“I know.” I really hadn't thought it through. “I just.... I finally feel that I have some control over my choices. This isn't how I thought tonight would go.”

He sighs and pulls me into his arms, locking them tight around me. “Come with me, let's try getting some answers from the prick in my dungeons.”

He grabs the bucket of water and hauls it out of the sink with ease.

“Why do you need that?”

“Something to help him wake up.”

Back in the dungeons, Jenson is still out cold. Dane unlocks the cell and steps in with the huge bucket of ice cold water and flings it all over him.

“FUUUUCCCCCKKKK!!! Jenson throws himself up right as Dane steps out of the cell and locks the door.

“Where the fuck am I?” Jenson demands. His eyes try to focus on the room. “Where is that bitch? Where's Blair?”

“I don't think you are in any position to be demanding answers.” Dane tells him. “What are you up to Jenson?!”

Jenson bares his teeth at Dane as if that was going to somehow scare him.

“You have tried to beat me multiple times, believing that you should be Alpha. You have tried taking Eric out for the Beta position. You continue to lose. so what do you want?”

“I did take out Eric, the moment I fucked his girl!”

Dane smirks and shakes his head. “Did you know the kids were yours?”

Jensons eyes narrow. “Of course I did.”

“Salem killed them.”

He shrugs his shoulders at Dane, unbothered and unphased.

“Seriously, they were yours and you don’t even care?” It bothered me. When I look at my boys, my heart feels like it's swelling with the love I have for them. How can someone just not care?

“Kelsie didn’t want me to have any part of their lives. She insisted your Beta believed them to be his own. I thought he might have figured it out way before now.” He laughs to himself. “Idiot.”

“Bastard.” Dane mutters

Jenson ignores him and looks me up and down. “Was the Lycan right? Did your kids turn out to be Lycans too?”

Dane sticks a hand out in front of me. A warning not to give him any information. Instead, I ask, “What are you and Blair up to?”

“You will find out soon enough.”

“Does it change things now that she has shifted?” I ask, wanting to annoy him as much as he annoyed me

There is a glimmer of fear in his dark eyes. That fear quickly turns to anger before they glaze over.

“You can try and link her all you want, little brother. She is too wrapped up in finding food to eat.”

“You’re wrong. She will burn this fucking place to the ground to find me.”

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Raven

“Maybe I can talk some sense into him.” I mutter to Midnight.

‘I don’t think it will work. Aspen is flat out ignoring me.’

“You can link him?” I ask surprised. She hadn't said anything.

‘Only when he arrived in the pack. It’s like it’s temporarily unlocked our ability to connect. But I’m not getting anything from him.’ She sighs. ‘Though being face to face might force him to speak to us.’ From

It had been two days since they had dragged him here. Damien and Dane took it in turns to interrogate him, but neither of them could get anything from him. Damien said it

was like getting blood from a stone. And the only reason they hadn't tortured him for information was because I had asked them not to.

A piece of me really hoped the kind brother that I love is in there somewhere, locked away by his own grief for Jess. I wondered if he had ever really gotten over it.

I had been begging to speak to him, to let me have just a couple of minutes with him. But both my brother and my mate said no.

"They won't let me." I tell Midnight. "There is just no way Damien or Dane are going to let me go down there."

'They are not the only ones in charge.'

"Midnight?!" I was so shocked by her response. She was usually the one that wanted to follow all the rules and obey our Alpha. But her itchiness to see her twin was eating away at her.

"Talking to your Wolf again?" Damien makes me jump as he makes his way through the open door of our bedroom.

I really need to be more aware when I'm talking to Midnight.

"Yes. She's my Wolf."

He steps up behind me, bringing his arms around my waist as he buries his face against my neck. His warm breath fans over my skin as he speaks, igniting every inch of me. "You do realise that I know you're trying to find a way to go and see Jenson."

I feel my cheeks flame.

"We are already holding off torturing him because you requested it. I know you think your brother is in there somewhere, but..."

"But what?"

"He made his choice, Raven. He made a choice to pair up with someone instead of dealing with his grief."

"You think he made a mistake? Claiming Blair."

"I think he was in over his head and Blair offered him something. Something that he couldn't say no to. And I know you think that too."

"Maybe I can get to the bottom of it. Maybe seeing me will help. We are twins, we have twin Wolves. He can't ignore me."

"I will speak to Dane."

"Thank you, that's all I'm asking."

"If he approves, you don't go alone. I mean it Raven."

"I won't be alone. I have Midnight."

"What is it with you two?"

I cock a brow at him, not following.

"Neah used the same phrase. But mentioned her Lycan."

"Because it's true." I step out of his hold and turn to face him. "Have you spoken to Mallory?"

An immediate anger washes over his face.

"I know you're mad, Damien. But she acted on Neah's orders. You can't stay mad at her for that."

"She could have got herself killed."

They hadn't spoken since their argument the other night. But he wasn't really mad at her for following Neah's orders. It was the mate secret. He wanted to know so that he could verify them. Though it didn't matter, from what I heard, the guy had already claimed her. And it was someone from our pack so it couldn't be that bad anyway.

"Should I be jealous that you are so angry about her having a mate?" I wasn't because I knew he was just worried about his best friend.

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"Of course not." He pulls me in against his hard chest. His lips find mine. The kiss is full of need and want. When he breaks away from me, my lips feel bruised but wanting more. "I only ever want you, Raven."

He stares at me for so long, it's like he is searching the very depths of my soul. My heart pounds in my chest and my core tightens with need. He cups my mound over my shorts, teasing me with his slow moving fingers. I knew he could feel how wet I was.

"DADDY! Where are you?" Dorothy shrieks

"I'm sorry." He murmurs against my cheek. "If it were an adult, I would have made them wait while I bend you over and fuck you."

“It’s okay, go. I can finish myself.” I smirk at him.

He kisses me just below the ear lobe. “Don’t you dare.” He warns and drags his teeth over my lobe. But I wasn’t promising anything. His version of punishing me was making me orgasm over and over until i couldn’t take it anymore. I wasn’t going to say no to that.

Damien closes the door as he leaves and I slide my hand inside my panties, making slow circles above my clit, imagining that it’s his tongue.

As I slide a finger between my folds I let out a soft groan and Damien’s voice fills my head. ‘I told you not too.’

His voice just adds fuel to the fire and the dull ache inside me grows. ‘Come fuck me then.’ I mutter back through the link. He doesn’t answer and less than a minute later, the door is practically taken off its hinges as he barges in.

He slams it shut with just as much force and faces me. His cock practically begging to be freed.

“What did I tell you?” He murmurs as my groans deepen.

I try to keep my eyes locked on his.

“Let me see.” He demands. His fingers hook into the waistband of my shorts and he tugs them down to my ankles along with my thong. A deep growl echoes in his chest as he takes in my drenched hand. This belongs to

“Sit on the bed.” He orders. “Don’t stop.”

As I sit, he kneels in front of me spreading my legs as wide as they can go. His fingers skim around the outside of my clit, sending a shudder of delight through me.

He unzips his jeans, letting his hardened cock free and with his free hand he slides it up and down his length as he watches me work.

“Oh Damien.” I mumble, biting back the scream that wants to rip through me.

His eyes flicker up to mine for a brief second and then his tongue hits my clit, working it quickly as I continue to finger myself.

“Damien!” My eyes roll as he suddenly pulls my fingers away, pushing his tongue inside of me as far as it could go.

Grabbing his hair, I ride his face as the orgasm takes over me.

Falling back on the bed, I let out a little laugh that quickly turns to a squeal as he slides his cock all the way inside of me.

Rocking his hips, he pulls my legs up over his shoulders and leans forward until I'm curled up so far that I could see his cock sliding in and out of my pussy. Beads of my own juices appear with every

thrust, making him slam into me a little harder.

"Fuck." I mutter. It felt like his dick was somewhere in my upper torso and with each thrust, he has me crying out.

As I start to tighten around him, he suddenly pulls out and flips me over before I have a chance to acknowledge what had just happened.

His cock slides into me just as harshly and quickly as before. covered in my juices as my pussy clamps around him.

He leans forward on top me, thrusting in small movements, when he picks me up and sits at the end of my bed until I'm facing the full length mirror. With his chest against my back, his throbbing cock fills my hole as he plays with my nipples. I tip my head back on his shoulder and he thrusts up into me.

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"Oh."

With each thrust, he pinches my nipples until I start to bounce on his cock, taking the control away from him.

He drags his fingers along my thighs and up my stomach as he groans. His eyes flicker between looking at my body and locking eyes with me in the mirror.

"So fucking tight!" He groans as I slam down on his cock.

Damien growls through gritted teeth, squeezing my tits tight against my chest and I feel him swell even more as my muscles clenched around him.

I throw my head back against his shoulder, riding the orgasm as he fills me with his load.

"You will get me into trouble." He mutters in my ear as his lips graze my skin.

"Then tell them we are trying for a pup." I say quietly From

He grips my face, turning it towards him. His dark eyes filled with excitement but hesitation. "I don't want to lie."

"It doesn't have to be a lie." I murmur and kiss him

"Even with all the drama going on?"

I nod. I had been thinking about it for a few months. Waiting for the right time. But there was never going to be a right time and if Dane and Neah could do it when they are the centre of the problem, then why couldn't Damien and I do it. I could already see how amazing he is with Dorothy.

He kisses me. "Then definitely no more playing with yourself unless I'm present." He winks at me and leads me to the shower. "Better go for round two."

"I haven't stopped birth control yet."

He grins. "There's nothing wrong with a bit of practice."

"One condition." Dane snaps at me. "You take me or your mate."

I groan. I know Damien had warned me but I didn't actually think they would follow through.

"Why can't I take Neah?" I protest.

"Neah is with the twins. She....needs it."

"Oh. Well then Mallory can come with me. Jenson can't get to us and you have the key so we can't to him. If that's what you are worried about."

"Why does everything have to be a battle with you?"

"It's not." I shrug my shoulders.

Dane props his elbows on his desk and rests his chin on his clasped hands. His crimson eyes settle on Damien. "Fine, take Mallory."

"Seriously?" Damien scoffs.

"She's right. He can't get out. They can't get in."

"Do I need to remind you that Salem escaped!"

“The bars have been made narrower since then. Anyway, the idiot is shifting in and out of Wolf form like a fucking mad man. Maybe his twin can get through to him. We’ve been trying for two days.”

I do a small fist pump at the victory. I rarely won anything when it came to Dane.

He calls Mallory to come and meet me. She smiles at me, but refuses to look at my mate. I don’t even understand why they were still arguing over who her mate was. It wasn’t actually any of our business.

“You want me to help?” Mallory asks in surprise when Dane tells her what we need her for.

“You don’t have to do anything.” Just ‘supervise’” I make sure that both men see my air quotes. I loved them both, but their lack of trust in me was just frustrating.

“Sure. I can do that.”

Mallory follows me across to the dungeons. We slip down the stairs quietly, but Jenson quickly becomes aware of my presence.

“Well it’s about time sis!”

Chapter 0257

Raven This belongs to

The way he spoke to me sounded so familiar. Midnight drops her guard too. It sounded just like the Jenson we know, the brother I loved. Not the mad man everyone is claiming him to be.

I hadn’t seen him since the day Jess was killed. When Damien saw him in the street, the idea of seeing him had been more than I could handle and I had fled to the car.

I still didn’t understand why he left the pack and I definitely didn’t understand why he had chosen her. The very thing he claimed he hated.

“Don’t.” I whisper, feeling my heart break all over again.

“Don’t what?” He speaks to me from the back of the cell. “Call you sister?”

I frown, looking at his tired and gaunt face. He had been handsome once. I mean all the ladies seemed to love him and he had no end of women hanging off his every word. But to me. He looked exhausted and withdrawn, not anything like how I imagined. A mate bond gave you strength, but from what I could see, it looked like his had been zapped.

I glance back at Mallory. She hadn't said anything, exactly like I asked.

"Why did you bring her? Stupid bitch is the reason I'm here." Jenson growls

Mallory rolls her eyes and I turn back to face my brother. "You know you are alive because of her and Dane. Dane brought you back here."

"And chucked me in the dungeons. Though he looks like he has made some improvements since I was last down here." He laughs. His thinning shoulders raise up and down with the deep sound.

Surely Dane saw the same as what I did, that Jenson wasn't in the right frame of mind. That something wasn't right.

'Aspen is weak.' Midnight mutters. 'The rapid shifting has made him weak. Jenson isn't allowing enough time for the bones to heal. Almost like he is punishing himself.'

"What has she turned you into?" I ask, overwhelmed by sadness for him.

He stretches his arms out wide. "This is me, sis. I don't know who you are talking about."

"This isn't you. This isn't even a shell of you. You are not the brother I know and love."

He chuckles again. "Maybe my mate just showed me who I'm supposed to be."

"She's not your mate, Jenson. She is just some whore that you attached yourself to and she is using you."

"Jealous?"

"Of you? How can anyone be jealous of you, Jenson. I will always care about you, because you are my twin. But jealousy? You are on another fucking planet if you think I'm jealous! Do you not care about me, Dane, the pack?"

"No."

One word. One single word that brings everything crashing around me. He hadn't hesitated. He hadn't paused to think over his answer. It just tumbled out like it was so final.

"She really means that much to you?"

"She's my mate."

“No she isn’t. A mate isn’t someone we choose. A mate isn’t someone who forces us to do things that we don’t agree with. A mate is someone who is selected for us because they make us complete.”

“Why would you think I don’t agree with her? I went to her and she agreed to help me.”

“With what?” Mallory mutters.

I glare at her and she pretends to zip her lips shut.

“It’s mental that you act like she belongs in the pack.” Jenson muses. “It’s mental that you let them slip into our way of life.”

“You have marked a Lycan! Why the hell is it okay for you, but not us?”

He rolls his dark eyes at me. “Oh Raven!”

‘He has more than lost it.’ Midnight murmurs

“I’m guessing she wants to kill Neah and you want to take out our pack, because you blame us for your idiotic moves! But if you don’t believe in pack life, what’s the fucking point?”

“What did you hope for, Raven? That you would come down here and find a way to save me? You are the one that needs your eyes opening.”

I slink over to the wooden chair and sit on it. Mallory leans against the wall. She’s picking at her fingernails, acting like she is no longer interested in Jenson’s words.

“Do you have something to say?” I mutter

She frowns as she raises her eyes to meet mine. The look that basically said I had told her to be quiet so that was what she was doing.

I gesture for her to speak.

Mallory straightens her back. She takes a step forward into Jenson's direct line of sight. He growls straight away. But it doesn’t stop her.

“I’m confused.” She shrugs her shoulders. “I heard you tell Blair that you could use me. That you could gain information from me. Isn’t that why you kept me alive. She was all set to kill me and you stopped her. Why?”

“Fuck off!” Jenson growls

“Anyone would think you had a soft spot for me. Yet here you are, acting like I’m the world’s worst villain.”

Chapter 0258

“Bitch!”

“So you were going to play me? Try to convince me to join your little club, is that it?.”

“Fuck off you dirty Lycan.”

“Now that is something I don’t understand.” Mallory coils her hands around the bars and stares in at him. “Because at the end of the day, you were still fucking a Lycan. Jess was a Lycan. You know, your actual mate. Did you call her dirty too? Because if I remember correctly, she was bitten, just like me!”

He doesn’t answer.

“Gotcha!” Mallory mutters. “Neah’s lookalike convinced you we are dirty because we are not pureblooded.”

“Shut up you dirty bitch!” Jenson snarls, his bones start to crack and we watch him shift into his Wolf. He paces the small cell, moving closer and closer to the bars. Mallory removes her hands milliseconds before he takes a swipe at them.

She laughs and paces just like him. Moving back and forth in front of his cell at exactly the same pace.

It was making my brother angry. He hated people mimicking him. Something that hadn’t changed.

“You’ve let her poison you, Jenson.” I mutter from the chair. “She wants something and she has made you promises that she can’t keep and probably won’t keep. Women like that don’t care about anything but themselves.”

I was running out of ideas. This was not how I thought the conversation was going to go.

‘He’s killing Aspen.’ Midnight mutters, pain etched in her voice. ‘He’s forcing the shift to break Aspen’s spirit.’

‘What? Is that even possible?’

‘It’s the final piece of him that keeps him attached to us. If he breaks Aspen, that’s it.’

“Jenson, please tell me why?” I try to hide the sadness in my voice, but you only needed to look at me to know I was feeling like I was losing him all over again.

The Wolf moves back and forth, every few seconds, he would slam his body into the bars, hoping that they would bend.

He shifts back to human form, tying his shirt around his waist to cover himself up. Every rib was showing, his collarbone jutting out and the skin looked as though it had been pulled tight and there was no room left. I'm sure if he turned I would see every bit of his spine. He was so fucking skinny and even Mallory takes a step back when she realise how ill he is.

The fitted suit had hidden it well.

“Is she starving you?” I ask in shock. Jenson was like me when it came to food. A bottomless pit.

“Don't be stupid. I love her and you lot will pay for keeping me hostage.”

Mallory turns to me. Her brows knitted together and whispers. “I think she had him in some kind of hostage situation.”

“Don't be stupid. He wouldn't have marked her.”

“Maybe that's when it changed.” She gestures for us to go up and out of the dungeon.

“So the first night I went there. He was outside the house. It was him asking me questions about why I was there. Claimed that Blair wasn't home, but her car was there. When I went back the other night. He was watching from a window. She had to call him to help her with me because he wouldn't come out, and even then he seemed a bit surprised by what to do.”

She frowns, “For someone that can lead wars, he sure as hell couldn't get a grip on my legs.” Her mind was working a lot quicker than mine at putting information together.

“What?”

“Raven, Humans lose their minds for all sorts of reasons. Trust me, I've seen it between my father and anyone he came into contact with and so do Rogues.”

“He's not a Rogue!” I mutter

“Not him. Her. She called him names, real degrading ones and he jumped to her every demand.” This belongs to

“That's not like him.”

“And you have just seen what I have seen, there is no way he has eaten properly in weeks. When she turned up here, Jenson was in the car and to be quite honest, he looked like he was going to shit himself. He didn’t want to be here.”

“That doesn’t explain why he is being a dick now.” I mutter

“Doesn’t it? What if he is aware that she’s listening to him?” She shakes her head at me. “There was a moment before.... Before my mate turned up, where I actually thought Jenson was going to let me go. He pulled knives out of my legs that she had pinned me to the chair with. He sent her away to the shower.”

“Slow torture. We’ve seen Neah do it.”

“He didn’t hurt me again. Raven, and he has called me a lot of names, but ‘dirty’ is a new thing.”

“He’s angry. He can be a prick when he is angry and as his sister, I’m sorry”

She waves my apology away. “I think he might be trapped and in way over his head.”

Chapter 0259

Dane. From

“You see it too, right? I mean you have to. You are our older brother. You are his Alpha.” Raven is leaning on my desk, staring at me with her dark eyes while Damien has his hands on her hips, trying to calm her down.

“Which one do you think it is? It can’t be both. He can’t be trapped and trying to kill his Wolf’s spirit.”

“What if it is both?” Mallory mutters from the chair in the corner. She rises to her feet and tucks a strand of hair behind her ear. Her brows are almost knitted together. “Like a weird cry for help. He knows that his Wolf and Raven’s Wolf are twins. What if it’s his way of asking for help? What if he is doing it in a way that means Blair doesn’t know.”

“That!” Raven points at Mallory as she glares at me. “That is what I mean.”

“Raven....” Damien starts.

“No. I love you Damien, but I am not giving up on him yet. My gut is telling me this is wrong. He is skin and bones. He speaks differently, yet uses familiar terms, he even laughs differently.” She pleads with me.

“Jenson chose to mark her.”

"It's not like you have never made a mistake, is it? Are you forgetting about all those women that you dragged into contracts before Neah came along?" She snaps, smacking her palm against my desk. "And what about if things changed after that?"

I see Damien cock an eyebrow at me.

I lean back in my chair to look at her. She had pleaded with me over the years for all sorts of things. But nothing like right now.

"You're the Alpha." Damien mutters. "Your decision."

My brother had caused so many problems over the years. I had bailed him out on multiple occasions when he had fucked up or gotten himself into trouble. For years I had put up with his excuses, letting them slide over my head until my mate walked into my life. And even now, he is still getting himself into shit situations. He hadn't learned anything.

"He's hurt too many people."

Tears spill down Raven's face. "You promised. You promised that you would look after us. You promised mum and dad."

"Raven, he isn't a kid anymore. He hasn't been a kid for a long time. Sometimes, the decisions we make will live with us for the rest of our lives."

"So what you are saying is that you are giving up?"

I sigh and fold my arms across my chest.

"She's killing him. I don't know what she is doing to him, but she is killing him." She shakes Damien off of her hips and storms out of the room. Damien follows her as she stomps up the stairs which is followed by multiple doors slamming shut.

"She loves him." Mallory mutters.

"I know. He is her brother."

"He is more than that." She frowns "I know it's complicated and I know you are probably going to tell me to keep my mouth shut. But even you must see that he should have woken long before you chucked him in the dungeon. Wolves can heal just as quickly as us and those with Alpha blood, even quicker. But he didn't, which is weird in itself."

She blows out her cheeks. "I'm a watcher, Dane. I like watching people. I like learning how people work, how they hide things. It's something that I'm good at, most of the time."

“Most of the time?”

“Yeah, though trying to read Neah is like looking for a needle in a haystack.”

I laugh, because it was true.

“Something just isn’t adding up.”

“You took her mate. That’s why she shifted.”

She cocks a brow. “I don’t think so.”

“Damien said you were pushing her.”

“She had already shifted long before then. Probably the moment she realised that me and.... That I put Jenson in the car.”

I cock a brow at her, she was trying so hard to keep her mates identity a secret. Though I’m pretty sure I know who it is.

“I already know you had help, Mallory. Honestly, I’m not bothered who you are mated too as long as you don’t try to kill him.”

“What if he tries killing me?”

“Has he?”

She scrunches up her face like she has said too much.

“That’s how you ended up with the mark on your stomach and not your neck?”

She nods. “He has been ignoring it for a while and just snapped. He attacked and somewhere along the lines, he claimed me.”

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“How do you feel about that?” She wouldn’t be the first to be marked against her will.

Mallory shrugs her shoulders. “We are working on it. Anyway, I know I have no place to say this. Can you just hold off from killing Jenson for a little while, just let me puzzle things together first. If I can’t come up with anything, then you can do what you want.”

“You are right, you don’t.” Truthfully, I didn’t want to kill him either. “Forty Eight Hours Mallory.”

Forty eight hours.” She repeats and turns to the door.

“Say hello to Eric for me.”

She spins around wide eyed, staring at me. “I didn’t say anything.”

“You don’t need to, Mallory. He was supposed to be in the party to rescue you. Turns out he had already left the pack. I’m just grateful he wasn’t out buying more alcohol.”

“I said I wouldn’t say anything.” She splutters

“And you haven’t. Just answer me this, is he still drinking?”

She shakes her head at me.

“Good. Forty eight hours.” I mutter and she hurries from the office. From

I sigh, spinning my chair until I’m facing the window. How had it come to this with Jenson? My father would be livid if he was here. I felt this overwhelming sense of failure when it came to my brother. Like I had failed him and my parents.

Jenson and Raven had been raised in exactly the same way. When they were children, they had rules to follow, just like everyone else. Where Raven stuck to the rules, he never did. Time and time

again he would cause problems. This time, this time he had really fucked up and he might have just cost me my family.

Neah slips into my office. Her scent quickly replaced the others. She’s quiet too. Waiting for me or maybe it was because she could feel my anger.

“You were listening?”

“I was sat on the stairs. Damien and Raven are arguing. Mallory has just run out the door, I don’t think she even realised I was there.” She pauses and even her heartbeat is quiet. “Forty eight hours isn’t that long, Dane. You gave me longer.”

“You were scared shitless. You needed time to adjust when I brought you here and you weren’t planning on killing us.”

She moves in front of me, blocking my view of the window and sits on my lap. Her arms slipping around my waist as she rests her head against my chest. “You know your brother better than anyone. He has helped you get through wars, helped you build your contracts. Mallory said something isn’t adding up. Did he really give you nothing when you were interrogating him?”

“The only thing he made comments on, was me bringing the Lycans here. I can’t even force an answer from him because I am no longer his Alpha. I will give Mallory the agreed forty eight hours. Then I will make a final decision.”

Her head bobs up and down, “And if Blair turns up?”

“Blair can be killed. To be honest, I’m surprised she hasn’t turned up yet. It’s already been a couple of days and there have been no reports from the guards.”

“What’s that saying Raven uses? No news is good news.”

“In most cases, yes.” I muse, “But when we are waiting for her to show up, it’s the furthest thing from good. Where are the boys?”

“Sleeping. If you hadn’t noticed,” She points to the dark sky, “it’s late.”

“Will you stay here for me? I need to ask my brother a few more questions.”

She nods and slides off my lap, staying in the office as I make my way back to the dungeon.

Jenson is in Wolf form. Laid on his side while his lungs struggle to inflate. It looks like Mallory is right, he is trying to kill his Wolf spirit.

“Look at me.” I demand. But he stays completely still.

“Look at me Jenson!”

His body starts to shift to human form. It’s slow and painful to watch, like it is using every last bit of energy to make it happen. He lets out a bloodcurdling scream as his back snaps back in position. He stays on the floor. Panting and screaming with each bone break.

I had hurt a lot of people. Some of my punishments were beyond cruel, but this was horrendous and it isn’t even my doing.

“She’s coming.” He mutters and passes out.