

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover by Caesar Erickson

Chapter 321

Chapter 321

Taya had answered his call. She wasn't dead. Andre and Stella were lying to him, playing their parts in her game to punish him.

And they would pay dearly for taking part in this whole scheme Taya had gone through so much effort to concoct.

Once his irrational fear was cased, he schooled his voice to remove any unnecessary emotion in it. He was a freaking Alpha, after all.

"Taya," he said, somewhat gruffly despite his best efforts to sound composed.

Hearing the voice on the other end of the phone, Harper heaved a deep sigh in her heart.

She hadn't wanted to answer it, but...

There was a folded piece of paper in the drawer where she had found Taya's letter to her.

This one was to Griffon. It didn't say much, but it told Harper everything she needed to know what Taya had been thinking and how she felt.

Now, she felt it was her duty to answer the phone and speak to Griffon herself.

After taking a deep breath, Harper managed to speak the awful words out loud. "Taya is gone."

Griffon had been waiting for Taya's reply but didn't hear her voice. Instead, it was an unfamiliar female voice.

Ignoring the sentence, "Taya is gone," he said in a deep voice, "Tell her to come to the phone and speak with me. Enough of this nonsense."

"She's dead. She can't come to the phone."

This was the third time today that he had been told Taya was dead. How hateful.

He tightened his grip on his phone. "Who the hell is this?"

"This is Taya's sister, Harper Duke."

He knew of Harper and who she was to Taya, but he still did not believe what she said. If anyone was going to help Taya punish him and play along with it, it would be her.

"Ms. Duke, you can tell Taya that I'll just continue to call until she answers. I'm not going to give up until she stops with this rubbish."

Chapter 322

Harper was so angry that she laughed.

"You think she's playing a trick on you? Are you out of your mind? Have you forgotten how you, your mate-to-be, and your cousin beat her? She was in the late stages of heart failure, and you inflicted a massive head wound on her. Did you think she would survive that?"

Harper almost roared and shifted into her wolf, the rage and grief and disbelief was flowing through her so much. In the end, all she could do was choke down her sobs.

When she thought of how Taya had been beaten up before she left the world, she couldn't handle the despair she felt.

The angry and resentful cries on the other end of the line made Griffon's chest tighten uncomfortably.

He wanted to control his emotions and his body's reactions to them, but right now it was not as easy as it usually was.

The more he tried to control his heart and body's responses, the more flustered he became. He tried to ignore the panic that was spreading, but his wolf seemed unable to regulate anything right

now.

Clenching his phone, Griffon ground out, "What ma*sive head wound?"

"When Stella arrived at the hospital after you beat her, she had a head wound from hitting the corner of something when she fell. Her health drastically deteriorated after that, and it's all your doing. How dare you play dumb here? If it weren't for you, she would still be alive."

After that, Harper hung up the phone and blocked him.

He looked at the black screen in silence for a few minutes.

Griffon stood before the floor-to-ceiling window, his body starting to shake as his wolf struggled to force his body to shift into his animal form. Griffon was unable to support himself, and he began to go limp as the change took over him.

Griffon held on to the gla*s with one hand to steady himself, trying to hold his wolf back so he wouldn't give into his primal instincts in this moment, but all he could think of was the scene of Taya lying on the ground in the bathroom at the mall.

Thinking of her lying alone in the bathroom in despair, he couldn't help but feel...too much.

The sense of guilt that swiftly invaded his heart wrapped tightly around him, making it hard for him to breathe.

It was impossible. Griffon had read Taya's examination report. Except for a heart attack, there was nothing wrong with her. How could she suddenly have heart failure?

Chapter 323

No, you didn't suddenly get heart failure.

Everything still pointed to a scheme.

Taya had lied to Griffon several times before, so this type of treachery wasn't beyond the scope of her character.

He tried to comfort himself by telling himself this, but the uneasiness wouldn't go away, and he could make himself fully believe in the story he was trying to spin in his head.

He put down his phone, walked to the door, and opened it.

Andre was worried about his Alpha, so he hadn't left, had stayed outside the door.

When he saw how Griffon looked when he opened the door, he couldn't help but gasp.

"Alpha Knight, what's wrong?"

Griffon narrowed his blood-red eyes and ordered, "Call Stella."

He wanted to ask her what was happening, but he couldn't bring himself to make the call. It was as if somewhere, deep inside, he knew what she was going to say. His wolf's intuition was rarely wrong, and there was definitely a reason why his wolf was so upset.

Andre quickly took out his phone and called Stella on speaker. She picked up after only one ring.

"Andre. Have you told Griffon?"

Without waiting for Andre to reply, Griffon said, "The medical report you gave me regarding Taya. There was nothing on there other than a minor heart attack. Why would she suddenly have congestive heart failure?"

Stella began to panic a bit. She wasn't prepared for Griffon's line of questioning. "At that time, Taya did not give me permission to release her medical records to you, or the results of my tests. You were insistent, but I cannot break privacy laws, so I made a fake report for you—"

Griffon flew into a rage.

"I am your Alpha! My wishes and commands supersede all others! Especially those of a human," he roared. "Human laws do NOT take precedence over pack law when it comes to these

issues."

It was the first time that Stella had heard Griffon so angry. She lowered her voice and said calmly, "I was going to go against the patient's wishes, but when I asked if you cared about Ms. Palmer, you said..."

Stella paused and admitted her mistake, addressing him formally now. "Alpha Knight, I'm sorry. I made the wrong decision."

A deep sense of powerlessness hit him.

"Stella, I expect that others don't know the real me and how I feel, but you? Couldn't you see my true feelings?"

The mere fact that he'd had his pack doctor work on a HUMAN should have said it all.

How could he show that he cared?

Was he supposed to go around voicing his emotions? No. That absolutely wouldn't do for an Alpha.

And it absolutely wouldn't do for him.

When he loved someone, they were used against him as leverage.

He'd showed love openly to someone once, but they tortured her to death...

Now, he hid his true feelings so well that even the people closest to him couldn't figure out his thoughts. How could he blame

them?

He could only blame himself for this prison he was in, had always been in...

He clenched his jaw and hung up the phone, turning his gaze on Andre.

"Prepare the plane."

He needed to return home immediately and see Taya with his

own eyes. Otherwise, he would never believe that she had pa*sed

away.

Chapter 324

Jackson picked a cemetery that overlooked Arcadia.

He stood with Harper, both staring silently at the gravestone that had been erected. A photo of Taya had been set into the granite, and Jackson squatted down to run a thumb over her face lovingly.

After a long time, Jackson stood and said, "I'm going return to Wolverly Capital tomorrow.

Harper nodded.

When they turned around and were about to leave, a small private jet rumbled and stopped on the lawn not far away...

After the private jet stopped, Griffon got off, dressed in a black suit.

His face was pale, and his eyes were bloodshot. He walked swiftly towards them.

At the same time, multiple cars pulled up and stopped at the cemetery gate. The car doors opened, and Knight pack guards in black uniforms poured out of the cars.

Griffon stopped in front of Jackson and Harper, his fists clenched tightly at his sides.

“Where is she?” he snarled.

This was the second time Harper had seen him. The first time was when he came to pick Taya up in person.

At that time, he was sitting in the car and did not get out, so Harper could only see his profile.

At that time, she thought he was good-looking, but couldn't make out much more than that and didn't see what the big deal was surrounding him.

Now, standing face to face with him, Harper was more than a little intimidated.

She could see why this wolf was one of the most powerful wolves in the world.

Sure, he was attractive. But he was also massive, built like a towering mountain with a barrel chest, broad shoulders, and huge arms. His size was daunting, as well as the powerful aura that surrounded him.

Imposing was an understatement.

Jackson, however, didn't feel the same intimidation Harper did. He looked at Griffon, his face twisting into a mocking sneer.

"You want to see her?" Jackson pointed to the grave behind him. "Right there."

Griffon looked in the direction of Jackson's finger. When Griffon

saw the photo on the tombstone, his face turned pale.

"Impossible!"

Griffon turned his head and ordered Andre, "Open the grave!"

Chapter 325

He didn't believe that Taya was lying inside. He had to expose their lies!

Andre waved her hand at the pack guards, who immediately moved forward, shovels in hand.

Harper rushed to stop them while Jackson grabbed Griffon by the collar of his white dress shirt.

"What are you trying to do? She's dead!"

Griffon growled and started to shift into his lycan form, reaching up to grab Jackson's wrist with a clawed hand.

He dug his fingers into Jackson's skin and suppressed his own pain.

“Why are you hiding her from me?”

Jackson snorted and looked at Griffon as if he were looking at a lunatic. “The mighty Alpha Knight.” He snorted again. “You’re so pitiful. You don’t even have the balls to face her death.”

Griffon shoved Jackson away.

He pointed to the fresh dirt and snapped his fingers at his men.

The man was completely irrational.

Everything that Harper had been feeling rose to the surface and poured out of her in a rush. She ran forward, placed her palms on Griffon’s chest, and shoved him as hard as she could.

“This is all your fault!” she yelled. “You’re the one who caused her to die, and now you’re putting us through this because you won’t believe she’s gone! She called you the day she pa*sed away, but you didn’t answer. That’s on you! Why can’t you just leave us alone?!”

Seeing that this woman dared to put hands on his Alpha, Andre stepped forward to restrain her, but Griffon stopped him.

He stared at Harper. “Ms. Duke, I would just want to ensure if the person inside is her...”

Harper gaped at him. He truly was crazy. How many people had to tell him that Taya was dead for him to finally believe it?

Jackson looked like he had just heard the funniest joke in the world.

“What’s lying inside is just a handful of ashes, so if you think that’ll help, go right ahead.”

Jackson and Griffon stood there, glaring at each other, chests heaving. The air was thick with the pheromones each of the Alphas was putting off, and everyone there wasn't sure what to do other than to stand back and let the two of them sort through

No one wanted to get between two angry Alphas, that was for sure.

What Griffon didn't know was that Jackson had had a mating ceremony performed at the end. Griffon had zero rights to anything regarding Taya, but right now, he didn't feel like that was the man's business.

Chapter 326

Jackson's words made Griffon clench his fists so tightly that his claw dug into his palms.

It was as if an electric current had struck him, causing his entire body to ache.

But even if it hurt so much, he didn't believe Taya was dead.

How could she die before he could say goodbye to her? After everything, wouldn't she have wanted to see him one last time?

He shook his head, then narrowed his eyes at Harper. "No, if she died, you wouldn't have cremated her so quickly..."

Harper looked at him indifferently and suddenly felt sorry for him. How could he be this far in denial?

After a moment, Harper said flatly, "Taya asked to be cremated after she tried and tried to call you and you had Tara answer the phone instead."

Griffon froze.

Seeing his pale face, Harper thought he was ridiculous. "I'm still not sure why you're so upset about this. She was your mistress, your substitute lover for the woman you always wanted to mate. This is disrespectful to your future Luna."

Griffon blinked. "I've never regarded Taya as a substitute..."

Harper snorted. "Okay. She wasn't a substitute...she just happened to have a similar name and look just like Tara. Sure."

Darkness enveloped Griffon, and he fell into silence. He hadn't thought of it that way, and suddenly, his view of everything shifted and he saw things from Taya's perspective.

After a long time, he opened his mouth and did not make a sound. When he opened his mouth again, he said, "When... when did her heart fail?"

"You've been sleeping with her for five years but didn't even know. How would I know?"

Harper thought momentarily, then added, "I know she's had it since before she signed the contract with you."

Anything she could do to twist the knife in a bit deeper, she was going to take the opportunity to do so.

Griffon's body stiffened.

How had he not noticed something so monumental?

No, he had discovered it once...

He remembered that night when he couldn't bear to leave and fell asleep with her in his arms; he heard her call out Silas's name in her sleep.

He'd been so angry that he pushed her away. Perhaps it was because he pushed her too hard that she choked and woke up, and then her breathing became rapid.

She reached out to him with difficulty and asked him to take her to the hospital...

But he was angry and didn't know she had heart issues, so he didn't. He even deliberately humiliated her with money to vent his anger.

Harper continued. "Stella said that if she hadn't been beaten, she should have been able to live for another two months with

the help of medicine, but you killed her. In that two months, we might have been able to find a heart for her."

He slowly lowered his head and looked at his right hand...

This hand slapped her and caused her to fall and hit her head.

It was he who had killed her...

His heart ached when he thought of how helpless and desperate she was under her peaceful and beautiful smile. She cared for and hid her weak heart, accompanied him for five years without complaint or regret, but what had he done?

Chapter 327

Harper pulled a letter from her pocket and thrust it at Griffon.

"If Taya hadn't left you this, I would never have told you anything."

After stuffing the letter into his hand, Harper walked away from the gravesite.

Griffon stared blankly at the paper, then unfolded it.

[Today, Griffon said, "Don't think I'll love you." It turns out that he really doesn't love me.]

Regret filled him.

He remembered that night. He had said such harsh words because he had been angry and didn't want her to leave with Silas, but when he was about to ask her to stay, he suddenly changed his mind.

If only he had known...

He would have let go of his pathetic and ridiculous Alpha ego and told her...

The truth was, he had fallen in love with Taya the moment he saw her.

It was not quite midnight, and it was raining heavily.

He was covered in blood and sat under the shade of a tree near Arcadia University, waiting for Preston.

Taya had probably come to the school to look for someone; she didn't look old enough to be in college. When she saw Griffon was injured, she kindly gave him a bottle of water and asked if he needed help to get to the hospital.

His response was to turn his back on her. She had put down the water behind him and hurried into one of the buildings.

Later, when they met again, it was the night she was selling herself. He passed by the nightclub door and saw her kneeling on the ground.

Her entire body was drenched, and her eyes were swollen from crying and filled with despair. Seeing her like this, Griffon couldn't help but walk over and hold his hand out to her.

From the moment he was inside her, he was addicted to her. He wanted her crazily and was afraid she would walk away, so he shamelessly forced her to sign a lovers' agreement to tie her to him. Perhaps he could make her fall in love with him, perhaps someone would see through the shield of armor he had to wear as an Alpha...

But when he heard her crying and calling out to Silas in her sleep, it wrecked him.

Later, when Tara returned to the country, he had no choice but

Chapter 327

to terminate the relationship agreement with Taya.

Griffon thought that he could let her go and forget about her, but he didn't expect that he couldn't let her go at all.

Instead, he had used Tara to test her many times.

He was even crazy enough to approach her as Greyson.

He didn't understand why he would do such a thing.

It wasn't until Jackson appeared that he could no longer suppress the feelings in his heart.

He couldn't help looking for her and testing her.

All he wanted to know was if she had ever fallen in love with him

in the past five years.

If she had, he would get rid of everyone in his pack who stood in their way. He didn't care if she was a human with no wolf—he would have ripped everything apart for her, gone against every pack law.

No, he didn't expect her to love him as much as she loved Silas. It was enough for her to fall in love with him just a little bit.

But the only answer she ever gave was that she would never love him...

Only then did he realize that he was obsessed with her.

But his ridiculous Alpha ego and loyalty to pack laws and traditions prevented him from expressing his love.

And now, she'd died thinking that he hated her.

Chapter 328

He clenched the letter and looked out at the horizon.

As the light of life faded away, he followed the afterglow into the night.

At the moment when the sky wholly darkened, the whole world was quiet.

He stood in the darkness by Taya's gravestone, searching for any light.

But he had pushed the light away a long time ago...

Jackson watched quietly from the side, something inside of him—and his wolf's intuition-telling him to let things unfold naturally right now.

He'd been right all along-Griffon had feelings for Taya, but he had never shown them.

Jackson looked at the letter in Griffon's hand. He couldn't help stepping forward and grabbing it.

When he saw it was from Taya, something that she'd written specifically for Griffon before she died, he pretended to be calm, but inside...inside he was dying of a broken heart.

It turned out that Taya had really fallen in love with Griffon.

Even though the last thing she had done in this life was to mate Jackson, she had loved Griffon.

Taya had left something behind for Griffon but not for him.

Griffon snarled at Jackson and snatched the letter back. It was

all he had left of her.

Both Alphas stood by the gravestone, hackles raised, claws and fangs out, growling low at each other.

It was as if they were both stuck somehow, frozen in place with grief and by their animosity toward the other.

Andre and the pack guards stayed back, not wanting to get in the middle of whatever was happening. It was best to let Alphas sort things out on their own.

Surprisingly, Griffon was the first to back down. He knelt on one knee in front of the grave and raised his hand to gently touch her photo. The more he looked at her, the more he missed her. His longing for her was deep in his bones, as if it were a living, breathing entity inside of him as much as his wolf was.

“I’m sorry...” he whispered to her picture.

He had been afraid his family would discover Taya’s existence, that she would end up like Cici. Once Shelly had become involved, threatening to involve her mother...he’d felt he had no choice but to turn his back on Taya and slap her.

It was funny how these things worked...he was the most powerful Alpha in Arcadia and beyond, yet when it came to his mother and his family, he was utterly useless. Those familial bonds and the way your family could hurt you, ruin your life, was no match for his Alpha strength.

And it didn’t help that since his mother had given birth to him, she was practically immune to any of Griffon’s strength or power. His “Alpha-ness” was nothing in the face of the woman who’d given him life.

So he’d hurt Taya in the name of “protection.”

They were right. People like him had no right to fall in love.

He deserved to suffer all the pain of losing everything.

Chapter 329

“Alpha, Madam is here. She’s waiting for you downstairs...”

Griffon opened the safe in his home office and put the letter from Taya inside. The bottom compartment of the safe also contained a beige scarf and a photo he’d taken of her.

On the day Griffon had terminated their contract, Taya had left the scarf behind.

He had asked Andre to call her and ask her to come and get it, but she told Andre to throw it away.

She was the most resolute, determined person he knew. Once she made up her mind about something, that was that. He knew that from the moment he ended things, she would never come back to him.

He reached out to touch the scarf. Her scent infused the fabric, and his wolf whined inside him as he closed his eyes and took in her smell.

“Alpha, Madam is coming upstairs. Please hide the photo...”

Frank urged Griffon with a panicked expression.

However, Griffon took his time and caressed the photo.

She was already dead, so there was nothing for him to worry

about anymore.

The sound of a wheelchair rolling on the ground come from the hallway as his mother got closer.

Every time the wheelchair made a noise, Frank was so frightened that he didn't even dare to breathe. He was terrified of Madam Knight.

The woman in the wheelchair was pushed in by a tall and strong man.

They were followed by a group of professional human bodyguards who used to be special troops for the military. Knight pack guards weren't good enough for Madam. She wanted to be protected by people loyal only to her and not to any pack.

Since they were human and didn't have the strength of a wolf shifter, they were armed with guns containing silver bullets.

When they came in, Griffon didn't bother to turn around and look at them and continued looking at the photo.

The face of the woman in the wheelchair darkened when she saw that he did not acknowledge her even though he knew that she was here.

"Give me the thing in his hand."

Griffon snorted.

He put the photo into the safe on the bottom shelf and took out a gun from the top shelf.

When the man pushing his mother walked behind him, Griffon flipped the safety off. Then, he turned around, raised the gun, and aimed it directly at the man's forehead.

Sure, he could shift, but they would expect that. And he knew how armed his mother's men were. A gun of his own would make more of a statement to them.

He was startled by Griffon's action, but he maintained his composure. "Griffon, is this how you treat your family, your uncle?"

“Uncle?” Griffon sneered. “Would an uncle hold his five-year-old nephew’s head underwater in the pool to drown him to death?”

Chapter 330

The man didn’t expect that Griffon would remember what had happened so long ago. He changed his face and defended himself. “I just wanted to teach you how to swim.”

The smile on Griffon’s face became more and more sarcastic. Instead of answering the man’s question, he put his finger on the trigger.

As he was about to fire the gun, Madam Knight ordered someone to throw a woman covered in blood in front of Griffon.

The moment Griffon met the eyes of the woman who was lying on the ground and dying, his eyes narrowed.

He lifted his cold gaze and looked at his mother. Her back was to the light, shrouding her face in darkness. She raised her chin at him.

“Will you let your uncle go, or will you bury him with your men? Choose one.”

Her voice was hoarse and unpleasant.

The woman lying on the ground couldn’t help shivering when she heard this voice, but she looked fearlessly at Griffon.

“Alpha Knight, don’t worry about me. Just do what you’ve always wanted to do...”

The corner of Stella’s mouth had split open due to the beating she’d been given. It was not enough to break her, though.

“Good puppy...”

The woman in the wheelchair played with the belt in her hand while looking at Stella with a mocking smile.

“What spell did he cast on you to make you so loyal? You even dare to pretend to be his woman. Don’t you know that since he was a child, the people he cares about will be destroyed by me...”

When she said the last sentence, her tone was light as if she was playing a game, as if everyone around her were her playthings.

This was the most sinister and terrifying woman Stella had ever seen. She didn’t have tenderness of motherhood at all, only cruelty.

When Griffon was younger and saw that his childhood friend was having a hard time, he’d asked someone to take care of Cici

a few times.

Then Madam Griffon heard and sent someone to torture Cici to death.

By the time he found out, Cici was already dying. She was lying in the bathroom and covered in blood, just like Taya had been...

The only difference was that Cici had been raped before she pa*sed away.