

The Alpha's Contract

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Chapter 0371

"You said the nurse was upstairs." Damien presses, "Checking on your mate."

"Sienna is upstairs, she is Kira's best friend. She is seeing if she can find any clues as to where Kira might have gone. Sienna was here with him when I was working on the gate." He nods at the pup in his arms.

"So you lied about her labour in the hopes that what?" I demand. "I wouldn't notice when your mate doesn't appear."

"I don't know. I didn't think that far ahead. I'm going to look for her."

"Tracking her down? That's not going to be ideal with a pup in tow. In fact it's fucking stupid." Damien shakes his head

"Um," Mako's brow knits together and creases appear across the top of his nose.

"You haven't thought about that either?" Damien asks

"I could manage. I could look after him while looking for Kira."

"No you couldn't, though it was a good thing to bring him here. He's going to need it when he is older." Damien tells him.

"Are you saying what I think you are saying?" I ask. Though I'm annoyed that he hadn't mentioned it before.

'Well Brax could have warned us.' Aero sneers.

'So could Damien!' I mutter

Damien nods, "That pup is a Lycan."

"WHAT?!" Mako lets go of the pup, like he was dropping a grenade. Damien flings himself forward, catching the pup before he has a chance to bounce his tiny head off the floor.

Footsteps move upstairs and Sienna appears, leaning over the bannister. She freezes. She would have already known we were in the house so why was she acting like she had just been caught red handed?

Damien straightens up, the newborn cradled against his chest as he glares at Mako. "You shouldn't have done that."

"GET DOWN HERE! I growl at Sienna.

She keeps her eyes on me, but fiddles with her pink hair as she slowly moves down the steps. I point to the spot next to Mako. She side steps around us, her heart racing as I throw the scrunched up paper down at their feet. "Which one of you wrote this?" I demand.

They glance at each other. "Kira" They both speak in unison.

"Bullshit."

"It's Kira's!" Mako mutters

Damien steps back as I squat in front of Mako and grip his face. My nails create crescent moons in his skin. "Kira has done work for me. I would recognise her handwriting anywhere. So I will ask you again, who wrote this?"

"He did." Sienna squeaks, keeping her eyes down.

I watch him elbow her. "Shut up!"

"Go check upstairs." I tell Damien, straightening up. I watch the crescents on Mako's face heal like they were never there.

Pacing in front of Mako and Sienna as Damien disappears from sight Sienna holds back the tears, while Mako stares straight ahead. "How long did you think you could play this game, Mako?"

"It's not a game."

"By the way you reacted to the news about that pup, I would say that you have been playing a game for a while. You are the one who has problems with Lycans. So tell me, what was your plan?"

He clenches his jaw.

"How about we start with something simple, where is Kira?"

"She really did leave." Sienna blurts out. "She left a few days ago."

"Let me guess, Mako, you were on duty at the gate? What did you do, trick the other person into turning away so Kira could pass through?"

He turns his head away, seething

"Where did she go, Sienna?" I press

"With some guy, I think his name

was Coop or Cooper maybe, Weet

were supposed to be joining her. He promised us a better life. A life away from the Lycans." Content belongs

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I laugh. "You both have a problem with Lycans, yet you are willing to run off and join one."

They stare at me, both with their jaws hanging open.

"He's a Wolf?" Sienna protests.

"No, no he is not. But it's great to see where your loyalty lies."

"She was packing!" Damien comes back down the stairs with the pup still cradled with one arm and two backpacks dangling from his free hand.

"I figured as much."

"What are you going to do to us?" Sienna pleads.

"I think you already know the answer to that."

Mallory

"Something weird is going on?" I frown. I was supposed to be resting, but I was finding it harder and harder to stay still. Like the longer I was still, the more I thought about what I no longer have. I needed to keep busy.

From this window, I could see Dane, Damien and Brax pushing a man and a woman forward. I recognise the guy, he quite often works on the gates. But what I didn't understand is why Damien was carrying what looked like a doll. A toy for Dorothy maybe?

Neah steps up to the window, though she keeps herself partly hidden behind the curtain. "No one is supposed to see me, remember."

"Please just tell me that I am imagining things. Maybe I have fallen ill again and this is a dream."

She pinches my arm.

"Ow."

"Not dreaming." She cautiously peers around the curtain. "Why is Damien carrying a pup?"

"It's not a doll?"

"Doll's don't move like that."

I look again and watch a tiny arm stretch out. But that's all I can make out as they move further and further away.

"Maybe those Wolves had a pup?"

"I think Mako and Kira are due any day now, so it could be." She shrugs her shoulders, "but actually, that's not Kira... that's...one of Raven's nurses from the hospital. I think her name is Sienna."

She turns back, pressing herself against the wall and closes her eyes. "I know what's happening."

"What?"

"They are going to be hunted!"

"Brax is going to kill them?"

"Not Brax, maybe Brax." She sighs, "Some of the pack will shift and hunt them, chase them down like they are prey. Dane has done this before."

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Before you came here, there was a woman, jealous of Dane and I. She drugged me with Blood of Wolfsbane, almost killing me. Dane took her to the forest and bhad his Wolves hunt her and then rip her apart while she was still alive."

"Seriously?"

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She nods as I watch more of the pack approach. They are already shifting into Wolves as they move. The woman, Sienna, clings to the other guy as though he was somehow going to save her. I could just make out her lips moving, most likely pleading for her life. I'm guessing they knew what was

coming if this was Dane's choice of punishment.

"It's a punishment for those who he feels truly betrayed by." Neah mutters, "If Brax hadn't shot those ones who crashed into us. Dane probably would have done the same to them."

"But he never did that to Jenson?"

She shrugs her shoulders. "Jenson was his brother, even after the stuff with Blair, even when he did what he did to Raven. He couldn't have done it even if he wanted to, but I know he had threatened Jenson with it many times over the years."

I bob my head. I couldn't even say it was cruel. I had seen Rogues do worse things. I had done worse things. A long time ago, I almost bashed Neah to death.

"But the pup, surely Dane won't have that ripped apart?" I mutter, disgusted by the idea. I see Damien turn away from the Wolves, he starts making his way back this way. The tiny thing cradled against his chest and I breathed a sigh of relief.

"No, he won't hurt a pup." Neah confirms

I take my eyes off of Damien and

watch Mako and Sienna dive towards the forest. Mako pushes her down just before the trees to give himself an advantage and dives into the greenery as she scrambles back to her feet. I watch Dane keep his hand up in the air. A signal for the Wolves to wait. Even Brax had shifted and was ready to join in.

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Dane is giving them a head start, but we all knew they were not getting out alive.

As Dane drops his hand, the Wolves charge off at a speed far greater than I can imagine. Almost like they are hyped up by the hunt. Dane shifts too, taking his time to move into the forest, like he was enjoying every second of this.

Those wolves were going to suffer. I assume they deserved it. And a tiny part of me wanted to see it happen.

"Mallory?" Damien calls out interrupting my thoughts

"Up here." I call back

He makes his way into the room, still cradling the tiny little pup who is somehow fast asleep.

"Why do you have a Lycan pup?" Neah asks.

"It's a long story." his dark eyes move to me at the window. "I assume you have seen what is happening?"

I nod "And Neah has explained the rest."

"They were planning on leaving to join Cooper." He shakes his head in disbelief

"Why?" Neah asks

"It sounds like he made them an offer and they were too stupid to go along with it."

"And the pup, where does he fit into all of it?"

"Mako tried telling Dane the pup was his and Kira's. It quickly became clear that he wasn't. Turns out Kira has already left with Cooper while still pregnant and Mako picked up this guy from the city. Practically threw him out of his arms when he learned the boy is a Lycan."

"So they didn't know that Cooper is a Lycan?" I ask

"No."

"And decided to kidnap him?" I ask in disgust pointing to the tightly wrapped pup.

"Mako claimed he found him dumped and abandoned. Whether that's the truth, I don't know."

"What's going to happen to him?" I ask, surely Dane wouldn't just choose to dump him again.

"I was sort of hoping that you would take him until we figured out where he came from and if anyone is looking for him."

I stare at him, lost for words.

"He is maybe a day old, maybe two at mording to Brax. He doesn't even have a name. I thought might like to name him.

I feel like I'm frozen, still trying to process how and why Damien had asked me.

"I still have loads of the twins' tiny baby stuff." Neah declares. "I will go dig it out."

"You want to give me a pup?" I mutter as Neah disappears with a smile plastered to her face.

"I can't think of anyone better."

"I can't...." He steps towards me and holds the tiny pup out to me. "He's not mine."

"And Dottie isn't mine." He presses the pup against me and I have no choice but to hold him as he pulls his hands away.

"Damien, don't." I don't think I have ever felt panic like this. My heart thuds heavily, I hear my own blood whooshing between my ears as my lungs grow tight. "I'm not ready" But he is already stepping away from me.

"Then it's a good job you have a whole pack supporting you."

"And a mate." Eric announces as he enters the bedroom.

"Give him to Neah. She's had practice." I move to Damien who refuses to take him back and folds his arms across his chest. "Look at him." He mutters instead.

I glance at Eric who is calmly watching me. He was leaving it up to me to decide.

The pup starts to move in my arms and was probably about to start crying at any second. Taking a breath, shift my gaze to the poet

Deep brown eyes stare back at me and feel my heart explode in the best way possible.

Chapter 0374

Blair

"We warned her, now we should leave." I sigh as I pull a sweatshirt over my head. It was so fucking cold. I have never felt the cold, not like this. My nipples could cut glass with how cold I am. Did Humans always feel like this?

Sammie brings me a blanket, tucking it around my legs. "I don't think we should go, not just yet."

"We have been here longer than we need to be." I persist. "You only wanted to come here to tell Neah about Cooper. We have done that and somehow, I am still alive and I would very much like to keep it that way, even if it means spending the rest of my life freezing my fucking ass off!"

She rolls her eyes at me and tells me I'm being dramatic. "What about your mother? she confirmed your mother was in the pack, just like you expected."

"And?"

"Don't you want to see her?"

"It doesn't matter what I want. They want nothing to do with me. I've already told you why."

"I never pegged you as the type that would give up so easily."

"I am not who I was, Sammie. He took it all away from me. There are too many people in that pack that hate me and that's just the Wolves. Staying here is just too risky for me. Someone will kill me and there won't be a damn thing that you can do about it."

"Is that what you want?"

"I don't know."

She sighs and sits next to me, pulling the blanket over her legs too. "Are you scared?"

I mull over her question. It wasn't sarcasm and it wasn't her mocking me. It was genuine and I guess on some level I am. I would be stupid not to be. I used to say that to all the assholes I hunted.

Lycans probably took up most of Black Shadow by now and if they have, that means they would have submitted to Neah. Maybe even Alpha Dane. Who knows how many are living there now, and who knows how many of those I have pissed off and I wasn't sure I was ready to find out.

When I saw Abraxas, I honestly thought he would be the one to kill me on the spot, but he had just watched me. He had been impossible to read and that made it worse. I know what I did. He knows what I did. But he just watched as he asked questions.

It's much easier when people tell you they are going to kill you. At least then, everyone's cards are laid out on the table and I didn't have to feel this impending doom that sits in the pit of my stomach.

Not being able to read people was hard.

"Neither of us can defend ourselves." I mutter. "It's just... We are nothing compared to them, they can snap us like twigs if they wanted too."

She frowns and takes a sip of her coffee, she is addicted to the stuff. "Maybe she will help us."

I laugh. "Please tell me you are not talking about Neah?!"

"I just think that she had a clear opportunity to kill us, yet she didn't. They turned up here, they found us They could have forced their way in and slit our throats and left like they were never here. But they didn't. Maybe there is a chance for us

here."

I laugh, "Or maybe she just wasn't in the mood. Or maybe she was too focussed on what she was asking us. She wanted answers."

Sammie bobs her head. "Maybe you are right." She leans her head on my shoulder. "I've been thinking about the questions she was asking. I think someone has gone missing."

"That means he is already here." My heart races. I couldn't stand the idea of being his prisoner again. What would he do to me as punishment for escaping? He had already shaved my head. My hand runs through the dark fluff that is my hair.

I hadn't even looked in a mirror since Sammie made me, I probably looked like I had been electrocuted by how it felt.

"It will grow back." Sammie mutters

glancing up to my hand. "It won't be this short forever." Her arm loops over my waist. Her reflection in the blank television screen showed her smiling. How she was so positive all the time was something I could just not grasp. But I guess it's because she has been living this way for quite some time. She had gotten used to it.

And as much as I didn't want to die, the thought of living like this forever was scary. I hated Humans as a Lycan and that wasn't going to change. Though I liked Sammie, but I think that was because we had something in common.

"Do you think it's true?" I mutter as I watch a candle burnout.

"What?" Sammie asks quietly

"That Neah was right, that I was purposely let out?"

She sighs and sits up, "I had wondered that myself. Five years I was waiting for someone else to make it out of that place. I always wondered if there were others and they had just taken a different route. You know, stuck to the roads and lanes instead of the woods and the fields and that's why they never stumbled upon my farmhouse. But you did say your door was opened along with everyone else's. So I do believe Neah was right."

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"What do you think his plan is?"

"He could be coming for you and it will be a bonus for him because he will find me too. Or he could want the female Alpha. I don't think Cooper ever really has a plan. He just rolls with the situation and takes advantage when he can."

"Do you think he will attack Black Shadow?"

She puffs out her cheeks. "Without a doubt."

More Wolves and Lycans are going to lose their abilities because of me. Especially if he was already here. I would be the reason our kind falls.

I tell Sammie that I'm turning in for the night and she asks me if I'm okay.

"Just tired." I lie. Guilt was weighing so heavily on me that I thought my lungs were going to be crushed.

I wait for hours after Sammie has gone to bed, just to make sure that she is asleep. Quietly I pull on a jacket and slip out of the house, being extremely careful to not make any noise.

Standing at the end of the drive. I weigh up my options. To go left to Black Shadow and hope for an easy and quick death, or go right and disappear for good and live the rest of my life as a Human. Neither options were ones I wanted.

Checking my pockets, I feel for the rectangle that is my credit card. I had found it stashed in my vanity table. Planted there when I first moved in as a just in case card. There was more than enough money on it to set me up with a new life, far away from any of this shit and somewhere where no one could find me. I had grabbed it just in case I turned right.

"Where are you going?" Sammie steps up next to me.

I close my eyes, I hadn't heard her. I hadn't even heard the door of the house. "You weren't supposed to know." I murmur

"I knew something was up when you went to bed at seven. You never go to sleep that early. Even when you were recovering from what that asshole did to you."

"It's too dangerous to be here." I whisper back, her face is lit up by a single street light. It gives her grey eyes an eerie look. "If Neah found us, I'm certain Cooper can. Cooper could be watching us right now and neither one of us would know. Black shadow is a few miles that way or....."

She places her hands on my shoulders and spins me around to look at her. "Who gives a shit if he is watching! He can't do anything else to us. So I will ask you again, where are we going?" Sammie slips her hand into mine. "I will go wherever you want to go."

"This is not who I am." I mutter. "I don't go to someone asking for help. I am the help. People have paid me to do their dirty work."

"Okay."

"Okay?" I whisper back.

She nods. "I thought I knew how I could help you. But this has to be your choice, Blair. If you want to leave, we leave. If you want to speak to Neah, we go to Black Shadow."

"Why have you changed your mind?"

"Because I see you. I am not a Lycan anymore but I see the guilt you carry. The sadness that is evident in your eyes."

I start walking, tugging Sammie with me.

"Are you sure?" She questions

"Yes. And if I am killed, don't fight back because it will be everything I deserve and more."

Her hand squeezes mine.

As we walk, she asks me a few questions about the inside of Black Shadow's pack. I tell her that I never made it further than just inside the gates Jensen had given me some information but not much, though I was never really interested.

We come across two burnt out cars. The one at the back looks like it had crashed into the one in front and the one in front looks just like the one Abraxas had hurled Neah into when they left us.

"Is that?" Sammie asks

"I think so." I mutter, hurrying forward.

There are tyre marks on the ground.

A trail of blood leads from the windscreen of the car Neah had been in, to the grass verge. Another pool of dried red sits just outside the passenger door of the same car.

"What do you think happened?" Sammie whispers as though someone might be watching.

"I don't know, but they burnt the cars to cover any trace of DNA." I whisper back. "I would have done the same. I have done the same."

"Do you think they're dead?"

"No, because Dane would be knocking down my door. I'm certain of that."

I look around and grab Sammie's hand, "Come on, I would rather not stick around here."

Chapter 0376

Neah

Rummaging through the boxes of tiny baby clothes, I make a pile, hoping that I was going to get a link from Damien to tell me Mallory had accepted the little boy.

'She will say yes, won't she?' Nyx asks hopefully

'I hope so.' It was what she needed. It was what Eric needed

'The boys can have playdates.' She mutters happily. 'In the future, he could be the Beta.'

I smile, 'He's a newborn, Nyx. He's not quite ready for that but when the time comes, yes.'

'What if the parents....'

'We will cross that bridge when we get to it!'

'She hasn't said yes.' Damien's voice rumbles through my head and I feel my heart drop. 'But she hasn't said no either.' He adds, 'And she also hasn't taken her eyes off of him.'

'Fingers crossed.' I mutter back and carry on sorting as he drops the link.

'What if she does say no?' Nyx suddenly asks.

'Then I guess we are about to have a third pup.' Though I was definitely not ready for that.

Just as I finish, Damien appears with a smile. "They have taken him home." He takes the box of baby stuff from me.

"She said yes?"

He nods. "I didn't think she would turn him away. Not after she gave him a name."

"She has?"

He smiles at me, "Luca."

'I love it!' Nyx declares. I'm certain if she had it her way, we would spend our whole time pregnant.

"It looks like Logan and Evrin will have a new friend." I mutter. "Everything in that box should see them through for a couple of weeks until they can get their own stuff."

He locks his eyes on me and nods. His fingers drum on the side of the box. "I won't let her lose him."

I knew what he was saying.

"Damien, they abandoned him. If they come here, claiming him back, do you really think I'm going to make her hand him over?"

"I just wanted to make sure we are

on the same page." He nods at the

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box. "I will take this over to her seeing as you are supposed to be staying inside. I saw Dane coming out of the forest. He was talking to some of the other Wolves, he will probably be here soon."

"Thanks." He was done with killing those Wolves already. I half expected him to slowly torture them and be gone all night.

I follow Damien down from the attic

and just as he leaves, a blood soaked, half naked Dane makes his

way in. He leaves bloody footprints behind as he makes his way towards me. Damien doesn't even stop, he just carries on walking like it was a usual occurrence to see the Alpha covered in blood.

"Are they dead?" I ask, though I could already tell what the answer was.

"Do you think I would have left if they weren't?"

"You're angry." I could see it and I could feel it. "But you've dealt with them."

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"They were just two Wolves, Neah. Who knows how many other pricks are turning against Black Shadow! I've worked hard to get this pack where it is. And somewhere along the line, people have become lazy and their loyalty is faltering needed them to see what would happen. Remind them of the punishments for disrespecting you and me."

I bob my head.

"You don't disagree?" His tone full of scepticism

"No. I've killed people too." I turn and he grabs my arm, spinning me back around into his blood covered chest. He drags his thumb across my cheek and down to my lips. His breath is hot and heavy as he inhales my scent.

"Where are the twins?" He asks softly

"Sleeping. It's late." I mutter back.

"And the pup?" His anger seems to be waning

"Mallory said she would take him so she has taken him home with Eric. Damien is taking some of the twins' baby bits over for me, you know, to get them set up."

"Good, come shower with me." He lifts me from the ground, pulling my legs around his hips and carries me up the stairs. I was so grateful that I didn't wear white.

He's purposely slow as he strips me, inching my clothes off of me as though he is unwrapping a fancy gift. As he does, he leaves bloody fingerprints on my clothes and my body.

Stepping into the hot water, watery blood quickly circles the drain and Dane holds me tight, ensuring my back is firmly against his chest while his hardening cock presses into the small of my back as he cups my stomach.

He presses his lips against the small spot right below my ear. A place that both tickled and turned me on. "When do I get to put another pup in you?"

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"Not yet." I murmur back, trying to ignore the growing ache inside of me.

His lips move down to the mark he gave me and his teeth nip at it as I feel the rumble from deep inside his chest. He moves a hand down to my thighs and from behind, uses his leg to push mine apart and sweeps a finger across my centre.

"Is that right?" He muses as his finger starts to circle my clit

I nod while trying to hold back a moan.

Removing his finger from my pussy, he spins me around to face him, pulling me flush. The water had washed away most of the blood, just a few spots remained on his chin. I brush them away and with one hand he lifts me and presses me into the cold tiles. I let out a gasp, it was a welcome relief for my hot skin.

"Feeling a little warm?" His crimson eyes lock on mine.

I nod, but it was more than just being warm. Everything was beginning to burn from the inside out. Droplets of sweat were making their way down the centre of my spine. The heat of the water made me feel like tearing my own flesh off. It had been so long since I had felt this.

"No, no, no." I push Dane away from me and turn the shower temperature down to as cold as it could be, firmly planting myself underneath the water while Dane watches me try to gain some control over what was happening to me.

'Yes, yes, yes.' Nyx mutters back in delight.

"This can't be happening now!" I mutter out loud. I spot Dane grinning at me while Nyx tells me it's because our body is ready for another pup. "Neah...." His grin is still plastered on his face. "You won't be able to stop it."

"I know. How did you know?"

"I could smell it." He joins me under the cold water. His muscles tensing from the cool temperature. "You can fight it, but you won't win. You know that. You will just prolong the inevitable" He tucks my wet hair behind my ears.

It felt like his crimson eyes are searching my soul as he leans in to kiss me. His hand reaches out and he turns the shower off. Immediately, I feel the fire rising up through me. The steady growing ache settles heavily within. I couldn't fight it.

Two days. At least it wasn't as long as the first time. Though my body still ached and my pussy throbbed.

Dane softly circles my bellybutton with the tips of his fingers. He pauses briefly and turns my face to his. "You're quiet."

"Tired." I whisper back. "And I ache."

"Roll over." He tells me, getting onto his knees.

"Why?"

"Just roll over."

I flip onto my stomach and he straddles my thighs, pinning me to the bed. He runs his hands over the length of my back, pushing his fingers into my muscles and

working out the knots that al

developed. It felt so damn good and

I seem to sink further into the mattress as my body relaxes.

"Before you ask, Athena and Sebastian have the boys. They have been there for the last two days." He tells me

I nod into the pillow as he continued to work his magic.

"Damien has been keeping an eye on things?" My voice comes out all muffled from the pillow.

"Yes, Eric too."

"Nothing has happened?"

"Not that I am aware of. I did tell them to link me if it was that important, but other than that, they have it handled."

"Something doesn't feel right." I murmur

His hands pause over my lower back. I try to shuffle around but he has me trapped under his legs. "Can't just enjoy the moment?!" He muses "It's.... It's a gut feeling."

"I know. You are not the only one that thinks things are too easy after what has happened."

"Why haven't you said anything?" I wiggle out from under him which he finds hilarious
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"Because I wasn't going to let my mate go out there while she was in raging heat.. And you are also supposed to be keeping a low profile. For now, you are here, with me. Damien and Eric have got things covered. Whatever is going on can be tomorrow's problems

I slump back on the pillows and he coils his arms around me, pulling me against him. Closing my eyes, I hear him groan only to open my eyes and see how his are glazed. I look at the clock. It was gone midnight. guess today's problems were already starting.

Chapter 0378

Dane

"Stay here." I tell Neah, pulling on a shirt

"Who is it?" She asks, already climbing out of bed and heading to the closet.

"It doesn't matter. You need to stay here."

She carries on pulling on underwear as though I hadn't said anything. "I was right." She murmurs. "My gut feeling was right." She shimmy's herself into a pair of jeans. "Is it Cooper?"

"No."

"Who? Maddie. Did something happen? Has she said something?"

"It's not Maddie. Please will you just stay here until I know more."

"Our children are not even in the house."

"Athena and Sebastian won't let anything happen to them." I reassure her.

"Do they need to be kept safe? What's happened? You are not answering my question Dane!" She plants her hands on her hips and stares at me. She was trying to read my mind.

I shake my head because I knew what her reaction would be when she found out who was at the gate.

"It's Blair."

She stops what she's doing to stare at me.

'Three, two....' Aero starts counting down, preparing for Neah to snap. Instead, she sinks into the large chair, her soft blue eyes hovering on me. "Why is she here?"

"I don't know, but will you please stay here? Just until I know what she wants. Besides, you are supposed to be staying in the house."

She doesn't answer me.

"Neah?"

She puffs out her cheeks, "I will stay."

I grab my jacket and kiss Neah before leaving. Whether she would actually stay put was another thing.

Down at the gate, Damien is staring at Blair while Ryken is asking her questions. The blonde with her was sitting on the ground, leaning against Blair's legs, half asleep, clutching an old backpack.

"I was expecting Neah." Blair mutters.

"Well you have me." I snap. "Why are you here?"

Her brown eyes dance between us as she tries to come up with a response. She tugs her sweatshirt tighter as though it was going to protect her.

"Well?"

"I don't know." She looked genuinely unsure. "I could have left. I wanted to leave. I was ready to go. All I had to do was turn right."

I see Ryken roll his eyes. I'm guessing he has heard a similar story before.

"Then I decided to come here or maybe it wasn't my choice."

"Why?"

"Would you believe me if I said I'm still trying to figure that out. I'm probably going to die here. I deserve it." She puffs out her cheeks just like Neah does when she is contemplating something. She screws her face up. "I think Neah was right."

"Are you fucking shitting me?" Ryken scoffs. "Your mother and I told you that for years. You go and lose your Lycan and suddenly you have seen the light. Maybe we should have packed you off to this prick years ago."

"Hey!" I snap. "There is no need to wish this on someone." As much as I despised Blair, no one deserved to lose their beast. Death, yes, but this was just pointless.

Blair gestures to Samara who is snoring. "She helped me understand a lot." She returns her gaze to Ryken. "I made some mistakes."

"Mistakes?"

"Alright. I made some big fucking cock ups. Is that what you want to hear? I learned to survive and thrive from it. I made money. Got myself a home. I lived a life that I thought I loved. And now I am no one, happy?!"

Ryken takes a few steps away. I'm not sure if he was trying the tough love act as a father figure, but I knew he wasn't helping.

"You tried hunting down my mate and also slowly sent my brother over the edge in the process."

"So he is dead?" She asks, rocking on her heels as she keeps her gaze off of mine. "I didn't feel it, but I thought as much."

"Fucker tried to pull off something that hasn't been done before. He didn't survive it." Damien growls. "But you, you made him into something else."

She raises her brown eyes to me. "I did like him. I fell for him and let him mark me and then...." She shakes her head and her hood falls down, revealing her short hair. She quickly hikes the hood back up and pulls it down around her face. "I'm sorry. I dragged him into my mess, preyed on his need to get revenge. You're right, I screwed him up, because that is what I do. I have always worked alone. That was why I was known as a Lone Wolf. Ironic when I wasn't even a Wolf."

"Why are you telling me this?" I demand. "Do you think I'm going to welcome you with open arms? Let you stay in the pack? I could give you a list as long as my arm for everyone who wants you dead. Me included."

"Right." She bobs her head. "I told you because can't hide it. Because your Hunter will know the moment he sees me if I am lying, that's if he doesn't kill me first, I screwed with his life too." She frowns and takes a deep breath. "My name is Blair Everwood. I was never a Kitson, nor will I ever be one. I am not a Lycan anymore, nor am I or will I ever be a female Alpha."

She focuses on me." But I am scared."

"You're scared?" Damien asks with a tilted head "You, the one who slaughtered Salem. The one who killed a pregnant Lycan and then stole their

pup." She nods. "We have all killed people, but I am scared, because I think I'm about to become responsible for the downfall of hundreds."

My eyes flicker over the possible hiding places, maybe she was lying and someone was waiting, or maybe she was telling the truth. "Bind them both."

I tell Damien and Ryken. "Put her in the dungeon," I point at Samara, "And bring Blair with us."

Samara squeaks as she is hauled to

her feet by Ryken. Big dark circles sat under her eyes. She seemed confused and she didn't protest immediately. I don't know how much

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she had heard, but it would be better to split them up. Make sure their stories are the same. Content

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"No, please, don't." Samara begs Ryken. He binds her hands together and throws her over his shoulder like it was nothing and carries her away. "Don't hurt her." Blair pleads.

"Then let's hope for her sake that she speaks the truth."

"Where are you taking me?" Blair asks as Damien marches her across the grounds. Thankfully it was quiet but she still got a few stares. It wouldn't be long until everyone knew she was here.

Damien pushes her onto the chair and reties her wrists to the wooden arms. Her breathing is heavy and she screws her face up while twisting to one

side.

"What's wrong with you?"

"It's called a stitch." She mutters. "Sammie said it's part of being Human."

"You trust her?" Damien asks

"She helped me." Blair frowns

"Funny that, isn't it. She just happens to be just like you and she is the first person you ran into when you escaped."

Her frown deepens to a scowl. "She has been nothing but kind to me. I never asked for it. I never wanted it."

"Yet she talked you into coming back here."

Chapter 0379

Blair

I stare at the Lycan in shock. "No, you are wrong. You think you know something and you don't. You don't know her. You haven't even given her a chance!" I defend Sammie.

"Can I tell her?" Damien asks Dane. His dark eyes lighting up.

"I think we should wait for Brax." Dane replies with a shrug of his shoulders.

My spine stiffens on its own accord and my body is immediately filled with dread. It would be him, Abraxas Adler. He would take the shot, I still didn't understand why he hadn't when he came to my house.

There's an uncomfortable knot in my stomach that I cannot force down. One that wants me to flee, to escape the uncertainty. Fucking Human traits. "Just talk to her." I plead. Sammie would hate being locked away, especially after five years of freedom.

"I'm not interested in what she has to say, not just yet." Dane tells me

I drop my gaze, there was no way I could overthrow these guys. I may have stood a chance once, but not anymore. And it seems like talking to them is becoming a pointless task. But I had to try. I had to make them see that I was no longer a threat.

I clear my throat. "Why do you think that she talked me into coming back here?"

"Because that's exactly what she did." I hear his deep voice from behind and then feel something pressing into the back of my head. I close my eyes and count, waiting. Would I even hear the sound or would I already be dead?

"Brax, put the gun down." Dane tells him.

It's removed from my skull, but I continue to hold my breath. He didn't have to obey Dane. Hunters didn't work for anyone unless they chose too. So there was still a good chance he could blow my brains out at any second.

"Speak." Dane tells me. He stares at me and all I could wonder was how Neah liked them, his crimson eyes gave me the creeps.

"About what? I told them everything when they came to the house."

"Neah said that Samara was answering most of the questions." He tells me

"Because I had already told her everything. Sammie has a better way of getting things heard. Especially when there was a good chance I was going to be killed, given what I have done in the past!"

"But that's not like you Blair, is it?" Brax sneers. "You have always been one that likes to be heard. Or to have the lost word."

I bite my tongue, "Things change." I whisper. "You have got this wrong."

"Nah, you have." Brax grabs my chair

and spins me around to face him. "You know that I see things. I couldn't quite work her out. There's some truth in her words. And she words things carefully.. She has a front, a very good front, something that she has probably been working on for a long time. But she doesn't have a scent."

"Neither do I." I snap

"You do," he tilts his head to one side. I know what he is doing. I've seen him do it before when he is

trying to see deeper into the soubet

swallow the lump in my throat, beads of sweat appear on my hairline. Being nervous was a new feeling too. I think I hate this more than I have ever hated anything.

"You smell like a Human, body odour and all. Whereas she has no scent. That's why she wants to stay with you. Your scent is weak, but it still can attach itself to someone else. She needed it to rub off on her."

"W..what? No, she had her Lycan taken away just like I did."

The Hunter shakes his head at me, "Nope."

"You're lying."

He smirks and shakes his head again. "I am not. You should know me better than that, Blair."

"No one is completely scentless." I scoff

"That is where you are wrong." He glances up behind me, like he is waiting for some sort of confirmation. "You passed two burnt out cars on your way here, correct."

I nod, "The first looked like the one you and Neah left in."

"The assholes driving the second car

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had no scent, nothing, just like your friend in the dungeon. The problem is, they Were Wolves. It seems somehow that they have been given something to completely conceal their scents. Just like your blonde friend."

Chapter 0380

I try looking over my shoulder at Dane. "He's bullshitting me, right. This is just some twisted mind game to get back at me before you kill me, right?"

"No."

I turn back to glare at Abraxas. "Then how were you not able to tell she was a Lycan when we first came here. I call bullshit."

"I'm still trying to figure that out. She covered her scent and somehow she concealed her true identity. But now, it's wearing off. And she is trapped in the dungeons." Brax smirks at me. "In fact I have bets that she either wants Cooper to herself or she is the one running the shit show."

I shake my head. It had to be a trap, some kind of trick. To lure me back here, but they still hadn't killed me. I knew tricks, I had operated a fair few and I promised myself that after Cooper no one else would succeed. Someone was lying and it wasn't me.

"She took me in." I whisper. "She can't be a Lycan. She told me what happened to her. She has evidence."

"Part of the trap." He shrugs his shoulders. "And you fell for it, big time."

"So what if she did. Why do you care? You could have just told me to go fuck myself."

"Because like you said, you brought her here and now she is our problem."

I sit in stunned silence, they had to be wrong. She told me how she escaped. She told me all the things that were done to her. She showed me her box of stuff, the gown, the empty drip bag. What she did to escape.

"And the villain falls." Abraxas laughs as he spins my chair back around to make me face Dane.

Dane watches me with his jaw clenched. His crimson eyes locked on to mine. It was impossible for me to tell how he was going to react, but the waiting is killing me.

"Go and get Neah." He mutters to Damien.

I keep my focus on Dane as Damien brushes by me. Minutes go by and no one has said anything. Eventually, two sets of footsteps make their way into the office behind me.

Neah walks around to the other side of the desk, sitting in the large chair, partially hidden by Dane.

"I know you don't want to listen to me." I start

The only blue eye I can see focusses on me. "Everyone leave." Neah demands

Hands land on my shoulders, making me jump. "Looks like you are getting exactly what you want."

I pick at the material on the edge of the chair's arm. My arms were still bound to it and the more the nerves set in, the more I looked for something to do to help calm the nerves. The picking of material helped.

The door closes behind the men and Neah doesn't say anything. I'm not sure if she is waiting for me to talk first or deciding how to proceed.

"Could I... could I get some water?" I ask quietly

"Would you have killed me?" She asks

"Possibly." I whisper. The truth, I tell myself, nothing but the truth.

"Did you want Dane too? You wanted to be Alpha, that would mean being his mate."

"No. It was never about him. I wanted the Lycans. I wanted the Lycans to rise, to become better than the Wolves," I snort, "To be better than Humans."

"Wanted?"

"It was a mistake. I know that, it just took losing everything for me to finally see it. And I will keep saying it until you either kill me or believe me."

Claws edge out the tip of her fingers. She flexes her hands and the claws disappear. I needed to choose my words more carefully.

"I told Dane that I had a chance to...."

"I heard. You should have left and taken Samara with you."

"You believe Abraxas?"

"I was the one who suggested it to him. She reminded me of someone from my past. Doing all the talking, trying to control the situation, I would say you were about three days away from being turned-into a punching bag. I stopped Brax from Kibing you so that I could get more answers."

"Samara isn't... Is she still alive?"

"For now."

"Are you going to kill her?"

"Soon."

I take a deep breath. "Why haven't you killed me?"

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0381 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0381

Chapter 0381

Neah

It was weird to hear her pleading with me. I had heard it a little bit at her house. Yet now she is full of desperation, a million miles away from how she introduced herself to me.

Maybe because she's surprised to learn the truth about her friend. Maybe because she genuinely meant it.

'We could just kill her.' Nyx grins gleefully. 'She keeps asking. And she was prepared to destroy our life. It only seems fair.'

Blair drops her gaze when I don't answer her question. "I get it, you're torturing me. Never letting me know when the final blow is going to come so I live in fear, waiting." She rocks in her chair. "It's a weird feeling, fear."Text

"You get used to it." I mutter back. It was a lie, you never get used to it.

She mulls over my words, "Jenson told me everything that happened to you, before Dane"

"I told you too, well some of it, but it didn't change anything, did it?! Even when you learned how bad things were for me, it didn't change how you felt. It didn't change what you thought I deserved or what you deserved. Only now, when you have lost your identity, you claim to have changed." She knew everything and yet she had still been prepared to ruin my life when she barely knew me. A half sister and she didn't even bother wanting to get to know me.

Her eyes flick up to me. "You are the Alpha."

Nyx snorts, 'How can she be acting like she didn't know? That was her goal.'

"I..." She pauses for several heartbeats. "It's a bitter pill to swallow. But what I have learned is that I am not the person I once was. Everything hurts. Everything is different. I'm not who I was and I know you don't believe that."

"You're right, I don't."

She sighs. "Maybe this was always the plan for me. You know, payback for the trouble I have caused and inflicted. Maybe this is punishment for Jenson. For you, for everything." She laughs to herself and shakes her head. "There is always someone worse."

They had both said that. Blair and Samara. "Who has said that to you?"

"Cooper." She mutters. "The night he took me, maybe after. I think he was making a point, because he had outsmarted me. Though it seems it's not hard to do that anymore." Her brows knit together. "You can link him, right?"

I stare back at her, trying to decide if it's worth telling her what I know.

"Because he is a Lycan?" She continues. "You can link all Lycans. I heard it when you asked everyone to come here. So you must be able to link him and Samara if she is really a Lycan."

'Don't tell her, she doesn't need to know.' Nyx murmurs

"Unless you can't." Blair mutters, "But that would be impossible. I can hear you, I know Damien can and Mallory must have linked you. My mother and step father heard your request."

"I had a connection to Cooper. I check everyone when they arrive here." I tell her and Nyx groans. "But the connection seems to have evaporated. There isn't one for Samara either. Brax thinks they are working with a Witch. A powerful one that is able to sever the connection to me."

"Witches won't work with Lycan's. They will work with Wolves but not Lycans." Blair tells me. "Look, I may not be of use in the physical sense, not anymore, but I still have a lot of knowledge about Lycans. Knowledge that you might now have."

"A Witch worked with our father." I mutter

"Don't..." She starts as her eyes hover on mine. A small crinkle appears on her forehead. "You were bound as a child."

"Which could only be done by the help of a strong Witch because I already had my Lycan. Think about it, Blair. Cooper has the ability to take people's Wolves and Lycans away He has been able to give Wolves something to completely hide their scent. Samara was able to conceal her identity."

'Tread carefully.' Nyx warns.

'I am.'

"I never saw any Witches in the prison. At least I don't think so. I wouldn't be able to tell even if there were." She shrugs her shoulders at me. "But there were women, 'nurses' Cooper called them. They weren't. They would bring food, water change the drip bags and escort you to the showers. They never spoke and they always looked as if they were in some kind of trance. On autopilot."

Chapter 0382

"Wolves and Lycans?"

"I don't know. I can't tell anymore. They could be like me for all I know. People he has punished."

She was cooperating a little too well. She could be telling the truth or she could be buying time. What if Cooper had given her something as well so that she could mask her identity?

'Damien.' I link him. I knew he wasn't far away. 'Come and take her to the dungeons and bring me Samara.'

Damien appears and doesn't say anything. He unbinds Blair from the chair but quickly ties her hands back together.

"Where are we going? Where are you taking me?" She demands

"For a walk."

"Are you going to kill me?"

"I guess you will find out." He winks at me as he forces her from the office.

I blow out my cheeks when I'm alone. It doesn't get easier. The desire to kill her on the spot is so tempting. To cut her open and watch her intestines fall out is a picture I can't get out of my head.

'Well?' I mutter to Nyx while we wait.

'I am as unsure as you are. She is sharing, but it could be intentional. We should have kept Brax here.'

'Brax has probably gone to see Maddie.'

"Please don't...please...I've done nothing wrong." Samara's voice scratches at my ear drums as Damien tells her to be quiet.

"Just move." Damien snaps.

"I've done nothing. Why does know one believe me? I told Neah what I know. This is cruel."

He pushes the office door open and her mouth closes the moment she sees me. Her hands are bound just like Blair's, though she looked a little rougher, maybe she had been tossed around a bit.

He tries to put her in the chair but she fights back against him. Damien laughs, pressing both hands on her shoulders and forcing her down. One by one, he binds her wrists to

the chair as she growls at him. Her scent was definitely making a comeback and still, there is no connection to her.

Her grey eyes lock on mine. "Why are you doing this? We haven't done anything."

"No?"

"We came here to tell you about Cooper so why are you treating us like this?"

Was she unaware that we could scent her? She had to be or she wouldn't keep up this act.

Damien rolls his eyes at her.

"What did you hope to achieve by telling me about him?"

"That you would do something about him. He can't be allowed to get away with it. We don't deserve this. We don't deserve to lose our Lycans!"

Nyx laughs, 'She really has no clue we can scent her, does she!'

'Maybe not, but if we can scent her, there is a good chance she can shift.' I reply. 'Those ropes won't keep her in that chair.'

"Blair showed you where our pack was?"

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"Yes. She told me you are her half sister. I couldn't believe my luck that you are the Alpha. I've been trying to find ways to bring Cooper down for years."

"It does sound like you are lucky." The intensity of my need to kill was growing by the second.

"You were hidden for so long." She mutters, avoiding eye contact.

"I wasn't hiding."

"I didn't mean it like that." She

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shakes her head, trying to get the blonde strand to move off of her face. "I mean you were hidden away for so long and then this happened to me and then I had no way of finding you, not until Blair." Content

belongs to

"And it just so happened that Blair is my half sister." Hearing myself call Blair my half sister out loud made my insides crawl

"Right! Pure luck." She smiles

"Not a setup at all."

I watch the colour drain from her skin. "I don't know what you are talking about. How can it be a setup? Why would I give up losing my Lycan?"

'She keeps playing the same tune.' Nyx growls

Damien watches me from behind Samara. Maybe he knew I was seconds away from ripping out her we

heart. But maybe, just moud

could use her to lure out Cooper.

Chapter 0383

Abraxas

Madison is asleep when I get to the hospital. She had been in and out of sleep for the last couple of days, well, mostly asleep. Klaus insisted she just needed longer to heal and it was her body's way of making it happen. It just feels unnatural, having to wait this long for someone to heal.

The others had it handled with Blair and Samara, if they needed me, they would know where to find me.

I sit by Madison's head. Her face is scrunched up like she is in some sort of pain. Her knees are tucked up to her chest and she lets out tiny whimpers as her fingers twitch at the pillows. She wasn't in pain though, every time she slept, she relived what happened.

I had managed to get bits of information in the short slots of time she was awake. Cooper had taken her. He had guided her towards the edge of the pack forest. Then pinned her down and thankfully she put up a fight. She might not have done so a few months ago.

He still managed to inject her with something. She had told me her body became heavy and felt like she was losing control. He took her to a building and beat her until she was black and blue. Those bruises, still evident on her body. She didn't remember everything. She said it was fuzzy but he did tell her it was all because he saw her with

me. He told her that she was broken. That a Lycan shouldn't be with a Hunter and that he was going to fix her. That she was being punished for her actions.

He had chosen her, not me and that makes me think he's far weaker than he makes out.

He wasn't wrong about our kind being together, but to do this to her, it was disgusting. I shake my head, I was already planning to skin him alive. Slowly and with a very blunt tool.

Klaus comes into the room with a new IV bag and I push all the dark thoughts from my head. There was plenty of time to daydream.

"Still asleep?" He asks. There was definitely no way he would make it as a Hunter.

I gesture to her, because it was pretty obvious.

"It's a good sign. It means her brain is giving her body the best chance He changes over the bag of fluids.

"She just needs time." Conds.

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"She will never be the same, will she." I state

"Are you mad at her?"

I shake my head. I couldn't be mad at her. Though this should never have happened.

Madison moans and stretches out.

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Her chestnut eyes peek out from under her lids, until everything falls into focus, She stares at me, her chestnut eyes full of sadness and pain. Her fingers move to her face, just like they did everytime she woke. Feeling for the stitches and making sure it wasn't just a dream.

She winces as she touches them and her eyes become watery. "I made it?"

"Yes." She asked the same thing each time she woke too. Looking for confirmation she was safe. It had become her little routine.

Reaching for my hand, her fingers curl tightly around mine and she tugs me towards the bed, just like yesterday.

"I will leave you to it." Klaus takes the empty bag with him as I settle on the bed next to Madison.

She buries herself into my chest,

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snuggling in as far as she could. Within minutes she is asleep again Her chest rises and falls against mine in a continuous rhythm. Her lips part as her body relaxes, but her fingers remain in place, clinging to me and preventing me from leaving.

I sniff her hair, hoping for some sign of her jasmine scent but there is still nothing. She smells just like any other Human.

Chapter 0384

I stay for a few hours, just watching her breathe. Every now and again she would do like a double breath and a tear would leak from her right eye. It was always her right. I wiped away each and every one as I tried to figure out what I wanted to do. I had unexpectedly become a Lycan's safe person. If my parents were alive, they would be roasting me.

Dane knocks on the door and Madison stirs a little but doesn't wake. "How is she doing?"

"Her soul has more cracks than yesterday," I mutter. "She already had some issues that she was working through."

"You told me that if they connect, it will tear her apart. Is that close to happening?"

"If more keep appearing." I comb my fingers through her red waves. "And I don't know if there is a way to reverse the shit this prick has pulled."

He frowns. "I need you to do me a favour."

"Another one." I cock my brow at him, "I feel like I have done more than enough for you."

"Samara is being taken to Neah." He tells me

"And you're here?"

"She doesn't want me there."

"And what's that got to do with me?" Madison presses herself into me and I squeeze her a little tighter.

"Blair is in the dungeons."

"You want me to kill her? I will be more than happy too, I've been waiting for this for a long time."

"No." He pauses. "Out of curiosity, why haven't you just killed her?"

"Neah asked me not to."

"Thought you didn't listen to Lycans."

"Normally, wouldn't, but she has her reasons and oddly, I respect them. She isn't like any other Lycan. She sees more than most. She listens. She doesn't piss me off." | give him a sarcastic grin.

"What do you mean 'she sees more than most?'"

I shrug my shoulders. "There's no real explanation for it. Maybe it has something to do with the way she

was brought up. Maybe she feels t

more settled now she knows who and what she is. I don't know, but she isn't a prick and I don't feel the need to jam a bullet into her head like I do with others."

He smiles at me. "Or maybe, you just realise that not all Lycans are assholes."

I roll my eyes at him.

"Anyway, I was hoping you would come down to the dungeons with me. I want to ask her some questions and I want to make sure I don't miss something useful."

Madison was probably going to be asleep for a while if the last couple of days were anything to go by. She doesn't stir as I pull my arm from under her. In fact she appears to be in the deepest sleep ever.

I follow Dane across the grounds to the dungeons. Blair is sitting in the corner of one cell, her hands bound together. Her legs folded up in front of her. She looked broken. It brought a small piece of happiness to my coffer heart.

"This is it, isn't it." Her brown eyes flicker up to mine. I still found it uncanny how much they looked alike, though the brown eyes and the shock of short black hair made them noticeably different.

"You must be shitting yourself, waiting for death." I mutter

She squeezes her eyes shut. "I'm ready."

"He's not going to kill you." Dane tells her

"Yet." I add with a smile, though she doesn't see it with her eyes screwed tightly shut.

I watch her gulp, her fear is more than evident by the way her body is trembling. She was actually fearing for her life. Interesting.

Chapter 0385

This chapter is a free chapter. If you have been charged for this specific chapter please contact Goodnovel as it is out of my control.**** Hey everyone, hope you are all well.

Just to let you all know there will be no update tomorrow 6th June but I will be back on the 7th.

I just want to add this bit for the people that do not like me putting in these author notes. I do it for all the people that do appreciate it and for the people that want to be kept up to date with chapter releases. I make it as a seperate chapter because if I tag it on to the end of a chapter, you will be charged more, rather than being able to read these notes for free.

If you do not wish to read it, you can skip it and read the next chapter when it becomes available. Just look for the little speech bubble next to the chapter number, that is the sign it is a free chapter also known as a message from me.

For all those that do enjoy being kept up to date, I will continue

putting in these chapters so that you know what is happening as I know many of you are eager for the next chapters.

As always, thank you for all the

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gems comments and reviews

See you on the 7th

Taylor West

Chapter 0386

Blair

My heart races as the two men tower over me, they weren't in the cell with me and yet it felt like they were taking up all the space.

Dane with his strange crimson eyes, watches me as Abraxas talks but I don't even hear him over the rush of blood that's happening inside my head. I do nothing but stare back, trying to make sense of his mouth movements, still, nothing sinks in.

The more I try, the more my head hurts and my lungs feel like they are working overtime. A panic attack Sammie had called it moments before I agreed to have the drip bag removed from my arm.

Abraxas clicks his fingers, "Are you even listening?"

I wanted to say no, tell him that his words are not sinking in, but nothing moves. My muscles fail me in every way possible. I was pretty sure I would piss myself if there were any fluids left in my bladder.

Sammie had said that we have a fight or flight mode embedded in us. It's only now with no Lycan that I would learn the true meaning of it. But what did it mean when I found myself unable to move or speak to the men who had put me here?

fear." I only catch Abraxas's final word. Somehow and somewhere, it seemed like I had forgotten what he was capable of.

I force myself to lower my head and take a few deep breaths. Is this how everyone had felt moments before I killed them? Did they feel like everything was moving in slow motion as they faced their death? Or were they paralysed with fear?

The back of my eyes burn as I try to hold in the tears. I was already weak enough without them seeing me in a blubbing mess. Something that I would have laughed at if it were anyone else.

The cell door is pulled open and Dane moves towards me. He grabs my elbow and rips me up onto my feet.

"What...what are you doing?" I croak.

He smiles at me, but it looks forced, or maybe it has a hidden meaning. It's pointless for me to try and guess, he wouldn't tell me anyway.

A tear breaks free and I wish I was able to wipe it away without them seeing but with my hands still bound together, it's impossible and instead it runs freely down my cheek.

Abraxas brings a chair into my cell and Dane forces me on it. Abraxas holds a cup to my mouth, the cool liquid tickles my lips but I turn my head away. Poison would be a slow death even without my abilities.

"It's just water." He mutters

I peer up at his hazel eyes. I couldn't tell if he was lying or not and I certainly couldn't smell if there was any poison in the water.

My throat is dry, every swallow is like razor blades are making their way through my flesh. I hadn't had a drink in ages and take a chance.

Sipping it, I'm relieved. The cold

water is the best thing I've tasted in hours and it beats that weird tasting juice that Sammie kept giving me. She kept insisting that my taste buds needed to adapt too, so I drank it, but each and every time pulled a face because of the weird bitter

after taste.

"I need you to answer some questions." Dane tells me and my eyes move to Abraxas. "He is merely here to make sure that I'm getting the truth from you."

My head moves up and down. I wasn't risking lying to them, not now and that strange knot appears where my stomach should be.

"So let's start with a few trial questions. What is your name?"

"Blair Everwood." I whisper. But I see the way they look at each other. They were expecting me to say Kitson.

"How many siblings do you have?"

"Thr...Four." I mutter almost forgetting my new half sibling, she must be five months old by now. "Two half sisters and two half brothers." I confirm "How many people have you killed?"

I shrug my shoulders.

"An estimate."

I frown, keeping count was not

something that bothered or

interested me. I knew many did, but was paid and counting was pointless. Once the job was done, I moved on to the next client. "Maybe a hundred."

Chapter 0387

"Why did you sell that toddler to a bunch of Humans?"

My eyes flicker to Abraxas. At the time, I felt no guilt about what I did to his daughter, it was purely payback. I had no problem tormenting someone in that way. It was just something that needed to be done. Now... Now I could see the cruelty of it. I had killed a mother and her unborn pup in the process and she wasn't the first. I had taken a child without a second thought and gave her to the most vile creatures on Earth. Humans.

"Because I am a bitch." I whisper. I had become so cruel and not once had I stopped to think about it until now. I nod at them both. "I more than deserve to die. All I want to know is when."

Dane looks over his shoulder at Abraxas who nods his head

"Neah will make that call." Dane tells me, "Though personally, I would like my Wolves to hunt you."

Being ripped apart while I was still breathing was not something to look forward to. I was starting to wish that there was poison in the cup.

Dane squats down in front of me. "I want you to draw out any little bit of information you can from Samara."

I still couldn't believe she had set me up. Everything she said and did, made me think she was being truthful, but I could see it now, after everything Neah had said to me, I could see that Sammie was nothing more than a liar.

"I will try."

"You will more than try. Your life depends on it." Abraxas sneers

"Right." I lower my gaze. "And if I don't."

"I think you know the answer to that." Abraxas tells me

"So you will kill me if I don't do it and you still might kill me if I do dig out information."

"Correct." Abraxas smiles at me. "Glad you understand."

Dane unbinds my hands and pulls a protein bar out from his pocket. "Eat. If you are going to do this, I can't have you starving to death." His tone is hollow. I don't think he

would actually care if I were to starve. I was his game piece and for now, that means I get to live.

He takes it out of the wrapper and gives it to me. "Move."

I stand up and he takes the chair out of the cell. Abraxas swings the door closed and turns the lock. I take a tiny bite of the protein bar and stash the rest in my pocket. Who knows if I was going to get something to eat again.

"Wait, what do you want me to find out?"

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"Use your brain." Abraxas smirks. "You've done this shit before, shouldn't be too hard for you to figure it out."

I'm shut in the dark. It was shocking

to realise how blind Humans were when it came to the dark. Sammie had been letting me sleep with the light on, just to give me some

comfort. And the night we left el

were street lights illuminating the road, but here, I could barely see my fingers in front of my face.

The door to the dungeons eventually opens, bringing rays of sunshine that briefly light up the dungeon. I see Sammie before I see Damien Her hands are bound, just like mine were Damien's dark eyes find mine and narrow.

He pushes Sammie into the cell opposite mine. She keeps her head down, but I could see that she had been crying. Fake tears? I wasn't sure. I knew that I had never seen her fully cry.

As he locks her cell, Sammie slides down the wall to the floor. I still couldn't see how she might be a Lycan, but Neah said they could smell her. "Are you okay?" I ask quietly when Damien leaves. He had left the light on, was that for my benefit?

"We have to get out of here, Blair! You were right, we shouldn't have come here."

"What did Neah say to you?"

"She was asking me about Cooper. I told her what I know but, I don't think she cares. I thought she was supposed to be a great Alpha."

"I guess she is just being cautious." I sigh

"You weren't in there for as long as I was." She stares into her lap as she talks.

"Maybe she just doesn't want to listen to me." I mutter with a frown. "Maybe she thought you might know more. I guess now, we just wait." "Screw that, I'm finding a way out of here."

Chapter 0388

Klaus

Tying my hair up, I grab the clipboard to check the stock of medicine. Raven had always kept a thorough check of everything and if anything was running low, she would have Dane order in some. I felt like it was something I could do to keep her memory alive.

Being the new pack doctor was not in my plans, but I guess, out of everyone that Raven trained, I was the next best thing and the pack needed a doctor, especially with the amount of Wolves and Lycans here now.

Checking everything off, I make a list. I had used a lot of supplies with Mallory's gun wound and now Maddie.

I hear the front door swing open and close, sticking my head around the corner, I see no one. I smell no one else. It must have been the wind. I was used to being alone, but somehow this place just made me feel more lonely.

Grabbing a fresh IV bag, I head to Maddie's room, only to find her bed empty.

"Maddie?" I call out, maybe she had woken and was using the bathroom. "MADISON?"

It's deathly silent and for a brief moment, I wonder if it's her that went through the front door. That was until I heard the small moan. Pulling open the bathroom door, she scares the shit out of me.

She's passed out, with her face pressed against the side of the toilet, a smear of blood against the porcelain. Rolling her over, I see she has managed to rip some of her stitches. Brax is going to kill me at this rate, it wasn't the first time she had done it and last time he had threatened to cut my dick off.

Lifting her from the floor, I carry her back to bed and set up a new IV, clean up her wound and restitch her face, hopefully Brax wouldn't notice.

As I finish, she mutters Cooper's name. The guy that did this to her. It was worse than cruel. I thought being bound was bad enough. Then to learn that Neah was bound four times was just sickening, but this was.... There wasn't really a word to describe it. Though he definitely deserved to rot.

Maddie starts to cough and rolls on to her side, reaching for the jug of water.

"I've got it." I rush around the side of the bed before she knocks it over.

I fill the cup and pop in a straw for her. Helping her to sit up, she lets out a groan as her deep chestnut eyes find mine. "Where's Brax?" Her words come out in a croak.

"He just had to go and help Dane, he will be back in a little bit."

"I'm safe?"

"Yes."

"I made it?"

"Yes."

She nods and slurps on the straw. She was an odd person. Or was. To be a Lycan and yet not be able to

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shift. I hadn't had time to do any research but I knew she thought it was because her captors

drugging her with somethineer

Though, from what I had learned in the last couple of years, that a feeling it was not the truth.

Maddie closes her eyes, "I have a message."

"A message?"

"Cooper said that I am the message."

"You are the message?" I repeat and she sort of nods her head at me and lazily brushes her red hair out of her face.

"Where's Brax?" She asks again, her chestnuts peeking out of her sleepy eyes.

"He will be back soon." I reassure her. "Is there anything I can get you?"

She

to concher head. "I ran. I ran

as fast

SI could." Her fingers move

lingered. "Why am I not healing?"

I was sure Brax had already told her. Though it was starting to sound like her memory had been affected.

"Cooper took away your Lycan abilities. Do you remember that?"

She frowns at me as her lips part a little. Slowly she nods her head but then it turns into a shake.

"You can't heal anymore, Madison."

"You're wrong." She snaps in defence. "I can heal, I've always been able to heal."

I lift her arm to show her the purple bruises that painted her skin. "You have been here for almost four days."

She rotates her arm and shifts her

gaze to her other arm which is just

away. I ran. I ran here on my own as bad. "He pinned me o

belongs to

It sounded more like she was trying to convince herself.

Chapter 0389

"Damien found you just outside the gates." I confirm

Tears creep out the corner of her eyes. "Get some rest, Dane and Brax will probably want to ask more questions."

Lying back, her eyes close and I step out of the room. Sitting behind the small nurses station, I wait for Dane. I had already alerted him and when he arrives, Brax is right behind him.

"She spoke to you?" Dane queries

"Yes. Though she didn't say much that's different from her previous conversations. She said she had a message and that she is the message but I get the impression she doesn't remember everything."

"She is the message?" He asks

"A warning." Brax mutters. "So he is telling us how easy it was for him to do that to one Lycan, and how easy it would be to do it again?" His hazel eyes land on mine. "Is she still awake?"

"No. And I might as well tell you now that she got out of bed when I was doing a stock check. I found her in the bathroom and she had ripped her stitches. I've fixed her up, no harm done."

"No harm done?" He glares at me. We had been getting on fairly well until he learned of my background, now it seems that anything I do or say tends to rub him up the wrong way.

"She is fine, Klaus has confirmed that." Dane glares at him. He turns to me. "How much longer do you think it will be before we can have a proper conversation with her?"

"Normally I would be able to answer that, but I've never dealt with anyone in this state. It could be days, it could be weeks."

Brax starts pacing while rubbing his temples. "We need more information on this Cooper guy!"

"Do you think you are the only one to think that?" Dane mocks him

"Neah can't link him?" I frown.

"No, somehow, he has no ties to her." Dane tells me

"Are you sure he is a Lycan?" It was a long shot, but I throw it out anyway. I was trying to add the pieces together and it was one of the things I could actually come up with.

Both men stop to stare at me.

"Of course he is, I could smell him when he was here. Blair said she could scent him the night he took her." Brax tells me.

"But didn't you say that Samara

completely masked her scent to the point you couldn't scent her." I reply and he scowls at me. He didn't like feeling outsmarted, he had told me that himself when we went out

looking for answers for Neah. I ignore him and continue to speak to Dane. "So what if he has found a way to trick the mind, completely?"

Dane nods at me. "We did think Neah was just a bound Wolf. But Neah has confirmed there was a link to him before all this shit went down and now, it's gone."

"Think about it, what do we know?"

We know that Cooper has somehow managed to take Maddies Lycan

abilities away and Blairs. We knowet

he convinced Blair that he was her

mate We know Samara was able to conceal her scent to the point we thought she was Human, ts she a Lycan or a Wolf?"

"A Lycan."

"So she achieved something that is unheard of and we know that Cooper probably helped her achieve that. So what's to say that he hasn't figured out how to make his scent smell like something else? And also figured out a way to make Neah

believe there was a link to him. For a moment I was thinking Witch, but what if he is part Witch? Or maybe a powerful Witch? He likes to punish Wolves and Lycans, it almost makes sense."

Dane grins while Brax looks like he has just chewed a wasp. He liked figuring things out and seeing what we couldn't see, but maybe that was the problem, he needed to use his brain more rather than rely on what his senses tell him.

Dane grabs my shoulder. "Come with me, I will call one of the nurses to take over here." "Are you sure, Maddie is still out of it."

"I will stay." Brax mutters through gritted teeth.

I tell him that I've just changed her IV bag and that nothing else needs doing other than monitoring her.

He gives me a sharp nod and disappears into her room, though I'm pretty sure I have just become his new target.

Chapter 0390

Neah

"What you are saying sounds like a fantasy." I shake my head, trying to make sense of Klaus's words.

"There was a time when none of us believed in Lycans either." He gestures to the window where I could see Lycans training. Damien had ordered them to up their skills in order to protect me. "We have come to learn a lot since then."

"He's right." Dane tells me. "Can you remember what happened when a Lycan walked out of that forest, directly over there. You hid and we ripped it apart because none of us knew what it was."

'He's right.' Nyx mutters.

'How do you know? You weren't even here!'

'I have access to your memories.' She huffs

"So you think he's a Witch, and that he isn't working with a Witch?" I ask, the only one I had ever met was Madame Curie and she was no longer with us. But she was also not anything like this.

Dane nods, "Witches come in all forms. They are not uniform like Lycans or Wolves or so I've been told. They all have different strengths, abilities and they are really fucking hard to find. Some, like Madame Curie, will work for Wolves, but only for a price. Others, well others think they are a level above the rest. I don't know how when there are so few of them."

"Blair said they don't work with Lycans, but Samara is a Lycan." I was trying so hard to make it make sense, but it felt like there was still a huge piece of the puzzle missing. Something that none of us were seeing.

"Did Brax screw over any Witches, is that why Cooper is doing this?" I ask

"I asked." Dane tells me. "He said he doesn't deal with Witches, they are of no interest to him, until now."

"Because of Maddie?"

He nods.

"He's with Maddie at the hospital, right now." Klaus adds. "She's gradually becoming more lucid. Maybe when she is ready, we will get more answers."

I nod as I rock my body back and forth. Evrin continues to cling to me like he had done for most of the morning. Almost like he knew something was wrong. Dane offers to take him but Evrin just hugs me tighter.

"So he is a Witch that somehow faked being a Lycan, and someone that is also strong enough to create a link with me?"

"I know it sounds a bit far fetched." Klaus nods, "But it makes sense."

'No,' Nyx mutters, 'No it fucking doesn't.'

"What's our next step?" I ask, keeping mine and Nyx's thoughts to myself.

"We need Samara to break." Dane says as he leans over the side of the cot to check on a sleeping Logan.

"She didn't even realise I could scent

her." I reply, "She carried on, continuing her story about what Cooper did to her even as her scent unravelled. I was waiting for her to shift, but she just continued acting like a victim, like we were the ones in the wrong for having her tied up."

"Blair is going to try and get the information out of her." Dane tells me 'Why?' Nyx mutters in my head

"Why would she do that?" I ask.

"I asked her. And because she feels just as screwed over by learning the truth about Samara. I don't think she is necessarily doing it to help us, but instead to satisfy her own anger at being tricked. She still knows that there is a chance she will die either way, and she still accepted my

request." Dane's crimson eyes hover

on me.

"I thought you might have killed her."

"I thought about it, but with all that is going on, I figured we could use her as a resource. To do that though, we will need to feed and water her. Bring her out once a day so she can tell us whatever Samara is up to."

"If we bring her out, we will need to bring Samara out too. She will know something is up otherwise." Klaus adds. "It seems like Cooper has an attachment to Samara, am I right?"

"Possibly" I sigh, "or it might be the other way around and Brax thinks there is a good chance that Samara is running the show."

I could see the way Dane was

looking at me. He had been a little

iffy about Klaus since the car accident but now, I hope he will feel a little better with Klaus sharing this information. He could have just kept it to himself, just as he could have kept the news of him being born a Hunter to himself, but he didn't.

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0391 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0391

Chapter 0391

I continue rocking on the spot until I could feel Evrin's grip relaxing, he was finally falling asleep after barely sleeping last night. "So we just wait?" I ask quietly.

"Yes." Dane nods. "Though I would still prefer for you to stay inside. I do not need Cooper getting his hands on you."

I smile, "I will just kill him."

"You won't be able to if he drugs you first."

"Let me take him, you are exhausted." Dane peels a crying Evrin out of my arms. It's almost three in the morning and he hasn't stopped since the sun went down. Nothing soothed him. He is clingy yet doesn't want to be touched. He couldn't even stand to be next to his twin. Thankfully, Logan is still fast asleep in the nursery and we had brought Evrin into our room to keep it that way.

"Do you think he is ill?" I was on the brink of crying. It's heartbreaking when you can't even help your own child. It's even worse because I could feel his pain. I just didn't know where that pain was coming from.

Dane shakes his head at me. "He ate, his nappy was full when I changed him. He doesn't have a temperature." He walks back and forth, cradling our son like he was a newborn. "I've linked Klaus to come and take a look at him."

"You do think there is something wrong?" My tone is full of worry. I wish it wasn't, but I couldn't help it.

"No, but I know you do, so Klaus is coming and he can reassure you."

He continues to move back and forth but Evrin is relentless. And when I hear that knock on the door, relief floods through my body.

Klaus thoroughly examines my son, and eventually shakes his head at Dane.

"Something has to be wrong." I snap, pulling Evrin into my arms.

"Physically, he is sound." Klaus sighs. "He has no temperature, no problems with his joints, no swelling anywhere. I'm sorry, Neah, but whatever this is, it's not medical. How long has he been crying?"

"Almost six hours." Dane replies.

"And he hasn't cried himself to sleep?" Klaus queries

Dane shakes his head and presses his lips into a thin line. He would be lying if he said he wasn't concerned.

"What about Brax?" I ask impatiently, "Maybe he can see something?"

"Go find him!" Dane orders Klaus.

"No need, I'm right here." Brax saunters into the room in nothing but a pair of grey joggers. "I was doing some late night training, I've been listening to the kid cry for h....."

He stops and stares at my crying son. A frown slowly creeps onto his face. "He's the youngest one, right?"

"Yes."

"Interesting. Remind me, how old you were when you first shifted?"

"I think they said a few days but then I was bound."

Dane holds a hand up, "Are you saying he is trying to shift?"

"That's exactly what I'm saying." He steps towards me. "His bones are trying to crack, the crying is covering the sound. I'm sure you can

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remember how painful it was to shift after you were released from your binding? That's what he is feeling, constant pain as his Lycan tries to push forward." His hazel eyes flick up to mine. "He's scared."

"Scared?" Klaus asks

Brax nods. "I believe so. He's trying to hold it in."

"You have to show him Neah." Dane tells me as Evrins cries continue. He turns to Klaus and Brax. "Leave us."

Evrin squirms and cries as I hand him back to Dane. I wait for Brax and Klaus to leave and start taking off my clothes. I wasn't ruining anymore 'Are we really doing this?' Nyx mutters

'I will do anything if it helps our son.'

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I close my eyes and let my Lycan come forward, Feeling every bone crack as they change position. Tufts of hair sprout along my skin as claws pierce the tips of my fingers. I open my eyes as my body

completes the transformation to see Evrin staring at me in silence. The first silence in hours. Content

belongs to

His blue eyes are wide as he sits with his back against Dane's chest, propped up by one of Dane's arms. I was fully expecting him to scream, but instead, he reaches out with his hands, beckoning for me.

Taking a step towards him, I hear his bones crack. He lets out a quiet whimper as tiny claws appear at the tips of his fingers. A few minutes pass and Dane is holding a small black Lycan instead of a little boy.

Chapter 0392

Blair

Sammie moves around her cell. Her fingers feel every nook and cranny as she searches. I sit and watch. Maybe it's because she didn't know Dane, or know the power he held over Wolves, but I knew he would make sure that every possible escape attempt would have been fixed, especially after Jenson told me how Salem had escaped.

"There must be something." She murmurs, to herself I think as she doesn't even look at me for an answer. She had muttered the same four words numerous times over the last few hours.

"Let's say you find a way out. Do you think you are going to make it anywhere without being caught?"

She stops and her hands fall down to her sides. Slowly her face became level with mine, though the dim light made it impossible for me to see her eyes.

"We are not that far from the forest. I looked when that guy brought me back here. There were no guards."

I found that hard to believe. Maybe she just hadn't seen them. Maybe she had been too busy yelling at Damien.

"Sammie, just stop, you will make this worse for us."

"It can't get much worse."

"Will you be saying that when they send us out into the forest?"

"What is that supposed to mean?" She snaps

"I've been threatened with a hunt. That means you will be sentenced to that as well." I frown

"A hunt?" she snorts and goes back to searching her cell.

"My mate... ex mate, told me that for serious punishments, Dane has his wolves hunt the person or people. They rip them to shreds while they are still breathing."

"They act like Rogues?"

She had never really mentioned Rogues before and I hadn't told her about that part of my life.

"Pretty much. I don't know if they are eaten, Jenson never did give me that answer."

"I don't buy it. It's probably just some scare tactic." She shrugs her shoulders.

"I'm not so sure." I mutter, breaking off a tiny bit of my protein bar when her back is turned and popping it into my mouth. It was vile, but I'm so hungry.

"And even if it is true. He wouldn't do that to us, we are basically Human, we wouldn't stand a chance." Sammie tells me.

"I don't think he cares about that." I watch her press on the cell bars and she suddenly stops to look at me. "Have you got food?"

"No." I lie. A part of me feels so guilty for lying, but she is doing the exact same thing to me, just not about food.

"You're lying." She snarls, "Come on, give me a bit."

"I'm not lying Sammie!" I sit in the furthest corner of my cell. She must have scented the protein bar. If she was Human, there would be no way she could smell it. But I don't ask her. I wanted her to tell me things accidentally. It has always been a good way to catch people out.

Sammie shakes the cell bars, like she was expecting them to just pop open. They should be worried about Cooper, not us." She mutters as she tries different bars.

"Do you think he will come for Neah?"

"Probably. I mean, taking away the female Alpha's powers, now that would be an achievement."

An achievement? It was a weird way

to describe it. If she was supportive of Neah, I would expect her to say something along the lines of hope not, not call it an achievement.

"By the looks of it, he will have a battle on his hands." I sigh, "There are a lot of Wolves and Lycans here."

"There really are. How many do you think?"

I shrug my shoulders. "Dane's pack is large regardless of the Lycans. And Neah called on everyone. I wouldn't have a clue about how many responded."

I see her nod her head. "A few hundred?"

"I don't know."

"Well how many did you see?"

"I don't know. I wasn't paying attention, I was just hoping that I wasn't going to die anytime soon."

Chapter 0393

"You need to pay attention, Blair. If we are going to get out of this, I need you to help me."

I nod my head. "I will look later, I haven't slept yet."

"Fine!" She mutters in defeat. She drops to the floor with a thud as I curl up in the corner with my back to her. It might be a mistake but she wasn't getting in here.

I'm not sure how long I had been asleep when I'm woken by Dane hauling me off the floor. He binds my hands together with rope and doesn't say a word as Sammie watches on.

Pushing me towards the steps, I feel the knot in my stomach that is becoming too familiar. Dane glares at me and I keep my mouth shut while Sammie begs him to tell her where I'm being taken.

He doesn't answer her and turns the lights off when we leave the dungeons, plunging her into darkness. But she will still be able to see. After all, she is a Lycan.

I keep my mouth shut as he pushes me towards the packhouse, hopefully that means I'm not going to die.

Leading me into the office, I see that we are alone. He unbinds my ropes and points me to the chair. "Sit."

I do as I'm asked as he takes the seat behind the desk.

"Have you learned anything?"

"She thinks she can escape."

He snorts, "And?"

"She made a comment about it being an achievement for Cooper if he could take away Neah's abilities." I shake my head. "I have been around a lot of different types of people, but to call something like that an achievement is...." I wasn't even sure how to describe it anymore.

"Like she wants it to happen."

I pull my bottom lip between my teeth and nod.

"Did you ask her anymore?"

"You want me to get information from her. I won't be able to do that if she is on to me." I drop my gaze, his crimson eyes were very unsettling. "Oh and she asked me about the numbers in your pack. She has already figured out that we are fairly close to the forest."

"Anything else?"

I shake my head and place my

wrists together, ready for them to be tied, when he walks straight past me to the door. Someone hands him something and the door is closed again.

"That's a start." He mutters, walking around me. "Now eat."

He places a plate on the desk a few feet in front of me. It was only a sandwich and a glass of water, but it looked like the best sandwich ever right now. Even I hear the rumbling my stomach was making, but what if it was a trick?

"Are you rewarding me?" I ask as my eyes lock on the sandwich

"Yes. If you are weak or die of starvation, you will be of no use. Think of it as a contract. You are rewarded for completing your end of the deal." "And what do you do?"

"For now, I won't kill you."

It was a power move. He knew he had all the control. "I'm not signing anything."

"I don't expect you to." He takes his seat and when I bite on my bottom lip again he tells me to quit. "Verbally works. Your choice."

"Fine." I take a bite of the sandwich and feel my taste buds ignite. So much for Sammie saying I would need to accept some changes when it came to food.

Dane doesn't speak as I take my time enjoying every mouthful. Who knows how long it would be before I got food again. I finish the water. "She will be suspicious."

"We are on top of it."

"What does that mean?"

"You don't need to worry about it. Are you done?"

I nod and he wraps the rope around my wrists again. I keep my head low as I walk back to the dungeons.

He pushes me into the cell a little and releases the rope around my wrists. It was clearly all for show, but I would rather that than have my throat slit.

Chapter 0394

Neah

'He already has his Lycan.' Nyx murmurs, she was still coming to terms with it.

'Uh huh.'

'What do we do?'

'Nothing.' I reply. I don't intend on having him bound like I was. This is who he is. But what I couldn't understand was why Evrin and not Logan. Logan is the first born and yet there have been no signs of this happening to him.

As soon as Evrin shifted back to Human form, he crashed and he crashed hard. I'm certain if there were bombs going off, he would sleep through it. 'Nothing.' It wasn't so much of a question from Nyx, but a confirmation that we agreed on what is right.

Running my fingers through Evrins short dark hair, his lips curve up into a smile. I glance over to Logan who is sitting on the floor playing with some toys. Was he close to shifting? Would he shift? Or would it be when he turns thirteen?

I know I shouldn't compare them, but I couldn't help myself. I had so many questions and I knew no one here could answer them. Not even Brax.

I briefly wonder how my parents must have reacted, but the thought disappears as I realise just how quickly they had me bound. They were obviously not happy about it. A far cry from how I feel about Evrin shifting.

Picking up Logan, I tell him we are going to let his brother sleep. He needed it after last night. I carry Logan down the stairs, just in time to see Dane pushing Blair out of his office.

She doesn't see us and keeps her head low as Dane marches her from the house. Hopefully she had managed to give him some information.

Logan and I head to the kitchen where we find Brax eating. He waves a hand in acknowledgement as I settle Logan on the floor with a couple of his toys.

"Just the one." Brax muses.

"Evrin is sleeping."

"Bit of a hectic night for him, wasn't it?" He's full of himself as usual.

"What does it mean?" I ask. "I've been trying to understand it. He's not the oldest. In theory, Logan is the heir to the Alpha position, both Black Shadow and the Lycans. But then when Klaus was researching me, he said it was because I was the last female Alpha and that's why I was gifted my abilities earlier. So why does Evrin have his?"

He chews his mouthful of food incredibly slow while staring at me with narrowed hazel eyes, "I don't have that answer."

"You must know something."

"You would think so, but I'm drawing

a blank. As you said, he isn't the eldest, it, doesn't make sense, but the reality is, it's happening whether you like it or not. Following i his mothers footsteps."

I nod and the back door swings open. Dorothy comes running in hysterically crying. She doesn't even stop when she sees us and runs through the door that leads to the stairs Moments later, I hear her footsteps moving frantically above us, As Brax starts to move, Damien comes in furious and tosses Dorothy's bag on the table.

"Why the hell is my daughter crying?" Brax is on his feet growling at Damien

"Oh I don't know, maybe it's because she pinned one of the kids down at school. If you haven't noticed, that is where she should be, but I had to go and collect her early."

"You better start talking!" Brax demands

"Like it was me who was talking to her teacher?!" Damien snaps and takes a seat next to me. "She pinned Kade down."

Brax smirks but doesn't say anything. It's not something he should be proud of when we are trying to create something better. "Isn't Kade Ryken's eldest?" I ask

"Yes." Damien replies "And we have already had issues with Ryken over Dottie attending the school."

"Fucker should stay in his lane then." Brax retorts.

"The school is for everyone." I warn him. "And if you haven't noticed, there are a lot more Lycan kids here than there are Wolves." I turn back to Damien. "Has Dorothy said why she did it?"

"Not exactly, she just said that he made her really angry." He points to the ceiling. "She never does this."

He's right. She never lashes out

unless she is in the middle of one of

her nightmares. She is normally quite a chilled child and wants to be everyone's friend. Anger isn't

something that is part of her

character.

"I will speak to the Lycan." Brax offers

I shake my head at him, "You will do no such thing. I don't need those three kids being left without a father."

He smiles at me, almost proud that I knew exactly what his intentions were.

Chapter 0395

"Spend some time with your daughter." Damien mutters. "You spend all your time, training, working or with Maddie."

"Are you accusing me of abandoning my child?!" Brax's nostrils flare as he pushes his hands against the table as though he is trying to hold himself back.

Damien glares at him, it was exactly what he was saying.

"Sort it out! I snap. "I have enough problems going on in this pack and I don't need you two to constantly be at each other's throats! Figure it out!" They both fall silent. I guess Evrin isn't the only one that's exhausted.

"I am going to speak to my daughter and find out exactly what happened!" Brax snaps, storming from the kitchen.

Damien opens his mouth to say something and I give him a warning glare

"Did she hurt him?" I ask when I know Brax is nowhere near us.

"Not exactly."

"What is that supposed to mean?"

"She launched herself across the room at him. Used a chair to pin him to the floor and threatened him with 'my dad will kill your dad.' The teacher said to keep her home for a couple of days. She's going to ask Ryken to do the same with Kade"

"My dad will kill your dad? Was she talking about you or Brax?"

"I think we both know the answer to that. I don't know if Kade said something to her or whether she is just having a bad day. There were no signs of nightmares last night, even with Evrin crying at all hours." His eyes shift to Logan. "Where is he anyway?"

"Sleeping." He didn't know yet. I take a deep breath and tell him "He shifted."

He blinks a few times, "Sorry, what?"

"Evrin shifted. He was crying because his body was trying to shift and he was holding it back. I showed him my Lycan and he shifted. A beautiful small black Lycan. And Dane hasn't spoken to me about it since."

"Problems never come just singularly, do they?"

I shake my head. Problems never came one at a time, not in this life.

"I'm sure it's nothing." Mallory tells me as she cradles Luca. "He could just be in shock."

"He encouraged me to show Evrin. And now he has been keeping his distance all day. I've linked him and he keeps telling me that there is something else that needs doing. It isn't like him."

"I'm a bitten Lycan, so remind me, how old are you when you shift for the first time?"

"Around the age of thirteen."

"Maybe that's all it is. He was expecting to have at least another twelve and a bit years to prepare. Dane adores you and I'm pretty sure nothing scares him. But maybe, this bit of fatherhood does because it's something he can't control."

"I hope you are right." I mutter, "Maybe now it will slow him down on the idea of having another."

"Another pup?"

"Yes. And before you get any ideas, I'm not pregnant."

She presses her lips together and raises her brow as she turns away. "Do you wonder if the next one will be a Wok like Dane? That would be funny wouldn't it. Siblings that are a mix of Wolves and Lycans. Orone that's a mixture of both. Is that even possible?"

"Who knows?" I cross my legs up under me. "Has Eric told you what's been happening?"

She nods.

"You knew Cassandra quite well. Did she use Witches? I mean she must have done, her and Trey had me bound. What I mean is, did you ever meet any?"

"No. There were very few people she

would let me meet. After running away, the older I got I realised how

much there was wrong with the

situation, but I had just been too

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blind to see it. I should have challenged them more when learned about you. I should have

seen everything that was wrong

instead of just accepting it." Content

belongs to

She takes a deep breath. "I never came across a Witch, Cassandra nor any of the others never mentioned one. We didn't even come across one when we were living with the Rogues."

I could see she was bothered by my talk of Cassandra. Eric had told Dane that she still held on to the past and what she had done to me. We never spoke of it. It was like a dirty secret kept between us but everyone else was aware of it.

I hadn't forgiven her, though not verbally. In my head, I had forgiven her a long time ago. She had become part of this family, my only female friend and I couldn't imagine my life without her.

She thinks she's being subtle, wiping a tear away as she kisses Luca's head.

"I forgive you."

Chapter 0396

Mallory

I am more than overwhelmed.

Neah keeps her eyes on me. I don't think she is waiting for an answer, instead I think she is watching to see how I process her words.

My mouth opens and closes several times as I struggle to form any words. I'm also pretty certain that if I had been holding anything but Luca, I would have dropped it.

Forgiveness was something I was never expecting. Never. She had made that very clear that day she finally heard me out.

I clear my throat, hoping that my brain will engage my mouth muscles. "You do?"

She bobs her head at me.

"Why now?" I could feel more tears creeping along my eyelids

"You are not who you were. I'm not who I was. We have both come a long way." She shrugs her shoulders at me like it's no big deal. "The person you were back then, she only ever cared about herself." She smiles to herself. "I killed the man who shot you because it made me so angry that I thought I had lost you too."

I hadn't thought about it like that and she had never mentioned anything about it. Brax had told me that the guy was aiming for Neah and that was why I assumed she killed the guy. Not because he had hurt me.

"You have no idea what it means to hear you say that." I whisper, still trying to process the weird sense of relief that I'm feeling. I had no idea of the guilt I had been holding on to. I guess I had just grown so used to it, that now it's gone, I feel strange, but in a good way.

"It's funny." Neah shifts her gaze to the window. "I never thought I would see you again, I definitely didn't think we would be living in the same pack." "Or that you outrank me, big style." I add and see her lips curve up

"I never had a friend until Raven, and even if she were still alive, I don't think we would be as friendly as you and I have become."

"She cared about you." I offer

"For a while, but then.....Anyway, do you accept?"

"Hell fucking yeah!" My response makes Luca jump, causing him to cry as Neah laughs.

I stay with Neah for a few hours while she mulls over Dane's reaction to Evrin shifting. Though I'm certain it's just because it's something he wasn't expecting. In the moment he was probably excited and then reality set in. It will be harder to protect him now and some people may not like it.

Leaving the house, I find Dorothy sitting behind a bush, her back pressed up against a side wall,

hidden from most people's view.

She's doodling on a piece of

and by the looks of it the discarded food wrappers, she had been here for sometime.

Slipping in behind the bushes, she stares at me with bright green eyes, waiting for me to tell her off.

"Dorothy?" I say softly. "Why are you sitting behind the bush?"

"I don't want my Dad's to find me."

I lower Luca and myself until I'm sitting with my knees touching hers. "You know they can smell you, right?"

"I didn't think of that." Her shoulders drop and her bottom lip sticks out. "They are mad at me."

"Because of what happened at school?" It had to be the only reason.

She bobs her head and the bottom lip comes out further.

"Something made you angry?"

She doesn't answer me and refuses to meet my gaze.

"Everyone gets angry." I tell her, "Lot's of different things make people angry and do you know what I've learned over the years?"

She shakes her head.

"It's always better to talk about it."

"But they will be angry."

"Maybe, but if we don't know why

you are, we can't help you." I'm

hoping that she will find it easier to talk to someone that's not one of her Dads.

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"He said I was different. That there is something wrong with me."

"Kade?"

She bobs her head and I notice how hard she is pushing the pencil into the paper. "I'm not bad. I help Neah He called me poison. I don't even know what that is. Then he said.... He said someone will kill me in my sleep because I deserve it."

Chapter 0397

Her fingers curl tightly around the pencil until it snaps, "but I'm not the one who is bad." "You think Kade is bad?"

Her head moves up and down making her braids swing. "Not right now, but he will be."

Surely it wouldn't be possible to know if a child is going to be a problem when they are older. They haven't even experienced life.

"Have you spoken to either of your Dad's about it?"

"Daddy Damien was angry and Daddy didn't listen. I had to stop Kade, Mallory. Everything he said made me sad. He's mean and only to me" She smiles at Luca sleeping in my arms. "Can't I just stay here and play with Logan and Evrin? They like me."

"That's not up to me. But school is really important. Have you made any friends?"

"One girl talks to me. Her name is Lyrah."

"She's a Wolf?"

"Uh huh, she's the one who told me to stick up for myself. So I did."

"I want you to do something for me."

Her green eyes are unsure as she studies me.

"When you go back to school, if anything happens, I want you to tell the teacher. I don't want you doing something that will get you into trouble." "That's what Daddy Damien said."

"Because he is right." Although if she had asked me when I was younger, I probably would have told her to beat the crap out of Kade.

She pouts at me as a tiny crease appears between her brows. "I can't wait to be a grown up."

I laugh, "Come on, you can stay with me and Luca. One of your Dad's can collect you later."

"Are you going to tell them?"

"I think you should, but I can be there with you."

It's late when Damien and Dane arrive. I wasn't expecting both of them, but maybe I could talk sense into both of them.

"Dorothy is asleep. She can stay for

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the night. We need to talk." I wanted Dorothy to tell him, but I wasn't waking her up after it took me so long to convince her to sleep. She was one hundred percent positive that Kade was going to kill her and I wouldn't notice

"Has she said anything?" Damien mutters as he takes a seat at my small dining table.

I tell them the conversation I had with Dorothy.

"He called her poison?!" Dane asks in disgust

"She even said she doesn't know what that means so it's unlikely she made it up. I don't know if it's because she is a Hunter by birthright or if there is something else going on, but...."

"I will handle it." Dane replies. "She is part of this pack whether they like it or not."

"That's not going to put her mind at rest. That girl cried herself to sleep tonight. She's probably gone right back to square one." Right on cue, she starts crying.

"I'm going to take her home. Maybe a familiar bed will help." Damien frowns and disappears up the stairs to find her.

I sigh and glance up at Dane, "You haven't said anything about Evrin."

"Neah told you?"

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I nod, knowing was crossing over into dangerous territory by challenging him. "Is that why you haven't spent any time with them today that why you have been making excuses about going home? Because he can shift?"

I don't wait for an answer.

"She's sad and I know you feel her sadness. She thinks you are disgusted by Evrin being able to shift."

"Not true."

"But you came here with Damien when you didn't need to. You could have gone home to her. Home to your boys."

Dane shakes his head at me. "I've been on duty, I don't want the news of Evrin getting out."

"That's why you have been avoiding going home?"

"No. I don't want Cooper finding out

that my son can shift. I have been working all day, chasing up possible leads, looking for the problems in my pack. Shutting down anyone that thinks they know something."

"You're worried?"

"Wouldn't you be if Luca started shifting? I'm not worried about who Evrin is. I'm worried about the assholes that think they can take advantage of it."

"Then you should tell Neah before she spontaneously combusts from all the ideas going around her head."

Chapter 0398

Dane

The pack house is quiet. No sound comes from Neah or the twins. Damien must have settled Dorothy because I don't hear them either.

Following Neah's lavender scent, I find her sitting in the attic, surrounded by all the twins' baby things. Her tired blue eyes flicker up to mine and she lets out a sigh but does not speak and continues to fold up clothes.

"I'm not upset." I move further into the light. "I just needed to put some arrangements in place to protect him. To protect them. If Evrin can shift then Logan probably isn't that far behind and I need to make sure no one thinks they can take advantage of them."

"Okay."

She wasn't saying how she really felt and I didn't even have to read her mind to know that.

'She is angry.' Aero murmurs

'I can see that.'

I sit on one of the boxes and it dips from my weight. "I wasn't running away from it. That's not who I am."

"Okay."

I hated the one word answers. I thought we were long past that.

"Neah?" My voice drops lower and she stops folding. I watch her shoulders drop as another heavy sigh leaves her mouth.

"I can't remember it, but I reckon what Evrin saw when you handed him back to me, was exactly what I saw when I first shifted. A smile that vanishes just as quickly as it appeared and the need to get away."

"You are comparing me to your father?"

"Not to him exactly, but his response. They had me bound because I was able to shift early. They tried to abandon me when they realised it didn't work and when they still couldn't get rid of me, they bound me again. And you...you just handed him to me and left and all day, you have ignored us and made excuses to not come home."

'You've triggered her trauma.' Aero whispers as though Neah could hear him

I step towards her as her pain grows, but she pulls back, tears creeping down her face as she eagerly wipes them away.

"I didn't expect....."

"I didn't either, but you don't see me running away from our sons!" She snaps at me

"I didn't run away."

"You've been gone all day." The tears stop and all I feel is her anger.

"I was making sure Klaus hadn't told anyone. Brax knows to keep his mouth shut but we both know Klaus has a loose tongue and likes to overshare. Something like this is exciting news to him and he will think it's a great idea to tell the pack, but only want the pack to know when you are ready to tell them, I want to keep the boys safe, I don't want them to become new targets for Cooper. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have left like I did and not tell you."

I felt bad and Aero tells me I should feel bad.

I had always made it clear with Neah not to keep secrets from me and I had done just that and I was still holding something back. But she was not in the right frame of mind for me to tell her. Not yet.

"I assume the twins are asleep."

She bobs her head up and down and wipes away another tear. I hated and loved seeing her like this. I hated it because was the reason for it, but loved how protective she is over the boys and I hoped that part will never change.

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"Has Logan shifted?" I ask quietly as I take another step towards her.

"No." She puts a lid on the box that she had finished sorting, "Evrin hasn't either, he's been mostly asleep."

"Have you slept?"

She shakes her head at me. I hold out my hand. Reluctantly, she takes it, letting me pull her to her feet. We head down to our bedroom where she barely makes it to our bed before crashing out. She doesn't even wake as I take her boots and her jeans off.

Stripping off, I climb into bed and pull her against me. She's dead to the world yet her body automatically presses in against mine, like it did almost every night.

'You didn't tell her!' Aero mutters

'I will, in the morning.'

'It isn't going to go down well.'

'I know, but there is no good way to tell her that one member of the pack is missing.'

Chapter 0399

'She needs to know.'

'And she will, in the morning. It's no good telling her now when she is already sleep deprived.'

I glance down at my mate's face resting on my chest. She looked so peaceful and all that was about to change.

When I wake, she is still fast asleep. She has stripped off her remaining clothes and is sleeping on her stomach with the blanket barely covering her ass. I wish I could stay with her, but I could hear the boys stirring in the nursery.

Dressing first, I head into the nursery where both boys are wide awake and standing in their cots. They are both really happy to see me, but I do notice how Evrin looks to the door, looking for his mother.

It was definitely easier to get them ready before they learned to walk and squirm out of any hold. Now it felt like I was wrestling two octopuses anytime I got them ready for the day.

Taking them downstairs, Damien is already waiting for me. "Dottie is having breakfast. Have you told Neah?"

I shake my head. "She was exhausted last night and telling her would not have been helpful at all. She will have a clear head when she wakes up. Though he isn't a Lycan so it's unlikely that she will be able to do anything."

He nods and takes a squirming Logan from me while pulling faces at him. "You're certain he didn't just leave?"

"Positive, I can't sense him at all. It's like he has just fallen off the face of the Earth."

"I know I have already asked this, but do you think Brax...."

"No." I cut him off. "I know Brax has issues, but I don't believe he would do this. Besides, he hasn't got the ability to take away someone else's abilities. There is only one person that we know of who is capable of that."

"But why Klaus?" Damien questions. "Klaus never puts a foot out of line. From what we have learned from Blair and Maddie, Cooper punishes those who are 'bad'. And Klaus, he just isn't like that."

"I know, and that's what makes it more frustrating."

We take the boys to the kitchen for some breakfast and Dorothy quickly runs past us.

"You don't think he has done something like those Wolves that attacked Neah and Brax, do you?"

"If you had asked me a couple of days ago, that's exactly what I would think. But Klaus has been a part of this pack for a long time. He has helped out in a lot of ways, he wouldn't just turn his back."

"I hope you are right."

Brax walks past the window with Maddie in tow. A heavy set frown plastered on his face while she looks like she is on the verge of crying. Unexpectedly, he knocks on the door instead of barging in like he normally does. Even Damien raises an eyebrow at me.

Opening the back door, I see how Brax's fingers are tightly coiled around Maddie's wrist.

"Tell them!" Brax orders

I watch her tremble. "Should you be out of the hospital?"

Her eyes move to Brax, "I don't even know if it was real."

"If what was real?" Damien ushers her to a chair much to Brax's annoyance

"I think... I think Cooper was in the hospital."

"When?" I demand.

"I'm not sure. I was tired. I was in and out of sleep." Her fingers run over her neck. "I don't know if I was dreaming or if it was real." Her chestnut eyes move between all of us. "I heard voices. Angry voices but they were quiet, like a whispered disagreement."

"Who?"

"Cooper and Klaus." Brax glares at me

"Klaus was helping Cooper?" Damien asks, disgusted by the idea and after I had just said he wouldn't turn against us.

Maddie shakes her head at me and keeps her gaze low. "He offered to go with Cooper if Cooper promised to leave everyone alone." "Why are you only telling us now?"

"Because yesterday, she was mostly asleep again. I think the bastard drugged her." Brax seethes

I glance at the door that leads out to

the bottom of the stairs. "Shit!" I hadn't been paying attention to my mates movements and as I move to the door and pull it open, I find Neah standing on the other side.

"Klaus is gone?"

Chapter 0400

Klaus

"Why are you doing this?" I stare up at him as he strides back and forth. I still felt a little dizzy, but it was just like when I was a kid and my parents had me bound. I was just a little weaker. It was fine, nothing I couldn't handle.

"Do you always ask so many questions?" He growls. He keeps checking the window of the old cabin, as though he was expecting someone to be following us. No one knew that I had left, though it would only be a matter of time before someone figures it out.

"Pretty much. It's what I'm known for in Black Shadow. I like knowledge. My entire house is full of books." I fidget with my bound hands, trying to create a little wiggle room so I didn't have to feel the rope burning my skin with each movement.

"Okay then, Mr knowledge. Tell me how I get Samara and Blair out of the dungeons."

"You don't. They are too heavily guarded. They will see you coming from all angles. You would be stupid to think that Dane would have just one guard. Why do you want them back, surely they are useless to you now?"

"They didn't see me coming to the hospital though, did they?" He smiles, ignoring my question.

"Because it wasn't a priority."

He runs a hand through his cropped blonde hair. "You are going to help me get them back."

"The agreement was that if I came with you, you won't touch anyone inside the pack."

"They are not part of the pack."

I laugh, "Inside the pack, that was the deal. I've seen enough contracts to know the correct wording!"

He squats down in front of me. His sage green eyes study me. "You love that pack. Why?"

"It's my family."

He laughs and shakes his head. "There are a lot of bad people in Black Shadow."

"And you're not bad? You take away people's abilities. To me, that's bad." My neck still aches where he had jabbed me, and I'm desperately fighting the need to sleep. But

sleep Completely takes me, I we me

going to get as much out of him as I could. I will find a way to get the information to Dane or one of the others.

"No Klaus, I'm correcting everything that is wrong." He tells me

"According to who? You? Why do you get to decide what is right and wrong?"

His fingers grab my cheeks and he squeezes enough to create pain. "Someone has too. Now get some sleep, we have a big day tomorrow."

He moves out of the room and watches me as he quietly closes the door. Within seconds my eyelids grow too heavy for me to keep open.

"Wakey wakey sleeping beauty." He

nudges my legs with his boot.

Groaning, I push myself up until I'm sitting against the wall. "Here, eat."

He places an apple in my hands, "I don't need you starving." Content

belongs to

I take a bite as he watches me. "I assume you didn't tell them. Is that why you came so easily?"

"Tell them what?"

"Oh, you know exactly what I'm talking about." He squats and wipes some of the apple juice from my chin.

I take another bite, refusing to say anything.

"Just so you are aware, what I've drugged you with isn't permanent like Madisons or Blairs. A couple of days or so, you will be able to scent me again. Though I'm hoping that I can convince you not to reject me."

The blue flecks in his sage green eyes seem brighter, full of hope. Like he was totally convinced I would be on board with him just because he happens to be my mate.

"Maybe I can convince you not to be a prick!"

He smiles at me and pulls a bottle of water from the inside of his jacket. "As much as you think I'm a prick, I would rather you didn't die on my watch." "But you will gladly ruin the lives of others." My eyes move to the bottle, but I don't pick it up.