

## The Alpha's Captive Matew by Taylor Caine Chapter 18

CHAPTER 18

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Melody had given me, however, she'd left on my Henley and layered it with a somewhat ugly, chunky knitted cardigan I'd never once seen Melody wear.

It occurred to me then, Melody had given me the worst clothes out of her closet for Harper to wear, which for some reason, pissed me off even more.

I pushed to my feet, ignoring the notion that I wanted to drive into Ellisville that day and buy Harper a whole new wardrobe of clothes that would be soft and beautiful on her.

She didn't need an entire wardrobe of clothes. [www.N@Ve1w0rm.c0m](http://www.N@Ve1w0rm.c0m)

She barely even deserved what Melody had provided. Harper could make do with whatever functional clothes could be scrounged up from various families around the ranch. It didn't

matter what she looked like or whether she was comfortable.

She was here to serve a purpose. That was all.

"Come on, your brothers want to meet you," I told her, motioning toward the door.

At that, she glanced up at me with wide eyes.

"Brothers?" she repeated in confusion.

I paused at the earnest confusion in her gaze, that also

maybe held the barest hint of hope, despite everything that'd happened to her.

Did she not know she had brothers?

Had her grandmother told her nothing about the wolf side of her family?

"Yes, Ian Crawford had three sons before-" I broke off, not

wanting to voice what'd happened after Ian had gone rogue. "They're your half-brothers, obviously. Didn't you know about

them?"

She shook her head, wrapping her arms around herself.

I couldn't help softening, just a little, at how young and

vulnerable she looked in that moment.

For a second, despite Harper being half-witch, I couldn't understand why the Crawfords hadn't gone searching for her. She was their sister, after all. And bloodlines were a vital part of pack life. No one ever questioned taking on pack members that were half-human, and if they didn't turn naturally on the first full moon after their sixteenth birthday, then the bite was

offered to them to become pure wolf.

The Crawfords could have brought Harper into their pack and overridden her witch nature if they'd wanted to, but instead they'd left her out in the cold, alone, vulnerable and forgotten

in the human world, and I found my respect for them dimming

a little more.

Except I knew down that line of thought were dangerous

waters.

I couldn't afford to feel sorry for her, so I ruthlessly shut down [www.n0Ve1W0@m.c0m](http://www.n0Ve1W0@m.c0m)

the notions.

"Come on, we don't want to keep them waiting." And I was

back to sounding like an angry a\*shole.

Harper dropped her gaze and hurried out of the room ahead

of me without another word.

With everything that'd happened to Harper last night, I knew I was going into this conversation with the Crawfords at a weaker position than I otherwise might have been.

Because one thing both the Crawfords and Hollands agreed on, it was that you didn't mistreat or neglect pack members. [www.nove1W0rm.c0m](http://www.nove1W0rm.c0m)

It was the worst sin an honorable Alpha could commit.

It was partly what'd made Ian going rogue so shocking; he'd turned on his own pack first before striking out at others.

As I followed Harper downstairs, I could only hope the Crawfords weren't brazen enough to demand restitution over

Harper's treatment, even if they hadn't officially claimed her

as blood or pack.

If they did, then the war between our packs would flame

anew.

Because I would not back down. [www.\(n\)@VeLw0R\(m\).c\(0\)m](http://www.(n)@VeLw0R(m).c(0)m)

For my pack, I would always fight to the bitter end.

Gifts

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