

Alpha Nocturne's Contracted Mate Chapter 266

Alpha Nocturne's Contracted Mate by A E Randell

Chapter 266 Love All of You

A look of pure terror settled over Jasper's face as Lexi's hands slammed onto each temple and he froze, the dagger that had been making painful progress around Alien's face slipped out of his hand and clattered to the ground noisily.

"No... this..." Jasper squeaked in terror, disbelief written all over his face as he found himself completely unable to move.

"Yes, Jasper. Ironic isn't it that my uncle and I are so eerily similar, yet so terrifyingly different..." She purred as her eyes flickered between a furious crimson fire and a violent electrifying blue sheen as she forced Jasper to face her face-to-face.

She kept her palms firmly on his temples, her f*ingers digging into his scalp with her nails as she brought her face almost nose to nose with him as she held his gaze unflinchingly and licked her l*ips dangerously.

"He... Eromaug... I work for him! You can't do this!" Jasper blurted out, his voice rising in panic as he winced at the slow trickle of blood that was running from his hairline as Lexi's nails dug in painfully.

"Oh believe me I f*****g can, you sick son of a b***h. You violated my best friend and an innocent child, not to mention defacing MY mate and his beautiful face... you deserve everything that's coming to you." She purred as her eyes rolled upwards and only the whites of her eyes were visible.

Jasper's bone chilling scream echoed loudly in the room and reached a pitch that Allen hadn't though possible... from a man at least.

Allen winced as the sound seemed to pierce his eardrums painfully but soon became transfixed by the spectacle in front of him.

Some sort of pale white vapour seemed to be pulled from within Jasper, leaking out from his eyes and his m*outh and drifting towards Lexi's subtly glowing figure as her grin widened into an almost delirious expression.

It swirled around her, the eerie threads mixing in a terrifying yet beautiful dance before settling on her skin and by the looks of it, absorbing into her very body as the life seemed to drain from Jasper. As terrifying as it was to witness, Allen couldn't seem to tear his eyes away.

“Close your eyes, my love,” Lexi purred as she turned to Allen with her unseeing eyes, “I don’t want you to see this side of me...”

“I love all of you Lexi... always, no matter what.” Allen breathed in awe, utterly enthralled with the sight of his terrifyingly beautiful mate.

A slow smile crossed her face as a brilliant light seemed to erupt within Jasper, so bright that it felt as though it would burn his eyes from their sockets and Allen was forced to close his eyes, screwing them shut reflexively despite his unwillingness to do so.

When the blinding light had faded, the pressure that had held Allen in place dissipated almost instantly and he fell to the floor, landing unsteadily on his feet. Grimacing, he braced himself for the pain as he forced his shoulder back into the socket and growled loudly as Orvar instantly began working on healing the damage.

He hissed with the sharp pain as he rolled his shoulder and cast his eyes around the room, his eyes finally landing on where Lexi stood, staring blankly down at the smouldering remains of Jasper, as if she was frozen in shock at what she had just done. She wavered in place as her eyes seemed to roll back in her head and Allen rushed forwards, catching her carefully in his arms as her legs gave way beneath her.

“Allen... I don’t...” she murmured as confusion settled over her face.

“It’s okay my love, I’m here... I’ll always be here.” He reassured her as an unsettling feeling settled in the pit of his stomach.

Whatever Lexi had done had clearly saved his life, and finally put an end to Jasper but at what cost?

He held her close to his body as Orvar whined in concern for his mate who was wavering in and out of consciousness and he made his way into the corridor.

The guards rushed towards him and with one look inside the cell, they turned to Allen with a look of disbelief.

“What the hell happened in there?!”

“No one goes in there,” Allen barked, “Fetch Lord Brarthroroz and tell him his daughter is unwell and you, fetch Alpha Felix and the Alpha Queen’s Consort. Tell them we had a run in with Jasper and Linus didn’t make it.”

The two guards nodded and both set off at a run to their assigned tasks. Allen sighed as he looked down at Lexi, who appeared now to be sleeping peacefully in his arms.

He knew that Lexi saved his life and if it hadn't have been for her, then Jasper most likely would have gone on to cause more chaos and rack his body count up, but still, what she did to him...

It was the first time that Allen had seen that side of her. The explosive rage that he had needed her father to help with in the aftermath of Ann's poisoning was one thing, but this... whatever this was, was uniquely terrifying.

It looked as though she had s*uc*ked the life out of Jasper, not that he didn't deserve it, but it was still a terrifying thought. Was that the other side of her that he was supposed to help control as her mate?

Now with both Linus and Jasper dead they had no way to gather any further information about the possible whereabouts of both Aoife and of Eromaug and his f*****g coven.

The whole situation was a mess and the paperwork that he would be left with now didn't bear thinking about.

One thing was for sure, if the news got out that Lexi was capable of s*uc*king the life out of anyone who crossed her, it was certainly going to make life even more difficult for her within the Enclave.

How on earth were they going to get the Elders to accept her now? His mind raced as he settled himself on a bench in the hallway and readjusted Lexi in his arms so that her head could rest against his shoulder in a more comfortable looking position.

Allen knew that sooner or later he was going to need Greyson to help him handle this almost feral side to her. The look of pleasure on her face as she drank in Jasper's soul was going to haunt him for a long time.

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Chapter 267 The Corpse...

Ann and Adam had been mid discussion regarding potential baby names for each of the pups when a frantic looking Felix practically fell through the doors and into her room.

"They... f*uc*k... Jasper... it was him! He was here... he still IS here!" he rushed out between breaths almost incoherently as he leaned on the table as he tried to catch his breath.

Ann and Adam froze mid conversation as they took in his panicked appearance and they exchanged a look of concern.

“What the f**k has crawled up his a*ss?” Maeve grimaced as she flicked her ears in annoyance.

Ann ignored Maeve’s snarky comment and sat up, pushing the sheet back a little as she held her hands out in front of her in a placating gesture.

“Felix, slow down...” Ann began in a soothing tone but she was cut off by Felix’s furious glare.

“No, you don’t understand. He’s STILL HERE!” He yelled impatiently as Adam growled warningly at his tone.

“Growl all you want Adam, this is f*****g serious. He killed Aoife, but she wasn’t his target. He meant to kill Ann!”

“What?” Ann murmured in disbelief as Adam stiffened beside her and she could feel his unease rippling outwards like a discomfoting blanket.

“Where?” Adam snarled, his eyes flashing gold Baldur’s fury at the threat to his mate and pups began to rise.

“I don’t know where he is now.” Felix hissed in frustration as he began to pace angrily

“Felix, when did you see him? I thought you were with Allen and Lexi?”

Ann still wasn’t back to her normal self and Maeve was still decidedly grouchy because she knew that they were about as much use as a chocolate fireguard in this state. She hated being helpless and this whole situation was infuriating her.

“They were going to see her father and see if there was any news yet from Greyson’s squad,” Felix answered as he shook his head, “I thought it best if I went to get cleaned up and at least try to get a few hours sleep. I wanted to make sure I was on top form for the investigation.”

“Makes sense.” Adam nodded with a thoughtful frown, “So how...”

“I’m getting to it.” Felix snapped as he ran his hands through his hair in frustration, “I woke up and just knew that someone was in my room. When I got my hands on them, it turned out it was my dear brother.” He spat furiously, the venom that dripped from his words left no room for misunderstanding about his hatred that he felt for Jasper.

“You have to understand, I haven’t seen Jasper for years, or heard from him directly. The only time I had ever heard anything about him was when my father was in a rage about any previously unknown allegations towards Jasper that had reached him through his intelligence network.” He continued glancing across at Adam, “I told you all this

before we returned. I had intended to reach out tomorrow to my contacts in our intelligence network and compile a list of his recent movements.”

“That might still be useful though Felix,” Ann interrupted, “Any evidence we have of his movements or any allegations that have been leveled against him will help us to build a picture of everything that he has been accused of carrying out and more importantly, where he has been doing them.”

Felix nodded as he took a deep breath and threw himself down on the chair.

“He thought you were dead.” Felix said suddenly, staring at Ann with a complicated expression, “He was gloating about the fact that everyone around Adam seemed to die, so I let him keep talking. When I told him that you were still alive, he was irritated... but then when I told him it was Aoife that had died...” he trailed off, clenching his jaw as he struggled to contain his emotions.

“I was his target?” Ann asked as she was suddenly overcome with guilt.

Felix nodded silently as his eyes began to turn red, the unshed tears glistening in the light as he fought to hold them back.

“I’m so sorry...” Ann said, her voice cracking, “If I had known...”

“It’s not your fault, your highness.” Felix laughed bitterly, “The perks of having a psychotic big brother.

You know, he was absolutely beside himself with joy that he had managed to take her from me. He reveled in telling me how he violated her before he...” Felix stood suddenly and walked over to the window, his back facing Ann’s bed.

Adam looked down at his beautiful mate and frowned at the grief that had settled over her face. He had spent the past few hours trying to keep her mind off things, knowing full well how helpless she would be feeling right now.

He reached for her hand and squeezed it reassuringly, but she barely moved.

“Where is he now, Felix?” Adam asked, his tone bordering on dangerous.

“I don’t know. I didn’t take it well as you can imagine, and... well, he’s a slippery f*uc*ker, I’ll give him that. I don’t know how he did it, but he just disappeared.”

“How is that even possible?” Adam growled furiously.

“I don’t know, but suddenly he was gone. Once I’d collected my thoughts enough I came straight here. If Ann was the original target then she could still be in danger.” Felix said seriously.

“Thank you, I appreciate you letting us know so quickly,” Adam bowed his head respectfully to indicate his gratitude, “We will find him, Felix, and we’ll make sure we get answers for

“Your highness! Consort Adam!” An urgent voice called from the doorway as the doors swung open, startling them all.

“What is the meaning of this?!” Adam snarled as he moved protectively to the end of the bed as Felix came to his side, both of them on edge and preparing to shift into their wolves just in case this was some sort of distraction or ploy orchestrated by Jasper.

“My apologies, your highness! Beta Allen sent me.” The out of breath guard saluted them immediately, “There’s been an incident in the cells.”

“What sort of incident?” Felix questioned, narrowing his eyes as he took a step forward.

Adam ran his eyes over the guard’s uniform, inspecting it for any anomalies that someone who wasn’t familiar with the Enclave’s regiments wouldn’t be aware of, and found nothing amiss. Both he and Baldur relaxed a little, but remained wary.

“Is he ok, is he hurt?” Adam asked.

The guard hesitated and shifted uncomfortably before he answered.

“He’s a little worse for wear, but he’s okay. Beta Lexi is...well, when I left them she was barely conscious. Beta Allen is still in the cells with her. I don’t know what happened, he didn’t say, only that I was to bring you down to the cells, and the other guard was to fetch Lord Brarthroz.”

“So they’re alone down there?!” Felix asked, his mind racing with the possibility that Jasper would somehow isolate them and take them down himself.

“No, Alpha. The Warden is with them still...” The guard trailed off. “What aren’t you telling us?”

Felix snarled as he strode purposefully towards the guard, who backed away uncertainly.

“Nothing! It’s just...” he stammered hesitantly before his eyes locked with Felix’s murderous glare and his shaky resolve shattered, “Linus is dead and there was another corpse on the floor next to him... but... I don’t know who that was.”

“What do you mean you don’t know?” Felix snarled only centimeters from the guard’s face.

“The corpse was... charred and still smoldering, Alpha.” The guard stammered as Felix looked back at Ann and Adam incredulously.

But Ann knew instantly. “F*uc*k... Lexi...” Both Ann and Maeve breathed in dismay at the same time.

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Chapter 268 A Waiting Game

“I can't believe you agreed to bringing her with us.” Baldur snapped testily inside Adam's head.

“It's not like either her or Maeve would take no for an answer,” Adam snapped back as he readjusted his grip on Ann's legs and shifted her position on his back.

“You're an Alpha, Adam... if you can't control your mate...” Baldur snorted derisively.

“She's the Alpha Queen for a reason.” Adam replied with a sigh, “If you're that salty about it, how about we shift and you can have it out with Maeve, hmm? See how she likes you ordering her around.”

Baldur whined almost instantly and Adam could see his tail tucked between his legs reflexively. “Yeah, that's what I thought.” Adam snorted as Baldur skulked to the corner of his mind and curled up sullenly on the corner.

“Everything okay?” Ann asked softly as she tightened her arms around Adam's neck.

“Baldur is pissed that I brought you with us.” Adam grunted.

“I told you I can walk,” Ann scowled.

“Yeah, but for how long? You still haven't fully recovered and besides, that's not the issue here.” he replied sternly, “Just for the record I'm not happy about you being out of bed either.”

“Right, because leaving her completely vulnerable in her room while Jasper is on the prowl is a smart idea.” Felix interrupted with a snort, “We've seen what happened to Aoife, and that was what he had in store for Ann, so with all due respect Consort Adam, I'm going to take your Alpha Queen's side in this. She's safest with us.”

Adam and Baldur rumbled unhappily.

“Huh. I changed my mind.” Maeve smirked, “Maybe that stick isn’t so far up Felix’s a*ss that he can’t see sense.”

“Your opinion of people changes depending on whether they agree with you or not. I’m not sure that’s a good way to judge a person’s character, you know?” Ann snickered back as she bobbed along on Adam’s back, holding tightly around his shoulders.

“Yeah? Well you can s*uc*k lemons for all I care right now,” Maeve grumbled, “I’m tired and moody with trying to heal the damage that’s been done and purge the crap that YOU f*****g drank out of our system whilst trying not to pull from your reserves so our pups have everything they need to grow into the perfect little furballs.”

“Maeve, for the last time, they aren’t going to come out as puppies.” Ann sighed, “They’ll be perfectly human until they get their wolves.”

Maeve pouted and glared at her sullenly for a while.

“You’re wrong. They will ALL be special. I can feel it, just you wait and see.” She finally murmured before shoving Ann away and blocking her out.

Ann was a little speechless and quite honestly shocked. In all the years that she and Maeve had been together, she had never pushed her away or blocked her out, and now, Ann felt a little guilty.

The four of them continued down the corridor in a tense silence, eventually meeting Lord Brarthroroz on the way down. They exchanged nods of acknowledgement but said nothing, the atmosphere heavy with the anticipation and anxiety at what they might find when they reached the bottom of the steps.

The acrid smell of burnt flesh greeted them as they pushed through the door into the cells before their eyes landed on the stoic face of Allen.

Adam frowned, knowing damn well that Allen and his wolf Orvar were losing their mind seeing Lexi like this, as he gently lowered Ann’s feet to the ground and she rushed past him towards her best friend, reaching for her hand.

“Don’t!” Lord Brarthroroz snapped in a terse warning, “I don’t know if she’s stable or not.”

Ann withdrew her hand and held it awkwardly in her own as she watched Lexi’s father stride forward quickly and place a hand to Lexi’s forehead. They stood in a silence that seemed to stretch for an eternity before Lord Brarthroroz spoke.

“She seems stable for now, her powers are not clashing inside of her so we don’t need to worry about her leveling the place.” Lord Brarthroroz sighed in relief...

“Allen, what happened?” Adam asked as he glanced across to where Felix was standing in the doorway of the cell, his face completely expressionless.

“We were interrogating Linus... well, I was. Lexi was with one of the guards over there,” He said, gesturing with his head in the direction of the small station that served as both an office and a rest room, “She wanted to check on his transfer status. I figured it was just a tactic to freak him out. Whether it was or not, it worked a treat and he did tell me a little before...”

Allen trailed off as a dark scowl settled on his face and his jaw clenched.

“Before Jasper appeared out of thin air mid f*****g conversation and assassinated Linus.” He finished with a sneer on his face as he glanced towards Felix.

“So these two corpses...” Felix gestured to the charred remains and the relatively intact corpse that lay close by.

“Linus and Jasper.” Allen answered without emotion.

“You managed to kill him?” Felix asked dubiously.

He had already faced off against Jaser and knew just how unnatural his skills had become. Whether Allen was capable of defeating him or not, he wasn't completely sure, but it seemed highly unlikely.

Allen snorted and shook his head.

“No, I didn't... but Lexi did. If it wasn't for her, he would have killed me easily. He was just toying with me, allowing me to tire myself out before he moved in for the kill.”

Lord Brarthroroz moved across to where Felix stood and looked down at the bodies on the floor. “Well, I can't say that he didn't deserve it.” Lord Brarthroroz grunted humourlessly, “I'm curious whether or not she used one aspect of her abilities though, or both.” HE continued turning to face Allen again.

Allen shrugged helplessly. “I honestly don't know. It was like he was completely paralyzed and she...” Allen paused, his eyes flicking across all of us as he swallowed nervously, “It looked like she was absorbing this strange mist that was coming out of him... like smoke... and then he burst into flames and became, well, that.”

Lord Brarthroroz frowned as he glanced down at Lexi.

“It seems your presence managed to avert a complete disaster at least then, Allen. Although how, I'm not so sure.”

“And you’re sure it was Jasper?” Adam asked carefully. “With one hundred percent certainty, Adam.” Allen nodded firmly.

“At least we can stop worrying about further assassinations for now then.” Ann said grimly, “Come on, let’s move her somewhere she can rest comfortably. How long do you think she will be out?” She asked as she looked towards Lord Brarthroroz questioningly.

“Who knows. I think this is the first time that she’s actively used and been able to control both parts of her soul. It’s just a waiting game now.” Lord Brarthroroz answered somberly as Ann and Adam began to coordinate the removal of the bodies and the clean up and reports with the guards.

Allen made his way out of the cells with Lord Brarthroroz and Felix following close behind. They still had the issue of Greyson and his non responsive team to deal with and hopefully, Lexi would have woken by then.

Allen was fully aware that he couldn’t just leave without her... she would never forgive him if he did.

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Chapter 269 A Fate Worse than Death

“So what do we do now?” Felix asked to no one in particular once they were all gathered in Lord Brarthroroz’s suite.

The guards had been instructed to let them know as soon as Lexi began to stir and Allen stood in the doorway to Lord Brarthroroz’s suite so that he could run to their room as soon as she showed any signs of waking up.

“The first thing we should be doing is getting my stubborn mate back to her bed in the hospital so that she can get the rest that...”

“Not a chance Adam.” Ann glowered, “I’ve been out of action long enough and if I need to rest then I would much rather do so in the comfort of our own chambers.”

“But, what if you need intervention from the doctors again? Think of the pups. What if...” Adam tried to reason with her but Ann’s loud impatient sigh stopped him in his tracks.

“What if the sky falls and we’re all buried?!” Maeve yelled suddenly in Ann’s head and it took everything in her to not snort loudly.

“Maeve thinks you’re being dramatic, and just for the record, so do I.” Ann answered sternly, “Regardless of whether I am at full health or not, I still have responsibilities to see to. There are far less interruptions in our own suite here, than in the infirmary, and to be perfectly honest, I’m desperate to get back to the palace and begin making it our home.” She continued a little less severely.

Adam was clearly displeased with her stubbornness, but she didn’t care. There was still far too much to be rectified before she could even consider moving them back to the palace and the more time that she spent holed up at the infirmary, the less time she was able to put into managing and resolving the important issues that needed to be seen to immediately.

“Look, we know that the rogue’s are on the run now, and the last pockets of resistance along our borders are being cleared as we speak. So that’s one major issue resolved, but we still have the escaped convicts and Narcissa, her damn Excidium Coven and your damn brother...no offense Lord Brarthroroz.” Ann continued a little more gently with a nod to Lexi’s father, who smiled gently.

“No offense taken at all. He’s been a thorn in my side for centuries, as I’m sure Jasper was for Felix.” He shrugged casually as Felix nodded sombrely.

“I won’t lie, he was always good to me as a brother while I was small, but I had no idea about his... depraved and violent nature back then. As I got older, we clashed a lot and eventually he was more or less exiled from our family...never officially though. It was an open secret amongst the nobles, one that was never publicly acknowledged, but everyone was fully aware of.” Felix stated quietly, “I’ll await the DNA testing to ensure that it was Jasper that Lexi killed before I notify my parents though. You never know... he was a slippery little bastard and who knows whether or not he had somehow managed to create an impostor.”

“Do you really think that’s a possibility?” Ann asked with a frown.

“Felix is right to be cautious,” Adam added, “I wouldn’t put anything past him. The corpse is too charred for facial recognition, so we’ll be relying on dental analysis and any tissue samples that they can gather for DNA analysis. We should have the results in a day or two.”

“Alright then.” Ann nodded, “So that leaves the issue of the missing reconnaissance team. What do we know about it so far?”

“Not a great deal I’m afraid. I spoke with the commander of our forces here and thanks to being severely underfunded for years under your...erm...” Allen cleared his throat awkwardly as he looked between Ann and Adam, not wanting to offend Ann nor provoke his Alpha’s irritation by being insensitive.

"It's okay Allen. I know my father was incompetent." Ann smiled reassuringly at him for him to continue, but Allen still felt a little awkward and rubbed his neck sheepishly.

"Well, yes... I guess you know where I'm going with that," He grimaced as Ann smiled gently and gestured for him to continue, "So, essentially, our forces are nowhere near what they should be. With sending so many men already to deal with the rogues and with the party with Greyson ... as well as the small reconnaissance team afterwards, well...we're already under the necessary reserve force for defense of the enclave and palace and surrounding villages. Until the team returns from clearing the last of the rogues, we don't have any more to send."

Ann sighed in frustration. "Okay, but my question is, why haven't they contacted us? Greyson was supposed to let us know when they arrived."

"We think we know, there's a dead zone for communications in the area and they seem to be connected to monuments, or ritual sites that surround the area that Greyson and his men will have had to pass through. In theory, if we can destroy the sites, then we might be able to restore communications."

"Clever bastard." Lord Brarthroroz chuckled darkly as everyone turned to look at him curiously.

"Do you know what we're dealing with?" Ann asked as he nodded somberly.

"If it's what I think it is, yes I do, but you aren't going to like the options for taking them down." He thought seriously for a moment, trying to think of a way in presenting the options for taking these sites down in a manner that wouldn't horrify them, but there was really no way to say it nicely.

"If it's what I think it is, then those sites are sacrificial altars, or monuments. The barrier is constructed with the energy ...souls if you will, of the people that were killed amongst those stones, or are held close by in a state between life and death, their consciousness hanging by a thread."

The mood turned sour almost instantly as the faces of everyone assembled darkened instantly. "Then how do we stop it? Can we tear the monuments down?"

"You can tear the monuments down, but that won't be enough by itself. You'll need to either destroy the souls that are used to create the barrier, or find the captives and choose to end their misery, or sever their connection and allow them to live."

"Well of course we'll let them live! Why would we choose anything else?!" Allen snapped.

“Because without their souls, there will be no humanity left in them. No emotions, no feeling. They will remain soulless husks that retain no memories or attachments to their previous lives. Honestly, it’s a fate worse than death.”

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Chapter 270 Torment Me Forever

“I’m sorry, just... wait a minute. Let me get this straight because it seems absolutely f*****g unbelievable. What you’re saying is, some poor bastard’s soul is being used to hold a magickal barrier that stops all communications within it?” Felix asked in disbelief.

“Pretty much, yes. It prevents all communication from inside of the barrier, with the outside. It can only be destroyed by the same signature of magic that it was constructed with, so any magick that doesn’t match with the caster’s variant of magick, simply won’t work.” Lord Brarthroroz answered.

“So how the hell are we going to take it down?” Allen murmured. “Lexi...” Ann breathed as Lord Brarthroroz’s eyes snapped to her.

“As much as I dislike the truth of your statement, I cannot deny that you are right.” he frowned.

“Why Lexi? Why does it have to be her and not you?” Allen interrupted fiercely, “She’s already unstable and we’ve seen how using her ... powers, abilities, magick whatever you want to call it, has affected her! What if this happens again and none of us are close enough to help her and she gets hurt?!”

“I understand your concern Allen, and to prevent that from happening, I will be with her.” Lord Brarthroroz answered calmly, fully aware that Alien’s protective instincts were going into overdrive with the help of his wolf.

“Why does she even have to be involved if you’re going anyway?! He’s your brother! Why can’t you deal with this!” Allen roared as Adam growled warningly for him not to continue.

“Because whether you like it or not, Allen, Lexi is a powerhouse who’s magickal signature matches both the ancient line of the gods, and the dark, twisted fury of the Daemons. She is a child of both worlds, Allen, and she stands the best chance of being able to penetrate this barrier.” Lord Brarthroroz answered him patiently, “Perhaps she will even find a way to sever the connection and return some part of their souls to any that are still living.”

Allen glowered fiercely, and the clenching and unclenching of his jaw was plain for everyone to see.

For all of them, this was just unfair. The casualties that the coven had left in their wake was already too high, and none of them wanted to see any of their loved ones hurt, but the positions that they held meant that they had to put the needs and safety of their people above their own wellbeing.

“Allen...you know that Lexi will want to help in any way that she can.” Ann said gently, knowing full well that Greyson was in there somewhere, and that would be a driving factor in Lexi’s decision making.

“I know, okay? She’s already set on going in and sorting it out herself, I just...I was hoping there would be another way.” Allen said finally with a sigh, “One that didn’t involve her putting herself at risk. We both know that she needs Greyson to help temper her abilities, and if anything has happened to him...” he trailed off, leaving it hanging in the air as each of them considered the devastating consequences should Lexi’s abilities collide without support.

“Allen, I’ll help in any way I can too...” Ann offered but Adam stood angrily and shouted over her.

“No, you will not. You will stay where it’s safe.” He growled as Ann glowered at him.

“Seriously Adam, I know I’m confined to the damn Enclave, but that doesn’t mean I can’t be useful here.” She snapped as Adam’s face seemed to soften a little, “I think something that you boys need to remember is that we have our own minds and we will make decisions for ourselves whether like it or not, and whether you agree with it or not. Lexi will do as she thinks is best, not as you tell her to do, however unwise you think her decisions might be.”

Lord Brarthroroz chuckled at the barely repressed frustration and anger that practically rolled out of both Adam and Allen.

“This is the only problem when you are mated to strong and influential women. You will either learn to accept

it and support them as they face the challenges headlong throughout their lives, or you will be left angry and frustrated at every turn. My suggestion to both of you is that you pay heed to a saying popular among the humans; Happy wife, happy life.” He grinned, “Neither Ann nor Lexi are your average females. Both of them are destined to rule, Ann over this kingdom as Alpha Queen, and one day, Lexi, over my realm as the Daemon Queen. For that, they will need the support of their mates, unconditionally. You cannot fight the threads of destiny, as much as you may want to.”

Allen looked for a moment as if he wanted to say something more, but a shout from the guards down the corridor stopped him in his tracks.

“Beta Allen! She’s awake!”

Without another word Allen turned and bolted down the corridor to their room, rushing past the guards and straight to her bedside.

Lexi didn’t look terrible, but she was definitely paler than normal and she seemed a little confused as she pushed herself up into a sitting position and looked around at the bedroom furniture.

“What... why am I here? I was in the cells wasn’t I?” she murmured as her eyes slowly came to rest on Allen’s concerned face.

“I’m right here Lexi.” He said reassuringly as she frowned at him.

“Well I can see that Allen, I’m not blind,” she answered in mild irritation, “What am I doing here?”

Allen’s shoulders seemed to sag slightly in relief. If she still had the energy to be snarky, then she obviously wasn’t too badly affected by using her abilities.

“You passed out in the cells after... well, after you put an end to Jasper.” Allen said as gently as he could.

Lexi snorted suddenly and smirked as she leaned back on the pillows.

“Oh good, I didn’t dream that then. I hope the bastard suffered as much as I think he did.” She spat as her eye flashed dangerously.

“He... well I’m still not sure what exactly you did to him Lexi, but whatever it was, it saved my life. So thank you.” Allen said quietly as he brought her hand to his lips and gently placed a kiss on top of her fingers.

She smiled softly at him, taking in every line of his handsome face and savoring every last detail of his features.

She wanted to tell him how terrified she had been in that moment that she was too late to save him, and how every part of her had screamed for the painful death and complete and utter annihilation of the man that had brought so much pain and suffering to those she loved fiercely... but she couldn’t.

“Do you really think I would let you go that easily, hmm?” She grinned instead, even though really, she wanted to sob with relief and fling her arms around him, to hold him tight against her and never let him go again.

“Evidently not,” Allen smirked gently, “It looks like I’m destined to have you torment me forever.”

“And don’t you ever forget it, Beta-boy.” She whispered as her soul sang with happiness.