

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover by Caesar Erickson

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Stella saw Harper's wolf start showing, her claws coming out and her eyes shifting.

"Ms. Duke, I'm not sure that's a good idea. That's the Alpha's cousin..."

Harper growled low. "I don't care who she is. She has to answer for what she did to Taya."

Stella bit her lower lip worriedly. She had learned a little about Harper.

Like Taya, she was also an orphan. She had no power or background, even though she had a clear advantage over Taya since she had her wolf.

How could Harper defeat Shelly? She would probably be thrown out before stepping into the Leiners' house.

Of course, that was if she was lucky. She might lose

half of her life if she was unlucky enough to encounter Shelly.

Stella thought for a moment and tried to persuade

Harper. "Ms. Duke, Ms. Leiner is used to being cruel.

You are no match for her, and she has many pack

guards, being immediate family of the Alpha. If something happens to you, who will care for Ms.

Palmer?"

The doctor had a point, and Harper's wolf's rage dimmed a little at the prospect of Taya being left

completely alone.

"But how can I just let it go like this?"

"Oh, you can't just let it go."

Harper looked at Stella in surprise, not understanding what she meant.

There was a hint of indifference in Stella's beautiful eyes. "It's not enough to deal with people who rely on their power to do whatever they want. Not only will it

not hurt them, but it will also harm you. If you want to deal with them, you must plan slowly..."

Impulsiveness could not solve any problems. Only by strengthening oneself first can the person have the ability to take revenge.

Just like when dealing with Eric, she didn't feel it was

slow, even if she had to spend 10 years because she

had to escape unscathed if she wanted revenge.

Stella's indifferent look made Harper feel that she

seemed to have hidden a lot of hatred in her heart.

But Stella was already in a high position and so capable. Was there anyone she couldn't deal with or

take revenge for?

Stella patted Harper on the shoulder. "Taya was

injured because of me. Leave the matter of dealing with Ms. Leiner to me."

Harper and Taya had poor backgrounds, so they

shouldn't bear it.

Although Stella's family background was not much better than theirs, she now had some ability to

protect herself, so she was not afraid.

Harper still wanted to say something, but Stella interrupted her. "Your task is to take good care of

Taya."

After saying that, Stella gave Harper a gentle smile, telling her not to dwell on this matter for the time being and turning to look at Taya.

She was in so much pain that she broke out in a cold sweat, so Harper felt distressed and quickly took out a towel to wipe her sweat.

After cleaning up, Harper asked Stella nervously, "How is Taya's heart?"

Harper was worried that Taya's heart would be damaged as her body weakened.

Stella glanced at Harper and didn't know what to

say.

Without the patient's consent, she couldn't reveal any of Taya's medical issues to Harper.

In addition, Harper's face was full of worry, so Stella was afraid that she couldn't bear hearing the truth.

After pondering momentarily, Stella said, "I still need to run more tests, and I plan on doing those when she wakes up."

Stella's white lie temporarily appeased the worried Harper. "Thank you, Stella."

"I have some things to take care of, so I'll leave Taya with you for the time being. I'll be back in a bit to check on her."

Harper nodded. After Stella left, she tucked Taya in.

Then she sat in front of the hospital bed and held Taya's hand. Her eyes were full of pity as she stared at her pale face.

"I don't know what I'll do if I lose you..."

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Taya seemed to have heard someone whispering in her ear.

It sounded hazy. She wanted to know what they were

saying, but everything felt so far away.

After a while, the voice in her ear gradually became clearer...

“Taya, you’ve been in a coma for three days. When will you wake up?”

This time, she heard it clearly. It was Harper’s voice.

When she opened her eyes, she found that her vision was blurred.

She could only vaguely see Harper’s outline but not her facial features.

She wanted to touch her friend’s cheek but was too

weak to raise her hand.

Only then did she realize what kind of situation she was in. She probably wouldn’t live for long...

“Harper!”

When Harper heard Taya’s weak voice, she quickly

put down the towel and grabbed her hand.

“Taya! You’re finally awake! How do you feel?!”

Taya shook her head gently and couldn’t say anything else. She could only hold onto Harper’s

hand.

Taya’s silent action made Harper’s frightened heart slowly calm down.

Harper had been terrified that Taya would never
wake up.

Harper raised her red and swollen eyes and stared at Taya's face. "What's wrong with you?"

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Taya's slender and straight legs had become very swollen over the past three days.

Harper had asked Stella for a reason, but she was unwilling to tell her, so she had to search online.

It said it was a terminal heart failure symptom, but Harper refused to believe it. She wanted to hear it from Taya herself.

Hearing her question, Taya knew that Harper had already guessed it.

She wanted to find the right time to tell Harper, but things didn't go as she'd planned, thanks to Griffon.

When she thought of him, she felt pain all over her
body.

Taya never expected he would hit her the way he did.

That slap directly took away her last bit of good time with Harper.

At this point, it was useless for her to hide it anymore.

She looked toward Harper in a daze.

"Harper, I'll be your sister in the next life, okay..."

As soon as she said that, Harper burst into tears.

“What nonsense are you talking about? If you want to be my sister, do it this life. What afterlife?”

“Harper, I... have advanced heart failure. I don't have much time left...”

It took her a lot of effort to squeeze her palm as if she wanted to comfort her.

However, Harper was on the verge of collapse. Hot tears fell on the back of her hand, and she couldn't bear to speak again.

Harper choked with sobs and coughed again and again. Taya wanted to help her massage her back,

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but she had no strength and could only look at her.

“Harper ... don't cry. How can I leave with peace of mind when you are like this...”

“Then don't go!”

Harper grabbed her hand and said stubbornly, “I'll go find Stella. Her medical skills are so excellent that

she will definitely save you!”

Taya gently touched her palm with her thumb and said, “There's nothing Stella can do about it. Let's not make things difficult for her, okay?”

Harper cried and shook her head. “No, there must be a way. We need to get you a new heart!”

Taya smiled and said, “Harper, it's too late... We always knew this day would come, that you would

outlive me.”

Harper stood up and started pacing and wringing

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After shouting, Harper covered her face and cried
her heart out.

Seeing her like this, Taya couldn't help but tear up.

She used all her strength to stretch out her hand to
hook Harper's clothes.

Harper couldn't accept it and stepped back... she
cried as she ran out of the ward.

Looking at Harper's back as she ran away, Taya burst
into tears.

Harper ran out of the VIP ward in one breath and couldn't help stopping at the door of
the ward where

Damian's sister was.

supposed to happen when you were mated.

She walked to the ward door crying but didn't see

Damien and his sister. Instead, a burst of moaning
came from the room near her...

She subconsciously wanted to avoid it, but the man's stern voice stopped her instantly.

She turned around and walked step by step towards the ward next door.

The door was locked, and the curtains were drawn but not closed. There was a gap that could be seen through.

Two naked bodies were stacked upon each other...

Because the woman was pregnant and it was inconvenient, the woman sat on the man's lap and moved against him.

When Harper saw this, she felt nauseous and almost threw up.

Harper covered her mouth and stared at Damien and Michelle in disbelief...

She had once thought that a man from an ordinary and reliable pack would never betray her.

She didn't expect to be slapped in the face so quickly. They had been mated for less than a month, but the wolf she thought would not cheat on her had slept with his "sister"!

What a joke, what a joke...

Harper's faith collapsed in an instant, and so did her spirit.

She staggered and ran out of the hospital.

Taya was going to die . Damien cheated on her...

What about her? What should she do?

Harper couldn't see the road under her feet clearly and only focused on running forward.

She didn't know how long she had run or where she had run to. She didn't stop until she bumped into

She was like a walking corpse, not displaying any reaction, only staring blankly, taking a detour.

Preston grabbed her arm and threw her into the car.

"You want to leave after bumping into someone?!"

Preston had always been a gentleman and considerate to women. He would never lose his temper like this.

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But he'd been having an awful day. He'd managed to dislocate his wrist while he was playing golf and tripped.

He didn't want to bother the pack doctor because he was close to the hospital, so he decided to go there instead. Had it been a muscle strain or cut, he could have healed it on his own by shifting, but not with a dislocated bone. If he shifted while the bone was dislocated, he could do permanent damage.

As soon as he got out of the car at the hospital, a woman with tears streaming down her face ran right into him-and hit his injured wrist.

There was a loud crack, but the woman who bumped into him didn't notice it. She didn't even apologize and was about to just run off.

He might be cool and calm and collected on most days, ever trying to counteract Griffon's harshness, but he'd had enough today.

Harper didn't even raise her head when she heard

Preston's voice. Her unfocused eyes were fixed the

blurry horizon through her tears.

Seeing her like this, Preston realized something awful must have happened to her, and his wolf's anger

subsided a little.

However, this didn't mean he wasn't angry and would simply let it go. He was the Knight pack's Beta, dam mit. And someone from another pack wouldn't be let off the hook so easily.

"You've injured me, and you'll pay for my medical bills," he growled out.

Only then did Harper react. When she focused on him, he had already taken out his mobile phone, opened Venmo, and was holding the QR code up for

her.

Preston raised his chin, rattled off a number, and motioned for her to scan the code and pay the bill.

Harper knew she had just bumped into someone, but after suffering a double blow, she was in a trance

and forgot to apologize.

When she heard the man say that she had broken his arm, she came to her senses and looked at his drooping left wrist. It seemed to be quite severe.

She did not say anything else and obediently took her phone from her jeans pocket.

When she scanned the code and was about to input the amount, a doctor in a white coat came over.

“Beta Knight, the orthopedics doctor has arranged everything.”

Harper’s fingers paused, and she looked up at him indifferently. “Your surname is Knight? As in the Knight pack?”

“Yes.”

After nodding to the doctor, he looked at Harper

again and asked, “What’s wrong?”

Harper looked at Preston carefully. He had bright eyes and white teeth. He was tall and handsome,

somewhat similar to Griffon.

Her face darkened. Harper put away her phone. “I won’t give my money to anyone named Knight. I’d

rather flush it down the toilet.”

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Preston’s handsome face darkened. “Excuse me?”

Harper glared at him, turned around, and ran away without saying anything.

When Preston came to his senses, she had already

left.

His wolf rose to the surface, and he had to tamp it down so as to not start partially shifting and further damaging his wrist.

Preston stormed into the emergency room.

When she heard from the nurse that Taya had woken up, Stella immediately came to the VIP ward to check on Taya’s condition. When she found no sign of infection on the back of her head, Stella breathed a sigh of relief.

“We took care of your head wound, and it appears to

look okay. No signs of infection, but...” Stella paused for a moment and looked at Taya regretfully. “Your heart is getting worse. I’m afraid you won’t be able to

hold on for much longer.

Taya had long known about her physical condition, so she didn’t care. “How long... can I hold on?”

Stella put her hands into her pockets and stared at Taya’s pale face. “A week or so.”

If Taya hadn’t suffered such a severe injury, she could live another two months.

“Ms. Palmer, who injured your head?”

Griffon only sent a message to Stella telling her that Shelly, Tara, and he had taken action against Taya and asked Stella to save Taya as soon as possible.

But he didn't say who caused Taya's injuries.

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Stella guessed it might have been caused by a group fight, but she didn't believe Griffon would

participate. As Alpha, he had pack guards to take care of minor problems. He only made a show of force against other wolves.

There was a trace of loneliness in Taya's eyes. She lowered her long eyelashes to hide them.

Taya was silent and seemed unwilling to speak, so Stella did not mention it again. She turned around, picked up a paper bag, and handed it to Taya.

"This is what you left in the mall. A nurse brought it back for you."

Stella put the paper bag on the bedside table, then said softly, "Just rest. If you feel uncomfortable, ring the bell."

3/5 turned around and was about to leave, but Taya stopped her. "Stella..."

Stella turned around to look at her. "Yes?"

Frowning, Taya looked at the paper bag on the

bedside table and said, "There's a bottle of

perfume...for you."

Stella was taken aback. She followed Taya's line of sight and looked at the paper bag. Then, she looked back at her and asked, "You...went to the mall to buy me perfume?"

Taya nodded. "You gave me so much medicine. I want to thank you..."

The shock in Stella's eyes gradually turned into gratitude. Tears welled up in her eyes, and she was

at a loss.

Stella stood rooted to the spot for a few minutes before walking up to Taya again. She touched Taya's pale face.

"I'm so sorry. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't have met Shelly. It's all my fault."

with you..."

She had overestimated herself and wanted to punish

Shelly.

She should have known better than to offend a

she-wolf that she wasn't as strong as.

It was just another stupid decision in a long line of stupid decisions.

Like falling in love with someone she could never

have.

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Seeing the despair on Taya's face, Stella's heart ached. Stella could not help but bend down and hug her.

Stella hugged her gently and pulled Taya back from her thoughts. It took Taya a lot of effort to raise her hand and pat Stella on the back.

"Thank you for saving me. If it weren't for you, I'm afraid I wouldn't have had the chance to say goodbye to my sister..."

After Harper ran away, a nurse checked on Taya and told her that Dr. Cobb had rushed over to save her in time.

Although she didn't know why Stella had rushed over to save her, she would never forget her kindness.

There was no need to ask any more questions.

"Actually, Alpha Knight..."

Stella wanted to tell her that Griffon had asked her to save Taya. Still, before Stella could finish her words, Taya interrupted her. "Where is Harper?"

Two hours had pa*sed, but Harper had not come back yet. Taya was worried that something would happen to her.

Stella had only been paying attention to Taya and did not notice that Harper was not in the ward.

Stella looked around, then said, "I'll send someone to look for her."

Taya thanked her and looked at the paper bag on the bedside table. "Take that bottle of perfume."

Stella wanted to refuse, but it would be rude if she didn't accept it.

After taking away the perfume, Stella told Taya to rest. Then Stella turned around, walked out of the ward, and called several security guards to check the

Surveillance video showed Harper running out of the hospital and accidentally bumping into Preston Knight. There seemed to be some quarrel between them.

After a few words, Harper ran away from the hospital, outside of the surveillance video.

Stella pointed to Harper on the monitor.

"Find her. Now."

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After dealing with these things, Stella returned to Taya.

Seeing that Taya had fallen asleep and the nurse was taking care of her, a relieved Stella returned to her office.

Harper didn't know where she had gone. After running for a long time, she found an alley and sat in it all night.

When a security guard came over and asked if she was Harper Duke, she came to her senses. She looked at him and nodded blankly.

The guard breathed a sigh of relief. "Ms. Duke, you have to come back to the hospital. Dr. Cobb is looking for you everywhere."

Harper was stunned. She got up and followed the guards into the car.

Upon returning to the hospital, Harper met Damian, who was going through the discharge formalities on the first floor.

Damian was surprised when he saw Harper and asked why she was here. She didn't reply to him.

Being stared at by Harper's big eyes that could see through everything, Damian felt a little scared and

subconsciously looked away.

"Honey..." Damian called out uneasily and then asked

with a guilty conscience, "The doctor said my sister's

condition is unstable, so she'd better stay near the

hospital before the pup is born. Our house is quite

close to the hospital. Why don't you let her stay there

for a while?"

Harper wanted to spit on him, but she held back for

some reason.

There was something wrong with Harper, which was

that she lacked love since she was a child and could

be easily moved.

At the same time, one good thing about her was that

she could quickly scoff at those who had betrayed

her.

Harper glanced at Damian indifferently. There was

no love in her eyes at all, only disgust.

“Suit yourself.”

After saying that, Harper passed by Damian expressionlessly as if she didn't care about it at all.

Seeing Harper in a daze, Damian wanted to catch up with her and ask her why she was in the hospital, but his arm was held by Michelle.

“Did she agree to let me stay at your house?”

Damian nodded, his eyes still fixed on Harper's departing figure.

Michelle's face darkened, and she shook Damian's

arm hard. “Don't tell me you're interested in her. We

agreed that you would only use her as a tool to make money and get a nice house for our pup and me in the city...”

Damian came back to his senses and patted Michelle to comfort her. “Don't worry, I would never fall in love with a nightclub girl.

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Harper returned to the ward Taya was in and stood at the door but dared not go in.

It wasn't that she didn't want to face Taya, but that she couldn't face her departure.

Harper hugged her arms around her stomach tightly and slowly squatted against the wall as if the world had abandoned her. She looked extremely helpless.

As Stella was leading a group of residents for rounds, she saw Harper. She quickly asked the other doctors to move on to the next patient while she went forward to help Harper up.

“Harper, are you all right?”

Harper shook her head stiffly.

Stella looked at Harper’s swollen eyes and took a deep breath.

“Life and death are up to fate. No one can change it. What you can do now is to spend more time with Taya so as not to have any regrets in the future.”

Stella’s words woke Harper, and a trace of vitality returned to her dull eyes.

“How long... can she live?” Harper asked in a hoarse voice.

Stella answered honestly. “About a week...”

Harper’s body swayed, and she almost fainted.

Stella helped her. “You have to be strong for Taya.

Who else is going to be there for her?”

Harper nodded absent-mindedly. “Yes, I have to

hold on. I can't let Taya worry about me..." Harper muttered to herself as she struggled to walk into the ward, exhausted.

Through the glass window, Stella saw Harper sitting

in front of Taya's bed and caress her cheek.

The sunlight shone on the two girls, shining with a gentle golden light, which seemed to warm them.

Only then did Stella understand why Taya had saved money for Harper. After all, they depended on each

other for survival.

When she thought of how she had been alone all

these years and had never had anyone to rely on or to keep her company, Stella suddenly felt sad.

She looked down and turned to leave, leaving the

two with little time left.

Harper seemed to have calmed down. When Taya

woke up, there was a gentle smile on Harper's face.

"I'm here, Taya. I'm right here until the end."

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Hearing Harper's hoarse voice, Taya was relieved.

Frustrated, Taya touched Harper's clothes and
clenched them tightly.

"Harper, are Damian and his sister alright?"

Harper didn't expect that when Taya woke up, the first person Taya cared about was her.

It took Harper a lot of effort to calm down, and she
almost collapsed again.

Harper resisted the urge to cry and comforted Taya. "It's okay. They... have a good
relationship with each.

other."

This must be why Taya hadn't told her since she

found out she was in the late stage of heart failure. Taya was afraid that she would be
worried.

Just like now, she didn't want Taya to worry about her at the last moment, so she lied
out of kindness.

Frowning, Taya couldn't see the expression on Harper's face clearly, so she believed
her. "That's

good..."

After saying that, she touched her hand along Harper's clothes and frowned slightly
when she

found her hand cold.

“Harper, why are your hands so cold? Did you catch a cold outside?”

Taya grabbed Harper’s hand tightly and put it under her blanket without waiting for Harper’s reply.

“Let me warm you up. They won’t like it if you shift in here.”

Harper couldn’t help but feel a lump in her throat.

Tears rolled down her cheeks and fell on the back of Taya’s hand.

Taya wanted to wipe away Harper’s tears, but before she could do so, her wrist was grabbed by Harper.

“Taya, can’t you... see?”

Harper held Taya’s hand and stared into her eyes in shock.

This time, Taya didn’t hide anything. She nodded in relief and said, “It’s probably because of the heart failure...”

Some time ago, when she was dizzy, her vision would be blurred, but she didn’t expect that when she woke up this time, she couldn’t see anything.

Seeing Taya like this, Harper instantly burst into tears again. Harper threw herself on the bed, hugged Taya, and cried.

Taya didn't try to persuade Harper to stop crying. Instead, she hugged Harper back. While patting Harper on the back, Taya comforted her in a low voice, "I'm fine..."

It didn't matter if she couldn't see it or not. She could sleep forever after death. Might as well get used to it in advance.

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Harper cried for two hours as if all her tears had dried up before she stopped sobbing.

Taya mocked her with a smile. "I didn't expect you to be such a crybaby."

Harper was not in the mood to joke with her. "Does Stella know you can't see?"

Taya shook her head. "I don't want to bother her."

Hearing this, Harper felt very sad. She thought Taya probably felt that she would die soon, so she didn't care whether her eyes worked.

She stared at Taya's dull eyes, suppressed her emotions, and asked hoarsely, "Taya, when did your

heart start to fail?”

Harper had checked and found that heart failure

would take a long time to reach the late stage. Taya

had to have known about this for a long time.

Taya’s heart had declined before she was injured by the Knight family, which meant that Taya had experienced something that led to her entering the terminal stage.

Taya struggled to stand up and said softly to Harper, “Do you remember the two kicks that Jackson gave me five years ago?”

Harper suddenly realized something. “Did those two feet cause your heart failure?”

Taya nodded. “My new heart was broken by him.

At that time, the doctor told me I would have heart failure, that maybe I could hold on for a few years. Later, maybe I didn’t take care of myself well enough, and my heart failure became more serious...”

Feeling that Harper was clenching her hand tightly, Taya patted the back of her hand and motioned for

her to relax.

“I’ve been under treatment for some time. I wanted

to tell you so many times, but I was terrified you’d let your wolf do something reckless.”