

The Alpha's Contract

#Chapter 0431 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0431

Chapter 0431

Klaus

"And he said nothing else?" Cooper asks

"No. Just to be there at six tomorrow morning or your sister dies. He is waiting for confirmation."

He paces back and forth. "I'm impressed, Klaus. You woke me up to tell me that. You could have just not bothered and let him kill Sam."

"He asked me to tell you. He is my Alpha and that is what I did."

"Right, but he wouldn't have known if you had kept that a secret. As your mate, I think you are trying to make me happy by telling me the truth. You know I want Sam back by my side." He winks at me. "But the question is, what does your Alpha want in return? I assume you, because you are an important asset to him. Hmm" He runs a hand through his short blonde hair. "I've never had to contemplate who is more important to me before. My sister or my mate? That is difficult."

"I am not your mate. I have already told you what my birth name is."

"But Klaus, you lie. It's not good to lie." He checks the chains binding my wrists. "Tell your Alpha that I will be there."

"He won't give you Sam if I'm not there with you."

"Yes he will." He states confidently. His eyes are shining bright. "If he knows what's good for him."

"You don't know Dane like I do. He will take one look and see that I'm not present and he will rip her apart. Trust me, I have seen it done."

"Then he would be in for a world of pain. You may not think it, but I love my sister even though she is hard work. I will do everything I can in my power to make sure she lives."

"You have not done anything while she sits in a dungeon." I mutter in frustration. He had given me barely anything and had kept information coded and going around in circles.

He squats down in front of me and leans in close until his stale breath hits my face. He really needed to brush his teeth. "But she is safe there. Everyone else is safe while she is in there. It will be a bloodbath if she gets out." He rises up. "Tell your Alpha that we will be there. I will decide when everything is out in the open."

I link Dane and confirm that we will be there.

"You keep saying that she is safe in the dungeon. What does that mean? Why are you not in a hurry to get her out? Why a bloodbath. You think she is capable of killing everyone?"

"I don't need to be in a hurry when I know where she is." He didn't expand any further and it was an odd comment. I didn't buy it. I needed to know why Samara was safer inside the dungeon and why everyone else is too.

"She's a Lycan, you have already confirmed that. She confirmed that."

"Yes."

"Is she some kind of weapon?"

He smiles at me. "You don't need to be concerned Klaus. I can keep you safe. She won't be able to hurt you. She won't be allowed to."

Allowed? He obviously thought he was powerful enough to stop her.

"Are you afraid of her? Is that why you wanted to block her abilities? You kept saying it was because she was touching your stuff. I do not believe that. I think you are hiding something from me."

"So curious, all will be revealed in good time. You should get some sleep, it seems that we have an early start tomorrow."

"I can't sleep when you talk in code. Is my pack in danger?"

"I haven't decided."

"Is it really for you to decide if you said Samara is capable of turning everything into a bloodbath?"

He smiles at me and with the wide sage green eyes, it makes him look even more unhinged. Why the hell would the Moon Goddess think he is a good match for me?

"Who are you after?" I push, but he doesn't answer me. "I could just tell Dane to kill her!"

He roughly grabs my face, lifting me inches off the floor, with more strength than I expected. "You will do no such thing. Do you understand!"

He drops me with a thud and strides out of the room. When he returns, he is carrying a syringe. "Better yet, let's make it so you can't!"

Cooper stabs me in the neck before I even have a chance to say or do anything. Instantly, I feel myself getting weaker and weaker, and my senses fade until they are barely present. I try to link Dane but there is nothing again.

"Another reason why I am grateful not to be your mate!" I spit at him, I am met with a quick and painful slap across the face. It bums and I knew he had probably left a clean red handprint on my face. One that wouldn't heal for a few days.

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Opening and closing my jaw, it clicked a few times, but it wasn't broken, just painful. "Don't tell lies." He growls at me

"You think hitting me is going to get me to say anything!" I snarl back at him. "You know nothing about me. And if we were really mates, you would be disgusted with yourself for doing that."

"You are not making it easy for me to love you right now." He growls at me.

"Love?" I snort "Is this when your Lycan shows itself? When you don't get your own way?" I pull against the chains but now they were heavy against my wrists. "You've been saying that your Witch side is stronger, but I'm starting to think that's wrong. You use your Witch abilities to try and shut down your Lycan side. But it's not working anymore. It angers you that you can't win me over and I'm starting to understand why!"

"Why?"

"Going to beat it out of me?" I sneer at him.

He doesn't answer me and sits back on the chair by the door. Kicking his boots off and settling his feet on the coffee table. His eyes are on me. He wanted to ask, but now he was unsure. Up until this point, he was the one with information. I wonder how he will feel to know that I'm a Hunter. Especially as he punished Maddie for being with one.

I stare back at him. Every so often the corners of his lips would turn up, like he was enjoying the silence, but then they would disappear when I didn't speak.

Eventually, he moves, sitting himself in front of me. "You have a secret."

"Only from you. I guess that's not really a secret, just information that you are missing."
"Tell me."

"No."

"Tell me now." He demands and I shake my head at him. "Is it about you or the pack?"

I shrug my shoulders. He really hated not knowing something, this could really work in my favour.

He laughs and drags a hand through his hair. "You are so fucking frustrating."

"It's a two way street." I mutter. "You are not giving me anything. So I don't need to give you anything in return."

"I'm starting to see why you haven't met a mate until now." He smiles to himself

I don't answer, I didn't need another slap.

"Tell me this secret and I will tell you about Sam."

I press my lips together and shake my head and the closer he gets, the more I realise how much I want to kill him. To gut him and watch everything fall out while he was still alive.

Where the fuck did that come from?

He taps his fingers on his knee, weighing up the decisions. "Okay, you have one question. I will swear to be truthful and in return, you have to tell me your secret."

"Three questions." I mutter. This could very well get me killed.

"Two." He replies

"Three."

"Fine. Three." He finally agrees

"Who do you want that's in Black Shadow?"

"Sam."

I roll my eyes at him, "Now who is lying."

"It's not a lie."

"Why did you want Blair to lead you down here?"

"I didn't."

I stare at him. He didn't let Blair lead him to Black Shadow. Which means Samara did. When Dane and I were talking last night, he told me that Brax had confirmed Samara was telling the truth about not knowing what Cooper wanted. But she would be telling the truth if it was her plan, she wouldn't necessarily know what Cooper was up to..

"Final question." He muses

"I'm thinking." How was I going to let Dane know before he let Samara out of the dungeon? "You attacked Maddie." He seems surprised by my statement. "Because she was with a Hunter."

"That's not a question."

"But that was your doing. The same as taking away your sister's abilities. But you said it was because Samara kept touching your stuff. But it was more. You love her because she is family but she is a danger to you." I watched the colour drain from his face as he knew I had figured it out. "But none of this is your plan, it is all hers. You followed her down here, not Blair. Maddie was just an unfortunate bonus for you."

"The lack of Samara's abilities means she could hide herself better. All the questions she is being asked are about you, not about her. She's the one behind all this."

I look up at him and everything goes dark.

Chapter 0433

Neah

"Hey, it's time." Dane kisses my cheek as I stir.

"Time for what?" I yawn

"The trade."

I sit up, half confused because I had fallen asleep on Dane yet I was in our bedroom. And half confused by the fact I had only asked him last night to bring it forward.

"It's happening? Nyx's voice rattles through my head

"You've brought it forward? When did you agree that?"

"While you slept. You wanted it moved forward so that's what we are doing. But there is a slight problem."

"He's not bringing Klaus, is he?"

"I think he is, but Klaus has dropped off my radar again. I have been searching for the connection to him for the last thirty minutes. I just wanted to check in with him."

"You think Cooper blocked him again because he learned that Klaus could communicate with you?" I ask as I continue to yawn. "You don't think he has killed him, do you?"

He shakes his head, "Maybe Klaus has found something out and Cooper is stopping him from warning us."

I frown and get out of bed and start pulling off yesterday's clothes. I was surprised Dane hadn't stripped me. Maybe he had been tired too. Or he had been busy planning this.

"So what do we do? We need this to go in our favour. Not his." I mutter

And we get to kill him, right? Nyx asks

'I don't know yet.' I tell her

She rolls her eyes at me. Killing Cooper was all she wanted to do, but would he even get close enough so that could happen? My guess is that he is not stupid.

"Nyx talking to you?" Dane asks.

Inod. "She wants to know when we get to kill him."

Dane grabs my hand and pulls me flush him. His warm flesh pressing against my own. A hand settles against my throat, holding me in place as his lips mould against mine. I could feel his length hardening and it takes everything in his power to step away from me.

"When this is done, I want you to myself." He growls and disappears into the closet while I brush my teeth.

He is dressed in a simple black tee and black jeans when he steps out. In his hands are a pile of clothes for me. His crimson eyes trail over my naked body and although he doesn't say anything, his smile certainly does. I think he secretly enjoyed that I did things the opposite

way around to him, because it means he gets to watch me for longer.

Dane doesn't speak as I dress, but he makes a point of turning the large chair in my direction and watching me.

As I pull the sweatshirt on, I frown.

"You don't think we should take Samara out of the dungeons do you?" He asks.

"I think we need to see that Cooper has brought Klaus first. That it's not a trick."

"I agree. Damien is already waiting at the dungeon for my signal."

'He knows us so well.' Nyx murmurs, almost annoyed that we had become predictable.

'He can read our mind.' I retort.

She rolls her eyes at me as I push my feet into my boots

"Ready?" He holds out a hand to me.

We check on the twins before we go. Evrin had shifted back but he was wearing a nappy now. Dane squeezes my hand. "After I carried you to bed, I checked on them. He was back in Human form."

"We can't leave them." I mutter just as I hear footsteps coming up the stairs.

Mallory appears carrying Luca. "And that is why I am here. Go bring Klaus home."

Dane and I walk across the grounds hand in hand. There is no one about, though the scents of wolves and Lycans are strong. I'm certain they are just hiding. Waiting for permission from Dane.

We head down to the gates where Ryken is already on duty.

"No sign." He tells Dane.

Dane looks at his watch and links me, 'Four minutes.'

I nod and don't speak. Keeping my eyes on the road that leads to our gates. I had a clear view, I can see everything and with four minutes to go, Cooper should already be walking towards us.

Two minutes and I hear rustling in the trees. Klaus is pushed forward. His wrists bound in chains but instead of deep green eyes, they are an almost greyish colour. Klaus moves like he is unable to coordinate his feet. Scuffing the ground and stumbling as he moves, almost like he was in some kind of trance. It reminded me of how Blair had described the nurses at the prison.

Cooper steps out of the trees with puffed out cheeks. "Sorry, we almost didn't make it. It was a lot harder to walk with this one than I was expecting."

Chapter 0434

"You're making a joke?" I stare at him.

"Don't you think it's a little funny?" He smiles at me and I don't answer

Cooper's eyes flicker between me, Dane and Ryken. "Where is my sister?"

"What have you done to him?" Dane demands, gesturing to Klaus

"Nothing much. He will be right as rain in a few days. And none the wiser that we were ever here."

"You hurt him?" I ask. He claimed to be Klaus's mate and yet he hurt him. Some men were just assholes.

"I couldn't have him passing secret messages to you, could I?" Cooper beams at us.
"Now where is my sister?"

"She is being held in the dungeon." Dane replies

'This is a trap!' Nyx splutters.

"Well chop chop, go and get her." Cooper demands

I step forward to the gate. My hands coil around the bars. "Why are you doing this? You don't know us. We don't know you."

"You are right. We don't know each other." Cooper mutters

"Why Maddie?"

"Right time, right place." He smiles back at me. "Come on, are you trying to tell me you have never taken advantage of a situation? Because I wouldn't believe that. I have heard a lot about you, Neah. I know how you like to rip out people's hearts."

"Klaus told you that?"

"No."

Jenison told Blair. Blair probably told him. Dane links me.

Cooper shakes his head at me. "In fact Klaus didn't give me much information no matter how I persisted. It's really quite annoying that he would treat me this way. I am his mate."

I snort. He was nuts.

"You think that's funny?" He frowns at me

"I think you have a fucked up idea of what it is to be mates." I glance at Klaus who has his head tilted down and is swaying on the spot. He was present and not present at the same time.

"None of this makes sense." I mutter to Dane.

"None of it has to make sense." Cooper smiles, "Now is someone going to bring me my sister or do I have to kill you all."

"Your sister for Klaus." Dane spits.

"Uh, No."

"It's a trade." Dane frowns.

"I want both. I want my sister and I want my mate. It's cruel of you to make me decide. I would never expect you to decide between Neah and Jenson or maybe Neah and Raven."

"That's not how this works." Dane is growing angry. I could understand why. This guy had been in our pack, learning everything he could about us.

"Incorrect, this is how it doesn't work for you. I leave with my sister and my mate."

"He isn't your mate!"

Cooper points his finger at Dane. "Now that is not the first time I have heard that. Klaus keeps denying it too, yet I can smell him and oh, it's the best smell ever. So someone is lying and I don't like lies."

"Says you who constantly lies." I mutter

"You are wrong, and I will let that slide this time." Cooper tells me. "I skirt the truth, but I don't lie. I share what I want to share."

"You make your prisoners think that they are mated to you. What's that if it isn't a lie?"

He frowns at me.

'Did he honestly not think that was a lie? Nyx muses

I glance at Klaus who had his eyes tilted up towards me, the grey was fading and slowly being replaced with his usual deep green colour. Whatever Cooper had given to him, it wasn't as strong as he hoped or planned.

Klaus's swaying slows and I watch him blink a few more times as Cooper demands for Dane to get Samara.

"I will get her as long as you agree to hand over Klaus." Dane tells him. "It's as simple as that."Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"You don't get it do you, Dane. This decision isn't yours. It's mine and only mine and I will be leaving here with both."

Hook to Dane. "We can't let him walk away with both of them."

"I can keep him safe." Cooper continues. "He can have the best life with me. I can provide him everything he needs. Trust me, he will be safer with me."

"You call that safe? He is bound and drugged. You are beyond delusional. I am your Alpha."I glare at him. "You may not feel it right now, but trust me, I will find a way to make you feel it and I will find a way to make you suffer."

He laughs at me. "Go and get my sister, princess."

"Don't" Klaus yells, "She's behind all of this!"

Chapter 0435

Dane

My eyes lock on Klaus, he is furiously shaking his head at me while watching Cooper. "She's dangerous." He dodges out of the way as Cooper tries to grab him. "Everyone is safe if you keep her in the dungeons. Don't let her out."

'What the fuck does that mean?' Aero demands as we watch Klaus dodge Cooper again.

I pull on the gates, dragging them open and squeezing myself through the small gap just as Cooper takes a blade from his jeans and dives at Klaus again.

"Klaus." Neah whispers, her voice cracking as his name tumbles from her lips.

I look up to see the blade sticking out of Klaus's chest. His shirt steadily grows red as blood oozes from the wound. He stumbles back only for Cooper to grab him and hold him upright.

"You bastard!" I roar. My eyes shift from him to Klaus. The colour was quickly fading from his skin.

Cooper just frowns at me, "Look what you made me do!" He continues to hold Klaus upright. "You made me kill my mate. You made me mateless. You took him away from me. You will pay for that."

I just stare at him. How could he blame me when he had just stabbed Klaus?

'Klaus is right. This guy is unhinged.' Aero scoffs

Neah pushes past me. I grab her hand, stopping her from going anywhere. I didn't need him stabbing her too. Her blue eyes find mine and I shake my head.

'He's killed Klaus' She whispers through the link. I could see she was fighting the tears and I was having to use all of my strength to stop her throwing herself forward.

'Look at the angle of the blade. It should have missed Klaus's heart.' I mutter even though Klaus had stopped moving and his head hangs low. 'There is still a chance.' At least I hope there is.

Cooper combs his fingers through Klaus's long dark hair. Begging him to open his eyes. "I can fix this Klaus. You just need to open your eyes." He taps Klaus's cheek, pleading with him.

"You stabbed him you idiot!"

"Because he shouldn't have done that. He shouldn't have listened to you. He shouldn't have been awake." Cooper's eyes flick up to me and growls. "I will make sure she gets out and rips your pack apart."

"No you won't." Neah growls back at him. "I am your Alpha and you will do what you are told. You will listen and you will follow my orders. Look at me!"

"What are you doing to me?!" Cooper demands as his wide eyes shift to Neah

"Reminding you of your place." Neah snaps. "Let go of Klaus." She orders

Cooper trembles as he tries to fight the order, but his body is forced to lower Klaus to the ground whether he wanted to or not. "I am a Witch. You can't do this!"

"No, you are part Witch!" Neah

growls back at him. "I have been wondering why I couldn't get through to your Lycan half and now see that's obvious. You need to be at your weakest. You need to be vulnerable. When your Witch half is failing, your Lycan thrives, no longer blocked by a stupid spell Her eyes are darkening as she stares at him. It had been a while since I had seen Nyx so close to the surface.

"Let go of him." Neah demands.

Cooper's fingers retreat from Klaus, leaving scratches across his arm, "You bitch!" He growls, but forces himself to straighten up when out of the corner of my eye, I see Klaus, ripping the blade out of his own chest and slicing it straight across Cooper's abdomen.

Cooper frantically grabs at his wound, thick@rimson blood spilling freely over his hands as Klaus faces him. "I will never be your mate even if you were the last man on Earth: But want to be the last thing you see" He takes the blade and plunges it through Cooper's left eye and forces it as deep as it will go.

With a smile, Klaus's legs buckle underneath him, forcing him to the ground while Cooper's body falls in the opposite direction. Hitting the ground with a dull, heavy thud.

Chapter 0436

"Is he dead?" Neah whispers

I point to Ryken to check Cooper while I check on Klaus

"Dead." Ryken mutters seconds after pressing his fingers to Cooper's throat.

"Double check." I mutter, pulling Klaus's shirt open to find his chest already healing. A sigh of relief escapes me. "He's alive."

"Are you sure?" Neah asks

"One hundred percent." I watch his wounds knit together abnormally fast. Sometimes I forgot just how quick he could heal. It was almost as quick as

me.

"And this prick is definitely dead." Ryken tells me. "What the fuck was he playing at?"

Hollow gasps rattle from Klaus's chest and he finally takes a deep breath. "He's not playing or plotting, at least he wasn't." Klaus croaks. "He was only ever here to keep an eye on his sister. He had no plans for any of us. Except me."

"But what about Maddie?" Neah presses

"She was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. He took advantage of the situation." His breath is still a little wheezy. My guess would be that Cooper managed to hit a lung. "Samara wanted Blair to come here."

"Why?"

"That's something I don't know. I don't even think he really knew."

"That makes no sense. He let her out of the prison." Neah states

"I don't think he did. I think it was her." Klaus coughs and spits out a bit of blood. "He talked about her being safer in the dungeon, but also said you lot would be safe with her in there. He said if she gets out it will be a bloodbath now she has her abilities. I thought he was controlling her, but I think it's the other way around. Or maybe they were controlling each other over different things."

"Brax would have seen the lies. She already fooled him once."

"Not if the questions were specifically about Cooper and Cooper's plans. She wouldn't have known because they were never his, they were hers." He rolls onto his side and frowns as he stares at Cooper's body.

"She's a Lycan. I can control her." Neah mutters

I hold a hand up to Neah. "So he blocked her abilities to keep her safe? That's why he hasn't tried coming for her. Samara is locked away, but he wanted to stay near just in case."

"Not just for her." Klaus coughs and spits out more blood

"So in a fucked up way, he was trying to help?" Ryken scoffs

"Until he realised we were mated." Klaus

now hers. "I feel so much better marked me." Content bene never

è is dead. I'm so glad he never

SW

to

I glance over to Cooper. The blade still remained in his eye and the wound on his abdomen continued to right.

bleed. But something we

'Damien, is Samara still in the dungeon?'

'Yes, Are you ready for her?'

UMS

quite

'No, there is a change of plan. Is she okay? Or is she upset?'

'She's angry. She knows my presence means something.'

She would be upset if she had just felt her brother die. I glance back at a lifeless Cooper. Something seemed off.

"Can you stand?" I mutter to Klaus

"I think so. Fuck. I don't want to be stabbed in the chest again." He rubs the wound

I offer him a hand and pull him to his feet as Neah throws her arms around his waist. Telling Klaus how happy she was to see him.

"Everyone, get on the other side of the gate. Ryken, Do you have a lighter or a match?"

"I think so." He looks inside the little office by the gates and brings me a box of matches. "Am I missing something?"

"Dealt with any Witches before?" I ask

"Can't say I have. Always taught to stay clear."

"What's happening?" Neah asks as I

strike a match and watch the little orange flame appear. I toss it at Cooper and it lands on his chest. He goes up in flames, igniting in a ball of orange fire.

"It's not him." Klaus scowls, suddenly understanding what I was doing. "No it is not."

Chapter 0437

Klaus

"That doesn't make any sense. How can it not be him?" Neah demands. "I watched him stab you. I watched you kill him. You stabbed him in the eye!"

"It's..."

"Are you saying this was one of his abilities?" Ryken asks

"Yes." I look to Dane, hoping that maybe he would be able to explain it better than I could. "Are you trying to tell me it's a twin?" Neah searches my face, looking for an answer.

I turn back to the fire. Not even a hint of an aroma of burning flesh. It's what I would have expected if it was him.

"Dane?" Neah asks. "I don't understand."

"Klaus didn't kill him." He tells her

"I'm right here. I saw it happen."

"There's something called astral projection." Ryken explains

"Astral projection? He stabbed Klaus!" Neah mutters

Dane cups her face and tilts it up until she is facing him. "Remember how I told you Witches have different capabilities?"

"Yes but...."

"He was never here, Neah. But his projection was strong enough that he was able to wield a weapon. It is why you can't smell any burning flesh. It is why when the fire burns out the body will either remain or it will disappear for good, leaving just the blade."

On cue, the blade clatters to the ground. Turning to the fire, I watch it slowly burn out. Nothing but the blade remained, just as Dane had said.

"So he can be in two places at once? Neah asks as Dane moves towards the blade.

"Yes, though it could be more depending on the strength he has." I reply

"If he wasn't here, how was I able to force him to let go of you?"

"Because you did find his weak spot. From what I know, projecting takes a lot of work. When he thought he had killed me, it did weaken him. The problem is, he knows that now and is likely going to find a way to make sure that never happens again."

"So if he wasn't coming after us before, he is now?" Ryken asks

"Yes. Maybe just for me and Samara, maybe for everyone." I frown and look around. "The worrying thing is, I don't even know how I got back here."

"You were in some sort of trance." Dane mutters as he takes off his tee and wraps it around his hand. He carefully picks up the blade and brings it back to us. "Your eyes were grey and

you could barely walk. I assume he gave you something."

"He drugged me after I confirmed that he would meet with you. That took away my Wolf, but there was a point where I was asking questions and he got pissed off because I figured things out. All I remember is everything going dark and then waking up, here."

"Neah, Klaus go back to the house." Dane instructs. "I need to catch up with the sister." He looks at the blade, turning it over in his hands. "Ryken, let us know if there is any sign of him or anyone else."

Ryken bobs his head. "At least I know what the prick looks like."

Neah walks quickly to keep up with my long stride. "How do you know so much about Witches?"

"Truthfully, I'm not entirely sure."

"What does that mean?"

"Information on Witches is limited. There are no books on them, the same as there is limited information on Lycans. But it feels like some knowledge is just here." I press a finger against my temple

"But you like to research so maybe you have learned it at some point."

"Is the fucker dead?" Brax asks, rising up to his feet as we approach the pack house. He folds his arms across his chest as he stares at us. "I assume he has to be if you are standing

here."

"No." I groan

"Why not?"

"He projected himself."

"Different." He mutters. "Where's Dane?"

"Gone to ask Samara some questions." Neah tells him.

"Oh shit, so the fucker lost you and his sister. Right now he is probably beyond angry. I know

I would be." He purses his lips, "Now can Neah and I go and kill him?"

"You have just said it yourself. He is beyond angry. Do you think you will be able to just walk in there and kill him?"

"Who said anything about walking in? I have guns with longer range than a pistol."

My eyes shift to Neah. Ultimately it wasn't my decision to make, but I was hoping Neah would see how stupid this idea was.

She shakes her head, "Brax, I know you think that's the easy way. But I don't. What if the one you shoot is just another one of his projections? What if it's a trap? What if it is exactly what he wants us to do?"

Chapter 0438

"He was counting on you turning up." I tell her. "If anything, he was annoyed that you hadn't. He has enough syringes full of drugs to wipe out more than the people in this pack.

Essentially, he could turn us all Human."

"Was it intentional for it to wear off so quickly? Was that what he wanted?"

"I don't think so. He seemed surprised when he realised I wasn't drugged anymore. Hence stabbing me."

"It's because he is a Hunter." Brax shrugs his shoulders like it's no big deal.

"What does that have to do with anything?"

"Oh come on, Mister Research." Brax rolls his eyes at me, "Are you seriously telling me you have created her whole family tree, going back centuries, but you haven't even bothered to look up your own ancestry?"

"Well, I have been a little preoccupied."

"You are a fast healer, right?"

"I guess so. I always just put that down to being lucky."

Brax rolls his eyes at me. "You are a Hunter. As much as that word should not be connected to you. It is. Hunter's are fast healers. We heal like Alpha's because we are our own kind. Have you ever seen me with a wound?"

"That's why the drugs didn't stay in his system long?" Neah scowls

"Bingo."

"But there is also something else you should know about Hunters." His eyes flicker around the grounds. "That maybe we should discuss inside."

He gestures to the door and Neah is the first through it. She leads us into the office and takes Danes' seat behind the desk. "Well?"

"This is information I never thought would come in handy."

"Spit it out Brax." I snap. I was done with this. I need a good sleep and a space to clear my mind.

"If you haven't done research on yourself. I'm guessing you haven't done much on Hunter's in general?"

"I haven't needed too. Generally if I ask you, you will tell me what I want to know."

He sits on the corner of the desk, much to Neah's annoyance. "Hunter's don't just hunt Rogues."

"What?"

"Actually, that is the wrong phrase. There are Hunter's that don't hunt Rogues."Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"So what are you saying?" Neah asks, " Because I'm clearly missing the point.

"It doesn't help when Brax has a need to be dramatic!"

"Doh, look who is growing a pair of balls after making a decent kill!" He smirks

"BRAX!" Neah warns him

"Fine. You were with Cooper for a few days. What did you learn?"

"He is unhinged!"

"More?"

"We are mated!"

"Are you sure about that?" Brax cocks an eyebrow at me.

"He has a mark with my initials."

"Does he?"

"He showed me."

"See, now that's where it gets a little interesting. Witches do have a mark."

"The mark is the initials of their mate. Yes I know. I lied to him and gave him a false name but I don't think he bought it."

"That's not entirely true."

"That's what you told Dane. You said over time the mark mutated into the initials of their mate." Neah frowns

"I said I believed, but now, I don't think that is quite true. Or there would be more Witches present and he would likely be mated to another Witch to keep the bloodlines from disappearing altogether."

"Brax, just spit it out. These short answers make me want to rip out your tongue!" Neah scowls at him. Or maybe it was Nyx with how dark her eyes are. Since when has that started happening again?

"So I've been wondering why you are unphased by the Lycans. In fact, you are so fucking curious about them that it makes me a little sick. But nevertheless, you are a Hunter. There is a reason you can withstand Cooper's bullshit. That mark that he showed you, I don't believe is a mate mark. He is still half Lycan. And clearly he hasn't been raised to understand that. I think I was wrong. I think the initials belong to the person who is going to kill him, not his mate."

"What?" Neah presses. I couldn't tell if it was a 'what' because Brax admitted he was wrong. Or a what' because of what he said about me.

"Klaus isn't just any Hunter. He is a Witch Hunter."

Chapter 0439

Dane

Samara is sitting in the back of her cell as I enter the dungeons. Her knees are pulled up tight to her chest as she tries to hide her face from me.

"She stopped crying a little while ago." Damien tells me. He is sitting on a stool at the far end. "But she's clearly shifted again at some point. More claw marks." He points to the top of her cell. "Is the bastard dead?"

I shake my head, "It's a little more complicated."

Stopping outside of her cell, I observe the deep claw marks. They were all focussed around the top of her cell. Almost like she is trying to dig a way out. She will have a hard job, inside the cement is more bars. I wasn't letting someone else escape.

"My brother is alive isn't he? He was here and now he is not. She whispers though she continues to keep her face covered by her arms, like she was hiding something.

"You tell me. It seems that you have been lying Samara. Do you even know how to tell the truth?" I ask

"I'm not...."

"Cut the bullshit. I know you are behind everything. Why did you want Blair to bring you here? Who are you after?"

"I came for help. That's true."

"If you continue to lie I'm going to open this cell and run this blade from your neck to your navel. Very, very fucking slowly." I hold the blade up to show her and she finally raises her head to look at me. Slow healing claw marks littered her face.

Her eyes drift to the blade, "You can't hurt me with that."

"Don't test me."

She shakes her head, "You literally can't. There are marks on the handle. Marks that mean it can't touch my flesh."

I look at the handle. She wasn't wrong. Strange marks had been carved into the wood. "Why?"

She shrugs her shoulders at me. "Coop made it for me to use. It was so I could protect myself but it could never be used against me. Though, he never actually let me use it. Decided I wouldn't need protection when I had him."

"Protect yourself against who?"

She drops her head forward on to her knees and doesn't answer.

"Samara!"

She remains silent. I was on the verge of ripping her cell door open and testing out her theory until I remembered what Klaus had said. If she got out, it would be a bloodbath. Yet I still didn't know why.

"Everyone and no one." she whispers

"What does that mean?" Damien edges forward. "How can you need protection from everyone and no one at the same time?"

"From yourself? Is that who you are talking about? Or are you talking about Cooper and his projection abilities." I demand

Her grey eyes are wide as they flicker up to mine. "He's mastered it?"

'Is this a trick?' Damien links me

'I don't know

Samara scowls into her legs. Her mouth opens and closes like she couldn't find the right words to say. "If he has mastered it after all this time.... I don't know what will happen now."

"How about you tell us the real reason why you came here." Damien presses

"It's true, it was my plan to come here, but not for the reasons you think. Cooper didn't know, I never told him. But I knew there would be a good chance he would follow. I have to stay close by. It's what he does. I made Blair believe he would follow her. I didn't want her to know that it was really me."

"Why?"

"I don't know."

"You can't keep saying that. You clearly know what you are saying so why are you withholding information." Damien snaps. "You know you are just speeding up the chances of you dying." He looks to me, "At this point, it will just be easier to bring Brax

in. Her answers are not even making sense any more. One minute she is telling us her brother is going to core for her. The next she is a mess."

I agree, her story was making less and less sense. What do you think?' I ask my Wolf.

'I'm thinking of Neah." Aero replies

'Okay'

Just how she was when we first met her. Keeping quiet about things happening to her because she knew there was a strong chance things would get worse if she spoke up. We saw what that family was like. Maybe Neah is right. Maybe Cooper has screwed with Samara's head.' He nods, 'But that doesn't necessarily mean it's Samara's truth."

I grab the stool Damien had been sat on and take a seat right in front of Samara's cell.

"I did like Blair." She mutters quietly. "I didn't want to use her. I had no choice."

"We all have choices. And one of you is lying or you are both stupid enough to play each other off. That never works."

"I'm telling the truth about this!"

"About this?"

She nods her head at me. "I couldn't even link the Alpha. When she told me that Neah was her half sister. I saw an opportunity" She buries her face in her hands and starts screaming. Her fingers paw at her skin, digging and scratching until blood reaches the surface.

"GET OUT GET OUT GET OUT!"

She pulls her clothes off as she screams and claws at her skin as she squirms around on the floor. It reminded me of Jenson as he fought against his Wolf.

"Samara, stop!"

Her grey eyes find mine, they glaze over as she continues to dig at herself.

"What do we do?" Damien asks

"We need to see what happens."

"GET OUT!" She screeches again as claws sprout out of her fingers. Tufts of dark fur erupt from her skin. She screams as her bones break.

I had watched Neah shift as well as my own son, yet neither of them made this much noise and Neah had said it was the most painful thing she had experienced.

The whole process takes a good thirty minutes and stretched out on the floor is a very large Lycan. Her breaths are heavy and her eyes remain closed. Damien shifts his eyes from her to me. "What do we do?"

"We wait."

Another thirty minutes pass before there is any sign of movement. Her fingers twitch and the twitching spreads to her arms. Her eyes open and she continues to lie on the floor.

I watch as the nostrils move, she inhales the scents around her and slowly sits up, staring at us. Neither Damien or I speak. I wasn't even sure if Samara could hear us.

My hand tightens around the handle of the blade, preparing myself for an attack but she just continues to watch us, like we were the ones locked in a cage. She glides her tongue over her sharp teeth as she stands. She is definitely bigger than the average Lycan.

Chapter 0440

Damien

She stares back at me from her cell. Samara had been staring at us both for a while. But since her grey eyes had shifted to me, I seemed to be all she could focus on.

'Rogue?' Dane asks through mindlink

'No. Brax would have scented it a mile off and so would I.'

I look in the cell. All the claw marks at the top made sense when she was probably over eight feet tall, though it was hard to tell while she was still sitting. The rest of us were probably around the seven foot mark once shifted.

"Can you talk?" Dane asks her and for a second her eyes shift to him before returning to me.

"Maybe we need Neah." I mutter

"I will ask her to come over." Dane frowns

Samara gives me a sharp nod, like she knew that was who she needed. She doesn't move as we wait for Neah, but she does not stop watching me either and it is starting to creep me out.

Neah's footsteps are soft as she creeps down the stairs. "What did you....?" She stops as she spots Samara's Lycan. "She shifted again?"

"She doesn't seem to be able to control it." Dane tells her.

"But she knows it's coming in time for her to remove her clothes?" She points to the discarded clothes in the corner

Dane sighs. "Yes, it seems that way."

Neah suddenly holds a hand up to Samara. "I am talking to my mate."

I look in the cell to see Samara has dropped her head in submission. It was new. She had been angry, frustrated, even tearful but to accept dominance was different. Maybe it was the Lycan in her, maybe she couldn't refuse, or maybe she was starting to see that she couldn't win. It had taken long enough.

"She just shifted?" Neah asks Dane

"She screamed and wanted us to leave, then this appeared." Dane gestures to Samara

"We all knew she was a Lycan." I murmur and Samara's grey eyes flicker to me. "But she is a lot bigger than the rest of us. Could she be something else?"

Neah moves closer to Samara's cell, yet Samara keeps watching me until Neah speaks to her.

"Who are you?"

"What do you want?"

Neah is silent for a moment and then tells Dane and I to turn around. "No one wants to be watched while they are shifting if it hurts."

We turn and face the opposite cells. A growl turns into a howl that is quickly replaced with a Human screaming and crying.

"Get dressed." Neah mutters. "You need to give us clear answers."

"I can't." A whispered reply echoes around the dungeon

"You mean you won't." Neah presses

"No, I can't. I didn't lie. I came here for help. That is my truth."

"First you said you came for help and then you said it was your brother who wanted you to come here. Now you are back to saying it was for help. Which is it?" Neah demands

"Help. I need help." Her voice cracks

"Then why did you threaten us with your brother?"

"You were going to kill me and he always said he would protect me. Now this, the monster.... It hurts so much. Is that what he was protecting me from?"

I turn around to see Samara sitting on the floor. One leg folded under her at an awkward angle while she hugs the other. Tears fill her grey eyes

"Cooper followed you here?" I ask

She points to her neck. "I think he put something in me. I think he does it to most people, to keep tabs." 'A tracker?' I link Dane.

'Possibly.' He replies, but he is deep in thought about something else. "The farm? You or Cooper?"

"Coop at first, to stop anyone running away, Blair was not the first but she was the first that I liked. That's why I helped her. She reminded me of me and I just thought that maybe he wouldn't net away. The other's they, bet miss one. I could just help one.get different, dangerous even without Wolves and Lycans. I had to keep them busy until Coop came for them. That was my job and I got to stay on my little farm."

Her eyes settle on Neah. "Blair told me who you were. I thought....I thought this would be it. But I knew I had to lie. To her, to him, to everyone." "That's the trouble when there are too many lies." I tell her. "You unravel and you end up in even more shit. The kind that gets you killed." "What do you want?" Neah demands.

"I just wanted to get here. It took so much time to convince Blair to come here and I really thought she was going to walk away after we had come so far. I knew there was a chance that you would kill her. took that risk because I thought if I could just get her to show me where you were, then maybe I could convince everyone she is not who she once was. I didn't think that my death would be a possibility. I thought... it doesn't matter anymore. I know you won't help me."

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0441 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0441

Chapter 0441

"You thought we would just allow a complete stranger into our home?" Dane asks

"You are both Alpha's. I hoped... I hoped one of you would understand."

"He used the word bloodbath. Told us that you would get out and slaughter everyone."

She locks her fingers together, twisting them around as she struggles to find an answer. Her words are barely audible as she mutters that Cooper told her she was dangerous.

"Did you kill someone at the prison?"

She bobs her head. "I had too."

"You had too?" Neah presses

"Yes. I..." She takes a deep breath and closes her eyes. "It wasn't what I told Blair. It was a nurse, that was true. He used to come in at night." Her lip curls up and her eyes harden. "Touch me when he thought I was sleeping. I saved a fork, when he snuck in my room again, I waited for the perfect moment and stabbed him in the throat."

Her eyes flicker up to me. "I pulled it out and made sure he never left the room as he choked on his own blood."

It was a little surprising she wasn't a Rogue.

"Iran. Coop found me. He didn't make me go back though. I was too much of a risk" She lowers her gaze and blinks a few times. "He made me like this, didn't he? Coop made it so my mind is not my own."

"Yes." Neah mutters. "It's what abusers do, especially when they have been doing it for a long time." She turns around to look at Dane and disappears up the steps. Dane follows her, leaving me alone with Samara.

"Why do they keep saying that?" Samara asks quietly.

"Because it's true and if anyone can confirm it, Neah can. Cooper has used you. He has you doing his work for him and he does that with the promise of keeping you safe and protected. Only he hasn't kept you safe at all."

"He talks to me. I hear him. It's because I'm no longer stripped. Obviously I have my abilities back, I wouldn't have just turned into that... Lycan. And the Alpha wouldn't have been able to hear me."

"What does Cooper say when he speaks to you?"

"That he will get me out. That he is working on it." She pulls her shoulders up around her

ears. "Something about a mate. Sometimes he sounds angry. He blames me for something."

"For what?"

"I don't know. His voice can be loud, sometimes it is barely a whisper. Other times it isn't even there."

"Have you always heard him?"

She shakes her head at me. "Only when he wanted me too."

I move towards the steps

"Don't go. I don't like being alone down here."

"You were alone on the farm."

"It was different. I had freedom. You don't have to talk to me. I can just sit quietly."

I sit on the wooden stool, folding my arms across my chest and she lowers her eyes. "How do you expect us to believe anything you say?"

Her forehead creases as she frowns. "I don't expect you to. I tried to play a game. I tried to trick my own brother. If someone here doesn't kill me, he probably will."

Samara lets out another whimper. "It's happening again."

Frantically, she pulls her clothes off as she screams. Trying to curl herself up into a ball but the cracking bones won't allow it. I watch her roll onto her stomach and push herself up onto her hands and knees. The screams are hard to listen to and I have watched the living be ripped apart by Rogues.

The screams mix with roars of pain as her body contorts itself in ways it hadn't done last time. I couldn't stand to listen to it any more.

"Hey, listen to me!"

As her body continues to jerk about, her eyes find mine.

"Stop fighting it."

"I can't." She cries through a scream. "It's not me."

"Samara, it is you. It is your Lycan, no one else's, you have the control. Let it out or shut it down!"

Tufts of black fur begin to appear along her legs as they lengthen and widen. She throws herself back against the wall, her claws scraping along the ground. "STOP STOP STOP. You can't do this to me!"

She lets out a final whimper and stills.

The tufts of fur disappear and her legs begin to shrink. She slides over until she is laid on her side and draws her knees up to her chest, crying and hyperventilating.

"There's a blanket right behind you."

Without looking, she reaches behind her, fumbling for the small piece of fabric and drags it over her naked frame. A few more of her bones slot back into their rightful place but this time, she only cries.

"Were you talking to him? Was that who you were telling to stop making you shift?"

She pushes the blanket down just enough for me to see her eyes. "No."

"You were telling yourself?"

"No, I was telling the voice in my head."

Chapter 0442

Neah

"Slow down." Dane runs after me, grabbing my hand and pulling me to a stop.

"Why can't she see it?" I frown at him. "If she is telling the truth, why can she not see that what he was doing to her was wrong?"

"If she is telling the truth and that's a big if, it's most likely because she has been brainwashed. He made her promises, promises that she believed.

'She is still stupid.' Nyx murmurs and I repeat her words.

Would you have said that about yourself? I know why you just walked out of the dungeon, Neah." Dane continues. "It's too close to home."

"There are so many bastards in this world." I mutter

He tugs me towards him. "You are right, there are."

"Do you believe her?"

"No. I'm following the path of not trusting people until they prove otherwise. Before you stormed out, I was about to leave to find Brax, just as Damien suggested."

"He's at the house, trying to convince Klaus he is a Witch Hunter."

His crimson eyes shift in the direction of the house. "Did I just hear that correctly?" I bob my head.

"A Witch Hunter?"

"Apparently. Brax said he was wrong before, or at least he thinks he is when it comes to the mark of the initials meaning they are mates. He thinks that because Klaus isn't bothered by Lycans in the same way he is, that he thinks Klaus is a Witch Hunter and that he is meant to kill Cooper."

He stares at me with wide eyes and I shrug my shoulders. "I don't understand either."

"Klaus said he could scent Cooper. Cooper keeps referring to him as his mate. You heard what he said at the gate, he blamed us for stabbing Klaus." Dane's frown deepens

"Brax said something about Klaus being able to put up with Cooper's bullshit. And

something about how there would be more Witches if they were all mated to the name on their mark, not less."

He nods his head at me as screams come from the dungeon.

"She's shifting again?" I ask, confused. I didn't understand why she would keep forcing a shift.

"It sounds like it." He mutters back

"Why is she so big? Her Lycan is bigger than Damien's."

"I don't know, but it seems like being in the cell is the best thing for her. We can keep an eye on her and monitor what's happening to her."

I look back towards the dungeon. Curiosity was burning through me. "You go speak to Brax and Klaus, because I don't understand what he is saying. I will stay with Damien."

"Stay out of her cell." He stares into my eyes as he waits for an answer.

"I won't go into her cell."

He uses a finger to tip my head up and presses his lips to mine. "I will be paying attention." 'Anyone would think we were about to do something stupid.' Nyx murmurs

I creep back down the steps of the dungeon, just in time for Samara to tell Damien about a voice inside her head.

Damien's dark eyes flash in my direction and it takes me a moment to realise Samara is curled up under a blanket in Human form. Her shift has either failed or she stopped it.

"Where's Dane?" Damien asks

"Gone to find Brax." Samara whimpers at the news. "What voice?" I press. Samara refuses to answer and pulls the blanket up over her face. "It's just easier if you tell me. I won't have to force it out of you." Could it be Cooper? Was he somehow getting in her head?

"It started yesterday, it woke me up. Sometimes she shouts. Sometimes she is quiet like small whisperings."

When she woke us', Nyx mutters, 'Was it her Lycan that was linking us?'

'She can't have a Lycan spint, she would need to have Alpha genes.'

"You said she." Damien speaks. "Who is she?"

Samara shuffles herself back against the wall, tucking the blanket around her so that just her legs poked out. "She called herself Dakota. She said she is my Lycan."

"That's impossible." Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"I'm not making it up." She mutters quietly, lowering her head

"You would need Alpha genetics to have a Lycan that speaks to you and I wouldn't be able to force you to answer me."

Chapter 0443

"An Alpha?" her brows knit together.

'This doesn't make sense.' Nyx mutters. We are the last female Alpha. There can't be two of us.'

"Who are you parents?"

"My father was a man called Axle Clarkson. I don't know my mother's name. My father told me stories that she was from a powerful family but said she was never ready to be a mother. He convinced her to carry me to term and said he would raise me alone."

"Cooper's surname is Ash." Damien mutters

"No, that's his middle name. Cooper Ash Clarkson." Samara frowns. "What is happening to me?"

"Just breathe." Damien tells her. "Keep your mind clear. Don't let her push through." RêAd lateSt chapters at

"What happened to your father?" I ask her as she takes multiple deep breaths.

"Heart attack. Even Lycans are not able to bypass that. I was twelve I think. Coop looked after me." She snorts and shakes her head, "But he didn't, did he, not really."

"Can Dakota tell you if you have Alpha genes?" I press

"I don't know."

"You have to ask her." Damien tells her. "Just like when you told her to stop shifting."

"Am I an Alpha?" She speaks openly to the room.

A few minutes pass and her brows shoot up.

"No." Samara tells us.

'She took a long time to answer, just to say no.' Nyx mutters

"What else did she say?" I ask curiously

"I'm not... I'm not an Alpha but I do carry the genes of one. How?" She shakes her head, her grey eyes wide. "How is that even possible? You are the Alpha. We are not siblings."

'No we are not siblings. Nyx growls

I feel the heavy thud of my pulse as the blood rushes between my ears as I try to process what Samara is saying. If she had Alpha genes, she had the potential to wipe me out and replace me. Just like how Jenson would challenge Dane.

Is that what Cooper was talking about? It could be a bloodbath because she had the potential to wipe out everyone including me.

Samara stares back at me through her cell bars. Her eyes are wide and fearful. Maybe she thought the same, that I would now kill her because she was a threat to me.

Damien strides towards me. "Let's get some fresh air." He turns back to Samara. "I will find you some clean clothes."

"You're leaving." She whispers.

"Just temporarily. My advice, get to know your Lycan."

"What is happening?" I murmur as the guard closes the dungeon door behind us and locks it.

"I think we might need to ask Klaus."

"Why Klaus?"

"He is the one who has been working on your family tree."

"You do think she is related to me, don't you?"

"Ryken once said you don't get multiple Alpha's for Lycans, not true ones anyway. There is a bloodline." He points to me, "So although she might not be a sibling. Maybe she is a distant cousin or something. The problem is, many things were kept from you. You didn't know who you really were, not until a few years ago."

"Do you think Cooper knows?" I ask as we walk over to the house.

"He certainly knew she was powerful. Though there is a chance he doesn't know how powerful."

Inside the house, Klaus, Dane and Brax were arguing about this Witch Hunter business. I couldn't really make much out of the argument because they were mostly swearing at each other.

"SHE CARRIES ALPHA BLOOD!" I scream.

The three of them stop shouting and turn to look at me and Damien.

"She has a Lycan called Dakota." I mutter. "There is a good chance that we are related." I couldn't believe those words were even coming out of my mouth.

"I would have seen it." Brax scowls.

"Well clearly something is wrong with you, because you have missed so much when it comes to Samara!" I snap and he glares at me

"She isn't wrong." Damien confirms. "It's like your Hunter skills are slipping. You should have killed Cooper when you had the chance but you didn't."

"My skills are not slipping!" Brax snarls through gritted teeth.

"Are you sure about that?" Damien challenges.

"You want to challenge me now, Rogue?!" Brax spits

Chapter 0444

Damien

Brax's hands automatically move to his jeans, preparing to grab his gun. It takes him a millisecond to realise he didn't have it and he growls in response.

He was actually following Neal's rules. If I wasn't preparing for him to charge me, then I might have congratulated him on it.

"I don't care what is going on with you two." Dane snarls. He pushes his way between us as he looks at Neah. "Tell me more."

"She said she could hear a voice. But it's not Cooper, it's another female. She has a Lycan. Dane. Just like how I have Nyx."

"That's not possible. You are the end of your bloodline. You saw it in the family tree."

"Actually..." Klaus pipes up. "It's not finished."

"What do you mean it's not finished?" Dane demands. "There's more?"

"I think so, I just ran into a dead end."

"Are you telling me that I have another sibling?" Neah stares at him in disbelief. "Because Nyx is one hundred percent certain Samara is not my sister."

"No, no, definitely not. Only Blair. Klaus confirms. "You were your mother's only child, but some birth records that I managed to get hold of, indicate that your grandparents had another daughter after your mother was born."

"She still would have carried the Alpha gene." I mutter. "In the exact same way as Jenson and Raven did." Her name leaves my tongue with a bitter taste. I hadn't thought about her much and she was quickly becoming a distant memory. "The grandparent would have passed it down to any children and so on."

"Do you think the prick knew?" Brax asks with a frown.

"Samara is unsure. Her father told her that her mother wasn't ready to have children. But she still carried Samara to term and then handed her over to Samara's father. He raised her right up until he died."

"Cooper kill him?" Dane asks

"Surprisingly, no. He had a heart attack. Cooper has raised her since she was around the age of twelve."

"Before she could shift?" Neah mutters. "That's a bit of a coincidence, isn't it?"

"It is." Dane confirms

I shift my eyes to Brax. He is frowning and pacing. With his eyes narrowed and with the creases on his forehead, he looked absolutely fucking livid. Possibly because Neah is right about him getting things wrong. But how had he missed so much when he claims to see their souls?

"But Cooper has to know this about her, right?" Neah asks. "The way he spoke. The way he was pissed with Klaus for telling us not to let her out."

Everyone nods their heads.

"What if he projects himself into the prison and lets her out?" Neah frowns and turns to Klaus. "You said he had to be strong to be able to wield a blade while projecting. So in theory he could appear in the dungeons and open her cell? Is that how his ability works?"

There's silence

"Someone say something!" Neah snaps

"I will watch her." Brax offers

"Fine, go. Don't fucking kill her." Dane wams him

"Is that wise?" I ask as Brax leaves the house.

"I imagine he is trying to figure out how and why he managed to miss so many signs." He takes Neah's hand in his. "For now, we need to work out if Sarmara is definitely connected to my mate and how."

"She doesn't know, I don't know." Neah mutters. "Like I said, Nyx is certain we are not siblings and Klaus said my mother never had another child."

"I think that it's time to return to where all this started." Dane tells her.

I watch fear fill her blue eyes and she tugs her hand from Dane. "Moon.... Moonshine?" she whispers

Dane nods. "Maybe we can get more answers there."

"We haven't been back there since..." Neah trails off. I watch her try to process what Dane suggested. I hadn't seen this much fear since she learned she might become Rogue. The confidence she normally has just vanished.

I knew the circumstances of how Dane had met her, I knew what Mallory had done to her in that house, but I had always kept myself away from knowing the finer details.

Dane cups Neah's face. "Technically, it is your land now."

Neah's eyes drop to the ground. "No one is there anymore." She mutters to herself and I watch her take a deep breath. "Okay, but I'm not taking the boys."

"Fine. Damien, Klaus. You two are both coming too. Pack some things, we leave in an hour."

"An hour? Not in the morning?" Klaus asks

"It's a few hours away. Might aswell get a headstart."

Dane disappears into his office to make some arrangements as Klaus heads for the door. Nesh doesn't move, almost like she is glued to the spot.

"Are you okay?"

"I haven't...um... I haven't been there since they tried to kill me." She folds her arms across

her chest and sighs. "Did Cassandra ever take you there?"

"No. I was not that privileged. But Dane is right, no one is there anymore."

Chapter 0445

"I know, it's just..."

"Dark memories?"

She nods her head. "If Dane had never come to that house, I could be in a whole different situation right now. Or maybe even dead. I would never have gained my Lycan. I probably would have died never knowing who I really was. And it's not just Trey, Cassandra or even Kyle or the others. It's where I watched my parents die. Something I was framed for."

Her blue eyes lock on to mine. "How is it that one word can take you right back there?"

"It's the way our brains are wired. But you survived, Neah. You became something that they never got a chance to see. You have several hundred Lycans here that will follow you into battle if needed and you wouldn't even need to order them. They would do it freely."

"Thanks Damien." She gives me a small smile.

"You don't have to fear the past, Neah. Everyone from that time is dead. You won. This trip is purely about getting answers."

She nods her head. "Then I better go and pack a few things and make sure the boys are ready for Mallory."

"Not Athena and Sebastian?"

"No. They haven't had to deal with Evrin shifting yet. And I'm not sure they are ready for that."

Dane drives while Klaus sits in the passenger seat telling Dane about how and why Brax thinks he is a Witch Hunter. I roll my eyes because Brax seems to be getting more and more things wrong lately and I wouldn't trust a single word that comes out of his mouth.

"That doesn't make sense." Dane mutters

I glance over at Neat while listening to the conversation. She's asleep with her arm tucked up behind her head to create a makeshift pillow.

"She's nervous." Dane mutters. "Sleeping will give her a break."

"She told me it was the memories." I reply

"You knew what Cassandra was like. If I had it my way, I would have seen her head on a spike for the life she forced my mate to live."

"You think this will give her closure of the past?" Klaus asks

"We will find out soon enough."

At the fuel station, we switch over so I can drive. The moment Dane gets in the back, he pulls a sleepy Nesh towards him. She curls up next to him, her head on his lap and his hand protectively on her stomach. I wondered if either of them knew yet.

Following Dane's directions, we turn off into a narrow road. But the trees and bushes have

become so overgrown that we have to abandon the car and walk the remainder of the way.

The packhouse is much smaller than the one at Black Shadow. Covered in a jungle of Ivy, it was almost impossible to find the door.

"Where are the other houses?" Klaus asks

"Around back. It's backwards here. The main house isn't protected by the others." Dane replies

Ripping the Ivy from the door, I push it open. The musty scents of dust, death and decay fill the air. Klaus gags as he enters and I try not to laugh. "Are you sure you are a Wolf?" I muse "It was unexpected." He mutters back

"No one has been here for a long time. How could it be unexpected?"

Neah doesn't move from the porch. Her eyes are wide as she stares up at the front of the house. Dane moves back to her, holding out his hand without saying a single word. She sighs, but she takes it and follows him inside.

"Split up?" I suggest and Dane agrees

Upstairs, aside from the smell and dust, everything appears immaculate. One by one, I search the bedrooms, not finding anything of importance.

There's a tiny bedroom at the end of the hallway, not even big enough to swing a cat. I knew it was Neah's bedroom the moment I pushed open the door. Her scent still lingered but there was nothing here other than a small bed and an old rotting wooden dresser. No photos, no toys or artwork.

"She arrived with just a carrier bag of clothes," Klaus mutters as he steps in behind me. "The first time I met her, she was so afraid. She probably thought she was leaving one hell for another."

"Back when I was Human. I killed other Humans that were like Trey and Cassandra. Ones that hurt children and took them away from their parents. Sometimes it was even the parents that needed punishing. If I had known...."

'That was how Cassandra was. Even Mallory said she didn't see it and she spent a lot of time here. We never even knew of Moonshine's existence. Not until the leader asked Dane for help. It was a bit of a surprise that there was a pack living so close and yet it

wasn't on our radar. That was the mistake Trey made. That's when everything went downhill for him."

"Yet it was Neah that suffered."

Chapter 0446

Neah

'It's just like Damien said. They are all dead. We killed them. They can't hurt you anymore.'" Nyx whispers as we follow Dane through the house.

We stop outside the office door. My heart hammers in my chest and Dane squeezes my hand as he leads me inside. "Not all memories are bad. I met you here."

My eyes flicker around the room, settling on the bloodstain on the carpet. It was where Kyle had fallen. In typical Cassandra style, it was never cleaned up. That would have been my job..

"Why did you lie?" I whisper

"Lie?"

"You told them that I put you in the office. You lied."

"I had a suspicion that they were hurting you. Trey proved my point when he went to hit you and then again when they tried putting you in the basement"

"It seems so long ago and yet...." I had spent ages in this office, scrubbing it from top to bottom with a toothbrush while Cassandra stood over me, barking orders or yelling at how I had missed a spot. There were so many times that I wished I had the courage to shove the toothbrush through her eye.

Well, you went a step further than that.' Nyx muses

I smile to myself and Dane presses his lips to my cheek.

"You have come a long way since then." He drops my hand and begins rummaging in the desk. I move to the bookcase. Several dozen large books lined the shelves. Books that I had always longed to read but never could.

Pulling out the one closest to me. I run my fingers over the gold lettering. Just one simple word 'KITSON'

I shift my eyes to Dane, but he was now busy rummaging through a cabinet, pulling out large amounts of paperwork.

As I sit on one of the chairs, a cloud of dust is thrown up around me. Spluttering, Dane asks me if I'm okay. Nodding, I open the book.

Pages and pages of fancy handwriting in a language that I didn't understand. What is this? I ask Nyx.

'Looks like Latin.' She mutters back

'Latin?'

"I can't be certain, can I? I've only been with you for a few years!"

Continuing to turn the pages, I stumble on to a family tree. Just like the one Klaus had done for me, only this one had more names and spread over several pages. Next to my mother's name is the name 'Amelia Kitson', with a birth and a death date. Stemming from her is another line that just reads 'Female, unknown. Was that Samara? Because that would make her my cousin.

"I think.... I think I've found something." I mutter to Dane.

"Good, because Trey and Cassandra were shit at keeping decent paperwork." He makes his way towards me and I offer him the book.

He sighs. "It would make sense. If Samara didn't know her mother. The family would not have known about her to record her."

"But someone knew something. Maybe Amelia told them the baby didn't survive?" I shrug my shoulders

"Anything is a possibility. But sadly, it does mean Samara is right. You two are related."

"And she is a threat." I frown. "She carries Alpha genes. She could kill me and become Alpha."

"I don't think so."

"Why?"

"Because you are the last female Alpha. She can't just replace you. And besides, if you were to die. The role wouldn't be hers anyway. You have twin boys that are next in line."

"Then what do we do about Samara? She can't stay in the dungeons forever. And Cooper might still come for her."

"Maybe not. Maybe we can convince her to help us."

"How?"

"By telling her where she comes from." He hands me the closed book. "Maybe start with that."

I glance up at the shelves. There are other identical books to the one I'm holding. Pulling each one out, I see that they all have the same gold lettering, but the pages are blank, like they are waiting to be filled.

"Any luck?" Damien asks as he and Klaus make their way into the office.

"We have something, it's not much, but we know who Samara is." Dane tells him. "Neah's cousin. You were right Klaus. Neah's mother did have a sister."

"Is she alive?" Damien asks

I shake my head. "According to this, she died fifteen years ago. But I never met her, at least, I don't remember meeting her. I don't even remember my mum talking about her. The only thing I really remember is watching my parents die."

"Do another sweep." Dane instructs. "Make sure we haven't missed anything. Hidden rooms. Trap doors, anything."

Klaus and Damien bob their heads and head in different directions

Chapter 0447

"Do you think they would be embarrassed?" I ask Dane.

"Your parents?"

"No, generations before. To see what had become of my bloodline. The pages in this book show that once, there were so many Kitson's, dwindling all the way down to me and I guess Samara now."

"And the twins."

"No."

"No?" He cocks a brow at me.

I shake my head. "I know we haven't talked about it, but they are Blacks. Not Kitsons. They may be Lycans but they are yours as much as they are mine. Kitson is a name that probably doesn't mean the same as it once did."

His lips mould against mine, kissing me furiously. He breaks away with a smile.
"Whatever you want."

We move through the house, stopping outside the basement door. I was trying to focus on the memory of Dane making me part of the contract. At the time I had panicked but ultimately, it had been my ticket out of here.

"I can't go down there." I groan

"You can do this."

"It's different. It's... This isn't about what they did to me."

Nyx is quiet too.

"Mallory?" Dane asks quietly

"Mallory and I have come a long way. She is home, watching our boys and I can't have what she did stuck in my head again. I forgave her and if I go down there where my blood is probably still stained on the wall because I wasn't allowed to clean it. It's going to... It's not a memory I want to relive. It's not who she is anymore."

"Then I will go down."

He opens the door and we are hit with the rancid smell of decay. It's a hundred times worse than when we opened the front door. Dane had opened windows, it had aired it out a little. But this. My stomach ties itself up in knots and I feel the milkshake I had earlier, forcing itself back up.

My legs propel me through the house and I barely make it outside before emptying my stomach.

"Sickness hitting you already?"

I look up to see Damien holding out a bottle of water

"Dane opened the basement door. I think we figured out where the smell is coming from."

He looks past me into the house and then back at me as I take the bottle from him.

"Right."

"I thought you and Klaus were doing a sweep." I mutter.

"We were, I needed a drink and then you came charging out here."

I swill the water in my mouth and spit it out to try and clear the taste of vomit. It just makes my stomach tie itself up again.

"Wait. You said." I look up at him, "You asked if the sickness was hitting already."

"I did."

"You didn't ask me why I was being sick."

"I did not."

"Do you know something?" I point my finger at him.

"I know that there was only one other period of time where you drank milkshakes. The drink you requested when we stopped five minutes into the journey because you were hungry." "Are you saying that I am pregnant?"

"It's early, but yes, there is a very subtle change in your scent."

'Nyx?' I mutter

I didn't want to freak you out.' she whispers and then starts humming to herself so she doesn't have to talk to me.

"Plus, whenever you and Dane are standing together, he always has his hand on your stomach." Damien grins at me

"He does not."

He smiles at me.

"Does he know?" I ask

"He hasn't said anything to me."

"This is not good. I'm going to have three under the age of two and what if these turn out to be twins. That's four under two. What if they can shift too? And the amount of nappies!"

"You have a while to prepare." His smile grows.

"I'm glad you find this funny."

"What's funny?" Dane asks as he comes out behind me. He had brought a couple of the Kitson books from the office.

"I just... Did you find anything?"

"The smell was from a badly decayed body. My guess, Kyle because the body was just at the bottom of the stairs, like it had been dumped there. Nothing else, a few boxes with bits of tat. A mattress. But I thought these would come in handy." He taps the books, "and we can add our own family to them. However many children we have."

"You knew?" I demand

"Of course I knew." He presses his lips to mine and links me "You should have started your period over a week ago."

"Okay, so now that is out in the open." Damien winks at me. "How come Brax wasn't able to see that you are pregnant?"

Chapter 0448

Blair

"You want me to walk Kade to school?"

"Please don't talk with your mouth full." Mum scolds me. "But yes."

"Isn't the school like two hundred feet from here. You could watch him from the window."

"I could, but the entrance is around the other side."

"I'm not allowed to leave the house unless I'm being watched."

"Maddie has agreed to watch you from afar. All you have to do is walk him there, make sure

he goes inside and come straight back. I would but Braelyn has been awake most of the night. I need to get her to settle."

He looks at my little sister, clinging to mum as she lets out little whimpers. Last night was about the only night I wished I could leave the house.

"Okay." I agree, only so I can try and find out what is going on with the little brat.

"Thank you."

Kade stares at me as he pulls his bag onto his back and even without my Lycan I can see that he hates the idea.

"I'm not a baby." He snarls at me

"Then maybe you should tell mum, because she asked me to walk you."

"Only because my stupid sister was up all night."

"HEY!" I snap at him and he actually seems surprised. "Braelyn is a baby. She cannot tell anyone what is hurting or if she wants something. Maybe you will realise one day that we all have bad days, no matter how old we are."

"Whatever."

We leave the house and immediately he kicks over one of mum's plants. Stamping it into the ground.

"You say you are not a baby but you are certainly acting like one."

"Fuck off!" He glares at me and even I'm shocked. He turns eight tomorrow, not eighteen... "Are you serious right now?" I fold my arms across my chest and he copies me.

"I'm not scared of you. Maybe you should be scared of me. Now that you haven't got your Lycan."

I grab hold of his shirt collar and drag him back to the house. He tries to punch me and kick me, but I'm intelligent enough to keep him at arms length.

Pushing open the front door, Calihan stares at me with wide eyes.

"Where's mum?"

"Her bedroom." his blue eyes move to Kade and then past us. "Dad is going to be so mad." Looking over my shoulder I see Ryken marching towards us. A deep frown on his face as his hands ball into fists. Calihan disappears while Kade tries to get out of my grip.

"Care to tell me what's happening?" Ryken demands

"She hit me!" Kade pulls himself free of my grip or maybe I let him go at the shock of his response. I wasn't really sure.

Ryken's eyes narrow to slits as he stares at me. "Basement."

"You don't...."

"Basement." He repeats. His tone deep. I nod and turn away, just to hear him tell Kade to go

to his room.

"But dad...."

"I said bedroom, now."

I don't hear anything else as I slip through the door leading down to my room.

Sitting on my bed, I keep my eyes locked on the door at the top of the stairs. Waiting for Rykens inevitable appearance. Kade was going to be the reason everything goes tits up for me. Not unless I can prove otherwise.

My leg jigs on its own, like I have no control over it. It moves faster than the beat of my heart as a drop of sweat makes its way down my spine.

There's a knock on the door.

"Come in." I whisper

Ryken appears, the floorboards creaking below his feet. He steadily plods down the stairs and lets out a heavy sigh as he reaches the bottom.

"What happened Blair?"

I tell him exactly what happened. Repeating Kades words exactly. There was no way I was letting a seven year old be the reason I die.

"I have to ask."

"I didn't hit him. It was like I said, I grabbed his collar and brought him back inside. Ask Maddie."

Thad seen her watching us, though I hadn't mentioned it to Kade.

"Maddie?"

"Like I said, mum asked me to walk him to school, I reminded her that I couldn't leave the house unless I was being watched. She said Maddie would watch me and I saw her."

He sits on the bed next to me, "Sadly, I believe you."

"You do?"

"I'm as surprised as you are. But I believe you because you didn't see me watching you."

"It was a test?" I scoff

"You like Maddie, I wanted to make sure she wouldn't cover for you. I saw what he did with my own eyes. I heard exactly what he said to you."

"Then why didn't you intervene?"

"I wanted to see how you handled it. If you had hit him, this would be a very different conversation."

"I'm trying to not get killed." I mutter "But if you don't do something, that kid is going to end up killing someone."

"Speaking from experience?"

I don't answer but we both know I am.

"What are you going to do?" I ask quietly

"I need to get to the bottom of it. I can't fix anything if I don't know what is causing the issues."

I nod in agreement. Though Kades attitude would suggest this has been building for a long time.

I spend the rest of the day in the basement, slipping out to use the bathroom or grabbing something to eat. I figured if I just stayed out of Kades way, it would help a little.

After everyone has gone to bed, I make my way up to the kitchen to grab a glass of water and sit at the counter, thumbing through one of mum's many books.

"Why are you awake?" Kade makes me jump. I was still trying to decide if the lack of hearing was worse than the lack of scenting someone.

"Kade, you should be asleep." I whisper

"I asked you a question."

I gesture to the glass. "I was thirsty."

He walks to the other side of the counter and stares at me. "Are you here to hurt us?"

"No. Why would you ask that?"

"You left before. You left mum, me and Calihan."

"That was a long time ago and it was a mistake." I couldn't see his hands and it was making me nervous. "Sometimes, we make mistakes. Sometimes, they are so bad that they ruin our lives."

"Why?"

"I lost my Lycan because of my choices."

"Because you were stupid. That's what he said. You were stupid and you needed to be punished. Everyone is stupid."

"Who said that?"

He continues to stare at me and right now, more than anything, I wish I could link mum or

Ryken.

"What's in your hand?"

He smiles and lifts his hands to show me that they are empty. "I'm going to bed." He turns and runs away.

My heart pounds in my chest. "Mum?" I mutter running for the stairs just as Kade slams his bedroom door. I dive into her room to find her fast asleep with Braelyn next to her. Calihan is tucked up in his bed too. Ryken. Where is Ryken? I find him asleep in Braelyns room, most likely wanting some peace and quiet. I close my eyes and let out a breath. At least he hadn't hurt them, but who was he talking about.

Chapter 0449

Damien

"We have checked out the entire pack grounds. I think we have found all there is to find." I tell Dane as we walk back to the car." Whatever stuff there once was, it seems like Trey or Cassandra got rid of it. I'm assuming so Neah could never find out who she is." "I was hoping for more. But at the same time, I know you are right." He frowns as he stares at Klaus, leaning over the car bonnet. "What's he looking at?"

"A map that he found. He's trying to figure out if there are any buildings anywhere that the pricks here used."

Dane's crimson eyes shift to Neah who is curled up in the passenger seat, asleep. Vomiting and the realisation that she is pregnant again seems to have wiped her out.

"I'm curious, if you knew she was pregnant, why didn't you say anything to her?" I ask

"She wasn't ready to hear it. It was not long ago that she made it clear that she wasn't ready. Though she has taken it alot better than I expected." He smiles.

"You would have a whole army if she let you."

"There's nothing wrong with that. You will find out one day."

I don't answer. My first mate had been unexpected. The chances of finding another seemed unlikely.

"Anything?" Dane asks Klaus

"No." Klaus frowns and folds the map up. "This seems to have been a wasted trip." He mutters

"Not entirely." Dane replies, "We know who Samara is. And Neah has learned something about herself."

I cock an eyebrow at Dane. Why wasn't he telling Klaus that Neah was pregnant?

'Too early.' Dane links me as though he had read my mind.

He moves Neah from the front of the car to the back so she could lie down mare comfortably. He slips in next to her. The protective hand quickly takes its place on her stomach as Klaus gets in the driver's seat.

"Are we telling Sarmara?" Klaus eventually asks

"Yes." Dane confirms

"Is that the right thing to do? I get that it's her family, but it doesn't mean it's right."

"It's only fair. She has started being a little more open. Maybe if we give her something, she will be a little more cooperative."

"But what if that's exactly what Cooper wants? Maybe he wanted confirmation and now we are about to hand it to him."

"I don't think so." Dane tells him. "The guy already knew something. It's why he keeps tabs on her. It's why he threatened us with her. But from the sounds of it, he has not met her Lycan. He never would have if he kept drugging her."

"He told me that it was an accident. That he drugged her to protect her. But the dose was wrong"

"Do you really believe that?"

"No."

I see how Klaus's hands grip the steering wheel. "What exactly went on when Cooper held you hostage? You haven't really spoken about it."

He presses his lips into a thin line and keeps his eyes on the road ahead. "It's nothing."

"Nothing?"

"You did feel a connection to him, didn't you?" Dane keeps his voice low so he doesn't wake Neah but the tone in his words suggested Klaus better start talking

"Yes, but it's more than that. He was so eager to make me admit that I was his mate. But his moods flipped when he wasn't getting his way. I think things have always gone his way and when they didn't he showed a different side. Angry, aggressive. He was going

to mark me."

TIR DUTOS

Other than the engine, there was no other noise.

"Did he?"

"No, because I lied and gave him a fake name." His hands hit the steering wheel. "Brax is wrong. He has to be. A Witch Hunter is just... It wouldn't work."

"Brax isn't exactly useful right now when it comes to knowledge. He is missing things." I glance back over the seat and look at a sleeping Neah. "Missing obvious things. He fucked up when he didn't kill Cooper and now he keeps contradicting himself. Something has changed in him and it's like he is getting weaker."

"you think he is wrong?"

"Yes. Brax is a Rogue Hunter and he just happens to be mated to a Lycan."

"That's different."

"Is it?" I ask. "Alright, Maddie doesn't have her Lycan abilities now, but what if they come back. Just like yours did. There is still every chance she could turn Rogue and yet she would still be mated to a Hunter."

"So I'm what? His mate and possibly his killer? I can't be mated to someone like him. He is unhinged. A psychopath."

"Not necessarily his killer. Remember that." Dane mutters

"But it would explain why you are getting so worked up about it." I shrug my shoulders and he slams on the breaks

"For fuck sake Klaus!" Dane snaps from the back as we are thrown forward.

"I'm sorry, but I just want to make it clear that I love my family. I love Black Shadow. I will do what needs to be done to protect it. I will not accept him."

"Then why didn't you just reject him?" Neah whispers from the back. "Just like how Jenson tried to reject Jess."

There's silence as Neah sits herself up.

"..." Klaus frowns again. "Jess still said no. She wouldn't accept the rejection so what good would it have done if he said no? And I have made my point already. I stabbed him."

"You stabbed his projection because he stabbed you first. If it came down to it, could you really kill him?" I couldn't go through with killing Raven. Neah had to do it in the end and I massively regretted it.

"Klaus, it's okay. I know what it's like to be mated to someone you don't want to be with." Neah tells him. "It's confusing and frustrating and so many other things."

It takes me a second to remember she isn't talking about Dane but the first guy she was mated to. He was someone else I never got to meet. If I had, I most likely would have ripped him to shreds.

Chapter 0450

Mallory

I drop onto the sofa. All three kids were having their naps at the same time. It was some kind of miracle. And I am exhausted. Maybe I could have a nap too.

I close my eyes and a weird sound comes from upstairs. It wasn't a cry but more like a gurgled groan/ growl. Apart from the boys, I was the only one in the house. Eric had gone to deal with a problem.

Creeping upstairs, I check my bedroom and then Luca's bedroom where the twins were also set up. Luca and Logan are fast asleep, but sat in the corner of Evrin's travel cot was a small Lycan, staring back at me with bright blue eyes.

Neah had warned me. But even with the warning it was a still a surprise. I had never seen a Lycan so small.

"Your mummy did warn me." I mutter as I lean over to grab his ripped vest and nappy from the cot. "What are we going to do with you?"

He stares up at me and very slowly, his eyes close as he shuffles down onto the mattress. He may be able to shift but he was going through what every new Lycan did, extreme fatigue from shifting.

I slip out and leave the door open a little and head downstairs. On autopilot, I make myself a cup of tea and take it out to the front of the house to sit on the small porch. It was so much better than the stones that made up the porch of my last house.

Taking a sip, I see Blair and Ryken marching across the grounds and it looks as if they are heading directly for me. No, they are definitely moving towards me.

"Is the Beta about?" Ryken asks

"Eric or Damien?"

"Either."

I glance at Blair, her eyes are low and her hands are in the pockets of her hoodie.

"Damien is doing some work with Dane. Eric is dealing with a situation at the packhouse. Can I help?" Ryken glances at Blair. "Can you watch her for me?" Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"I don't think that's a good idea." Mostly because I wanted her dead, but also because I had three kids in the house. Two of which are not mine.

"It shouldn't take more than ten minutes." Ryken mutters. "I just need to speak to someone with a title."

"Is this about her?" I gesture to Blair.

"Yes, but it's not what you think. She's done the right thing this time." Her brown eyes briefly flicker up. Almost surprised by Ryken's acknowledgement

"Ten minutes." I mutter and turn to Blair. "You sit there." I point to the small chair. "You don't move until Ryken is back. Got it!"

She bobs her head and shuffles to the chair.

A few minutes pass and the curiosity couldn't be held in any longer. "What did you do?"

"I don't think I'm supposed to say." She tells me

"You know the Beta is my mate."

She frowns. "What would the Alpha's do if they found out a kid was causing trouble?*

"Kade?" I cock a brow

"I didn't say that."

"But that is who you are talking about. It's obvious, especially when you are only around three siblings and there have already been problems with him."

"Something happened last night."

"Is someone hurt?" I ask

"No, but I have this feeling that someone was close to being hurt."

"By a kid?"

"He's different. It's like... compared to Calihan he has this dark streak." She looks around as if expecting him to be here.

"Are you trying to tell me he is already a Rogue?*

"I don't know anymore. It's impossible to tell and he isn't old enough. I could always sniff them out, read the warnings. But now... Last night I ended up sleeping outside his room to make sure he didn't hurt anyone. He had gotten up while I was having a drink and started spouting a load of stuff about everyone being stupid. He made a strange comment too, 'he told him I was stupid, that I needed to be punished.'"

"Cooper?"

"I don't know. How would he have gotten to him? He is a kid. He is either at school or home with mum. And he is seven. Well technically, eight. I was a brat at his age, but I wasn't like this. He is a devil child."

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0451 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0451

Chapter 0451

That was a harsh thing to call a child. Though Dorothy had said he was bad.

She scratches at the wood of the chair, "Last night, I felt this need to protect the family. I checked everyone and set up camp outside Kades room just in case. Ryken found me this morning. The kid is nuts. He tried telling Ryken that I hit him to get me into trouble."

"Did you?"

"No! I know I have a bad reputation, but no. Besides, Ryken saw."

"You understand why I asked?"

She nods at me. "You are one of many that hates me. Once upon a time, I wouldn't have cared, but I'm learning to accept it. Because I know that's how it will always be. I made a lot of enemies."Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"You did. But right now, you are not the problem we need to deal with."

She jumps up from the chair. "What... the fuck...is that?"

I turn around to see a small black Lycan creeping towards me and laugh. "So someone can escape too." I mutter as I pick Evrin up.

"Are you telling me that's your kid?"

"No."

"One of Neah's?"

"Yes."

"He can shift?"

"Is there something wrong with your eyesight? Obviously he can shift!" I retort

"But he is a kid. A baby."

"And you had your abilities taken away from you. There is a lot of weird stuff happening in the world."

"Does anyone else know?" She presses

"No, and it needs to stay that way." I stare her down until she agrees.

"Are they going to bind him?" She follows me inside my home.

"Why would they do that?"

"It could be dangerous for him. I mean, shifting at this age, it could be doing all sorts to his little body."

"It's not something you need to worry about." I glare at her, making it clear that she needs to shut her mouth before I do it for her.

"And you should be asleep." I mutter to Evrin. His blue eyes find mine and he shifts back into his Human form.

"This is nuts." Blair mutters. "And amazing. Why are they keeping this a secret?"

"Are you fucking stupid? Did you lose all common sense when Cooper stripped you?"

Evrin laughs as Blair just stares at us until someone knocks on the door. Ryken frowns as he steps in but it is a frown full of concern. "You let her in."

"I had no choice, one of the twins woke up. All sorted?"

"Yes. Thank you. Dane is on his way home, we will be moving forward with the next step then."

What did that mean?

"Let's go." He tells Blair before thanking me again.

I keep Evrin occupied until he eventually goes back to sleep and Eric appears. He has a frown that almost matches Rykens.

"Are you okay?" He asks quietly. "I heard you got roped into babysitting Blair."

Inod, "And she knows about Evrin. He climbed out of the cot and found me sitting outside talking to her."

He shrugs his shoulders, "It's going to have to come out eventually. But I guess if it comes from her, no one will believe her. Did she tell you what happened last night?"

"Yes. It has to be Cooper, right?"

He sits next to me on the sofa. "It seems likely. It might explain why he has such an issue with Dorothy."

"Blair spoke as if she thinks Kade is already Rogue. Is that something we need to consider? He's not thirteen, but then this one has his Lycan already. What are you planning to do with him?"

"Ryken wants to bind him."

"How is that going to help him? If he doesn't even have his Lycan, it's going to make no difference. How he is acting right now, it isn't going to change that either. Can't we get Brax to figure out what his issue is and put a stop to it that way?"

He goes silent.

"What is it?"

"Brax left. He left and Maddie went with him."

Chapter 0452

Brax

Madison's chestnut eyes find mine. "Are you sure? What about the others? What about Neah and Dane? We are doing this without even telling them."

"They will understand."

"But I don't."

"Then why are you coming with me?"

She sighs. "Probably because I'm an idiot. I mean, it's not like I can help you in any way, is it?"

"We can go back." I offer, "I can take you back to the safety of the pack, but I need to know what's happening to me."

Madison looks back over her shoulder in the direction of the pack. We were completely out of sight now. The Wolf on the gate had probably already told Eric unless he didn't bother reading the note.

"If I don't find out what is happening to me, I am more than useless to them."

She frowns at me.

"That is not what I meant and you know it." I scowl back. "They brought me here for a reason and I am no longer holding up my end of the deal with Dane."

"I'm sure if you explain..."

"I can't explain it, Madison. I don't know what's happening to me. Even as I stand here, looking at you, your soul is getting harder and harder to see. It's like my Hunter abilities are slowly being sucked from me. Tomorrow I could wake up and I will be a bog standard Wolf."

"You really think there is something at your old house?"

"I don't know, it's worth a try."

She pouts and slowly nods her head. "I will come with you."

"Then let's go. I have a car parked up the road."

As Madison climbs into the passenger seat, I see how she is rubbing her neck again. "Still sore?"

"It comes and goes." She shrugs like it had just become a part of her daily life, but it bothered me. I had even felt her neck to make sure nothing had been injected under her skin.

"Blair said that once she lost her abilities, she noticed changes." Madison tells me. Blair seemed to talk more freely to her just like I expected. They shared something in common. "What kind of changes?"

"Like you feel aches and pains more because you don't have the ability to heal. Sometimes, even lying funny makes me ache now. I guess we just healed before, even little things like achy muscles weren't even a thing. My scar still itches like a bitch." She points to the long

thick scar that runs over her eye to her chin. Luckily she hadn't been blinded.

"It is where he injected me.. I think. Maybe it's more in the head than it actually hurting." She shrugs her shoulders.

"Why haven't you said anything?"

"Because it annoys you when you can't fix something. And this is one of those things."

I glance over to her. She has an elbow propped up on the door, staring out the window. I could fix it if she was willing to be bitten. But I don't bring up the topic. It upsets her every single time.

"This is your home?" She mutters as I pull up next to it.

"Yes." I reply, glancing up and down the street. Something felt off. It was the middle of the afternoon and there was no one. No one walking their dog. No one is running or cycling. As much as Humans annoy me. They were predictable with their habits.

Madison moves to get out of the car. "Don't," I mutter, grabbing her arm

"What is it?" she whispers back.

"I haven't been back here for a while and it looks like Rogues might have moved in. I'm pretty certain that we are being watched."

"What do we do?"

"You don't do anything." I reach in the backseat for my shotgun. "You stay here. You lock the doors behind me. You do not open them until I come back."

"What if....?"

"No what if's. You do exactly what I say. Understand?"

She nods as I quietly exit the car. I watch her press the locks down and something slams into me, sending me to the ground. My gun slides across the road away from me, just in time to see another Rogue moving towards me.

Blood from a recent kill coated its face. It drops down on to all fours, picking up speed as I reach for the gun in my belt. A bang makes my ears ring and I watch the Rogue drop to the ground.

I turn to see a wide eyed Madison, poking one of my guns through the small gap in the window, both hands clasped around it

The first Rogue attacks me from the side. Claws sinking into my shoulder before hurling me through the air.

As I land on my stomach, the air is knocked from my lungs. Screams come from the direction of my car. Rolling over, I see the Rogue desperately trying to get to my mate as he forces the window down.

Chapter 0453

Madison fires the gun over and over until she is out of bullets. Each and every one somehow misses the bastard.

Creeping towards my shotgun, I point at him and blow his fucking head off.

Blood sprays my car, splattering Madison as the Rogue's headless body slides down the side of the vehicle.

She flings the door open and runs to me, jumping up and wrapping her arms tightly around my neck.

'Let's get inside.'

Head her in through the back door of my house. "I need you to stay here while I get rid of the bodies. I don't need any more turning up on my doorstep, not until I know what's happened here."

"Okay." she whispers and I reload the gun for her.

"Just in case." I mutter

I don't see anyone else when disposing of the Rogues. I also don't sense anyone else watching us, but that doesn't mean that they aren't, especially if I'm losing my ability to sense them. I should have scented the one that knocked me to the ground. I should have seen it coming.

It didn't matter now. They were both dead.

Lighting a match, I toss it on to their bodies, watching them go up in flames before walking away.

"Madison?" I call out as I enter my kitchen.

She doesn't answer immediately. And then I hear a very weak and scared "Here!"

Slowly pushing open the door to the dining room. Cooper has Madison with her back pressed to his chest. An arm locked around her as he holds one of my fucking kitchen knives to her throat.

"You're not here." I growl

He pushes the tip of the knife into Madison's throat. She lets out a squeal as a bead of blood appears.

"You are still not here."

"You are a smart Hunter, but a stupid one."

"Maybe, but you are still not here in this house. You project yourself, right? Make it seem like you are present. You are clearly strong to be able to carry a weapon. Strong enough that you seem real. So how did you get here?"

"Does it matter? I will be able to find all of you, won't I Maddie?" He drags her back a few steps. She squeezes her eyes shut, trying not to cry.

"You put something in her?" I demand

"No." He smiles at me

"It's in you." Madison cries. "It is in you."

"Me?"

"And everyday, you grow a little weaker." He smiles at me..

"You haven't laid a hand on me!" I snap.

"No, I haven't." He agrees "It's funny what a little spell can do. How easy it is to control someone, right Maddie?"

"I didn't know." she whispers.

"That's the beauty of it. They don't even know they are doing it." Cooper laughs.
"Amazing abilities us Witches have!"

"Do you know many other Witches?" I mutter sarcastically

The smile disappears from his face as he glares at me.

"So what's the purpose of tracking me, huh? Taking away my abilities? What do you get out of it?"

"Pick you off, one by one, Cooper and Sam get to have lots of fun." He sings.

"Samara? Samara is locked in a fucking dungeon. The last I heard, she wanted nothing to do with you, you cunt!"

He pushes Madison to one side and points the knife at me. "What did you say?"

"Which bit? Calling you a cunt or telling you that Samara wants nothing to do with you. Lets see, when I threatened to cut her finger off a few hours ago. She told me she never wanted to see you again. That you lied to her, her whole life and if she does see you again, she will rip your throat out."

"LIES!"

"Nah. I don't have a reason to lie to you when I know the truth will piss you off more."

"I could slice your throat open."

"Yes, you could. But I can see from your legs that you are getting weaker." They were slowly fading. "Anger makes you weak, not strong. You are barely holding on. So get the fuck out of my house, because when I do see you. I'm going to string you up and let the crows feed on your decaying flesh. That's if the Witch Hunter doesn't get to you first."

The knife clatters on the wooden floor as he disappears. I glance over to Madison who is curled up under the side table. "You didn't know you did that to me, did you?"

She shakes her head but refuses to meet my eyes. "He told me just before you came in."

"Injection or a drug?"

"I don't know. I don't even know when, where or how. I don't even know if he is telling the truth or if I have done it to others.."

"I have a machine downstairs that scans bodies. So we will soon find out."

Chapter 0454

Neah

"Brax is gone? Is he coming back?" I ask

"What an idiot." Nyx mutters

"Oh, decided to stop ignoring me now? I mutter back, but she doesn't answer

Eric hands me a folded up piece of paper. "It's unclear. All it says is that he needs to figure out what is happening to him."

"So he does know something is wrong with him." Dane mutters as he swings Logan up onto his shoulders.

"I'm guessing so, but Maddie has gone with him."

"He made her?" I ask. I knew they were mates but Maddie said the pack was the only place she felt safe.

"No." Mallory replies. "Well at least it doesn't look like it. I went and looked around her room for clues, a few basic things are missing, but it doesn't look like either of them left in a hurry. It looked like they had planned it."

"After Cooper?" Dane frowns as I pass him the note.

"I know Brax wants Cooper dead, but I don't think he would put Maddie back in harm's way." Mallory mutters

"The problem is, we can't link either one of them if they are in trouble." I groan

Fucking Brax and his need to get things done.

"You better tell them the other thing." Eric tells Mallory.

"Is this about Kade? I'm about to go over there now." Dane replies

"No. There was a little bit of a situation earlier." Mallory drops her gaze

"He shifted, didn't he?" I look down at Evrin who is pulling at Danes shoe laces

"Yes. I don't want you to get mad. They were asleep. Ryken asked me to keep an eye on Blair when he went to speak to Eric about Kade. She sat right there." Mallory points at the chair on her porch.

"Evrin had already shifted. You didn't warn me he could climb out his cot and well, he made his way out here."

"Blair knows?" Dane asks with a cocked brow

"Yes."

"Did she touch them?"Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"No, she freaked out and then asked why no one else knew. Actually, it was weird to see her scared. Nothing like the person that turned up here to announce herself. And definitely not

like the woman that held me to a chair and stabbed me in the leg. I'm sorry, Neah. He was asleep. I swear else I would never have agreed to watching her."

"Okay." I mutter

She looks up at me, shocked. "Okay? I thought you were going to hit the roof."

I shrug my shoulders. "Everyone is going to find out eventually. Logan will be next. Blair was not the ideal person to find out first." I glance up to Dane. "But it might scare her enough to not be stupid."

Mallory presses a hand to her chest and lets out a puff of air.

"She's been stressing out." Eric tells Dane and they both roll their eyes. "Are you really going to bind the kid?" Eric asks. "I get it. From what Ryken told me, he is a little brat but binding him." He glances at me.

"Preferably, no. It is what Ryken wants though, unless I can convince him otherwise. But I'm hoping Neah can talk some sense into him."

"Me?" I ask, surprised.

"He may be a kid, but he is a Lycan kid which means he bows to you."

"You want me to scare him?" I wasn't sure how comfortable I was about that.

"Only if you need to. Sometimes it will work."

Mallory and Eric agree to watch the twins while we visit Rykens. Blair opens the door and as soon as she sees me, she lowers her gaze. "Do you need me for something?"

"No. Where's Ryken?" Dane asks

"In the kitchen, this way."

She leads us through the house when a small boy pulls on my sleeve. "Hi." He beams at me with blue eyes that are brighter than my own. "My name is Calihan,"

"Hi." I smile back at him and he blushes, quickly running off somewhere.

"I think someone has a bit of a crush." Dane links me

'Don't be stupid.'

'I think I'm going to have to keep an eye on that one.' He jokes with a smile

Ryken appears and Blair makes her excuses, disappearing through a door and down some steps.

"Eric has told you everything?"

"Yes." Dane replies. "But before we get to that. I want to try something else."

"You don't want to bind him?"

"At the end of the day, you are his father. But from experience, it's one of the worst things you can do. If anything, that might make him hate everything more."

Chapter 0455

"I thought about that." Ryken mutters, "Yet talking to him doesn't seem to be making a difference."

"But you haven't tried having the Alpha speak to him." Dane gestures to me.

"Okay." Ryken nods his head at me. "He is in his room after a rough day. Do you want me to call him down?"

"No need." I mutter.

"But you have to let her handle this. Don't intervene in any shape or form." Dane tells Ryken

He takes a deep breath, "Do it."

I move to the bottom of the stairs "KADE EVERWOOD!"

Kade appears at the top of the stairs. There is a flicker of annoyance at his delayed reaction in recognising me. I watch as his brown eyes soften. His bottom lip trembles. "Alpha Neah," He whispers, lowering his eyes

"We need to talk." I sigh. He was just a kid. A kid a little older than I was when I was accused of killing my parents. Scaring him was not what I wanted to do. I will find another way. "Let's go for a walk."

He silently moves down the stairs and looks to Ryken for help. Ryken keeps his mouth shut, just as requested.

Kade follows me out of the house, neither one of us speaking. He shoves his hands in his pockets and scuffs his feet as he walks. But he walks quickly, as though he was in a hurry to get away from the house.

"Tell me something." I mutter

"Like what?" He asks, confused.

"Anything. School, friends, home."

"I don't have any friends." He grumbles. "They are all stupid."

"Stupid? That's a bit harsh."

"They just...you won't understand." A frown appears on his tanned face.

"Try me."

"They won't get to live so what's the point in being friends."

"That was unexpected.' Nyx frowns

"What does that mean? Why won't they get to live?" I ask

He rolls his eyes.

"Do you know that I have this way of getting information out of people even when they don't want to share it!"

"That's a lie."

'He is one little cocky kid.' Nyx snorts

"How do you think I made you come out of your bedroom?"

He shrugs his shoulders at me and we keep walking. He didn't want to be here, that much was clear.

"Are you not happy here?" I ask

He looks up at me and shakes his head.

"Why?"

Kade presses his lips together and keeps walking.

"Are you talking to someone who is not in the pack?" I changed my tone enough to force him to answer me.

"Yes." He squeaks. Though he looks confused about why he had to answer.

"Who?"

"Cooper." His voice couldn't get much higher.

"What does he say?"

"He wants to punish everyone." His tears fall faster. I hated that I had made a kid cry, but it was crucial to confirm that it was Cooper.

"Kade. He is a liar. Whatever he is telling you is not true."

He shakes his head at me. "You are wrong. He said we could be free. He said I could help him because I am a strong Lycan. He said that you will ruin us. He said he would

help me. I'm not scared. He picked me. Not stupid Dorothy or my brother or anyone else in school. He picked me. I just have too...."

"Have to what?" I press

His brown eyes lock on mine. He really didn't want to tell me. "I have too..." He lifts his wrist to me and points to what looks like a watch, but instead of a clock face, it has a small button.

"Press this."

"What does it do?"

"I don't know."

"He said to press it but you don't know what it is? I grab his wrist. He tries to pull away and at the same time, press the button which panics me even more. I had no idea what it did.

"Let me go!" He bites my hand and slams his finger onto the button.

An explosion knocks me off my feet. Kade takes off running as I look over to the pack house. All the windows have blown out, half the roof is missing as the side of the house crumbles. Flames fill the open space, sending black smoke into the sky.

Kade had blown up my home. Kade is a fucking kid who had blown up my home.

There are screams and shouts as people move around me. But all I could do was sit and stare.

'Fucking little bastard!' Nyx growls

Chapter 0456

Hey everyone. I hope you are all well and enjoying the year. For me, I can't quite believe we are in August already.

As usual, I want to thank everyone for the reviews, comments and gems you are sharing with me. I can never say it enough, but it really does mean a lot to me. Especially when I didn't expect my book to do as well as it has. A little bit of imposter syndrome happening here.

Anyway. There will be no updates this weekend 3rd and 4th August. Need to spend some much needed time with the family and reset my brain for the month.

I hope you all have a fabulous weekend.

Taylor West

Chapter 0457

Dane

"What the fuck was that? Looking through Ryken's kitchen window, I see thick smoke seeping up into the sky. I almost knock Calihan over trying to get out of the door. Ryken sweeps him up just as Blair appears asking what the noise was. I don't answer her and disappear out the door in the direction of the explosion.

The packhouse was in bits. Half the building was crumbling as my pack worked quickly to put out the flames. The remainder of the roof barely hangs on as more bricks tumble down.

Then I see my mate, sitting on the grass, staring up at what was left of our home.

Dropping down by her side, she doesn't say a word.

*Were you inside?" I didn't know where she was planning on taking Kade. She shakes her head

Where is Kade?' Aero asks. I scan the grounds and don't see him. Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

*Neah, where is Kade?" I mutter as people continue to run around us

"He did this." She whispers.

"What are you talking about?"

*He blew up our home." She pats her wrist. "He was wearing something. Like a watch, but it had a button. Cooper got to him."

"Neah...."

*He blew up our house!"

"Let's get you out of here." I lift her into my arms. She doesn't fight it. It seems like she is in some kind of shock. I take one last look at the packhouse and head for Eric's home. Thankful that the twins were with them and not in the house. I link everyone that is normally in the house and I am grateful when I get everyones check in. The house had been empty.

Eric is on his way out when we arrive. "What the hell was that? Is she okay?"

"I need to use your house."

"Of course."

I put Neah on the sofa and listened to her mind working overtime. She is so angry. The tips of her claws poke out of her finger tips. I didn't understand how a kid could have the ability to blow up a house that big. But her mind insists it's Kade. That Kade had been promised something from Cooper.

"What happened out there?" Mallory asks quietly.

*The packhouse has been blown up."

"What?"

*Kade blew the house up." I repeat Neah's words, still partly in disbelief

*Seriously?"

I nod as I watch my mates eyes slowly darken. Nyx was close to the surface again.

"Where is the little shit?" Mallory demands

"I don't know."

"He ran off." Neah mutters. "He ran off after we were knocked to the ground."

She swings her legs around and sits up. The darkness of her eyes fading until they were their usual soft blue.

"He was talking about Cooper and promises. The guy told Kade they could be free and that I would ruin them. He said Cooper picked him, not Dorothy and not his brother."

"Dorothy?" I ask. "Was Dorothy a target of Coopers?"

"I don't know." Neah shakes her head at me. "I should have ordered him to take it off." She rubs her hands over her eyes and when she takes them away, I see how they are full of tears. "I got him to tell me. He said that Cooper told him when the time was right, to push the button. Because I didn't know what the watch was, I tried to stop him and he pressed it anyway. I should have ordered him to stop... I don't even know if anyone was in the house... I could have stopped him."

Guilt was radiating off of her and Mallory sits down next to her, putting an arm around Neah's shoulders. "He is a kid, none of us would have expected him to do that."

*I should have. Ordering adults is so much easier. I could have stopped him and this wouldn't be happening."

"It would have happened anyway." I mutter

"He's right." Eric confirms. "Whatever was used to blow up the house, has probably been in the house for some time. But clearly it's something scentless or we would have sniffed it out. When the fire is out. I will gather a team and we will do a sweep, see what we can find."

"At least you and the boys weren't in it." Mallory sighs.

*And no one else was in the house either." I confirm to Neah. "They were all out. Everything we lost can be replaced and rebuilt. No one was hurt."

*The boys," Neah mutters, looking at Mallory. "Are they okay?"

*Asleep. They slept through the explosion." Eric smiles reassuringly.

Neah nods. "Ryken keeps linking me, asking where his son is. How Am I supposed to tell him that Cooper got to Kade? That Kade blew up the packhouse?"

"I will handle it. Tell him I'm on my way back." I press my lips to hers and wipe away the lingering tear on her cheek.

Passing the packhouse, I see that the flames are almost out. But there was nothing salvageable. The whole thing would need tearing down and rebuilding.

Chapter 0458

Damien steps out of the house with a scarf partially covering his face, the remnants of smoke littered the remainder of his face.

"I thought you might be with Dorothy?"

He pulls the scarf from the bottom half of his face. "Athena picked her up seeing as her biological father has

walked away." His annoyance, evident. I understood why he was pissed. I couldn't imagine walking away from my boys.

Damien looks back to the house. "I'm sorry." He mutters

"Everyone is alive, that's what counts."

"Do you know who did this?"

"Yes, and I still can't quite believe it."

He raises a brow at me.

"Kade."

"As in the kid who attacked Dottie? That little shit?"

"Yes and I'm about to go and tell his father."

"I don't agree on many things with Brax, but that kid needed his ass whooping a long time ago."

*The problem is, he has now done a runner."

Ryken looks around me when he opens the door. Clearly expecting to see his little bastard of a son. "You're alone?"

"We need to have a conversation about Kade?"

"Was he hurt in the explosion? I would know if he was, right?"

"It's more serious than that. Maybe it's a good idea if I come in."

He stands back to let me in the house. I see Blair sitting at the table playing a game with Ryken's youngest son. Her brown eyes momentarily pause on me before continuing the game.

*Calihan, Blair, can you go to your rooms please." Ryken requests

*Actually, Blair can stay. She might be useful."

There's a brief flicker of fear, and she does her best to hide it. Which isn't very well at all.

*Is Tara about?" I ask. Kade's mother needed to know what her son was capable of.

*She's gone into the city with a couple of others and taken the baby with her." Ryken tells me

I wait until I hear Calihan ascend the stairs. "Then there is no easy way to say this. Kade was responsible for the explosion you heard."

He stares back at me, his mouth opening and closing a few times. Disbelief, or shock, I wasn't sure. No one wants to hear that their kid is a little terror.

"You've put him in the dungeon? He is just a kid."

*No. He blew up the packhouse and then took off. I have Damien and a few others looking for him."

*He blew up the packhouse?" Blair asks. "Is everyone okay?"

I was almost surprised that she was showing any interest in the welfare of others. "Yes, no one was hurt. Cooper gave him the ability to do it."

*Cooper got to him?"

"He told Neah that Cooper offered him a better life than living here. Made him a promise."

"No." Ryken mutters. "No, you are wrong. He wouldn't do this and he wouldn't fall for that."

"Ryken, you found me sleeping outside his room because I thought he was going to hurt someone while you all slept. You know something has been bothering him." Blair mutters. Upstodatee from Novel(D)ra/m/a.O(r)g

"He is a kid." Ryken frowns

"And so was I, but what he is doing, that's a whole step further than I have ever achieved. I never blew up someone's home."

Ryken sits on one of the wooden chairs at the table. His hands curl into fists. He slams one down on the wooden table, making Blair jump.

"Where would he go?" I ask

"He is eight." Ryken protests

"He doesn't have friends." Blair mutters. "He doesn't go anywhere but school or somewhere with Mum and Ryken." *He must have done at some point else how would he have met Cooper?"

"I have to find him." Ryken frowns. "I have to bring him back and make him understand." He gets to his feet. "Tara will lose herself if another child goes off the rails." I see the way he looks at Blair as he speaks.

"You won't find him." Blair murmurs, staring down at her hands on the table. "If Cooper promised to help Kade. He would be waiting for him. One of Cooper's big things, he doesn't break promises. He drummed that into me over and over."

"You think Cooper would have been waiting for him?"

Blair bobs her head. "Kade did the dirty work for him. Cooper will offer him a reward. A prize, something that Kade wants. It will make Kade feel like he did the right thing even though he knew it was wrong."

Her eyes flicker up to me. "Think about it. Contracts give you a sense of satisfaction, Dane and you offer something in return. Protection. Alliance. Whatever it is to suit you. It's probably the same for Kade. A contract of sorts, only it doesn't truly favour my brother, but Cooper."

Chapter 0459

Brax

You need to take it out. I hand Madison a scalpel, but her hand is already shaking and I close my other hand around hers. "It's making me weaker. I don't know how weak it will make me and I need it out."

You have to do this Madison, I can't reach, well not to do a clean job. I tip her face up to mine. Her chestnut eyes are filled with panic. "The scan shows you exactly where it is located. It's a quick and easy job."

"I can't... we can take you back. Get Klaus to do it." She pleads

*There isn't any time for that. I need it out before it takes everything from me. I have you to take care of. My baby girl is back in Black Shadow, probably wondering where I am again."

I watch her close her eyes and take a few deep breaths. Her hand steadies and she nods. "Okay."

I lay face down on the table and feel the cool metal of the scalpel as she holds it over the spot between my shoulder blades.

As she presses down, my warm blood spills down my spine. The pain from the cut is minimal, but still, she repeatedly tells me that she is sorry.

Madison uses something else to dig into my wound. She pauses when I let out a small grunt, eventually pulling a tiny ball out of me. She drops it into a bowl and it makes a sound like metal, yet it doesn't look anything like metal. I will take it back to Black Shadow, maybe Klaus can tell me what it is.

I got it. She whispers, looking for somewhere to clean the blood off of her hands.

Instantly I felt better. I look at Madison and smile when I realise I could see her entire soul once again. How could one tiny thing cause so many problems?

*Now your turn." I mutter.

"Me?"

"I need to check first. In the scanner."

"He took away my abilities."

"You said he injected you with something. If it is the same what was in me. I can get it out and you can have your Lycan abilities back."

I scan her multiple times. Nothing shows up. Not a single thing out of the ordinary. So why had something different been used on me?

For a brief second, Madison seemed frustrated that we couldn't find anything. It gave me a little hope that deep down, she did want her abilities back.

*I hate him." She mutters quietly as she gently cleans the blood from my back.

*Understandable.

She moves around the table to face me and stands between my spread legs. "How can someone be this cruel? Why would he feel the need to do this to people they don't even know?"

"He thinks he's a God."

*Pfft. It just doesn't make sense."

*A lot of the time it doesn't." I wipe a speck of blood from her cheek. "Deep down, everyone has a dark element. Some it never shows, others, it takes over completely."

*You are talking about Rogues?"

"Yep. The problem is, we have a man that is half Witch. If that part of him is stronger, he can channel the dark side that would otherwise have turned him Rogue."

She tilts her head down, a wrinkle appears between her brows as she frowns. "So how do we beat him?"

"Neah and Klaus,"

*Just Neah and Klaus?"

"I believe so. I told you Klaus is a Witch Hunter."

*Neah can't link him, can she?"

*She can when he is vulnerable. That will be the key."

"You have a plan, don't you?"

"I'm working on something. I will talk to Neah tomorrow. Tonight, we stay here and get a decent nights sleep." "Do you think he will come back?"

*If he does, it will just be a projection of him. He won't actually be here."

Madison sleeps tightly curled up into me. All evening, her eyes had been darting around the house, looking for him. She was even sleeping in one of my tshirts because she didn't want him to see her naked.

Anytime, I made a hint of a move to pleasure her, she would tell me no. Something about Cooper projecting himself made her nervous and vulnerable.

I don't sleep. Not a single wink. I was aware there were more Rogues out there than just the two that tried to kill me. I could smell them near my house, but was it worth leaving my already scared mate, by herself?

I lay awake, listening to their sounds. There were at least eight. Eight that prowled around below my bedroom window. But not a single one tried to enter the house. They could smell that we were here. I was expecting one to try a door handle. Or one to climb the side of my building and try a window, but they don't.

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They circle the house, taking it in turns. I couldn't stand it any longer. Slipping out of bed, I silently grab the rifle that I stored in my wardrobe and creep up towards the window.

Aiming at one, I don't fire immediately. I watch as they talk to each other in hushed, gravelly voices. They spoke in code too and just like that, they leave. Disappearing behind the empty house opposite mine. Unusual behaviour for Rogues, they didn't usually care about a locked door or window.

I watch until the sun rises, but they don't come back.

"What are you doing?" Madison asks with a yawn.

*There were Rogues here last night." I'm not going to lie to her.

"You didn't wake me?".

"They didn't do anything. It was more like they were looking for someone."

"That's not normal, is it?"

"No."

"Were they looking for you?" she asks

"I'm not sure."

Her eyes cast a glance over the rest of the room. Almost like she expected to see Cooper here. She shivers and quickly gets dressed. "Can we go back to Black Shadow now?"

Sure.

Madison is quiet in the car. Brining her with me had been a mistake, but without her. I never would have got that shit out of my back.

"I will keep you safe." I mutter and place my hand on her thigh but she pulls it away.

"You don't know that."

"I know that I want to protect you. I know that I can now I'm back to full strength."

He made me inject something into you without my knowledge. How can you keep me safe from that? How do I know that this isn't a dream created by Cooper?

I pull the gun from my hip and hand it to her. "If you think this is a dream, point it at me and pull the trigger."

She takes it and slowly lifts the gun. I don't slow the car. I don't stop either. If she really believed it was a dream, then I was about to die.

I take my eyes off the road to look at her. She can barely keep the gun straight. Tears flood her chestnut eyes. "I don't know what to do?"

*Yes you do."

Her breathing is heavy as she continues to point it at me. A little gasp escapes her parted lips. "He wouldn't know would he? He wouldn't know that you would voluntarily let me shoot you?"

I shoot her a wink and she drops the gun into her lap. "Besides, you would need to take the safety off." My fingers drum on the steering wheel. "He's really got to you, hasn't he?"

From the corner of my eye, I see her bob her head. "It's like nothing is mine. He took away my abilities. He somehow convinced me to do something to you. What else could he have done? Did he make me do that to other people? Did he touch me when I was with him? How long has he been watching me?"

I didn't have an answer for her. But I understood why she was so reluctant to want to do more than be kissed. He had put more cracks in her soul and I couldn't let anymore appear.

"He wouldn't have touched you, he has a thing for men, not women."

I watch her relax and then lean forward, "Is that Blair's brother?" Madison asks

I slow the car to see a boy with blonde ringlets running in our direction. His feet pound the pavement, sweat drips off of him as he eagerly looks around. Ignoring the cars passing him.

"Why would he be out here, alone?" Madison asks.

I pull the car over and the moment I step out. He tries to pick up speed, running away from me.

It takes two seconds to grab him. "Where do you think you are going?"

The little shit tries to kick me in the balls.

"I don't think so, get in the fucking car."

"You can't tell me what to do. I hate you."

I glare at him and he drops into silence. The kid certainly did have a darkness about him.

"Get in the car." We were only a couple of miles out from the pack, so he had made it quite far, but who was he running from?