

A. Nocturne's 51

Chapter 51 It's Fine

It was almost 4 pm when Adam and Ann arrived at Lexi's nondescript little house. Ann knocked and smiled reassuringly at Adam as he looked around at his surroundings dubiously.

"Are you nervous?" Ann asked with what she hoped was a reassuring smile.

"No," He answered a little too quickly as Ann squeezed his hand gently.

Adam sighed heavily and ran his free hand through his hair again.

"Okay, maybe a little. I feel like we've been pushed into this..." he started hesitantly before the door was flung open and Lexi's beaming face appeared in the doorway. "Bestie!" She shrieked, throwing her arms around Ann and throwing me a wink. "Gosh, it feels like forever since you were here last. Look at you now, bringing a hot hunk of man meat along with you." She sighed dramatically and placed a hand on her chest. "I'm so proud."

Ann swatted her on the arm playfully and laughed as she blushed slightly.

"Behave. You'll scare him away before we've even started."

Adam shifted slightly on the spot and offered her his hand with a serious expression on his face.

Lexi looked from his hand to his face and snorted loudly as she pulled him forward into a bone-crushing hug.

house, we don't shake hands, we hug,

as he reluctantly patted her

them through the tiny entrance hallway that opened out into a cozy living area. It was tastefully decorated with a warm color

offer you a drink but I remember my first time using

a slight hint of uncertainty in her voice as Adam trailed

his pack from his grasp and was scanning the room

“Relax fur ball, nothing is waiting to jump out at you. You’re both quite safe here.” Lexi snorted in amusement. “Adam, come and sit down,” Ann said placatingly at the fierce glare that Adam

corner. He felt safer with his back

and reached over to pat his

wouldn’t have brought you here if I

across the room warily, his eyes darting

too long,” Lexi said as she

Your father is coming too?” Ann asked in

way. He’s in the process of rounding up some... disobedient denizens

daemons? Who’d have thought...’

to his home.” Lexi said staring pointedly

what exactly are you inferring?"

grinned at him as she gazed at

from his point of view. Most Daemon and werewolf interactions over the past few centuries have entailed the unquestioning slaughter of his race. He would be stupid not to be wary of you both, don't you think? He

Adam's mouth set into a thin line as he considered her words. She was right. They both had reason to be cautious. In Adam's mind, he was walking straight into danger and would be extremely vulnerable while he was there, as would Ann.

But he could also see her father's point of view, inviting an unknown Alpha into his home in order to fake a mating bond, at the request of his daughter. He was potentially leaving himself open to an attack from the inside.

"That's fair. I can assure you that I wish only to erase suspicion from within my pack. There are other issues at play here that I'm not comfortable discussing yet though, such as the reason behind my need for a contracted mate in the first place."

A slow smile spread across Lexi's face that Adam couldn't decipher the meaning behind.

"Oh, you sweet innocent little puppy." She crooned, "You do realize that you can't hide anything from my father ...or from me for that matter?"

Adam stiffened suddenly as Ann frowned at her friend, her unusual eyes suddenly glowing slightly, the luminescent red in her black irises creating a frightening effect.

"There's nothing that can be hidden from a Daemon, sweetie. It's in our very nature to see into another's soul. Without you ever knowing, we can see your darkest fears, your most treasured memories, and the measure of your soul." She intoned in an almost ethereal voice as the air in the center of the room began to distort.

Adam stood abruptly and reached for Ann, pulling her over to him as Lexi chuckled.

“Adam, please... it’s fine...” Ann said as she struggled against the vice-like grip of his hands and he growled in response.

Lexi smiled as the air seemed to condense around itself, exploding into a silvery, shimmery oval that appeared almost like a mirror.

“Don’t worry, Alpha. If I didn’t think you had well- meaning intentions towards both Ann and my father, then I wouldn’t have offered a solution. I can see the darkness that clings to the soul of both you and your wolf, and my father will too... although I am sure he will be able to give you more answers than I can. You have nothing to fear from us.”

As she finished speaking two figures stepped through the portal that had appeared in her living room and Adam’s face froze in a mask of shock.

Chapter 52 The Daemon Lord

As the haze cleared around the two figures in front of them, Lexi squealed and ran forward, pulling the towering figure into a hug as the man beside him looked on with an impassive expression on his face.

“Papa! It feels like it’s been forever since I saw you properly!” Lexi squealed as the easily eight-foot-tall figure bent slightly and wrapped his arms around her warmly.

“It’s good to see you, little one.” The man rumbled as Lexi stepped backward and turned to grin at Ann and Adam.

“Guys, this is Papa, Papa, this is Adam and Ann.” Lexi beamed excitedly.

Lexi’s father cut a truly imposing figure, broad- shouldered, bulging muscles as far as the eye could see, and an expression that threatened an untimely death as he stared impassively towards Adam and Ann.

“Ann, I have heard a lot about you over the years and I would like to thank you for providing Lexi with the stability that I could not give her. My realm would simply not have been safe for a child of mixed blood,” Lexi’s father said suddenly and very seriously, extending his arm and clasping her hands in one of his tightly.

“Erm, thanks?” Ann replied uncertainly, “Honestly, she provided me with as much stability as I did her, in fact, I consider her a sister more than a friend... erm... sir.” Ann gulped, a little intimidated by the man’s huge size.

bastard!’ Maeve

Maeve! What if they can hear you?! I don’t know what powers or abilities a Daemon Lord has and nor do you!’ Ann replied

his ma*s*sive size extends

once... please behave yourself! ‘ Ann

nobody knew just how far a Daemon Lord’s abilities stretched and if he took

I don’t think he’d be offended. He’s a daemon for goddess sake, I’m just a little curious

out of her head. As far as she was concerned she could rant to herself, Ann couldn’t listen to it at this moment. It was distracting, to say

Why was her wolf

was a tense moment as they both seemed to

first and reluctantly offered his hand

as I understand it is difficult for you. However, I'm here in

hand for a few seconds and there was a tense moment when the thought crossed everyone's mind that he might

and took Adam's hand, shaking it firmly as he narrowed his eyes at

Brarthroroz. It is indeed a cautious step forward that I take today, but I would hope that at least between us for now, we can cooperate in a peaceful manner. I have never allowed outsiders to step foot into my personal home before, let alone one that has warred with my kind for centuries. However, I will not judge you based on your kind's past actions, if you will not judge me for

remained tense, it was

his eyes

"You are right, daughter of mine, he does indeed have the darkness clinging to him like a plague."

Adam scowled at him as Lord Brarthroroz turned back to look at him and chuckled at his expression.

"I am merely stating facts, Alpha Nocturne. The magick that clings to you is old, ancient perhaps and if I'm not mistaken has wrought havoc on your normal life. Do you know the Witch that cast this curse upon you?"

Adam looked as though he was wrestling with something in his mind but eventually, his shoulders sagged slightly and he relented, running his hand through his hair wearily.

"No... no I don't actually. It happened when I was a child, not long after my parents were murdered. I..."

"I think it would be better to discuss this somewhere a little... more discreet, don't you think, Papa? As safe as my house is, if there is anyone listening in when they shouldn't be, there's no chance of it being overheard in your realm." Lexi interjected.

Lord Brarthroroz nodded wisely and signaled to the man who had been standing quietly at the side of them.

At his signal, he moved to the side and began his preparations to create the portal that would take them to their destination.

“You are quite right, of course. Let’s take this as our cue to leave. Although I cannot smell any magick here, it does not mean that it isn’t present. I have not visited this realm for a long time, and things always seem to have changed so much when I do...” he sighed regretfully.

When the portal was ready, he ushered them through the shimmering air. Lexi went first and after a little while, Ann pulled a reluctant Adam through after her. “What interesting friends my daughter surrounds herself with...” Lord Brarthroroz chuckled as he shared a wry smile with the portalmancer and stepped through the portal that would take him to his home.

Chapter 53 Like Father, Like Daughter

As they stepped through onto the other side of the portal, the cool air was a welcome feeling as a wave of nausea washed over both Ann and Adam.

Lexi steadied Ann as her legs wobbled unsteadily and as her father stepped through the portal he chuckled at Adam’s suddenly pale face.

He clapped him on the back warmly and grinned, revealing a mouth full of razor-sharp teeth.

“You get used to the sensation after a while... although I really wasn’t sure how badly it would affect you wolves.” He added thoughtfully before snorting. “It could be worse, at least you came through in one piece.”

Adam stared at him blankly, for once lost for words. “Papa, don’t tease them like that. You know it’s incredibly rare to end up with missing limbs and besides, that usually happens with inexperienced portalmancers. Steven has been with you for centuries now hasn’t he? Sounds like you’re questioning his abilities.” Lexi giggled as Steven raised an eyebrow.

“Oh, my goodness, Papa, his face moved!” Lexi feigned shock as she covered her mouth with her hands and giggled.

“Yes, it does that sometimes, when he realizes that he is actually alive and not just forced to stand in one room in the darkness...” Her father commented dryly as he turned to look at his currently harassed Portalmancer.

spot, his white hair barely shifting with the movement and his robes creating

as Lord Brarthroz chuckled heartily and dismissed

seemed to glide

She complained. “Yes... you find with Lich’s, they don’t really seem to grasp humor as well as the living.” Lord Brarthroz answered with a sigh. “It’s not his fault, another century or so and he may crack smile. One can hope..” He sighed. Ann looked between the two of them and a small smile played at the edges of her mouth as she chuckled at

father, like daughter’.” She grinned, “It kind of makes me a little envious if I’m honest.” she sighed wistfully as Lexi hit her

Come on, we’ve stood around long enough here and if we stay any longer we’re going to be surrounded by curious daemons.” Lexi

he began walking

gloomy as I thought it

as she turned to

to find yourself in some dark cave somewhere surrounded by deep pools of lava and hellfire, with screaming tortured

averted his eyes sheepishly, resulting in a cackle

that you lot grow up with. It's a shame really, there's a rich history in

frowned as he turned

said you didn't know much about

at me for not being completely honest with you. Just because you don't have ill intentions towards Ann doesn't mean you wouldn't be willing to jump down my throat... or attempt to rip it out

Ann giggled at the expression on Adam's face. Hopefully, he would get used to Lexi sooner rather than later.

As they traveled further into the hallways, they passed many daemons and Lexi was right, before long they had a small, yet persistently curious following. Thankfully it didn't take long to arrive at their destination and as soon as Lord Brarthroz turned around, the daemons seemed to disappear quickly.

"My apologies. They aren't used to seeing outsiders. Some of them have never left these walls. They're quite young by daemon standards and don't share the same fear that many of my kind have." He explained patiently. He leaned forward and opened a door in front of him that led to a large room with a door on each of the four walls.

"This external door will be sealed to all but the four of us. No one will enter without my express permission." Lord Brarthroz said as he walked through the huge doorway and they followed behind.

"The door to your right is where you can eat, drink, or relax... whatever you like. Lexi and I will be waiting for you in there once you get down to business. The door ahead is a private portal room that Steven resides in. Don't worry, he never leaves it..." Lord Brarthroz sighed lightly and muttered something about him needing to get out more.

"Anyway, he'll see to your return to your Packhouse when things are finished..."

“He can portal directly into my Packhouse?” Adam said, suddenly on edge.

“Relax, Alpha, the destination is controlled entirely by the position that both you and Ann will picture clearly in your minds. There is no lasting connection unless you install a portalmancer at your quarters which at this point, I think is unlikely. But, who knows what you may require in the future.”

Adam growled lightly at the thought of the safety of his Pack being compromised and Lord Brarthroz chuckled at him, choosing to completely ignore his disquiet and anger.

Chapter 54 A Concealment Curse

“Adam, please. It’s not going to go well if you’re disrespectful in his home. Imagine how you would react if someone growled at you in your own home. You would be absolutely furious! You were very nearly going to put an end to a longstanding member of your Elder Council for daring to question you. Be reasonable. Please.” Ann pleaded softly as she placed a hand on his arm.

He seemed to instantly relax and took a moment to school his emotions properly. Ann was right. This could be the first step to securing better relations with at least this realm of Daemons. Who knew what benefits that it might bring his Pack? He couldn’t afford to risk ruining this because of his temper.

“I’m sorry, Lord Brarthroz, I’m still a little on edge,” Adam said finally with a half bow towards where the Daemon Lord stood.

Lord Brarthroz waved his hand dismissively and shrugged.

“It’s fine. If it wasn’t I would have reacted, but your apology is appreciated non the less. Now, the door to your left is the bedroom where you will need to..what do you call it? Mating and marking?” He asked curiously.

Lexi nodded and giggled as Ann’s cheeks blushed a furious shade of red.

“Don’t worry, sugar, no one will be watching.” She whispered behind her hand into Ann’s ear.

Ann swatted her away as the two men turned to look at them with raised eyebrows.

“Don’t you think we should sit them down and discuss exactly what will happen, Papa? I don’t want them to feel like they don’t know exactly what’s going to happen.” Lord Brarthroroz nodded and gestured to the door on the left.

“Let’s sit comfortably at least while we discuss this properly. I want to find out a little more about this curse that plagues you, Alpha.” He said darkly as he strode purposefully through the doorway with Ann and Lexi following.

back a little while as the color

with his conscience and his paranoia for a few moments before

he wanted to do was leave himself, and his Pack, vulnerable because

it looked like he didn’t have any

the room and tables at the back of the area that were filled

over and helped herself to some of the

in as she bit into the fruit and chewed, letting out a m*oa*n of appreciation

seriously... you have to try

chuckled and held her hand up as she shook her

now even if I wanted to. I’m

frowned and put his hand on her back, rubbing it soothingly and looking at

safe here." Lord Brarthroroz rea*s*sured her. "Please, both of you, take

rea*s*suringly with a small smile as they sat down together opposite Lord Brarthroroz. Lexi remained by the table

at his daughter's antics as he turned his attention to Ann and Adam. A curious look appeared on his strong facial features and he narrowed his

met his gaze unflinchingly, with a proud expression and his jaw clenched. Ann could feel

this intently as their wolves saw it as a challenge, but they couldn't

Alpha Nocturne, this... darkness that clings to you. You said it has been with you

the

and a lot of people came and went. But there was no one that I was close to. I was only twelve when they died, and had only taken a few months of the Alpha training under my father's guidance back then. I didn't know what to look for, or who

in understanding and scratched

did your parents

"They were murdered," Adam answered flatly. "By who?"

There was a long pause before Adam finally answered through gritted teeth.

“I don’t know.”

“You don’t know or you don’t remember?”

“It’s the same thing isn’t it?” Adam said with a little frustration at the constant question.

Lord Brarthroroz chuckled.

“Not at all. If you don’t know, the information simply isn’t there and you never had it to begin with. However, if you don’t remember then it means that the information has either been stored somewhere in your mind and you need reminding of where it’s stored, or... it means that it has been purposefully concealed.”

Adam scowled furiously at him and Ann chewed her lip nervously. She knew that Adam wasn’t angry at Lexi’s father, it was more at the whole situation itself. He would be angry with himself if it turned out that he had the information he needed all along and was unable to reach it.

“You mean I could actually know who the k*il*lers were?”

Lord Brarthroroz shrugged nonchalantly.

“It’s possible. As I said, the darkness that clings to you is quite old. The longer a curse stays with someone, the stronger it gets. It feels like a concealment curse.”

Adam nodded curtly.

“All I’ve been able to find out is that the curse itself is intended to conceal my true mate from me.”

“Interesting...” Lord Brarthroroz almost purred.

Chapter 55 The Dark Witch

“Have you thought that perhaps the people who murdered your parents wanted to conceal your mate from you so you would be forced to take a chosen mate?” Lexi said suddenly through a mouthful of food as she plonked herself down on a chair next to them.

Adam frowned.

“But why? Taking a chosen mate isn’t a rare occurrence. Sometimes an Alpha doesn’t find his true mate and not having an heir weakens the Pack, so it’s seen as a necessary evil in most cases.”

Lexi nodded slowly, as she sat forward and rested her chin on her hands with a thoughtful expression.

“True, but have you considered that a concealment curse would be the best fit because they also wanted to conceal the identity of your parent’s killers?”

Lord Brarthroroz chuckled.

“Very clever, Lexi... yes... it’s entirely possible. Perhaps the killers intended to have someone of their choosing take a place at your side as a chosen mate. It would make sense. You were present when your parents were killed?” Lord Brarthroroz asked suddenly very interested. “I’ve already said I don’t remember!” Adam exclaimed loudly in frustration as his hand tightened around Ann’s. The silence extended between them for a while before his shoulders sagged and Adam sighed heavily.

“I don’t remember... but the Elders say that I was present when they died. I was unharmed but dazed. I spent almost a month in an allied Packs hospital as shortly after my parent’s death, the Pack was attacked. Our old allies sent reinforcements and ensured the Pack’s territory was held, but... the losses were devastating. My Beta’s father ran the Pack until I was old enough to take over but... it was a mess when I finally took the oath.”

had finished speaking and Ann’s heart shattered at seeing him in

suddenly lifted his head and looked at Ann with a strange expression on

There have been some odd occurrences in

Ann said

can help. We need to know and if it's a Dark Witch suddenly making

Brarthroroz nodded with a strange look on his face. "Dark Witches with this sort of old, and ancient magick usually either take it from Daemons by force, or they are gifted it in exchange for contracting to a Daemon... this... could be quite messy if it's going where I'm thinking it is." Ann exchanged a look with Adam

little skank and her WH*ORE of a mother." "You might not be wrong, Lexi," Adam said suddenly, earning a look of surprise

banquet, Maeve was adamant that she didn't come forward willingly, she said she was forced forward." Adam

Lord Brarthroroz asked with a frown. "Ah, that would be my wolf... sorry," Ann said sheepishly. "Adam's right, it's not just that incident though. Recently, my wolf has been very loud. I had just assumed when I lived at the palace that she was more of a quiet-natured wolf, but since I've left the palace, she's been anything

Lexi sniggered.

little wolf, Papa, you'd like her,"

Ann grimaced,

two Lexi's. One that lives inside of you and one that you only see occasionally when you feel like you can handle her

a f*uc*king delight to be around!" Lexi objected

indulgently and Ann grinned across at Lexi before continuing

the palace for the engagement banquet, Maeve had been present for most of the day, and then

Chapter 56 The Unfamiliar Territory

“Not actively... he’s tried... but...” Ann tried to explain as she glanced across at Lexi in annoyance and noticed a strange expression on her face as she looked thoughtfully at Adam.

Lord Brarthroroz didn’t let the conversation go further though as he cleared his throat loudly and spoke.

“So a large amount of concealment is going on then, around both Alpha Nocturne and yourself it seems. I must say, this is all very curious. I don’t know of any active plots among the renegades that are going on in your realm, and the lords are not willing to move against your realm again.”

“Do you think we can help them with this too, Papa?” Lexi asked suddenly.

“It will require some reconnaissance on my end. I want to know exactly who I’m dealing with. It may be Witches but this has the taint of daemons behind it. There is clearly something more going on here.” Lord Brarthroroz frowned.

“Can’t we just k*il*I the b*tches and get on with it?!” Lexi exclaimed suddenly, hitting the side of the armchair violently as her eyes flared red.

“Patience, daughter, now where would the fun be in that? I want to know exactly who they are working for and when I find out, I am sure that there will be no objections from the rest of the Daemonic Council when I imprison them and spend the next few centuries making them pay for their crimes.” He grinned wickedly with a ruthless glint in his eyes.

Ann understood at that moment, that this wasn’t just Lexi’s Papa, this was a Daemon Lord that was perfectly capable of bringing a world to ruin if the urge took him. She swallowed nervously.

failing to keep the trembling out of her voice as Adam squeezed

you know when you can

Adam nodded curtly.

I believe

your fates are inevitably intertwined at this point and if you are not fated... then you damn well should have been. I don't know what your 'Goddess'

could see the barest hint of fear in his eyes as they

made infinitely more complex by the darkness inside of you, Adam. So the plan will proceed as follows. I'm aware that mating and marking binds your wolves together, and neither of you has yet tried this yourself for fear of the mark healing badly and being

stood and walked to the table, pouring himself a glass of wine and offering it to Ann and

a long gulp from the overlarge glass and

he snapped his fingers and two small shot glasses filled

Adam

you unconscious." "And cut us off from our

converse with your wolf when you're unconscious?" Lord Brarthroroz

snorted but said

that the may be a little too much to bear, even for a

cheeks flushed a little red and she had to

“Well, whenever you two are ready, you can make your way through to the bedroom. I would suggest eating a little food before you go through though, the shot of sedation has the nasty aftereffect of making you ravenously hungry afterward. Having a little bite to eat beforehand can often help.”

After they had eaten a light meal they made their way through to the bedroom, both of them feeling a little uncomfortable with the situation.

As Ann closed the door behind them, Adam did a perfunctory sweep of the room, and she sighed, smiling lightly as she looked at him.

“Adam, I think you can relax...”

“I can’t help it. Call it instinct or whatever, but... this is unfamiliar territory, my wolf is a little uncomfortable and if I don’t settle his anxiety then I very much doubt I’m gonna be able to even get it up properly.” He snapped tightly as he prowled around the room.

“Oh, nice. So the thought of f*uc*king me doesn’t appeal to you anymore, Alpha?” She asked huskily as she looked up through her lashes at him.

Adam paused in his frantic pacing and looked over his shoulder at her with a dark look in his eyes.

“The thought of f*uc*king you drives me insane for the majority of the day, and hearing you call me Alpha...” He trailed off as he stalked towards her.

Ann smirked and made her way slowly towards the bed, turning her back to him and slowly removing her clothes as she moved away from him, dropping them on the floor.

Adam rumbled lowly in his chest and before she knew what was happening he had lifted her legs from under her and threw her on the bed, hurriedly climbing above her and trapping her between his arms as he stared down intently at her.

Chapter 57 The Sudden Desire

“Why do you continue to torment me, princess? Do you enjoy the reaction? Or is it that you want me irate so that I f*uc*k you a little harder? Are you not satisfied with my performance already?” Adam murmured huskily.

Ann gazed coyly up at him through her eyelashes and a flirtatious smile curved her mouth up at the edges, earning a low rumble from Adam’s chest.

She said nothing, but reached up and slipped her hands under Adam’s shirt, running her fingers lightly along his well-defined abs, and curling her fingers around the back of his neck as she pulled his lips closer to her.

She wanted to taste him. She couldn’t understand this longing that had appeared, the desperate need to have him inside of her at every waking moment. If Adam thought that she was a distraction. He had no idea what he was doing to her inside.

The mere thought of him f*uc*king her, pounding into her relentlessly before emptying himself deep inside of her drove her crazy.

As Adam’s lips landed on her own, she kissed him with a hunger that she had never known before. She felt his lips curl into a grin against her before, suddenly his hunger matched her own and she could feel him harden underneath his clothes.

Ann struggled to form coherent thoughts as she slipped her hands from his neck down his back and pushed insistent fingers into the waistband of his trousers.

These needed to come off. The sooner that happened... the better.

breaking away from the kiss briefly to remove his shirt and trousers as Ann watched him from the bed. Reclining languidly into the mattress as she arched her body into seductive curves that

result and as his eyes darkened to almost black, he

arms around his neck and pulled his face down towards her, attacking his lips hungrily with her own as

every time she thought of him, scared her a little bit. She had thought she'd been in love with Brad before, but things with Adam seemed to be so much more

really stronger than

she just needed him

slipped his fingers between her slick folds

he lowered his head and wrapped his

she reached for his c*oc*k and stroked

inside of me, Adam... f*uc*k..." She groaned as she threw her head

he maneuvered himself between her legs and sank lower, kissing his way down her chest and

at her side as Adam ran his tongue around her cl*toris and began s*cking on it eagerly as

to the side of his head, fisting his hair in her palms as she bucked her hips underneath him. Goddess... she never wanted this feeling

his tongue downwards, pushing his tongue inside of her tight walls, probing into her as far

breathlessly as he a*s*saulted her mercilessly until she couldn't

think... I'm going to c*um

He chuckled darkly as he pulled his head away and growled lowly, gathering her legs over his arms as he leaned forward over her, and stared down at her intently. Ann whimpered helplessly under him, desperately trying not to hold her breath with the anticipation that was building inside of her. She could feel his c*oc*k positioned at her entrance as she lay there, fully exposed to him.

The dangerous vulnerability she had at that moment was such a turn-on for both her and for Adam. He pressed the back of her thighs against his chest as he leaned down to kiss her deeply, forcing her knees against her shoulders.

She was driving him crazy.

All he wanted to do was bend her into as many positions as he could and bury himself inside of her over and over again. Surely this wasn't normal between contracted mates?

Ann bit her lip as she looked up coyly at him from under her lashes.

"f*uc*k me Adam... f*uc*k me hard..." She whispered in a sultry tone.

He groaned internally as the last thread of his self-control snapped and he plunged into her with such force, for a moment he thought they might fall through the bed. He pounded his c*oc*k angrily inside of her, with a passion he hadn't known had existed until he had met Ann. The harder he f*uc*ked her, the more of those sweet m*oa*ns that filled the air around him.

He wanted it all... every last sound that he could prise from between those lips.

Those squeals were just for him and they made him forget everything that was wrong in his life.

"f*uc*k... Adam...yes! Oh, I'm gonna..." She m*oa*ned as she gripped his back tightly.

Chapter 58 Fate Was Indeed Cruel

Adam growled loudly as he pounded into her harder and allowed her legs to fall to his waist and as she came undone around him and he released inside of her, he leaned forward, his fangs elongating as he sank his teeth into the soft flesh of her neck.

Ann gripped hold of him greedily as she too did the same and almost instantly, their vision seemed to explode in bright lights.

They lapped tenderly at each of the new marks and lay panting above each other for a while.

Ann couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sadness that this wasn't a reality... that Adam wasn't her true mate. Maybe... just maybe... in another life... they would find each other and be happy.

But it wouldn't be this one... this life was too cruel beyond words...

Unbeknownst to Ann, Adam felt exactly the same. Ann was perfect in his eyes and was everything that he had imagined that his true mate and Luna would be. But fate was indeed cruel.

He stroked her cheek softly as he gazed at her flushed face. She was beautiful and everything in him wanted to tell her those all-important three words that could change everything.

But, he didn't.

before and had already said that she didn't want to get her hopes up in this relationship with him. The thought of them ever being apart made him feel irrationally angry and he leaned forward to kiss her lips, in

reached up to run her hands through his hair

slight frown, searching his eyes for

reluctantly rolled off her, as she gasped at the loss of him from inside of

for the two glasses of liquid at the side of the bed and narrowed his eyes

the part where we

her and passed her the glass. "At the same

glasses against the wall and flee from this

too

brought their glasses together in a mock toast and smiled wryly at each other

Adam saw was the terrifying sight of Ann slumping lifelessly to the bed, and the utter feeling of helplessness and panic that washed over him seconds before he too succ*umbed to the

bed, looking around himself frantically as the ghost of the panic that he felt before he

asleep still beside him. He reached out and moved the errant strands of hair

her, don't you, wolf boy?" An amused voice came

to attack whoever had dared to intrude into his personal space without an invite, but he was met with the

wanted to make sure that you both woke up okay," Lexi said as she

of relief as he narrowed his eyes dangerously

“Hmm. Papa did say that I shouldn’t tease you too much when you woke up in case you were a little grumpy, the sedative sometimes has the nasty side effect of making people hyper aggressive... but I figured that was no different from normal Alpha’s so...” She trailed off with a shrug as she examined her nails casually.

Adam remained silent. His head was still a little foggy and it felt like he had spent the previous night drinking. Even if he had wanted to reply, it most likely wouldn’t have been too impressive of a response.

Lexi sighed as she approached the edge of the bed and sat down, staring fondly at Ann’s sleeping form.

“You need to look out for this one, wolfy. She’s more important to me than I can put into words,” She said softly with a sigh, a rare look of affection crossing her features before she quickly schooled her face back into an expression of neutrality and fixed Adam with a serious stare.

“The mark will need to be redone from time to time. It’s not a permanent solution, as we mentioned previously. As soon as it starts looking a little iffy, then have Ann call me okay?”

Adam nodded slowly.

“Is there anything we should look out for?”

Lexi appeared thoughtful for a minute as her eyes flashed in the darkness,

“Well, I would think it will start to look a little angry around the edges. At the minute, you can get away with it, because it’s fresh, but after the mark settles into the usual silvery white scar, then any redness should be immediately obvious.”

“How long do you think until we need to be worried?”

Lexi snorted.

Chapter 59 A Promise Is A Promise

“How long is a piece of string, furball? We don’t know. This isn’t a common request at all, so we’re pretty much working on unknown grounds. Just... keep an eye on it.” She paused before frowning slightly.

“You said the existence of your true mate is concealed from you, right?”

Adam nodded slowly.

“So, if she was standing right in front of you, how would you ever know?” She asked hesitantly, a hint of concern in her voice.

Adam frowned. It was an odd question, but he was sure that Lexi was only concerned for her friend’s well being. After all, she had been through so much already, and judging by their close relationship, she would hate to see her hurt again.

“I wouldn’t know even if she was laid next to me,” Adam said softly, with a hint of regret in his voice. “Don’t worry, Lexi. Hurting Ann is the last thing that I’ll ever do. Even if my true mate appears, then I’ll make sure that Ann doesn’t suffer. I promise that she’ll be well taken care of.”

Lexi stared at him for a long time with an unreadable expression on her face as she smiled softly.

“I trust you... don’t worry.”

and Adam shifted awkwardly on the bed. He was still completely n*ake*d, as was Ann, and the presence

we been back here long? I’m still a little uncomfortable with the fact that you can portal in and out of

stickler for the rules, and most daemon’s don’t have access to a portalmancer. It takes centuries of training and you have to find a wraith willing to cooperate first.” She smiled wryly as Ann stirred in her sleep and stretched, throwing an

that you both woke up safely and that there weren't any hidden surprises waiting for you when you got back. Ann made it perfectly clear that you didn't want to be vulnerable and as much as this is your home... with everything going on at the minute with you

Adam nodded in agreement.

wrong. Although it was his home, he had known for some time that there were some

frustrating, to say the least, and sometimes he wondered if he

a slight rustle, the air in the room distorted slightly and Lexi made her way over to

back in this realm in a day or so. Try to

disappeared through it, he stared blankly into the darkness for a

it? Had it really been that

the duvet back slightly from where Ann had pulled it tightly

as he saw his

the normal healing of a shifters mark. If the Elders demanded to see it,

himself back down into the bed and she murmured softly in her

once, Adam fell asleep again with a slightly

That was one major issue that he no longer had to be concerned about.

Adam was woken by a frantic knocking at the door and as Ann stirred sleepily beside him, he threw the covers of his body and stormed across to the door.

“What?” He snarled as he threw open the door and was met with the anxious-looking face of his Beta, Allen.

His shoulders seemed to sag with relief at the sight of his Alpha, and he sighed loudly.

“Oh, my goddess... I thought something had happened to you!” He hissed in irritation as a frown descended across his brows.

Adam raised an eyebrow as Allen stormed past him and he angrily reached for his arm and pulled him back.

“Ann is still sleeping.” He growled lowly at Allen’s surprised face.

“Ann is not... Ann is very much awake because you boys are making such a damn noise. What on earth is the matter?!” She yawned sleepily as she sat upright and lounged back against the headboard, her n*ake*d body barely covered by the sheet as she pulled her legs up in front of her.

Allen jolted in surprise at the sight of Ann so relaxed in her own skin, and Adam tried his best to suppress the growl of jealous fury that threatened to tear from his chest.

Instead, his grip increased tightly on Allen’s arm and Allen yelped in as he tried desperately to prise Allen’s fingers off his arm.

“Alpha... Adam... dammit that hurts...” He protested as Adam dragged him towards the door.

Chapter 60 Two Lovebirds

“Stop looking at my Luna.” Adam snarled angrily as Allen stared at him with disbelief.

He twisted suddenly and broke free of Adam's grip before he darted a short distance away from him and stood looking between the two of them.

"Since when did you get so possessive?" He asked, eyeing him warily.

Adam responded with a snarl as Alien's eyes drifted to the obvious mark on his neck and he pointed excitedly, with his eyes wide open in stunned disbelief.

"When... What... Wait! You're marked! What?! Are you..?! No..." He stuttered as a myriad of emotions and questions fluttered across his face.

Ann chuckled and made her way over to Adam with the sheet still wrapped tightly around her. Adam growled warningly and pulled her into his side and wrapped his arm around her as he scowled at Allen dangerously.

Ann rubbed her fingers backward and forwards gently over the back of his hand, hoping that he would be calmed down a little by the sensation. She half wished that by some miracle, those telltale sparks would appear under her fingertips, but they didn't and she felt her heart sink in disappointment.

"When did you two mark each other? I didn't... does this mean that you're actually mates?! You weren't even in here last night when I came back to speak to you, Alpha! Where were you!" Allen demanded suddenly, with a look of incredulity on his face.

Adam growled lowly, the deep rumble seemingly vibrating through the air, and Ann sighed lightly.

about the marks, that's our business and no one else's."

soothingly as she smiled lightly at the confused Beta in front

night Allen. That's all. They needed a little break

nice if you actually did let us out for a

safe to Maeve, I don't want anything to go

she snorted derisively, 'You don't

outside influences again and being forced into doing something regrettable.' Ann

looked between the two of them warily before sighing and

regret any of it. It should be enough to shut the Elders up anyway. I don't know what's gotten into

hand on her..."

be appropriately punished Adam, I

I was pretty shocked if I'm honest." Allen said as he

some of the omegas that you two might

Ann blinked in surprise.

you two aren't exactly quiet when you're going at it. Contracted or fated mate... whatever you two are... you certainly give the bonded mates a run for their

Adam grinned widely.

to have a few little ones running around, don't

slowly faded at the look of uncertainty

he was expected to bear heirs at some point, and now with the mark in place,

The first thing that mated couples normally did was to try for their first set of pups.

They rarely waited unless there was some sort of strife in the pack or the packs that they were allied with that carried the risk of violence.

“Do you not think we should wait a little, Adam?” Ann asked hesitantly.

Adam frowned at her and she swallowed nervously.

“I just mean, with so much going on at the minute and the... uncertainty... about certain issues,” She said looking meaningfully between Allen and Adam, “I’m not sure it would be safe for me to be pregnant at the minute.”

Allen hummed thoughtfully.

“She’s not wrong, Alpha, she could become the target of any attacks... as well as your unborn pups. Whether your bond is real with her or not, the bond with your pups is a blood bond. It would devastate you and leave you open to further attacks.”

A cold chill swept over Adam. They were right. He hadn’t considered that his own unborn children might become casualties of whatever was going on in the shadows.

He sighed heavily.

“Okay. Point taken.” He said brusquely as Ann seemed to let out an audible sigh of relief, which for some reason, made Adam’s heart hurt

“Come on then you two lovebirds, hurry up and come down for breakfast. Let’s see what these old farts have been plotting.” Allen said as he smiled tightly.

One thing was for sure, today seemed like it was going to be a difficult one.