

The Alpha's Contract

#Chapter 0401 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0401

Chapter 0401

"You don't trust me do you?" He asks

"You are not trustworthy."

He takes a swig from the bottle and puts it back in front of me. "See. Now drink. We have to move soon."

He moves to the window, scanning the area. I knew we were still in the forest, but not Black Shadow's forest because there are no abandoned cabins there.

"Is Samara the Witch?" I ask. It couldn't be him if I was mated to him.

"No. I am. Well, half Witch. Though I am particularly proud of how strong I am." He turns back to face me. "Samara is the only one that knows that about me, and you obviously. Clearly my Lycan side has been linked with yours. Even funnier knowing that you are a Wolf" He lets out a low growl. "You thought your Witch side outweighed your Lycan side?"

"I did, until I stumbled upon you. You scented me when I was hiding in the pack as Ash Thomas."

"Only briefly, I thought my mind was playing tricks. I picked up your scent and then, in seconds, it was gone."

"Had to keep myself hidden while I sussed out the pack. I couldn't have you ruining it for me, could I." He gives me a big grin.

"That's how you disconnected the link to Neah? Because you can hide who you truly are?"

"Yes."

"She will kill you."

"I'm sure she will try, but will she kill you in the process?"

He does a final check outside and pulls me to my feet. Ushering me out into the forest. Even though it was dark, the birds were already singing, a sign the sun would be rising soon. I don't fight Cooper, there was no point, he had the upper hand. So I walk, letting him guide me through the forest until I recognised the location where Dane had asked me to bring clothes for Neah.

"Where are we going?"

"Well seeing as my little escapee has abandoned her house, I thought we could spend a few hours there. You know, close by but not too far away. Get some decent rest instead of that shitty cabin."

"You don't think they will come looking here?"

"Why would they? Blair and Samara are tightly locked up. But right now, I'm more interested in you. You haven't once complained about not having your Wolf. Why?"

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I shrug my shoulders and keep walking.

"Now you stop talking!" He mutters in annoyance, "And I was just starting to like you."

I keep quiet for a little while and then ask the question that has been bugging me. "Why Blair and not Maddie?"

"Maddie is weak. I don't need her. She is a waste of resources. Though I am impressed she made it back to the pack." He didn't say anything about Samara.

"So tell me Klaus," his husky voice runs right through me. "Why are you so calm? could slit your throat. I could pierce your chest with my lovely tittle blade and rip your insides out. could force you to shift skin you and make a nice winter coat."

I glance over my shoulder. "Because you need me. That was why you agreed to leave everyone alone if I came with you. What is Samara to you?"

"A pain in my fucking ass." He stops me. "You don't see the resemblance?"

"Can't say I have really looked at her. I've been busy trying to help Maddie."

"She is my sister. Same father, different mother."

I laugh and he glares at me. "What the fuck is so funny about that?"

"One of the guys thought Samara had a thing for you."

"Ew, don't be so fucking disgusting." He shakes his head. "How long did it take for them to figure out Sam was working with me?"

I considered lying. Telling him that

only I had figured it out. But it

wouldn't achieve anything. Th

might if he thinks she is about to be slaughtered.

it

"Since she arrived."

"So why are they keeping her alive?"

Chapter 0402

Blair

A shiver goes down my spine when Abraxas Adler makes his way into the dungeons. He was the last person I wanted to see.

He slowly runs his gun along the bars of my cell. Each bar lets off the sound of metal clunking on metal and it goes right through me.

In the cell opposite me, I see Sammie shuffle to the back, the shadows plunge her into darkness, but her soft cries give her presence away. "You can relax, baldy. I'm not here for you." He spins around to Sammie's cell and repeats the process, running his gun against the bars, while laughing to himself. "It's your turn, princess."

"No." Sammie cries. "I haven't done anything."

"We just have a few more questions. Answer them and you can come back here and rest your pretty little head."

"I've told you everything!" She's getting annoyed.

"Sammie just answer them. You will only make it worse for yourself, for us." I mutter and Abraxas looks over his shoulder and gives me a wink. Just because I wanted the truth and didn't want to die, it did not mean we were on the same side.

Half of Sammie's face appears, the shadows still cover the majority of her. She had been crying. I had spent all night listening to her sob. She would stop and start again, over and over until I wished I was deaf. It was worse torture than being starved. Until I realised that each sob sounded different. Forced. Laboured. But I don't think it was for me, she was likely hoping a guard would come down. And even now, with just one grey eye visible, I could see anger not sadness. Nothing was going the way she wanted it too.

I probably wouldn't have noticed if I had not spent so much time with her. And I had nothing but time.

There were massive downsides to being Human, but you do get to know the people you spend time with, if you pay attention.

"Does Dane want to speak to me?" She asks quietly.

"No, not today. Today is all about my fun." Abraxas grins at her. He is a fucking mad man and I still don't understand how he ended up here. Hunters work alone.

He opens her cell and grabs her by the throat, pulling her protesting body close to him. "Don't try anything stupid. I'm not in the mood for stupidity. Understand?"

"Yes." She croaks

I see it then, actual panic. And she should panic.

A few minutes after they leave, I hear heavy footsteps on the stairs. Retreating to the back of my cell, I wait. Was this it? Was Dane tired of waiting and had just decided to kill us? It would be the only reason both of us are leaving our cells.

My lungs tighten until I'm struggling to breathe. Strange black spots start forming in my vision and I find myself slipping down the wall as my chest starts to hurt.

"Shit, kid. Breathe."

Ryken's large hands wrap around the cell bars. His piercing blue eyes wide as he studies me.

"What...what are you doing down here?"

"Your mother is asking questions. I said if I could get permission, I would come and see you. Find out how you are."

The black spots fade from my vision and I take a deep breath. I never want to feel that again.

"Just peachy." I mutter. "Why didn't she come?"

"The pup is a little restless today,"

"You didn't have to come."

"Yes I did, because I love your mother." He walks away and grabs the stool from the far end of the dungeon and plonks it in front of me. "Sometimes, we do stuff for our loved ones no matter how ridiculous it is. How did you end up here, Blair?"

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"Let's see. I went on a one woman mission to take something that was mine, that failed miserably. Met someone who I let mark me that I was also a complete bitch too. Ended up in a shit situation where I was locked up for months by a man who thinks he is a fucking God. And then my lack of any Lycan abilities let me trust someone that brought me back to this place, and now I am a prisoner until they decide the day of my execution.

His brow dip. "Do you regret any of it?"

I drop my head and snort. "Do you think I'm enjoying this?"

He rolls his eyes at me and sits up a little straighter, folding his arms across his chest. "I was certain Alpha Neah was not going to let us exist, purely based on who you are and what you did, but she did, she gave us a chance. And your mother and brothers are thriving here, your little sister will too."

"And what does that have to do with me?"

"You could too, Blair. You could put everything behind you and start afresh."

"So we can be one big happy family, right?" I mock

He rises to his feet, shaking his head. "I knew this would be a mistake. You are such an ungrateful brat. You can't even accept the help you are being offered."

"What help? Reminding me that my mum moved on and had more kids so she could replace me?"

"You know that is not what I mean and you know that is not true. For once in your life, pull your head out of your ass and look at the bigger picture."

"You can go now." I fish in my pocket for the remaining bite of my protein bar, Only to find it had taken a hit when I crashed on the floor and all that remained were crumbs.

Chapter 0403

"We are trying, Blair. We want a life here. The Wolves are not bad people, well, maybe the odd one, but most of them are happy with the way things are run here. The boys go to school. Your mum helps out at the bakery when she hasn't got Braelyn attached to her. Alpha Dane lets me work on the gate now."

"Braelyn?"

"Your sister." He smiles to himself.

"Can I meet her?"

He shakes his head, "Not while you are down here and not until you are no longer considered a threat."

"A threat? I can't smell anything other than my own stench. I can't hear anything other than your words. I can't heal. I almost passed out and I get this weird feeling in my stomach, yet you think I'm a threat."

"Then prove everyone wrong."

He turns to leave and then turns back, taking an apple out of his jacket. Placing it just inside of my bars, he sighs. "Here, it's not much, but I could hear your stomach from the top of the steps. If you want a chance Blair, I suggest you do everything they ask of you."

He didn't know I already had a job.

"What if that isn't enough?"

"Then I guess you didn't try hard enough."

I stare at the apple for sometime. Ryken had no reason to be kind to me. No reason to tell me to prove myself. If anything, I thought he would be grateful that I was going to be killed.

Taking the apple, I retreat to the back of my cell, letting the shadows wash over me. I don't eat the apple, but I do roll it in my fingers, trying to figure out what I can do to get something useful out of Sammie.

Time passes differently down here. It's dark all the time unless they leave a light on. The only way I could tell if it was night or day is when one of us was taken out. So I had no idea how long it was before Sammie returned.

She is full on crying as Abraxas shoves her down the stairs. And this time, it didn't sound fake. As she comes into view, my mouth drops open. He had shaved her head right down to the skin. Sammie is balder than I am.

Strands of her long blonde hair still clung to the dirty sweatshirt she is wearing and as Abraxas pushes her into the cell, she rushes to her own dark

corner.

"Maybe next time you won't lie." He sneers as he turns away, not bothering to stop to look at me.

"Sammie?" I whisper when the door closes and we are left alone.

Her cries fill the air. "He shaved my head. He took it all."

"Why?"

"He kept saying I was lying. That I'm hiding things. He shaved it as punishment."

"It will grow back." It was what she had always said to me when I found myself mindlessly running my hands through the fluff that was my hair. "He's cruel." She snarls.

"He's punishing us. He can't shave my hair because it's already gone."

"Do... do you have any food?" She whispers

I look at the apple. She could smell it, just like she had scented the protein bar, if I kept withholding my treats, she might become suspicious and stop talking to me. Then, I would really be writing my death sentence.

"My stepdad was here. He brought me an apple. Do you want it?"

"An apple?"

I nod and step into the light to show her. "I can roll it to you."

"Thank you, you don't know how much this means to me. My stomach is so sore."

I take a bite and then slip it through the cell bars, pushing it hard enough so that it rolls to her.

She devours that thing in seconds, stupid girl. She should have made it last.

"What did he ask you?" I needed to know everything.

"He wanted to know if there was anyone else?"

"Anyone else? Like someone else that has been made Human?"

She hesitates. "He thinks I'm working with Cooper. They all do. They don't believe me. It doesn't matter what I say, they are dead set on the idea. You have to tell them they are wrong!"

"Did you tell them they are wrong?"

"Of course. But that guy, he just stared at me, then he asked me about a girl called Madison."

"Madison?"

"I've never met anyone by that name, Cooper never....."

"Never what?" My knuckles whiten as I clench the bars.

"He never brought anyone to the prison by that name."

"Did you meet the other prisoner's?"

"A couple."

It wasn't what she had told me before. She had reeled off a similar story to mine about being kept confined for ninety percent of the day.

"This isn't much different, is it?" I gesture to the walls. "Though I can't believe you managed to kill someone in the library, that couldn't have been easy."

"It wasn't, but I did it." She sounds proud.

Isn't it amazing how easy Sammie

slips up when she feels someone is on her side, She told me she had killed someone in the bathroom so she could escape, not the fucking library. I don't even know if the prison had a library.

But it was becoming clearer and clearer about how much bull shit I had fallen for.

Chapter 0404

Abraxas

Samara was fucking useless. How can someone be so fucking stupid as to play this game with us? Maybe if she had stopped crying for one damn second, I could have got something useful out of her. Though I did enjoy shaving her head as she squealed.

If I couldn't get anything out of her, I will keep going until I break her.

I push the door open and find Madison propped up on the bed reading. Dane had requested that she stayed in the house, given her situation. We had words, but ultimately, his decision outweighed mine.

The room was small with only the bare necessities. A bed, a wardrobe and a dresser. She had access to a bathroom just down the hall.

"I take it that it didn't go well with that woman from the dungeon?" Madison asks as she puts her book down.

"I never said who I was meeting."

She points to the window and rolls her eyes at me. "The power of sight is an amazing thing."

She was starting to feel more normal, but still had a tendency to rub over one spot on her neck like it was bothering her. Though her attitude towards me today was starting to rub me up the wrong way.

"No, it did not go well. She was a blubbering mess."

"So you shaved her head?" Her chestnut eyes are on mine. "I saw her leave."

"She deserved to have something done to her that she had done to someone else."

Madison bobs her head, but keeps her rosy lips pressed together.

"You don't agree?"

"I didn't say that." She mutters, picking up her book and quietly flicking through the pages, blatantly trying to ignore me.

"You didn't have to, your face says exactly what you are thinking."

She slams the book shut. "Have you ever thought that always being mean to someone isn't the way to get information from them. Especially not if they are in some kind of denial." She keeps her gaze on the book, "I sat on the stairs listening to you terrorise at her."

She exaggerates opening the book and props it on her knees and reads, ignoring my presence.

"Madison...."

"I know. That's what you do. You are a Hunter you are created to kill Lycans."

"It's only just bothering you now?" I smirk and she glares at me.

"Why are you here?" She fires back. "You made it quite clear that you couldn't feel our bond anymore. Dane wants me to stay here until he figures something out because Klaus isn't at the hospital. You don't need to watch over me, not anymore."

"Mad...."

"I'm fine." She shrugs at me, "I get it. You just couldn't ignore the mate bond before and now you don't feel it so you don't have to worry about it. Cooper fixed the problem for you. You can just forget I ever existed."

I stare at her as another crack creeps into her soul. Her exterior may suggest that she's fine but her soul was completely different and those cracks are forever getting closer and closer together. All it will take is for one or two to appear in the right spot and she will shatter.

"You are right. I thought it was because of the mate bond, but for some reason, I couldn't get you out of my fucking head and that still hasn't changed, that's why I am here."

Her eyes widen from my unexpected response.

"I spent hours in that hospital, trying

ne

to figure out why I couldn't walk away. I watched you squirm in your sleep from the night terrors, wondering how I could make it stop. I thought about all the ways am going to make Cooper suffer for

what he did to you."

to

"I've watched your soul crack over and over, waiting for the moment when all those cracks meet, knowing it will tear you apart. I watched because I didn't want that to happen and I hoped my presence would be enough to stop that."

She slowly puts down the book, her chestnut eyes are low. "You can't Brax, you can't stop it because I was already broken."

The tip of her tongue slides across her lips as she scowls. "The fire you pulled me from was not the first time I've tried hurting myself. The men, the ones that sold me between their friends, had to take me to hospital regularly."

That was already obvious from her soul, but I never pressed for the information.

"You could heal?" I frown

el

"I could, but before fire, I used poison. It has different effects and is harder to heal from. At first, I did it to have a break from them and then it was a good way to numb everything, but my body started adapting, becoming used to it. The doses were becoming dangerous and they became more vigilant about what I had access to." She smiles, "It took them far too long to realise what I was doing."

Chapter 0405

"Fire became the thing that worked, deep burns take time to heal, even if you are a fast healer because everything beneath the surface carries on cooking. I managed to burn down several homes in the process. I don't regret that."

"But Enzo, the guy you killed, he caught on quickly, I was never allowed out of his sight, ever. I couldn't even shower or use the toilet alone. If he took me anywhere to get new clothes, he would be in the changing room with me. At night he cuffed me to the bed so I couldn't sneak out, set a fire or strangle him in his sleep."

She bobs her head, "So I know I'm broken Brax. I've heard you talk about the cracks in Neah's soul. And I know what happens when they meet. It was only a matter of time until everything caught up with me."

"Why haven't you told me all of this before?" I knew she had been holding something back, but this wasn't what I was expecting. Yet I knew the words that are coming out of her mouth are so heartbreakingly truthful.

She lets out a soft sigh, "Coming here was supposed to be a new start for me. Especially after you shot Enzo," She rubs at her neck again, "Not once did I ever think I would lose the rest of my abilities."

"What if you can get them back and gain your Lycan too?" It was a long shot, but it might just work.

"Don't be stupid. This is the hand I have been dealt. This is what I have to live with."

"No. I don't believe you were brought into my life, just for me to watch you wither away. The higher powers work in some messed up ways, but I'm sure your death is not one of those ways."

"Brax, it's fine. I know what's coming. And I am okay with it."

"You can be so fucking frustrating." I snap, she wasn't even prepared to listen to what I had to say.

"Just as frustrating as having you watch me for weeks on end and making me feel like I was losing my mind before you finally accepted me, even if it was in secret!"

I cross the room and rip her off the bed. She lets out a squeal as I pull her against my chest. My lips hit hers hard and she melts into me. Her arms loop around my neck as my hands move down to her waist.

She pulls away, a little out of breath, but I hold her steady, keeping her hips pressed against mine as she leans back to stare at me.

"Just because I can't sense our bond anymore, it doesn't mean that I don't want you."

"But I'm...."

"Not if I can convince Neah to bite you."

"Bite me? As in mark me? I don't understand, she is mated."

"Not mark you, that's different. You would be like Damien and Mallory."

Her eyes widen and her brows shoot up. "I still don't understand."

"They are not pure blooded Lycans, they were created. They were once Human and were turned."

She frowns and sucks in her cheeks. When her eyes pop up to meet mine, they are full of sadness that wasn't there before. "But you are a Hunter, why make me Lycan again?"

"You don't want to be?"

"I don't know anymore. For most of my life, have just been fighting t

exist but more often than not, bet

waited for Death to meet

"You were in an horrendous situation."

"I was, but I'm not like the other Lycans, I know that deep down. I've never been able to shift. I didn't have that exciting moment when I turned thirteen. The only thing that changed for me was that I became a toy for assholes. Having my abilities but not being able to shift did nothing for me I was always convinced they were drugging me with something to keep my Lycan trapped, but up until Cooper, I have been here, knowing exactly what is being put into my body and I still couldn't shift. So what's the point of being bitten if I'm still not able to shift?"

Chapter 0406

Hey everyone, I hope you are all well.

Just to let you all know that there will be no update tomorrow 14th July, but I will be back on the 15th.

Also just to clarify if you have not noticed, I am in the UK and therefore chapters are released based on my timeline which may not coincide with wherever you are in the world.

As always, thank you for the gems, reviews and comments. This book would not have made it this far without all of you and I hope you will continue to enjoy the story because there is lots more to come.

Taylor West

Chapter 0407

Klaus

Cooper slept on a chair in the corner of the room. His jacket collar hiked up around his chin. His arms folded tightly across his chest, while his feet rested on the coffee table that he had placed in front of the door like a barricade.

We had made it to Blair's house without any witnesses, but on the way here, each step seemed to make Cooper more and more agitated. He was frustrated with my calmness, and angry that I wasn't angry. It was clear he got off on making people lose their sanity, but it didn't work with me.

Leaning back against the corner he had dumped me in, I let out a sigh. He had pressed for more information about his sister. Something else he grew frustrated about when I didn't answer him. I was fully expecting him to hit, to punish me, but other than keeping me tied up, he hasn't hurt me.

I hear him stir and close my eyes, just as his boots hit the floor with a thud. After listening to his quiet movements in the forest, his paces now seemed incredibly loud.

He stops in front of me. "Can't sleep?"

I don't respond.

"Klaus, I know you are awake." He doesn't move and I keep my eyes closed. "You breathe a little heavier and you usually talk in your sleep."

Crap, what had I been saying. My eyes snap open, "How do you know that?"

He smiles. "You have a lovely home in Black Shadow." He drops onto the floor next me, his arm brushes mine. "I get it." He mutters, "You want to protect your pack. But you are going to have to speak to me eventually and, well, I always get what I want."

"I will talk to you about anything other than my pack." Maybe I could find the real reason why he was doing this.

"Why do you love that pack so much?"

I press my lips together and turn away.

"You won't even answer me?"

"That is talking about the pack." I keep my tone light. He hadn't beaten me so far and I would prefer to keep it that way. "You drive a hard bargain." He winks at me. "I like that about you Klaus. Or maybe I like it because we are mates?" "We are not mates."

"Just because you can't scent me right now, it doesn't mean we are not. You will scent me again when the drugs wear off." "Only because you are doing something to trick my mind. We are not mated." I state confidently. I wasn't falling for his games. "Is that what you really believe?"

"It's what you did to Blair, right? And probably many others too. Lure them into thinking that you are there for them when in reality, it's all about yourself. Tricking them to come with you so you can take away their abilities."

"Maybe you are right. Maybe you have me all wrong. Only time will tell." He pats my leg, "Get some sleep. You are going to need it."

He pushes himself up and pauses to look at me. "You are not like the others Klaus. They do not see you as an equal."

I roll my eyes, "Do you think I'm

going to fall for that? I won't be

roped into your little game. Keep me your prisoner. Starve me. Lock me in a tiny room. Do what you need to do. I won't give you the answers you are looking for."

"You must really care for them?"

I keep my gaze level with his, he wasn't getting anything else out of me.

He moves back to the chair, his sage green eyes are bright in the darkness, something I couldn't see yesterday. The drugs are wearing off. He had given me nothing elet

and yet it was increasingly obvious that could scent him, not by much, but it was there. Maybe it isn't in the drugs. Maybe he was doing

something to himself, projecting the scent. After all, he is part Witch.

"Why do I need my sleep?"

"I would just like you to be well rested. Not everything about me makes me a prick, Klaus. There are some things I do care about. You just don't see it yet."

"Like Samara?"

"Thought you didn't want to talk about the pack?"

"She isn't a part of my pack." There's a moment of delight in his sage green eyes, I could tell by the way the blue flecks popped. His sister means a lot to him, probably more than anyone else on this pl.

"You don't have any siblings, do you, Klaus?" My name rolls from his tongue.

"No and I'm grateful, siblings always seem to cause problems, especially younger ones." Apart from Blair, she was a little older than Neah, but still, she was a sibling causing problems.

He smiles at me and bobs his head,

"They do, I used to believe that was why they were put on this Earth. Just to be a troublemaker to the

older sibling. I couldn't stand Samet

when we were kids. She had her sticky hands in all my things and always wanted to be where I was. She's the ultimate pain in the ass but I need her where I can keep an eye on her."

"Exactly why I am grateful to be alone."

Chapter 0408

"Do you always like being alone?"

"Yes."

A small crinkle forms on his forehead. "Never been concerned about finding a mate?"

"No."

"Isn't that what all males want? To find their loved one and settle down."

"Not me." Now that my eyes could focus on the smaller details, I could see my comment frustrates him. "Life for me has never been about finding a mate. I was raised differently. What I like is knowledge."

"Power?"

"No, knowledge. I like to know things, figure things out, find little secrets hidden among life."

"That explains all the books." A small smile flickers at the corners of his lips. "What else do you like to do?"

"Why do you want to know?"

"If you need to give it a name, call it curiosity." He had twisted his body around to face me properly. His scent of leather and tobacco is strong, but it was a trick. A trick that I wasn't going to fall for.

"I like to help people."

"But you don't want to help me?" He cocks an eyebrow at me.

"You found me in the hospital, what kind of help do you think I offer?!"

"You are right. But you could help me and I could help you."

I roll my eyes

"Not open to that yet. That's fine, but you will be. You will want to help me, because that's what mates do."

"Is that what you said to all the others?"

He laughs to himself, spinning back around in the chair and propping his feet up on the coffee table. "I don't think I have enjoyed anyone's company as much as yours, mate."

"Stop calling me that."

"I will call you mate until you finally see the truth."

Cooper surprises me by going back to sleep. He could probably tell I was almost at full strength again and he had done nothing apart from block the front door. Pulling my wrists open, I'm able to break the rope. Quickly and quietly, I get to my feet, checking the windows for another exit.

All are locked. I could break the glass, but that limits my get away time. I stood in the middle of the room for what felt like an eternity, trying to decide on my very limited options. In the end I just raid the fridge and cupboards for something more than a piece of fruit.

Thankfully Blair had some tinned sausages stashed in the back of a cupboard. It wasn't much, but it was protein and that was more important than fruit.

Moving through the house, I take a look in each of the two bedrooms. It was clear which one was Blair's. Though her room is immaculate, there is a photo face down on the bedside table. I recognised her mother, and I assume the baby her mother is holding is Blair.

In the second bedroom, it was

carnage. An open suitcase with clothes hanging out of it, clothes sprawled across the bed. Dirty

plates and glasses were in odd

places Broken perfume bottles littered the carpet by the side of her bed. If I didn't know better would have said a teenager was living here, not Samara.

I smell Cooper coming up the stairs. His feet are heavy on the carpet from the running.

"I thought you had escaped!" He stares at me as the broken rope dangles from his hand.

"I thought about it. But I was hungry."

"Why are you in here?" He asks quietly

"Trying to make sense of a few things." I turn to face him properly. Shadows were cast across his face, but I could still see the way his eyes focussed on me. "You took away Samara's abilities, didn't you?"

"You don't know what you are talking about!"

"She was the first one you tried it out on, right? But it was too strong and wasn't supposed to last this long. She was the first one you had in that prison. You kept her there because you knew you had screwed up. She had to be close so you could keep an eye on her." I use his own words against him.

"Is that what you did to Maddie and Blair? You gave them the same dose as you gave your sister? So it won't be permanent, it will just take years to wear off?"

"Are you seriously suggesting I did this to my sister?"

"Yes. I think that you had enough of her touching your things. That you finally snapped and now, somehow, she helps you. What was she supposed to be? Some kind of guard for Blair?"

"You really are smart, Klaus."

I keep my mouth shut and he starts to laugh and mutter to himself "Of course I would be mated to someone that can read between the lines." "We are not mates. It is a trick, I am just your prisoner."

He takes off his jacket, dropping it to the floor. His fingers make quick work of the buttons holding his shirt together.

"Witches and even half breeds like

myself are born with a mark over their heart. Many call it a Witches mark." He gets to the final button_

el

actually the initials of our true matt

and pauses. "But the mark is

He rips the shirt open, and right

above his heart in deep red is a clear KD. "Now remind me, what is your name?"

"Klaus Anderson!" I laugh

"Before you were adopted."

Chapter 0409

Dane

Damien, Eric and I stand at the border of my pack. We had spent the day searching for clues in the hospital, his home, the forest and anywhere else we can think of. Ultimately, there is nothing. No blood, no hair, no footprints, not even a whiff of Klaus's scent.

'There has to be something.' Aero mutters

'We've covered the entire pack, there is nothing. Wherever he has taken Klaus, it's further afield.'

"Where would Cooper take him?" Eric asks. "I doubt if he knows the area."

"Then most likely, it is somewhere nearby." Damien replies. "But it depends if Klaus is out cold or not. Cooper could be carrying dead weight or he could be making him walk. And it depends on what Cooper really wants. Is he sticking around because he has a target in mind? Or has he left, never to return, taking Klaus with him?"

"We expand our search." I declare

"We need more people to do that and we need reliable ones too." Eric puffs

"No we don't." Damien smirks. "We just need answers from one person."

He turns and heads back through the forest. Eric cocks an eyebrow at me and shrugs his shoulders.

"Damien, wait." I call after him

"It's time to get some real answers, Dane. There's only one person who we know that is definitely lying to us."

"Samara."

"We can smell her. We know her scent is getting stronger everyday. We know from Brax that she is lying. Maybe now it's time to see how close to death she is willing to go."

"She's in denial." Eric tells him.

"No she's not." I frown, "Damien is right. This is a game to her. I don't know if she is trying to get information for her brother or what her end game is, but it's definitely a game. I have seen too many idiots play games that they think they will win."

We break through the tree line and head towards the dungeons when I freeze.

'Do you smell that?' Aero mutters

'Yes.' I could smell Neah's lavender scent. She was supposed to be in the house, not out here.

The door to the dungeons is wide open with the lights on inside. The guard stands to one side. He bows his head as we approach.

"Is my mate down there?" I demand

"Yes. Was I not supposed to let her down?" He asks, confused.

"It doesn't matter now, does it." I snap

Hurrying down the steps. I find Neah standing in the dim light, staring into Samara's cell. Samara is sleeping as is Blair, both completely unaware that any of us are here.

Neah doesn't even turn to look at me as I approach. "I can hear her." She whispers

I look in the cell at a sleeping Samara, curled up at the back as drool hangs from her mouth. Who the fuck shaved her head?

"She's asleep." I keep my voice low

"Obviously." Neah mutters, "But her scent has been getting stronger and now there is no doubt about it, she is a Lycan, was bathing the boys and I was getting whisperings through a mindink. They weren't really saying anything, just making sounds."

She smiles, "A part of me thought it was Evrin trying to speak to me, because he already has his Lycan. But when I spoke back, he didn't respond. So

I asked one of the omegas to watch the twins and followed the sound, it grew louder and led me here."

"I don't understand." Eric frowns.

"She's linking me without even knowing it."

"Is that even possible?" Damien asks

I nod. Neah had linked me a lot while she slept. It was never intentional, but it still happened.

"What is she saying?" I ask

"Not anything that makes sense. Just mutterings. Now and again she mentions Cooper's name but nothing else. Mostly it's just sounds, whimperings. Almost like she is in pain."

"Is she in pain?"

Neah screws her face up as she stares into the cell. "I don't think so. Could she be dreaming, is that why she's linked me?"

"Possible. Did you shave her head?"

Her blue eyes are full of surprise that

I had even asked the question. "No, that was Brax. He took her for questioning earlier. He didn't find out anything. I'm assuming that's why he did it. A punishment that wouldn't really harm her. But he has been

busy with Maddie since sel haven't had a chance to ask." Content

belongs to

"She lied about how she got out of the prison." Blair whispers from behind us.

Everyone turns to look at her. She is sitting up against the back wall, her eyes focused on the ground in submission.

"What do you mean?" Neah asks

"When I met her, she told me she

killed someone in the bathroom, that was how she escaped. When I mentioned it to her after Abraxas brought her back, I changed bathroom to library and she didn't even correct me. She was hysterical

about her hair at the time, maybe that's why I caught her out. She lied to me."

"Paybacks a bitch." Damien winks at her.

Chapter 0410

Blair looks more than defeated as she hugs her knees to her chest. She is nothing like the woman who had turned up in our pack to introduce herself and cause drama. All her confidence and attitude appears to be long gone, but that didn't mean she was trustworthy.

"Has she said anything else?" I press

Blair shakes her head, "Not really, the most she was doing was cussing out Abraxas for what he did to her. She cried herself to sleep."

"I can order her." Neah tells me. "I can order her to answer my questions and she won't be able to lie. Not now the link is back in place." I gesture to Samara's cell

Neah moves to the bars that separate us from Samara. She takes a deep breath.
"Wake up!"

Samara sits upright, automatically brushing her face like she was expecting hair to be there. For a moment I thought she was going to scream as her grey eyes flash around the dimly lit dungeon. She shuffles herself back against the wall, fearing for what's to come as she properly registers all of us. "Get up." Neah's voice echoes around the dungeon

Samara is on her feet, her lips part and her grey eyes frantically dart about as she tries to figure out what is happening to her and how she has no control over what she is doing.

I smile as Neah asks Samara for her name. She held so much power and yet she doesn't flaunt it like so many others would.

"Samara Clarkson." She whispers through tears "But you can call me Sam or Sammie." It was the exact same line she had given before. "You are a Lycan?"

"I was. I was drugged and now..."

"Who is Cooper?" Neah presses, cutting Samara off before she has a chance to finish.

Samara squeezes her eyes shut and tilts her face down. Her cheeks grow redder and redder as she tries to hold in the answer.

"Answer me!" Neah snaps

"He is my brother." She blurts out and her eyes are like saucers as she stares back at us. Horrified with herself for revealing that snippet of information.

There's silence. We were all surprised by the answer. None of us saw this coming. Brax thought they were mates, not brother and sister. 'Seriously?' Aero asks and I just nod.

"WHAT?!" Blair shrieks from behind us and Samara's head snaps up. She hadn't been aware that Blair was awake. "You are his sister? You are his fucking sister!" Blair pulls on the bars, "I'm gonna kill you. I will get out of here and I will kill you!"

"You are siblings?" Neah asks, trying to ignore Blair. I see claws appearing at the tips of her fingers, she was ready to kill Samara.

Samara's head bobs up and down, "He is my big brother."

"So why did you come here, to Black Shadow?" I snarl

She doesn't fight her answer this time. "Because he asked me too. I'm sorry, Blair. I wasn't.... I.... You are a good friend."

"You set me up. You brought me back knowing full well that I will be killed!" Blair shouts. "Be grateful there are bars separating us!"

"I had to, he is my brother." Samara drops to her knees

Blair starts to pace. Her hands sit on her hips as she mutters to herself. At least she wasn't focused on Neah anymore.

"What does Cooper want?" Damien asks Samara

"I don't know."

"Tell the truth." Neah demands

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"It is the truth. He asked me to convince Blair to show me where Black Shadow is. I don't know why." Tears run down her cheeks and she doesn't bother to wipe them away.

"I was in the prison. That wasn't

I was out of control and Coop

lie.

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helped me. He had to do this to me before I became a danger too everyone."

"What does that mean?" Damien frowns.

She shrugs her shoulders at us. "That's at he has always told me. He didn't to look after me. To keep me safe. To protect me. He's good like that."

"She's delusional." Eric tells us

"So you were just on a farm, waiting for me?" Blair asks

"Coop asked me to wait there. He said you would come my way. He wanted me to reassure you."

"Kill her!" Blair snaps. "Just fucking kill her!"

Damien gives her a warning glare and she backs away from the bars. He turns back to Samara. "What did he do with Klaus?"

"Who is Klaus?"

"If Cooper was to take someone, where would he go?" I query

"You won't find him."

"Where will he go?" Neah snarls at her.

"I don't know. I don't keep tabs on him. He has always contacted me when he has needed me to do something. How are you doing this to me?" "She is the Alpha." Damien tells her with a smile.

Neah's claws lengthen, making me pull her away and she frowns at me. "I can kill her."

"As much as I like the idea of that you can't, not yet. If you kill her, he might kill Klaus."

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0411 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0411

Chapter 0411

Neah

'Sometimes, it's so frustrating when he is right.' Nyx groans. She was just as eager as me to put an end to Samara, but Dane was right, we couldn't risk losing Klaus, not when we don't have the full picture.

"So we are just going to let her live?" I whisper to Dane as my claws retract. They were coming out with next to no pain now and sometimes, I didn't even notice they were out.

I could see Samara staring at us. A mixture of fear and hope that she thinks Dane is saving her.

And now she was awake, I couldn't hear her whimperings anymore, though there is no denying that there is a link to me. I could order her. I could feel it, but could she?

"Why is everything so loud?" Samara suddenly cries, as she plants her hands over her ears. It was interesting how sound was the last thing to come to her. It was the first thing that hit me when my binding was broken

"You have your Lycan, you dumb bitch!" Blair screeches and Samara winces.

"You're wrong." She cries back

"Enough!" Damien snaps.

"Eric, bring Blair to my office." Dane tells him. "Damien, make sure she doesn't do anything stupid."

'Is he going to kill Blair? We have information now. We don't need her anymore. So he must be, right?' Nyx asks

'I don't think he is.' I could tell Dane was mulling something over, if he was going to kill her, he wouldn't be considering other things and he would have just done it.

He gestures to the steps and holds a hand out to me. He doesn't speak until we are outside. "We are going to have to find somewhere else to put Blair."

"Why? She is locked up in the cell."

"Yes, but she has just made it very clear that she is pissed off with Samara now that some of the truth has come out. Moving forward, she's going to be useless in getting any information. And you heard her. She wants to kill Samara. She will be too focused on that. Again, if Samara dies, there is a good chance Klaus will be killed. I know you don't want that."

I shake my head, "You're right."

"So we are going to play this tactfully. I'm going to offer the bastard a trade."

"A trade?"

"Klaus for Samara and Blair. Two for the price of one. We can see just how much he loves his sister because it's either none or both."

"Won't that just make him think Klaus is worth more?"

"Contracts or deals often mean offering something that is worthwhile. Something that the other party thinks works in their favour. It doesn't necessarily mean it will, they just have to believe it will.

I stare at him as Damien and Eric appear with Blair. She is quiet, keeps her gaze low and does not fight the men as they move her forward.

"We don't even know how to get in touch with him." I look around the dark grounds. "We don't even know where he has taken Klaus."

"Something tells me we won't need

too. He will soon learn that the spell or drug that he used has worn off and he can link his sister. He will probably turn up on our doorstep if he is that desperate to get her back."

"Okay." I mutter "And what are you going to do with Blair?" I ask as the slamming of the dungeon door makes me jump. "You said she can't stay in the dungeon. You can't possibly think that I will agree to letting her live in the house. Content

belongs to

"Of course not. I need to find someone that will keep an eye on her and I know just the person to ask."

He had never been the one to make people wait for their death. If death was what they deserved, death was what they got. So why was he content on letting her live?

"You think Cooper will be pissed if we kill her too?" I ask

"Possibly."

"She's too much of a risk." I keep my voice low as Damien and Eric take Blair towards the house.

"She is, but I don't think you are her

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target anymore. She didn't want to come here. She came here because Samara talked her into it. I don't think you have been her target for a while I'm not saying forgive her, because there is no way she deserves that. But maybe we can put her to work, nothing security based. Just while we figure out next steps."

Chapter 0412

'To work?' Nyx scoffs

My eyes flash up to his. "You're playing your little game again aren't you?"

He drops his arm over my shoulder and squeezes me into his side, but doesn't answer my question.

In his office, Blair has been dumped into the chair. Her eyes focus on her knees and she keeps her hands clasped together on her lap.

No one speaks as we wait. Several minutes go by and Blair becomes more fidgety. Her whole body trembles as her leg jigs.

Ryken knocks on the open door. "You called me Neah, is this about Kade? I know we haven't...." His eyes drift to his stepdaughter and a scowl appears. "What has she done now?"

"It's complicated." Dane tells him.

"I'm assuming you thought it would be best to tell me rather than her mother? How long does she have?"

"That will depend on you, Ryken." Dane tells him

"Me, you want me to decide how she dies?"

I see Blair's eyes widen and Nyx laughs, 'She's practically shitting herself. But why is Dane lying to Ryken?'

'You know he has his ways of testing people.'

"Blair is not safe in the dungeons anymore. You are her stepfather. I am requesting that you take her in and keep a very close eye on her." Dane tells him. I still didn't like it, but I didn't want her anywhere near the house either. What was the saying, keep your friends close, keep your enemies closer. Klaus had taught me that.

"Take her in? You want me to take her into our home?" Ryken acts like we are asking him to stick his head into an open flame.

"Take her in, feed her, keep an eye on her, don't let her out of your sight. She will be put to work with a guard and when work is over, she returns home to you and does not leave the house unless it is myself or Neah that requests it." Dane tells him

"She is your stepdaughter, Ryken.

She is your responsibility. If you say no, I understand, she will not live to see another day. If you say yes, your family's lives rely on her doing what has been asked of her. If she fails or steps out of line in any way, she will not be the only one to face death. Do I make myself clear?" Dane asks

"I have a baby." He protests with a frown

'What are we going to do if he says no?' Nyx asks

'I guess we will deal with it if it happens.'

"If I do everything that's required, I get to live?" Blair asks in a whisper

No one speaks and after a few seconds, Blair nods her head. "You are going to kill me anyway."

"I will do it Ryken announces and

everyone's eyes move to him. We are expecting him to consent

but still say no.

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"You will?" I ask as Blair stares at me with wide eyes. She is just as surprised as I am.

"I will kill her myself if she doesn't follow orders."

Blair looks at me, her eyes full of tears. "Thank you."

"It's not me you need to thank." I leave the office before anyone else. My own heart racing as my head pounds.

'I don't like it either.' Nyx grumbles. 'She was set on destroying us.'

I wait at the top of the stairs, but it's sometime before the rest of them appear. Ryken has his hands on Blair's shoulder, her eyes are still low as he pushes her through the front door Damien tags along, I'm assuming to make sure there is no problem. Eric disappears through the door.

Dane casts his crimson eyes up at me from the office door. "I know you are not happy and this is just temporary."

Chapter 0413

Dane

'She is not happy.' Aero groans

'I am aware.'

'There's still time to change the plan.'

'No, we need this done. And we need it to work.'

"Are you going to say something?" I ask my mate

Neah doesn't say anything, though she really doesn't have too. I can feel it through our connection and by the way she stares back at me from the top of the staircase.

She carefully gets to her feet, her hand gripping the bannister. Her blue eyes lock on mine for just a second. "I hope you know what you are doing." She turns away just as Brax appears. His eyes move from her to me, then he watches her with a small frown as she disappears down the hallway. "You've seriously pissed off that one." He muses as he makes his way toward me.

"I know."

He cocks an eyebrow at me, "Don't you think you should go after her?"

"Usually I would, but right now my presence will anger her more. She needs time to think and process what's happening."

"And what is happening? What have I missed now?"

I fill him in and he spends most of the time shaking his head and snorting dismissively.

"So let me make sure I understand this. Blair made a threat. Samara is in some weird form of denial and you think you can solve the problem by bringing Blair out of the dungeons. I have to say, I'm with Neah on this one and that is really fucking hard for me to admit."

"You don't run the pack, you don't get a say."

"That's fair." He mutters. "But put it this way. You are talking about Samara playing a game, Blair could very well be in on it. Her reaction could just be part of the plan. You know that, right?"

"I don't think she is. Not this time. The defeat she feels is on display for all to see. She asked us if she gets to live if she followed the rules we put in place and then thanked Neah. She is broken. Maybe you need to spend some more time watching her."

"You want to fix her?" He raises his brow at me

"It's not about me fixing her."

"I can see that." He mutters sarcastically as he studies me.

"Don't act like you know everything, Brax."

"You have to consider that Neah might not want family outside of this pack. She has been through a lot and until you, she had no one. Not all of us want siblings and quite frankly, I'm surprised that this is your reaction after what Blair did to your brother."

"My brother dug his own grave and took down my sister with him. He was always a prick and always thought about himself. Instead of

just dying, he piggybacked my

sistersoul. In reality, I think el

I

brought out his true colours. I'm not saying what she did is right because it's not. And I'm not trying to make Neah trust her."

"Right." He presses his lips together, watching me carefully

"It doesn't matter what you think anyway. When the time comes she will be offered for trade along with Samara."

"If you say so."

"I do."

"In that case, I will keep an eye on her." He offers. "Not when she is with her stepfather, but when she is put to work. She fears me probably more than she fears you. I think my presence will be a good reminder."

"You mean you want to keep a closer eye on Ryken?"

He scowls at me as I mention Ryken's name.

"Ryken is returning tomorrow to meet with Damien and I to discuss what happened with the kids. As Dorothy's father you are more than welcome to join us, but on the simple conditions that you keep your hands off of any weapons and you keep your hands to yourself."

He clenches his jaw as he stares at me.

"Those are the conditions Brax."

"She is my daughter."

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"Then act like a father and have the fucking conversation with him. Both kids were in the wrong. You can't put all the blame on Kade. Dorothy pinned him down, she may have had her reasons and we need to get to the bottom of it. I have told Damien the same thing and he is willing to come up with an agreement with Ryken."

Chapter 0414

"Fine, I will be there. No weapons and I will keep my hands in my pockets." He tuts with an eye roll. "and I can't promise that I will agree."

"I can accept that for now and now we have that sorted. Why the fuck did you shave Samara's head?"

He laughs, "I wondered when you would ask. You said I couldn't physically hurt her. So I made sure she felt no physical pain, just psychological. Though I still didn't get any useful information out of her."

"Always looking for a loophole."

He nods his head and smiles at me. "So Samara and Cooper are siblings?"

"You couldn't pick that up when you looked at her soul?"

"Why do I need to keep reminding everyone that I am not psychic? If they were twins, yes, I would have known, but I'm assuming half siblings?" "Why do you say that?"

"There is no real resemblance between them apart from the blonde hair. Different coloured eyes, different nose, lips, face shape. If I met them in the street, I wouldn't have thought they were siblings. Do you believe it?"

"Neah ordered her to tell the truth. You could see that Samara didn't understand what was happening to her. She freaked out because her hearing was getting louder and louder."

"Almost like she has never shifted?"

"Exactly that. It reminded me of Neah when her bindings were broken. She wore ear plugs for the best part of eight months just to cope with the heightened noise."

He nods, "Klaus told me."

"He did?"

"When we were out looking for something to help Neah, he filled me in on quite a lot of things and I think you are right about Samara. She's never had the abilities."

I frown "She kept talking about Cooper telling her that he was protecting her, keeping her safe so she wouldn't become a danger to everyone. I was thinking Rogue, but if she has never shifted, that wouldn't be possible. That means he would have done it before she turned thirteen."

"And I would know if she had been a Rogue at any point. Let me spend some more time with her, I might be able to see her soul better." "Wait until morning and don't touch her."

He rolls his eyes at me. "I won't."

Brax relaxes into one of the chairs in the office, "I assume there is no news on Klaus?"

"Not yet."

"Madison doesn't know anything else either." He sighs

"She's speaking to you now?" We had all heard the shouting earlier in the day and it was pretty clear how furious she was. It was about the only time I had heard Brax sound so uncertain.

"Yes." He answers abruptly, "I wanted to talk to Neah about her actually."

"About what?"

"Turning Madison back to Lycan."

'Seriously?' Aero scoffs and I hold a hand up to Brax while I try to push my frustration down.

"You what?" I splutter as Aero starts losing his shit. It had been a long time since he had been so ramped up about something. "To give her her Lycan." Brax states

"You want Neah to bite her?"

"Yes, though Madison is unsure at the moment."

"No."

"It's for her own good."

"Why? So you can feel the bond again? You don't like Lycans. You had a hard time accepting her."

"I know. She has grown on me."

"Neah won't do that. Not after....she

just

And we don't even know

given will

if the Maddie tent

wear off, just like Samara."

He glares at me as he gets to his

feet and hastily leaves the

was grateful for the silence. Over twenty four hours awake and hadn't had a moment's peace.

'Dane. Dane. Are you there?'

Chapter 0415

Klaus

'Shit, Klaus. Where the fuck are you?' It was good to hear Dane again.

'With Cooper. I had to leave with him, it was the only way to make sure he didn't do anything to anyone else.'

'Are you okay? Are you hurt?'

'He hasn't hurt me. I mean he drugged me, but it's worn off.'

'Where are you?'

'He has me at Blair's house. Don't come. It's too risky.'

'Why?' He asks. 'I can bring enough people and we will be in and out.'

'He will expect that and I don't know what else he is capable of.'

There's a loud snore from the chair in the corner and I silently watch Cooper, fully expecting him to wake up.

'Klaus?'

'The guy is half Witch, half Lycan. He is drugging people with something he made. Samara was his first guinea pig. Though he got the dose wrong and she hasn't been right since.'

'It's worn off. There is a good chance he will know soon enough.' Dane tells me

'He does.'

'We can use that in our favour.' He doesn't expand anymore and I figure it's better that I don't know.

'What about Maddie and Blair?'

'No change.'

'I need you to do something for me.' I speak faster, knowing that Cooper would be awake any moment.

'Klaus, we need to get you out of there.'

'No you don't,' I mutter, seeing Cooper stirring. 'Not yet, let me get what I can out of him. But I need you to ask Blair what scent Cooper was giving off when he tricked her into thinking she is mated.'

There is a pause. 'You think you are mated to him?'

'He has a mark on his chest. Claims that Witches are left with the mark of their mates' initials.'

'And.'

'KD' I mutter

'Your surname is Anderson.'

'My adopted name.' I mutter back.

There's silence again. I knew the news was going down like a lead balloon. 'Remind me, what was your birth parents' surname?'

'Daudet.'

'Klaus....'

'I won't accept him.' I mutter

hurriedly as Cooper starts making

more noises. I can't accept JT

someone that thinks it's okay to

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remove others abilities. Not after my parents did it to me. Not after ve seen Neah and Maddie struggle. I just need to know if it is a trick or not, before I reject him. I want him to break. I have to go, he is waking.'

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I end the link and focus on the rising sun. Keeping my gaze off of Cooper. He had stopped asking me about my birth name after he realised he could tink Samara and whatever she had told him had made him angry enough to trash the house.

He is a mad man with two personalities and if I wanted to make it back home, I needed to play along to a certain extent.

Cooper yawns. "You're already awake."

"Early riser." I mutter back. "I like watching the sunrise."

"I'm surprised your Alpha isn't here, knocking down the door. I know you can link him. I know that you are a

full Wolf again. So you either have and have told him not to come or you haven't because you can't resist the bond with me." Content belongs

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"Do you always think so highly of yourself?" I cast a glance at him to find him staring at me.

"Yes. Yes I do."

I roll my eyes and turn back to the sunrise as pink hues fill the sky.

"So is today going to be the day you give me your birth name?"

"You are so smart, maybe you should figure it out."

"I am going to cook you breakfast this morning." He announces, changing the subject.

"Not hungry." I mumble, though my stomach said otherwise with its insistent noises

He places a hand against his chest, pretending to be hurt, "But it's my special pancakes. They are loved by everyone."

I highly doubt anything here will be edible. Blair and Samara have been in the pack for ages. Anything you do find is probably off." "Lucky for you, I went out when you were asleep."

Chapter 0416

"You went out?" I hadn't heard anything all night, in fact, I don't even remember falling asleep.

"Funny what a little sleep spell can do. Now get up, go shower. I hung some clean clothes on the back of the door for you." "What?"

He grabs my arms and pulls me to my feet. "Go shower."

"Why?"

"Can't have you looking like that over breakfast."

"No, I mean why are you doing this?" I stare at him

"I'm trying to show you that I'm not the asshole you think I am."

I snort.

"They really have you believing that I'm some kind of monster, don't they?" He shakes his head. "I would never do that to you."

He reaches out for my face but I retreat. "Is that what you say to all of them? You butter them up, worm your way in and make them believe something that is entirely false? I don't fall for it like the others. You keep acting like you are doing all this for me. You're not, you are doing it for yourself, plain and simple."

"What will it take for you to realise that this is real?"

"Real? I don't think you know the meaning of the word."

His eyes narrow, I had hit a nerve. He grabs my shoulders and spins me around, pushing me towards the kitchen. A small smile creeps across my lips. Maybe he was finally seeing that I was not someone he could win over.

Cooper directs me to a chair. "Sit!" He snarls

As I sit he pulls my arms around to my back. He reaches for something and I feel the cool metal of a chain as he wraps it around my wrist. "Let's try this a different way." He grabs my head and forces it over. His callous fingers brush my long hair off of my neck.

"Get off of me."

"You won't be able to resist me if I mark you."

"Don't fucking touch me." I growl, pulling at the chains. "I am not your mate. You want to know what my birth name is? It does not start with a D." I lie. "It's Monroe, Klaus Monroe."

His fingers pause in my hair. "You are lying."

"No, I'm not." I had been prepared to go so far, but there was no chance I was letting him mark me. I would be tied to him until one of us meets our death.

My chair is dragged across the floor.

He squats down, locking his sage green eyes on mine. The blue flecks are darker again, it seemed to

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happen when he was on the verge of losing his composure. "What is your name?"
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"Klaus Monroe." I state clearly and confidently.

"Liar."

"And you're an idiot if you don't believe me."

"I can smell you. You can't deny that."

"Maybe it's your mind playing tricks on you. Maybe you are so fascinated by me that you want to believe it's true. I've seen stranger things happen." His strength was definitely not the ability to tell if someone was lying. Idiot.

He softly taps my cheek and turns away. "What's your favourite topping? I'm going to make you the best damn pancakes you have ever tasted." "You mean you are going to poison me?"

"No, why would I do that? I have told you already, Klaus. I like you, I like you alot and I want you by my side?"

He was delusional

"What about your true mate?" He was certain it was me, though I will never accept someone like him.

"We will see."

He turns my chair back around to the table and slides it forward until I'm sitting at the table properly. He moves away, half talking to himself as he pulls out what sounds like a hundred ingredients.

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The reflection in the window shows his lips moving but now no sound comes out, it was like he was talking to himself and it's only when I caught sight of his eyes that I knew he was linking someone. It had to be Samara

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Chapter 0418

Neah

'What if we just kill her? It's an option right? No one needs to know until afterwards.' Nyx asks

'Because as much as I want to. Dane is right, we need Blair to trade along with Samara. I don't want Klaus to die. He doesn't deserve that.' 'Okay. So maybe we wait until the deal has been struck. Then we kill her? Make it look like an accident? She is Human

now, it will be pretty easy to do., maybe we could let her bleed out? And I know you have thought about it so don't try telling me you haven't.'

No thought was ever a secret anymore. Either Nyx was listening or Dane was reading my mind.

'We are!' She tuts

'As much as I want too, I am going to wait, let Dane play this game of his. If something happens, then I will gladly rip her heart out.'

I drop on to the bed and stare up at the ceiling as my body melts into the mattress. The omega had taken the twins to Athena's and Sebastian's not long after I left last night. She was young and the twins, even at their young age, knew how to test her patience. Though she hadn't witness Evrin shift yet.

Shit, I hadn't warned Athena or Sebastian either.

Closing my eyes, it takes less than a second before I'm hit with a burst of Dane's woody scent. The door swings open, sending in a rush of cool air. "Are you still mad?" He asks softly.

"No, I'm too tired to be mad."

He pauses and I knew he was digging through my mind to see if I'm telling the truth.

"Then this might upset you."

I prop myself up on my elbows to look into his crimson eyes. "What does that mean?"

"Klaus linked me."

"He linked you? How.... he had....where?" Too many questions were going through my head.

"He was drugged as we expected. But it seems to have worn off, just like Samara's did."

I was trying to process how. Samara had claimed she hadn't had her abilities for a long time. And Maddie and Blair were still Lycan free. "Cooper has him." Dane continues.

"Where?"

"He doesn't want us to go and get him. He thinks it's a trap and it's exactly what Cooper wants and expects."

"We can't just leave him!" I scowl

"We are not. For now, he isn't hurt, he is safe but he wants to find out more about Cooper and what his intentions are." "Where is he?" I press

"There's something else." He ignores

my question. He really didn't want me to know. "Klaus has asked me to speak to Blair about the scent Cooper had. The one he used to trick her into believing he was her mate."

"Wh...." I catch myself when it dawns on me what he is saying. "He thinks Cooper is his mate?"

"He has categorically said he won't accept him even if he is. He can't be with someone like Cooper."

"Is that why he left with him? Because of the possible bond?"

"I don't know. He cut the link before I had a chance to ask."

"He cut the link?"

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"Yes." He sighs. "The last thing he told me was that he was not going to accept the bond. It is why he is asking what Blair could smell. If he knows it's the same thing, he knows it's a trick. And I'm letting him link me on his terms, when it is likely safe."

"What if it isn't?" I sigh. "What if the scent is what his mate is supposed to smell? He might not be creating the scent, but instead the idea of the bond. That means everyone he wants will smell the same scent."

'For someone so tired, you are on the ball today.' Nyx mutters, impressed.

I look at Dane who hadn't said anything, "There's something else isn't there?"

"Yes. Cooper is half Witch. He wasn't using anyone. It's all been him."

I puff out my cheeks. The only other Witch I had met was Madame Curie.

"He told Klaus that they carry a mark."

"Like a Witches mark?"

Dane closes his eyes and nods. "The mark is the initials of their mate."

"And?" I knew he was purposefully giving the information in small doses. Not for some big effect but so I could take it all in.

Chapter 0419

"K D."

I drop back on the bed. "Klaus Daudet."

'Shit!' Nyx mutters

"Where is he?" I press.

"I'm going to tell you, but you are not going to do anything. Do you understand?"

"It's Klaus." I protest, "We can't just let...."

"We have too."

"You are not doing anything!" I didn't understand why he had no urgency about this. Klaus was our friend. He had helped out with a lot of things. My Lycan history. Tutoring. The hospital. He stood in as Beta when Eric was digging himself a hole. He saved Mallory. I could list everything but I don't think it was going to make a difference.

"Trust me, Neah. I am. This isn't a quick fix. We are not going to go in and get him out."

"Why not? I've seen you kill multiple people."

"You've seen me kill Wolves and Lycans. Witches are a different game."

"I don't understand what you are saying."

"They come with different capabilities and we don't know what Coopers are. He was using a drug to take away people's abilities, but we don't know if he can just create potions. He could be capable of other things."

"Like what?"

"There was a story when I was a kid. It was about a Witch that wiped out an entire Wolf pack without ever physically stepping foot inside the pack."

I frown as Nyx asks me how something like that is even possible.

"The story suggested that she could make herself appear in the pack. Project herself. She was able to gain information without actually entering the pack."

"They couldn't see her?" I ask in confusion.

"No."

"Then how do you know that's the truth?"

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"I don't. All I know is that the story has been passed down through multiple generations of Wolves. I remember the first time I heard it and how I tried to talk to my father about it. It made him all weird and

my mother told me to never bring it up again." Content belongs to

"If I've learned anything. It's that we shouldn't believe it until we see it with our own eyes." I sit up and swing my legs over the side of the bed.

"I just know that story haunts many of the older generations of Wolves."

"And that's why they don't work with Witches?"

"That's right."

"You did." I whisper

"Madame Curie was different. Though I'm pretty sure she would have done anything for the right price."

I don't answer as I try to wrap my head around everything he is saying. "You don't want me to know where Klaus is, do you?" I ask quietly

He sits on the bed next to me. "I'm concerned you will go after him on your own. And before you say anything I know you are more than capable of killing him. That's not my issue. Klaus has said he is waiting for That means he is fully

prepared for our appearance. I'm not taking any risks."

"But...."

"Klaus has said he is safe. Cooper hasn't hurt him."

"He took away his abilities." I frown

"Temporarily. We will get Klaus back, we just need to get our timings right and let everything play out. We will make our move when we are ready."

I nod as he wraps an arm around me. But the idea of leaving Klaus out there put a knot in my stomach. It felt wrong. It felt like we were abandoning him.

Dane toes off his boots and crawls up the bed, dropping down with a groan. He holds out a hand to me. "Come, you are exhausted."

"I'm fine."

"We have a few hours before Ryken is back here and Athena is keeping the twins until midday."

His hand doesn't drop but his crimson eyes narrow at me. He was doing it to make sure I didn't go anywhere.

I roll my eyes and lie back down, but he grabs hold of me, pulling my back against his chest as his arms locked around me.

I should be pissed that he isn't

letting me go. But his scent, warmth

and touch was comforting for my restless mind. I had to trust his process. I had to trust what he was doing.

Chapter 0420

Damien

Knocking on the office door, I'm surprised when there is no answer. I was expecting Dane to already be here. Especially when there is less than five minutes until the meeting with Ryken starts.

Making my way in, I position myself in the far right corner, behind the desk and next to the window. I needed a good view of everyone in the room.

Brax appears next and purposely spins in front of as he lifts his top just high enough to show me that he doesn't have any weapons stashed in his belt.

"You actually listened then." I mutter

"It may surprise you, but I do actually care about my daughter and I can follow some rules."

I don't respond as Dane enters yawning. "I need to catch up with both of you later."

"About my baby girl?" Brax asks

"No..."

He was about to say more when Ryken appears. He checks his watch. "I'm not late am I?"

"Actually, you are right on time." Dane tells him. "Have a seat."

"What about my baby girl and his brat? Shouldn't they be here too?" Brax challenges, "Considering this is about them."

"DON'T refer to him as a brat." Ryken growls with clenched teeth.

"I don't want either of you to speak." Dane's crimson eyes move between the pair of them. "You both need to listen."

He points to me. He had already asked me to explain how I had found Dottie. Believing that it would give Ryken a clearer picture. "Are you aware of how Dorothy lived her younger years?" I ask carefully.

"Yes, I know what Blair did."

"I'm not talking about Blair, I'm talking about the Humans that Blair sold her too."

"This has nothing to do with her attacking my son."

"Maybe, maybe not. But I think it's only fair for you to know and we might understand a little bit more why she pinned Kade down."

Even Brax didn't know the exact

truth of how found her. He had just heard small details. Though as long as she was safe, all was good, but I couldn't help wondering if he saw cracks in her soul too, but just didn't want to say anything. Content

belongs to

His eyes flash up to me and I could already see how his anger bubbling up to the surface. He paces in the background. His hands balled into fists. He was like a grenade, ready to go off.

'Tread carefully.' Dane links me but he is looking at Brax.

'He's got no weapons' But that didn't mean Brax wouldn't hit something.

"She was just a kid." Ryken mutters with sorrow as I finish telling him how she ate food from a bowl like she was a dog the first night I saved her.

"She had to learn to survive on the bare minimum. She had nightmares for the best part of a year and they had finally settled down to the point they were happening maybe once a week." look over at Brax who was staring into space, probably thinking about how he was going to make Blair suffer for making his child suffer. "Dottie has held everything in for so long that one day, I knew there was a damn good chance that she was going to blow. She didn't attack him for a game. She attacked Kade for what he said to her."

Ryken looks down.

"He hasn't told you what he said, has he?" Dane asks

"He is sticking to the same story. The one he has given me is that he asked her for a pencil and she just lost it. But I know deep down it is not the whole story. While she has nightmares, he sleeps like a log, without a single worry."

"He called her poison. Told her that someone will kill her while she is sleeping." I mutter. Hearing Mallory tell me that made my blood boil. "He wouldn't...."

"He did."

His eyes narrow at me. "She told you that."

"No, she confided in a friend and I believe her."

"My son wouldn't say something like that." Ryken shakes his head dismissively.

"Then let's bring him in here and I can find out if the little bastard is lying!" Brax growls.

Dane holds his hand up to silence everyone. "Ryken, how would Kade know about poison? It's not something that is taught to children this young."

He shakes his head. "He's never

mentioned it before. Not even when he and his brother are fighting. I don't even think Tara and I have discussed it. Maybe we have and we didn't realise he was around, but if we did it's not a conversation we have had recently. If you haven't noticed Dane. It's not like we are a family that goes out on hunts or wars or anything like that. We haven't

even participated in a pack run because we don't feel we will be welcome by the Wolves."

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0421 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0421

Chapter 0421

"All Wolves or certain Wolves in particular?" Dane asks and I realise we had completely been missing the obvious. The Lycans will know of the Wolves causing problems.

"I can give you a few names." Ryken sighs and his blue eyes catch mine. "I am Kade's father. I will talk to him again."

"He is already lying to you. Talking to him isn't going to do anything." Brax snaps

"Has Kade ever acted out before?" I ask, hoping Brax will just temporarily shut his mouth.

"Never. He always had a good report from his last school. We have never had issues with him at home, other than a bit of sibling rivalry. But that's standard isn't it."

"Oh yeah." Dane mutters. "Wait until your daughter gets old enough to develop sass. Younger sisters certainly know how to create havoc." "Why do you ask?" Ryken queries

"As you are aware, Dottie has been helping Neah with any Lycans that have turned up. She does it because she is just like her biological father." I murmur, gesturing to Brax. "She sees things others don't"

"Are you telling me she saw something in my son?"

"That's exactly what Damien is saying." Brax snorts

"So what do we do?" Ryken asks. "They both need to attend school, but if there are going to be situations like this happening with the Hunter girl..." He shrugs his shoulders. "I'm already having to keep an eye on my stepdaughter. Tara is going to be beside herself if Kade isn't allowed to go to school. And it's not like they can be split up, is it?"

"Actually," Dane mutters. Maybe that is exactly what we do. Some kids have lessons in the morning and finish at lunch. Others start after lunch. That way they don't have to be in the same room together."

"I will agree to that." Ryken nods

"I guess." Brax mutters

"Keep Kade off until Monday. My orders if anyone questions it and we will start the new rota then."

"Thank you Alpha Dane." Ryken rises to his feet and bobs his head at me and Dane and then blatantly walks past Brax without a simple acknowledgement.

"Do you think it will work?"

"There's only one way we are going to find out. Brax, close the door."

He gives Dane an odd look but does as he is told.

"Klaus is alive."

"How do you know that?" I ask, surprised.

"He linked me."

"Where is he?" I press

He takes a deep breath, almost like he didn't want to tell us. "He's still with Cooper."

"You're fucking joking!" Brax snaps.

Dane shakes his head and closes his eyes as he sighs. "Cooper is trying to convince Klaus that Klaus is his mate."

"He's fucking delirious." Brax scoffs

Dane's eyes lock on Brax. "You know a lot of shit, I'm just wondering if you can confirm something for me?"

"If I can, I will."

"What is a Witches mark?"

"I've never seen one, I can only tell you what I know and it may not be correct."

"Go on." Dane growls.

"It used to be said that the mark was

a way to tell the difference between them and the rest of us, but over

time as the world changed, it became different."

"Different?" I mutter

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"The mark began to mutate, in its place, almost like a scar is the initials....." He stops and stares back at Dane. It was almost amusing seeing him lost for words,

"Initials?" I press, trying to get the information.

His eyes shift to me. "The initials of his mate. Cooper is his mate, isn't he?"

"It is looking likely."

"Has he switched sides?" Brax asks as I try to wrap my head around it.

"No. He is very clear on what he intends to do. But he needs to sort a few things out at his end."

"We must leave to bring him back. You will be able to find him now that you link him." Brax suggests "He doesn't want us to, not just yet. I know what he is planning on doing. We just need to be patient." "Since when is Klaus gay?"

They stop to stare at me. Brax starts laughing first and then Dane too.

"You've been here a while, right?" Brax asks through laughter.

"Yes."

"I mean, it's pretty obvious." He replies

I look over at Dane who is forcing his Outh together to try and hold t

ter in. "You may have juse Roel

me in a better mood."

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Chapter 0422

Blair

I lay on the small single bed that was now mine. It was a welcome relief to my spine after spending what seems like forever sleeping on a solid stone floor. Someone had

even piled some blankets up at the end with a change of clothes. I'm assuming mum as it was already here when Ryken brought me here.

I could hear my brothers running around upstairs. Their footsteps pounding the floor. Mum yells at them to quieten down before they wake Braelyn.

It was odd, I never thought I would find comfort in the sounds of my family. I had always preferred silence until Cooper forced me into it. Now every silence was uncomfortable. Every silence means a punishment is on its way.

Closing my eyes, a smile appears on my face. I was still alive. Still breathing. Maybe I could find a way to keep it that way. Maybe I just do everything that they ask me too and they will forget about punishing me.

I hear the handle on my door turn and my eyes shoot open. One of my brothers is standing on the stairs, staring at me. I'm not even sure which one. They both had blonde ringlets framing their eyes.

"You look like a boy." He spits out in disgust. I assume he is the slightly older one, Kade. The one Ryken had mentioned when he came to the office. The one he was having a meeting about some time this morning. I was starting to understand why there were problems with him.

My hands automatically go to my hair. His brown eyes are wide as he stares at me. His lips turn up at the corners. Proud of himself because he thought he had upset me.

"It's what happens when you are naughty." I tell him.

"Then you shouldn't have gotten caught." He runs back up the steps and slams the door. His feet move quickly across the floor which is then followed by mutterings with mum. Though I couldn't make out what any of it was.

Minutes later, my door opens again. I stay sitting on the bed, watching my mother slowly descend the stairs. Her hair had been scraped back in a bun, a few white hairs were making their presence known amongst the jet black. A deep green dress clung to her frame. For someone who has had four children, you wouldn't think so to look at her. Her body was in better condition than mine. Just the soft wrinkles forming on her face gave her age away.

"What did you say to Kade?" She asks softly

Of course he had gone running to mum. "He made a comment about me looking like a boy because of this." point to my head. "I just told him it's what happened because I was naughty."

Her hands go to her hips. "You can't say stuff like that to a seven year old."

"Maybe he needs to hear it. I know Ryken has gone to have a meeting about Kim with the Alpha. There is only one reason why he would have to do that." Content belongs to

She purses her lips. But I knew that she knew I was right.

"Can you please just be careful what you say around the boys? I don't want more trouble than necessary."

"Mum! You and Ryken have been tasked with keeping an eye on me. What more trouble could you possibly have?"

She glares at me and I back track.

"I'm not saying I'm going to be trouble. I'm just saying that you are already on the Alphas radars."

She nods as she mulls over my words. "Come upstairs for breakfast. You will be going to work in a bit and you can't do it on an empty stomach." "I'm okay."

"I will tell you the same thing as I tell the boys. It's not negotiable."

I follow her up the wooden stairs and through to the dining room. She gestures to a chair next to my youngest brother. He hadn't met me yet and he drops a spoon into his bowl to stare at me with dazzling blue eyes. He was a miniature Ryken but with blonde ringlets just like Kade. Ryken must have been blonde before he went bald.

Chapter 0423

"Calihan." Mum speaks to him. "This is your sister, Blair. She's going to be staying with us."

He gives me the biggest smile, showing me all his teeth. "Hi. You are my big sister?"

"Hey, yes, I guess I am" I smile back as mum gestures to the boxes of cereal and tells me to help myself.

Kade appears at the table and sits opposite me. He spends the whole time watching me as he eats but doesn't say anything while Calihan talks to me about school completely oblivious of his brother.

"Your dad has just told me that there is no school today." Mum announces as she brings in some jugs of juice. It was like she was preparing to feed the five thousand not four of us and a baby.

Calihan does a small fist pump when he hears the news while Kade demands to know why. Something else unusual about him. Every kid his age should be happy they don't have to go to school for the day.

"Alpha Dane is changing a few things around. Due to the amount of children he is splitting the class so everyone gets more attention. So Kade, from Monday, you will attend in the morning and Calihan, you will go in the afternoon."

"That's not fair!" Kade slams his fist on the table.

"It's the rules and what do we do when it comes to rules?" Mum glares at him and Kade retreats a little.

What was that about?

"We follow them." Calihan states proudly.

"Yes we do, especially if we want to be happy here."

Calihan bobs his head in agreement and slurps the milk from his bowl. The boys were so different, but it was also more than that. Even without my Lycan abilities I knew there was some problem with Kade.

Calihan goes right back to telling me about his friends at school as Kade continues to watch me. He wasn't anything like the boy I had seen running around in the front garden that day.

"It's Kades birthday soon." Calihan tells me. "He is going to be eight." Calihan holds his fingers up proudly. "Two more sleeps."

"Are you excited?" I ask Kade as mum leaves the room to get Braelyn.

He rolls his eyes at me and takes his empty bowl to the sink.

"He's just being silly." Calihan tells me.

"Maybe he is too excited and it's made him tired." I lie to my little brother. "It happens sometimes."

Mum appears

with Braelyn. She was

so much bigger than the first time I had laid eyes on her. Mum slips her into the high chair and puts a bottle of milk in front of her. She was a miniature version of mum. Deep brown eyes and a shock of jet black hair. Oblivious to anything but her bottle of milk.

"Do you think you could get used to this?" Mum asks me

I had never had this in any shape or form. A tear creeps out and Calihan throws his little arms around my waist. "Don't cry."

I nod at mum. "I'm sorry."

She smiles at me. "I know, it's just taken you a long time to find your way home."

"Dad. It's not fair." Kade is stomping around, following Ryken while I tie the laces of my boots

"It's what needs to be done. You won't be in the class with the Hunter kid. So there will be no more trouble."

"There was no trouble. I just asked her for a damn pencil!"

I watch Ryken spin around and glare

at Kade Kade immediately f

and his head sinks lower and lower until his face couldn't be seen.

"Watch your language and do not speak to me like that again!"

"Yes Dad." It was a completely different tone to how he had been speaking earlier.

"Now go to your room until I return."

Kade bobs his head and runs off to the staircase. His feet move quickly and seconds later a door slams and I watch Ryken groan. He looks at me "Are you ready? Because your escort is here."

Chapter 0424

"My escort?"

"He wants to keep a specific eye on you. Not my choice, but I do not get a say in the matter."

"Who?" I ask quietly, already fearing the answer.

"The Hunter. So I suggest..."

"I do everything he asks and answer his questions." I answer quickly

He nods. "You will be over in the gardens today, checking the fruits and veg and doing some weeding."

"I can do that." Though I wasn't quite sure how I will feel with Abraxas breathing down my neck.

"Here," Mum holds out a paper bag for me. "I made you some lunch."

"You didn't...."

"I know. I will see you later."

A new feeling was bubbling up inside of me and I was certain I was going to cry again but not from anger or sadness. From something else entirely "Thanks." I whisper, but she had already turned away.

I open the door to see Abraxas rubbing his temples. "So you didn't try to run then? I was counting on it."

"So you would have another reason to kill me?" I ask

"Maybe. Though it does seem like you are catching on. Let's go. I hope you have green fingers."

I follow him to the gardens, rows and rows of different plants that multiple people were working on. They all look up and glare at me. Abraxas nods to a woman with long red wavy hair. She slowly makes her way towards me with a bucket of small tools.

Pulling off a glove she holds her hand out to me. "I'm Maddie."

"You're the woman they talked about. The one that was stripped of her abilities?"

"Yes. Shall we get to work."

Surprisingly, Abraxas doesn't follow

me

though the crops. He s

the end, watching me from

made me even more

at

but

"You don't have to keep looking at him." Maddie mutters from my side. "He is just here to keep an eye, that's all."

"It's just, I messed up his life and I know he wants to kill me. But I'm trying."

"I know. Just the fact that you are even here means you are trying." She winces as she bends over.

"Are you okay?"

"He thinks it's too early for me to be doing this, but I had to. I can't stay inside all day."

"Too early?"

She lifts her shirt high enough to show me bruised ribs.

"Did he do that to you?" I scoff

"No, not a chance. I'm still healing from Cooper."

"I hope he gets what's coming to him. To do this and take away who we are, it's worse than death." I sigh.

"I'm sure they will find a way to deal with him. Neah is pretty smart and so is Dane. They always win." She gives me a big smile.

"I really hope that they win this one." I was still so unsure.

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I work for hours, letting Maddie show me how to do certain things. Not once did Abraxas stand over me, but he always stayed where he could see me.

He walks me to my new home in silence. I wanted to say something, anything, but ultimately decide to keep my mouth shut.

He knocks on the door and waits for

Ryken to answer. As soon as he does, Abraxas walks away without a single word and that's worse than when he does speak. Content

belongs to

Chapter 0425

Abraxas

"Told you she would be afraid of me!"

"But you used Maddie?" Dane cocks a brow at me, though I could see he was annoyed with my actions.

"It was her idea. She thought that if she could connect with Blair over what Cooper did to them both, she might relax a little."

"And?" He rocks in his desk chair.

"And nothing. Blair didn't lie like I was expecting her too, she was forthcoming with information. She got on with the job, accepting everything that Madison was showing her. If we didn't know her past, you would think she was an outstanding member of the pack."

"Most likely because you were watching her?" He mutters. "She fears you, of course she is not going to step out of line. But you really believe she is telling the truth?"

"As much as I hate her and would gladly use her skin as a flag to warn off other assholes, she ain't lying. I never thought I would say it, but Cooper broke her in more ways than I could ever imagine. I saw something that I have never seen in her before." Did I want to admit it? No. Did I really want to tell Dane? No. But it was better for it to come from me.

"What?"

"Empathy."

"Empathy?"

"Yes." I answer curtly. "The bitch has empathy."

He stares at me in disbelief. "I need you to keep that information to yourself."

"I can do that. Is it Neah you are worried about?"

He shakes his head at me. "Neah can handle herself."

"Okay, but...."

"It doesn't matter, Brax. Just do this for me."

I scowl at him. "It seems like more and more things are being added to our deal."

He looks me dead in the eye. "Are you going to tell me that you suddenly hate living here? You haven't been back to your home in months."

I keep my mouth shut, I wasn't going to admit that I was getting used to living in the pack or that I didn't want to be away from Maddie. I still didn't like ny nine percent of the Lycans, but the Wolves I could cope with.

"Having people to talk to on a regular basis is nice, right?" He pauses for my answer and when I don't respond, he continues. "Speaking to others like you every single day Having your mate here in the pack. And don't tell me you don't like my mate, because I know you are fascinated by her soul."

"Alright! Yes, I do like living here."

A smug smile appears and I roll my eyes at him.

"It just wasn't how I was raised. I couldn't ever accept you as my Alpha, but yes, I do like living here."

"I can accept that for now." His eyes flicker up to the clock. "Want to accompany me to give the other prisoner some food?"

"You are feeding her now?"

"Need to keep her alive if we want to trade her."

I follow him to the kitchen where a

tray of food had already been

prepped. Only a sandwich, a carton and some fruit, but it would be.

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enough to keep Samara arton

Personally, I would have let her starve for another day or two.

In the dungeons, Samara is sitting at the back of her cell. She holds her knees to her chest and rocks. Dane opens her door and gestures for me to take in the food. She doesn't move as I place it on the ground and step out. Content belongs to

It's only when Dane turns the key that her head snaps up. "Cooper is going to kill you!"

"Are you talking to me or him?" I ask while pointing at Dane.

"Both of you. You both hurt me. You both punished me. You took away my friend. You ruined everything that I had."

"Your friend? You mean the one that you lied to? The one you tricked into leading you here?" Dane challenges. "You are an excellent friend."

I had to keep myself from laughing at his sarcasm because Samara didn't see it.

"Have you killed her?"

"Does it matter?"

She rests her forehead on her knees and the crying begins. "This is all wrong. This wasn't supposed to happen."

"Being thrown in the dungeons?" I ask out of curiosity

"Why are you really here, Samara?" Dane presses

"It doesn't matter." She sniffles. "He's coming for me."

"I assume you are talking about your brother?"

Chapter 0426

"He wants me back."

"Your brother is a prick." I mutter.

She shakes her head. "No, you are wrong. He protects me. He has always protected me."

"Is that what he tells you?" Dane questions. "He took away your Lycan abilities so that he could protect you? Do you know the name we give people that do that?"

Her grey eyes peek up at us and she shakes her head.

"Abusers. Cowards. Pussies. I could go on." Dane tells her, "But you wouldn't believe me."

"He's my brother. He protects me."

"Yet it is you who is in my dungeons and not him. We know you can link him, Samara and judging by the claw marks on the wall, you have shifted too."

I had been too busy focussing on her soul to notice the deep claw marks in the wall

"It hurt." She whispers and lowers her head.

"It's going to hurt if it's your first time." I shrug my shoulders. She would have known that if Cooper had taught her anything.

"When is Cooper coming?" Dane demands as her grey eyes drift to the food. Her stomach was making some awful sounds from hunger.

"He just said he is on his way."

"She's lying."

Her face snaps up to mine. "I'm not!"

"You are. I see it and your whole demeanour has changed."

"So he's not on his way?" Dane asks for confirmation.

She presses her lips together and frowns. "He said he would and then...."

"And then?"

"What he has is more important. He wants you to go to him."

"Did he ask you to tell me that?" Dane demands

She bobs her head and Dane looks at me. I nod, confirming she was telling the truth.

"And you can't see that he was using you?" He asks

"He isn't!"

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"He isn't? He had you set up in a house, right where he expected Blair to run. He had you make friends with her. Convince her to come back here even when she knew there was a strong chance she would be slaughtered. What else? Did he expect you to scope out my pack? Draw him the pack's layout? Mingle with the other assholes he has working for him?"

"I don't know."

"What did he want you to do Samara?"

"I....

"What is his plan?" Dane is growing louder and louder

"I... I don't know."

"He is using you and you don't even know what for?"

"No." Tears fall thick and fast "I just had to get her here."

Dane glances at me. I nod "She's telling the truth."

He slams his hands against the bars and storms out. My patience was almost non-existent most days, but Dane seemed to be slowly losing his rag with the lack of answers.

"Eat. Stop that stomach making all those stupid noises." I snap at Samara and follow Dane.

"You believe she is telling the truth?" He demands as I make my way out into broad daylight.

"There's several things I know. She believes Cooper is helping her, not punishing her by taking away her abilities. She believes she is a friend to Blain even though it was built under false pretences. She also has no idea what Cooper wants."

"So he is using her?"

"We both know that, but he is being careful how he uses her. If no one knows his plan but himself, it's going to be harder to stop him. In some ways, the guy is a genius."

He scowls at me. "He's a prick."

"I never said he wasn't. But even you have to admit it's a good idea to not share any of his plan!"

His scowl deepens. "Go and see Ryken. He is gathering names of Wolves who are causing the Lycans issues. They could possibly be working for Cooper."

"I've checked them all."

"Brax, just do it."

"What are you going to do?" I ask cautiously. I could see he was angry. And my backhanded comments were starting to do his head in.

"I need to speak with my Betas."

"Well, it must be your lucky day." I nod towards Eric who was talking to a Wolf a few hundred yards from us.

I watch Dane stride away, making a mental note to speak to Neah. An extremely pissed off Alpha was not someone anyone needed and if he feels he is losing control over his pack, we are all in for a world of shit.

Chapter 0427

Neah

"And she was nice?" I ask Maddie, not quite believing what she was telling me about Blair

'Blair has to be playing us, right?' Nyx mutters

"She was. Brax made her nervous and she did keep checking to see where he was. But ultimately, she didn't have anything bad to say about anyone but Cooper. I don't really know her and that's why I suggested that I be there. I thought if she is pretending, she would at least let it slip to someone she doesn't know, or someone that has gone through something similar. I even showed her the bruises I still have and do you know what, she said I should be resting. But I told her I wanted to help."

"You didn't have to do that.

"I know, I just wanted to contribute. You and the Alpha are both letting me stay in the house and I don't even have my Lycan abilities so I figured this was something I can do."

"Has Brax spoken to you about your Lycan?" I ask

"He suggested you bite me and turn me back."

'He what?' Nyx replies, shocked by the idea

"I told him I wasn't even sure that's what I wanted anymore."

"That's....that wasn't what I was talking about. There may be a chance that this lack of abilities is temporary. It might come back."

She frowns and shakes her head. "No."

"What do you mean "No.?"

"Cooper told me. It's a bit hazy, you know." She taps her temple. "But he definitely told me. He said it was my punishment for being with Brax, that I would never get to experience being a Lycan again. Only those who are worthy deserve it."

'It wore off of Samara?' Nyx murmurs

"He said never?" I query

Maddie nods. "Something about how he doesn't make mistakes"

"He doesn't make mistakes?"

"Sorry," She raises her shoulders, "Like I said, it's still a bit fuzzy and sometimes it doesn't sound right in my head. Now and again I will get a clear memory and know it's not from a dream. I remember him standing over me and saying those words."

'He doesn't make mistakes? It feels like there is a hidden message?' Nyx murmurs

'I agree.'

"Do you remember anything else Maddie?"

She shakes her head. "I'm sorry, Neah. I try and Brax keeps asking me. When try to remember it, it feels like I'm being pulled into a dream and I can't always tell what is

real

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or not. Is it alright if I go and lie down, it's been a long day?" Content

belongs to

"Go ahead." I smile at her as Nyx continuously repeats the words Maddie had just said.

'He doesn't make mistakes.'

'It's a weird thing to say, right?' I mutter to Nyx

'Yep!' She pops the p. 'Everyone makes mistakes. Do you think she knows something?'

I shake my head. 'I don't think there would even be a chance she could keep it quiet from Brax. Either verbally or because he sees it in her soul.'

Dropping on the sofa, I pull my legs up under me. "Do you think he fucked up by saying that to her?" I speak out loud as I yawn

'Like I said, everyone makes mistakes so there is a good chance. Maybe Cooper thought she was out of it? Maybe he thought she couldn't hear him?'

"Maybe." It was so frustrating.

Nothing with Cooper added up. What was his purpose of getting some of Dane's Wolves on his side? Why target Blair and then Maddie? Why did he have this hold over Samara? There weren't any links between any of them.

'Power?' Nyx mutters

"Then why hasn't he come after me or Dane? He isn't achieving anything by going after the people he has. Maddie wasn't even able to shift and he knew that!"

I hear the front door open and seconds later I'm hit with Brax's scent. He drops on the sofa opposite. His hazel eyes studying me. "Dane isn't happy." "I know." I mutter.

"He feels he is losing the pack."

"I know."

He leans forward, resting his elbows

on his knees, "That could mean trouble, Neah. For everyone. I am

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aware Dane has his ways, but I've seen what happens to angry Alphas. I've seen their packs become non-existent."

"What do you suggest?" I mutter, "Because some of this pack seem to be forgetting who is in charge."

"We go after Cooper. Deal with him once and for all. Bring Klaus home. Just you and me. Simply in and out and we leave Cooper with a bullet lodged in his brain."

"I'm not doing that. That's exactly what Cooper wants us to do. As much as Klaus is my family, he is safe while we are not intervening. Cooper thinks Klaus is his mate."

Chapter 0428

He stares at me, trying to mask his annoyance.

"You are missing the point, Brax. This is not a situation we can just blast through and win. Do you not see that? He has been working on this for a long time. Whatever this is. Blair isn't his first victim and Maddie won't be his last. Blair said there were others in the prison with her. We still don't know what he wants."

"At one point, we thought it was me and yet he went after your mate and then there is Samara. The asshole has abused her and she can't see that. Cooper is using her and she is just going along with it because he has somehow convinced her that he is keeping her safe."

"So you want to help her?"

I frown, "I am saying I need time to think. There's not just one thing happening in the pack is there?" I snap, as I think about the little Lycan that is fast asleep in his cot upstairs. Shifting while asleep was not something I thought was possible, but Evrin had done it.

"Where is Dane?" I ask

"Last I saw him, he was speaking to Eric. He said something about wanting to speak to his Betas. I'm sure he will be back soon."

I nod

"I know I'm an asshole, but if you need to talk about something, I am all ears." Brax relaxes into the sofa. "Maybe I can shed some light."

"It's nothing."

He cocks a brow at me. "You are a rubbish liar. Did you know that?"

"And you can be really irritating! And you are worse when you haven't killed anyone."

"Think of it as keeping me sane. It's getting harder and harder for me to be who I am. I'm a Hunter, you know that. I used to go out and kill nightly. Being here, around Madison, you and even Mallory is making it almost impossible to be the man I was raised to be."

"See, not all Lycans are assholes."

He smiles at my comment

"That's why you want to go after Cooper? You need to kill?"

He nods. "I need blood shed. Hunter's thrive on it."

"Klaus doesn't."

"Are you sure about that?"

"He's not really a killer."

"He likes to help in the hospital a lot, doesn't he? Maybe he just thrives in a different way. Though I don't think he would make a great Hunter, he is too.... relaxed. But there are elements of it in him. Excellent diversion tactic by the way."

"I wasn't trying to divert you."

"And yet you succeeded. You may not be a good liar, but you are good at digging out information. So come on, what's plaguing your mind?" I shake my head at him.

"Come on, I told you something about me, it's only fair that you return the favour."

"Samara?" I puff my cheeks out.

"She linked me in her sleep. No one has done that before. It was strange. I could feel everything she was

feeling as she slept. The moment

like

she woke up, it was gone. It was she didn't know she was doing it and yet it feels like she knew she was."

"Like her mind connected to you of its own doing?"

I nod.

"Almost like it wasn't her, it was someone else?"

I nod.

"You have Nyx because you are an Alpha. The same as Dane having Aero. Evrin has his and no doubt Logan will too when the time comes. "Wait, what? Evrin has who?"

"His Lycan spirit." He smirks at me. "I thought that was obvious after he shifted."

Nyx doesn't say anything and I feel her retreating, though it wasn't like she had anywhere to hide.

'You already knew, didn't you?' I snap at her

'I didn't want to worry you.'

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"She doesn't carry Alpha genes." Brax continues "Because you are the last female Alpha." He takes off his ring and fiddles with it. "You are an only child, correct. Well minus Blair."

"Yes. Only child from my mother."

"If she were a sibling, you would have already known." He turns the ring faster and faster. He had resorted to it after I had told him to keep his guns out of sight.

"Did your mother have any siblings?"

"I don't know. I don't remember. I just remember Trey. He was raised to be my brother but was really my uncle... my father's brother. I don't, remember meeting anyone on my mother's side. I'm pretty certain there was no one. Ironically, the best person to ask would be Klaus. He has been researching my family for years. Is that what you think it is? That somehow Samara is family, like a cousin or something?"

Chapter 0429

Dane

Her blue eyes flicker up to me as I walk in. "Have you heard this?" She scoffs

I dip my head. I had only heard the end of Brax's speech, "Though I didn't need to. I had wondered if it was a possibility. But it's not that. This proves it." I pass Neah the book that was tucked under my arm.

Damien, Eric and I had been back to Klaus's house because I knew he had been digging into Neah's past and I had wondered if there was a connection between Neah, Samara and Cooper especially after Samara was able to link Neah in her sleep. But there wasn't.

She flicks open the book and folds out the pages. Klaus had been busy and while her father's side of the family was limited. Her mother's side wasn't. There was name after name that eventually went all the way back to Aldous Kitson and then some.

Where Klaus had managed to gather so much information from was beyond me, but it was what he was good at.

"Wow." She whispers as her fingers trail over the family tree. "This is... It goes all the way..." "It goes back centuries. You know Klaus likes to research." I smile at her.

I let her study the names and after a few minutes she frowns. "There's no mention of Samara or Cooper, that's a good thing right."

"Yes and no. It means you are not tied to them, thankfully. But it also means we are not making any moves in finding out who they are or what they want. Samara is detached and seems to have a screw loose from the return of her abilities and seems to know nothing other than Cooper sending her here and even that information is limited."

"At least I don't have another half sibling popping up out of nowhere!" Neah tuts and I see the way Brax looks at me. I glare back and he makes his excuses to leave as I sit next to my mate.

She rests her head on my shoulder and her hand snakes onto my thigh. "Is Klaus okay?"

"Yes. He hasn't managed to get anything else useful out of Cooper yet, but he is working on it."

"We can't leave him there."

"It won't be forever. Klaus will come back home." I drape an arm around her shoulders and pull her in closer. "I will make sure of that."

"What if...."

"It's not an option, Neah. He has said it himself. He will never accept Cooper."

She falls silent. "Don't lose control." She whispers

"You listen to Brax too much."

Her eyes peer up at me. "What does that mean?"

"It means you don't need to worry. We will figure it out." I kiss the top of her head and she

buries herself into me.

"Evrin shifted again. And Brax says he has his Lycan spirit."

'Crap. Aero mutters and I ignore him. It wasn't necessarily a problem.

"Was Evrin okay?"

Neah bobs her head, "He did it in his sleep. I left him sleeping as a little Lycan. I didn't want to wake him."

'In his sleep? Aero mutters. 'How is that possible, is that even a thing?'

'I don't know bu it is now.' I mutter back.

"Evrin will be fine." I tell Neah and she sighs.

"We don't know what this means. Does it mean he is more powerful than Logan? Does it mean he is the next true Alpha? Logan is first born, I thought that is how it works."

"You are worrying too much. Right now, he is a baby who has only just started walking." I pull her on to my lap so that she is facing me, her legs straddle my thighs. "But it's not just him you are worried about, is it? Me, Klaus, Maddie, Damien and probably so many more." I tuck a strand of her dark hair behind her ear and her blue eyes lock on mine. "It's probably one of the hardest things about being an Alpha. You feel responsible for everyone else. Just as one issue settles, something else comes up. It's a never ending cycle. I grew up expecting that, you didn't. Though you have adapted to it fairly well."

Chapter 0430

She looks away so I turn her face back toward me. "You can't keep everything to yourself. Some things, yes, but not everything and having me read your mind is not the same as you sharing what's frustrating you."

"I'm not weak anymore." she scowls

"I never said you were."

"The lack of knowing what Cooper wants, makes me feel like I am. He's part Lycan which means I should be able to order him or at least link him. But it's like he doesn't even exist."

"That will be his Witch half."

"But still, it's present, right? His Lycan?" She frowns

"I would guess that it has something to do with how prominent his Witch genetics are. If he has lived his life as a Witch then I'm guessing it would be stronger than his Lycan half. He might not have even shifted."

Her brow knits together. "Every possible scenario that I come up with just doesn't seem or feel right. It's not like Salem when he was one step ahead and it's not like Blair when she would taunt us from afar. This guy had only hurt Maddie and taken Klaus and convinced a few Wolves to rebel against the pack. But that's all. If it had been you, you wouldn't have wasted time like this. He would already be dead and if he had a pack, they would be too."

"You're right. I wouldn't have waited, but we are not just dealing with Wolves or even Lycans. He is part Witch? They are a whole different ball game. Not all of them are like Madame Curie and she wasn't exactly squeaky clean."

"I guess." She shakes her head at me. "I'm just over it."

I cock a brow at her, "You are over it?"

She nods at me. "I want it dealt with. I want him gone. I want Samara gone. I want to live in peace. I want to raise my boys and not have to worry that someone is going to come for them."

"Okay, I will link Klaus and tell him to let Cooper know we are ready to trade."

'She didn't mention Blair,' Aero mutters

'No she didn't.' I confirm, though I wasn't planning on bringing her up right now.

Neah leans forward, resting her chest on mine. "Thank you."

I search for the link to Klaus. 'Good time?' I ask, knowing there were limited times he could talk

'Yes.' He replies, though he sounds a little off

'Are you okay?'

'Tired.' He mutters back through the link. 'He's watching me more.'

'Anything?'

'No. He has spent the day trying to convince me I'm his mate.' He sounds absolutely disgusted

'It doesn't matter now. I need you to tell him we want to offer a trade.'

'Dane, I need more time.'

'I'm sorry, but I can't give you any more time. We need this dealt with. Neah is right, this has gone on far longer than it needs to. Tell him that he needs to be at my gates with you by six tomorrow morning.'

'He will refuse.'

'In that case, tell him his sister will be killed. And there will be no hesitation.'

Klaus pauses and I glance down at Neah. Her eyes are closed and her lips have parted as her breaths settle into a steady rhythm.

'I will tell him.'

I cut the link and don't move. Letting Neah have some peace. I place my nose against her hair, taking in her lavender scent. It was a scent that calmed my own mind and one that I will never get tired of smelling.

Her body grows heavy, moulding itself into mine as she slips deeper into sleep. I close my own eyes when Klaus links me.

We will be there.'