

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover

Chapter 51

I was a little reluctant to let Harper go, but I had to. Damian was Harper's future. Damian's pack and the family they would create together. Oh, how I wished I could be part of it, to see their pups, to be their auntie and play with them.

But that wasn't in the cards for me. I had no room being selfish about Harper when I wasn't even going to be here.

So I plastered on a smile and was as happy as I could be getting ready for the ceremony.

After the makeup artist finished doing our makeup, a photographer came to the house, took a ton of photos, and recorded a video of Damian coming to pick up Harper.

After barging into the room with the wolves who were going to stand beside him at the mating ceremony, Damian excitedly carried Harper outside.

I followed behind with a smile, holding Harper's dress as best I could so it wouldn't trail on the ground behind them.

The mating ceremony was at the hotel first, to be followed by a huge banquet.

One of the things I loved seeing was how clearly Damian placed great importance on Harper. It was evident by the glow on his face, the way he looked at her, the way he held her arm and

Chapter 51

wrapped his hand around her waist.

2/3

Part of me was jealous she had someone like him, but the bigger part of me was so happy he loved her so much, so relieved that she would have him to take care of her and help her through losing me.

Harper had no relatives; there was only me. And here at the ceremony, the only other person here as Harper's "family" was the orphanage's director.

Yet the hotel was full of guests, all of whom were relatives of Damian.

The main theme of the ceremony was romance under the starry sky. Twinkle lights were strung over the ceiling, creating a tapestry of stars above everyone.

It couldn't have been more perfect for a pair of wolf shifters.

Harper's white ceremony gown almost glittered under the faux night sky. She looked absolutely radiant from head to toe standing at one end of the stage. The starlights shone on her from a distance as if she were bright and dazzling in the Milky Way.

When she crossed the stage and placed her hand in Damian's, tears filled my eyes. From this moment on, Harper would start a new life, and I would no longer have any regrets about leaving her behind.

Chapter 51

3/3

Just as Damian was about to put the diamond ring on Harper's finger, a voice interrupted them.

"Why didn't you invite me to such a grand wedding?"

Chapter 52

More than a dozen Starke bodyguards in black with the Starke pack crest on their shirts pushed the door open and came in.

Roman put his hands in his pockets and swaggered in behind them.

The guests stilled, not daring to make a sound.

Harper and Damian were at a loss and stood rooted to their spots.

All the color drained from my face when I saw Roman.

I didn't think he would show up, and I never expected him to rush into a mating ceremony uninvited and unannounced.

I was terrified that Roman would ruin the ceremony, so I quickly got up and walked to him.

"Beta Starke!" I stopped Roman, who was walking towards the stage. "The contract has been signed. I'll give it to you tonight."

Roman looked me up and down, taking in my dress. It hugged my figure—thin as it was—and a spark of his wolf's desire instantly ignited in his gray-black eyes.

He wrapped one arm around my waist, pulled me up against his body almost roughly, and embraced me. His voice came out in a

Chapter 52

low growl. "If you signed it already, why didn't you bring it to me earlier?"

2/3

I held back my disgust at being pressed against his body. I had to tread carefully, and it didn't help that so many people were staring at me right now-the only human in the room.

"I had to ensure that the ceremony went smoothly. Otherwise, what if you took the contract then broke your promise and disturbed my best friend's mating ceremony?"

"You don't trust me?"

"Of course not," I replied. "Beta Starke, if you want the contract, you have to wait until tonight. The deal was today, not by a specific time today."

I kept my expression stern, trying to portray all of the toughness and determination I didn't feel. There was no negotiating this, and I needed him to know that.

Roman smiled, his look almost amused. Which surprised me, given that a mere human was challenging him in front of a roomful of shifters from another pack.

"How do I know you're not lying to me?" he asked.

I pulled out my phone, opened a document, and showed him a fake contract I'd made in advance.

"You can see it here. This contract was issued by the Knight Pack, and it's stamped with their official seal."

Chapter 52

3/3

My main work in the Midwest Packs Corporation was to receive business partners and manage the contracts. One of the reasons I'd been given a job like that was specifically because I WASN'T a wolf shifter. With no pack allegiance, they could trust me to be "more honest" with business dealings between different packs.

The Knight Pack was the largest pack and executed the most contracts within the Midwest Packs Corporation. Of course, I knew what their official seal looked like, and I was well-versed in what their contracts typically looked like. I'd simply created a copy of one of their boilerplates and asked someone to make a seal. Once it was in a PDF on my phone, you couldn't tell the difference between it and the real thing.

I scrolled through each page for Roman, one by one. When he was done, he seemed convinced, and gave me a satisfied smile.

Chapter 53

"Bring the contract to my villa tonight."

I knew what would happen at his villa. After getting the contract, he would force me to

sleep with him now that he had what he wanted.

Or at least THOUGHT he had what he wanted.

After he moved his hand away from my waist, I let out a sigh of relief.

1/3

I gritted my teeth and said, "I will send an address where we can meet later."

There was no way in hell I was going to his villa on pack lands. Once I entered, I would never be able to get out, and as a human, no one would come to help me.

I had a contract in hand now, and as far as Roman knew, it was real. If he wanted it, he had to follow my arrangements.

Roman frowned slightly and took a menacing step closer to me. "What kind of game are you playing?"

I shook my head. "No game." I shrugged, then added, "I just don't want to sleep with you. I want to be safe, and I won't be safe if I go onto your pack lands."

Chapter 53

2/3

I made sure I spoke loud enough in front of all the guests, which made Roman a little embarra*sed. After all, he was Beta Starke...with a human making demands of him.

How dare she.

Roman almost let his wolf's fury at being talked to that way over, but after considering his options, he decided to let it go.

take

It didn't matter where she wanted to meet-he would make her submit to him.

And as for what anyone here thought?

Meh. This wasn't a powerful pack family, and now that he had a deal with the Knight pack, once the news of him securing the Westen City project for the Starke pack, that's all that would matter.

Roman talked his wolf down from the ledge and curled his fingers into his palms to keep people from seeing his wolf rising. It wouldn't do for a Beta to seem as though he couldn't control himself.

He looked up and glanced at the newly mated wolves walking towards them, then smiled warmly. He lowered his voice to a whisper and threatened Taya, "You better bring the contract like a good little girl. Or my friends here will turn their dream mating

ritual this evening into a nightmare.”

Chapter 53

3/3

After that, he gently tapped the tip of Taya’s nose, pasting his “I’m not dangerous” smile on his face.

Taya swallowed and nodded obediently.

“Don’t worry, Beta Starke. I’ll be there.”

With her guarantee, Roman took his pack bodyguards and left.

Chapter 54

As soon as the doors to the ceremony hall were shut, the guests began to whisper amongst themselves and point fingers at me.

I didn’t take it to heart. I’m sure that whatever they were saying was probably right.

Instead, I turned to Harper and Damian, who were walking toward me.

“Who was that?” Harper looked at me, worry written all over her face. I’m sure her wolfie instincts told her that Roman wasn’t one of the “good guys”.

“The Beta of the Starke pack. He need to see me for an important contract. That’s all.” I patted her hand with a smile, trying to brush it off.

As if one could brush off someone barging into a wedding they weren’t invited to, where they didn’t know anyone there. And for a business contract, no less.

When I said this, I deliberately raised my voice just a slight bit.

There was a small microphone on Harper’s wedding dress, so that everyone would hear the mating vows.

The guests heard my explanation and started whispering again. Now, I could hear them.

They were saying things about how Harper’s friend was amazing, and how impressive I was to know Bela Starke, that Beta Starke thought I was so important and

V

Mal to his pack’s business that he came to me for something.

Damian’s pack lands were on the outskirts of Arcadia. They were small and insular in their dealings, and they didn’t work with or have relationships with the bigger packs, like Starke or Knight. But, of course, they all knew who the important Alphas, Betas, and packs were.

My explanation was enough to dispel everyone’s opinions for the time being. Once people knew it was Beta Starke, the powerful and rich shifter, it suddenly didn’t seem so

odd for him to burst into a mating ceremony the way he had.

Because he wouldn't care about something like that. He would only care about getting what he wanted, when he wanted it. That was the right of someone in his position, was how most wolf shifters viewed it.

However, I could tell that Harper still felt uneasy. She'd always felt uncomfortable with my being a human and working with contracts for large packs. If anything went wrong, I'd be the easy one to blame.

Harper pursed her lips, gave her new mate a worried look, and then shifted her gaze back to Taya.

Something was up. For sure.

If it was really like what Taya had said, and all Beta Starke wanted was a simple contract, why did he bring so many of is

Chapter 54

pack bodyguards here?

Plus, he was touching Taya's waist!

His actions looked anything but business-like. To most, it might have looked like Beta Starke was interested in Taya romantically, but to Harper, it looked like he was threatening

her.

3/3

The more Harper thought about it, the more worried she became. She took off the microphone on her wedding dress, held Taya's hand, and looked at her anxiously.

"If you're in danger, you have to tell me. No matter what, I'll help you."

Ever since they were young, Taya always seemed to attract bad people and relationships. And this man definitely seemed like he belonged in that category.

1Chapter 55

In the past, with Silas's protection, no one dared to approach me.

But now that he was gone, it was my responsibility to protect myself.

At Harper's words, my heart warmed, and tears welled up in my eyes.

I was afraid Harper would be even more worried if she saw my tears, so I quickly replied

with an “okay” and pushed her to continue the ceremony.

After exchanging rings and popping champagne at the reception, the mating ceremony was coming to an end. The rest of the mating ritual would be done tonight, under the full moon, with just Damian and Harper and their wolves.

I was relieved the day could end happily for Harper and Damjan, watching as they mingled with all their guests, smiles of mated bliss on their faces. Their faces had to hurt by now from smiling so big for so long.

Everything had gone off without a hitch-other than the earlier mishap. The next thing I needed to do was to deal with

Chapter 55

Roman...

2/3

I followed the car with Damian and Harper in it, sent them off to their new house, and then took a taxi home.

As I opened my closet, rustling through the rack for a hanger, a bank card fell out.

It was the card I'd given to Harper. She must have secretly put it in here, damn her.

I picked it up, shaking my head but still smiling a little.

Harper was such a kind and gracious person. She only knew how to give and never asked for anything in return. She didn't even want to take advantage of Damian.

He had paid the down payment for their new house, and she would pay for the renovation. Even if her name wasn't on the title since it was purchased before they mated-and only members of a pack could buy homes on pack land-Harper would still pay the loan with Damian without complaint or regret.

I had always thought of her as a generous older sister, always making people feel warm and fuzzy however she could.

I gripped the plastic card tightly, thinking about how, after tonight, I would be gone.

Chapter 55

3/3

If there was no word left for Harper, I worried she wouldn't be able to move on, to let go.

Chapter 56

It took two pieces of paper, front and back, to write down every single little thing I wanted to say.

1/3

After I finished writing, I put the bank card and my letter into an envelope, then wrote on the back "To Harper."

I took out another piece of paper, wanting to write something for Griffon. But I didn't know what to say. It was as though everything had frozen up inside of my brain, and everything I wanted to say turned into nothing.

In the end, I only wrote three words, alongside his name. I put down the pen, folded the letter, and put it in my desk drawer.

After I was gone, Harper would likely come to clean up my belongings. When that time came, she would find everything.

With this out of the way, I took a handful of medicine. Tonight's task was heavy, and I had to stabilize my body. Otherwise, all my efforts would be in vain.

Opening the locked desk drawer, I took out the small bottle of sleeping pills that I'd saved for this night. After putting the sleeping pills, the fake contract, and a dagger into my bag, I took out my phone and booked a hotel room.

Chapter 56

2/3

I went to the hotel to decorate it first and then texted Roman the address.

[Mr. Starke, Room 2088 of the Windmere Hotel. I'm waiting for you.]

I thought Roman would come straight over when he got my message, but strangely, he replied with a question mark.

[?]

I frowned. Didn't he agree to get the contract tonight?

Just as I was about to text again, my phone buzzed with another message.

[Wait for me.]

Dismissing my doubts, I put down the phone and took out the sleeping pills and a wineglass.

I clutched my dagger and carefully crushed the pills with the tip of the blade.
Last time, I had planned to fight Roman to the death, but I hadn't prepared enough. This time, I was ready for the big, bad wolf.

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover

Chapter 57

I didn't want to be played by Roman any longer, nor did I want to involve Harper.
Therefore, I had no other choice but to kill him.
I finished crushing the sleeping pills, picked up the bottle of wine I'd brought with me, filled the wineglass, and hid the dagger under a pillow on the bed.
Then I turned off the light and sat on the sofa, waiting for Roman to arrive.
Twenty minutes later, there was a knock on the door.
Despite putting on a calm, brave face, my hands trembled.
I was nervous and scared. But I had made it this far, there was no choice but to keep going through with my plan.
Putting down the bottle in my hand, I took a deep breath to attempt to compose my shaking hands and nerves. I walked to the door and slowly opened it.
The man at the door wore a gold-bronze mask, covering his whole face.

Chapter 57

As soon as I saw him, I knew something was wrong.
I tried to close the door, but he put his hand on it, his wolf strength too much for me to push back against.
He forced his way in, then turned off all the lights.
The room instantly fell into darkness. My night vision was no match for a wolf shifter's night vision; he had a clear advantage. I could only see his dark figure from the light outside the window.

2/3

My body shook uncontrollably. The man was not Roman!
Actually...based on his height and build, he looked a little like Griffon.
However, Griffon smelled faintly of pine, while this person had a strong, cedarwood smell.
My eyes adjusted to the darkness a little more, and I was able to make out a bit of his appearance.
Griffon had always been meticulous about his appearance, making sure his hair was flawlessly styled, only wearing the finest business suits as befitting of an Alpha of his power and stature.
This man had messy hair and wore a white shirt and brown pants, casual clothes that Griffon would never wear.

Chapter 57

Lastly, there was a tattoo of a ferocious dragon on his collarbone.

Griffon would never get a tattoo,

3/3

If it wasn't Roman or Griffon...who was this and what did they want from me?!

Chapter 58

My heart felt like it was going to jump right out of my chest, it was pounding so hard.

Why had this man shown up instead of Roman?

Why was he wearing a mask to cover his face?

**

Why did he turn off all the lights after coming in?

What did he want?

My mind was a mess, and I had no idea what to do.

Dealing with Roman was one thing. But this changed everything.

I gritted my teeth and tried to force my body into compliance

-I need to seem strong and sure of myself.

No matter who this was, I would find a way to deal with him. I

HAD to.

I released my tightly clenched fists and played dumb.

"Beta Starke," I said, "if you wanted to roleplay, you shouldn't

Chapter 58

have turned off the lights. It's too dark to see anything."

2/4

As I spoke, I picked up the glass on the table next to me and discreetly filled it with a little bit of the crushed sleeping pills. I poured wine into it, and then walked over to the man to hand

the glass to him.

"Why don't you have a drink to relax?"

"

I'd originally intended to give Roman the contract when he arrived. I expected only after he had the contract in hand would he be interested in having sex.

Then, I'd give him a drink to liven up the mood and relax. When the sleeping pills took effect, I would kill him with my dagger.

Finally, I would record a video to expose all of Roman's crimes

and show that I was forced to kill him to put an end to his evil.

As for myself? After I uploaded the video, I would slit her wrists, ending my own life.

The Starke pack and the police would assume our deaths were due to a lovers' quarrel. This way, they wouldn't involve Harper in my mess.

However, despite how carefully I'd planned, there was no way I could have foreseen a stranger coming in Roman's place.

Chapter 58

I couldn't kill this person.

I couldn't end up with two bodies on my hands.

3/4

The smaller amount of crushed pills I added to the wine I held out could make people temporarily lose consciousness, but it would not kill them.

Provided my calculations were correct and these amounts would work on wolf shifters like I thought it would. They metabolized everything so much more quickly.

I was going to drug this man, and then quickly book another room to send the address to Roman, leaving this guy here to sleep it off.

Otherwise, if I didn't meet with Roman tonight, he would send someone to Harper and Damian.

I held the glass up to the man, urging him to take it, but he didn't accept it.

He just stared at me with his otherworldly, shining wolf eyes, his mask hiding any expression on his face.

It was as if he could see through me, see all of my thoughts.

The aura emanating from him was comparable to Griffon-

Chapter 58

powerful and commanding.

4/4

He hadn't said a word since he came in. Just lowered his head and stared at me.

I would have thought he was a zombie if it weren't for seeing

his chest's slight rise and fall.

He was much larger than me, strong and tall-he reminded me of a mountain. This wasn't a shifter to be trifled with.

Despite how scared I was, my mind was racing with thoughts of how to deal with him.

Suddenly, he pressed me against the wall.

2

Chapter 59

"Do you like to roleplay?"

He spoke very low, as if deliberately hiding his voice. It was so low and rough, it was as if his wolf were speaking to me.

It was impossible to tell who he was. I had to find a way to take off his mask.

Plus, he wasn't buying my act. I was already in danger, so I switched tactics.

I mustered up all of the confidence and sternness I could.

"You're not Beta Starke. Who are you? Why won't you show your face?"

The man did not answer. Instead, he raised his hand-wearing a black glove-and touched my cheek softly. The leather was cool on my skin. "Answer my question first."

While he was touching my face, I quickly reached out to pull off his mask.

However, he reacted quicker and grabbed my wrist.

I still held the wine in my other hand. Unless I dropped the

Chapter 59

2/3

wine, which I didn't want to do because of the sleeping pills in it, I was trapped.

The man saw that I was still tightly gripping the wineglass, and his eyes narrowed.

He snatched it from my hand, held it under his nose, and sniffed.

I nervously sweated as I watched him, and my brain stopped working instantly.

This was a shifter. How could he NOT smell the drugs in there?

I held my breath and waited for his reaction.

But he said nothing and put the gla*s aside.

Perhaps the smell of the wine overpowered anything else? I prayed that was the case.

He then took out a white cotton rope and grabbed both my hands.

Frightened, I screamed, "B astard!"

I struggled and resisted desperately, but the wolf's hold was too strong.

Chapter 59

3/3

He tightened his grip on my wrists and tied them up with the rope.

Then, he pulled a piece of cloth from his pocket and covered my eyes.

Chapter 60

Blindfolded, I was completely surrounded by darkness.

I felt like I had fallen into an endless abyss, unable to escape no matter how hard I struggled.

•

If I'd thought Roman was terrifying...I was learning there was someone even more terrifying than him.

Nervous sweat drenched my body, and I couldn't keep my legs from trembling.

Tied, blindfolded... I was helpless.

The only thing I could do now was try to calm down, to figure out what to say for him to let me go.

"Sir." My voice was just as shaky as I felt. "Wh-What are you doing?"

The man did not answer. Instead, he picked me up.

I yelped as I was lifted and then was thrown onto the soft hotel bed.

I was positive he was going to rape me, but he didn't touch

Chapter 60

2/3

me. Instead, I felt the bed shift as he sat down beside me.

My dagger.

It was beneath the pillows.

If I could get just a little bit closer, I could use it to cut the ropes off my wrists.

Wiggling around under the pretense of getting away from him, I managed to push my body closer to where the dagger was. But just as my hands were about to touch the pillows, the man suddenly pressed down on top of me.

Then his rough voice was in my ear, so close I could feel the warmth of his breath.

“You asked Roman to come to this hotel, and you drugged the wine. What were you planning?”

I froze.

Why was he asking about something that had nothing to do with him?

Could Roman have seen through my plan and sent this man to sniff out my true intentions?

No, that was impossible.

Chapter 60

3/3

This wasn't Roman's style. If he had known I wanted to kill him, he would have sent someone to chop me up and feed me to his hogs.

“It's...it's just a kind of drug to get someone excited. Like an aphrodisiac.” I pretended to be calm and spoke quietly.