

## Prologue

We live in a world where power defines your fate. The more power you have, the safer you are. The more certainty there is that you'll live another day. This world, where we live in is taken over by Vampires. Specifically, the Royal Pure Bloods. They are vampires with unimaginable power. Heightened senses, super strength and speed. They're also deadly and ruthless. Not to mention they live on human blood to obtain maximum strength and power. Nothing stands in their way of getting what they want. They are the monsters in every horror story told to children. That being said, they rule the largest part of the world and over all other creatures except the Elves and the Giant Trolls. You see Elves are extremely proud creatures. They bow to no one. They stick together as one and they're strong, slick, immortal and they rather go to hell than bow to a Vampire. Plus they are a proud number of people. This is how they stay strong. So the Royals and the Elven king, had an agreement almost 3000 years ago and is practiced until today. If ever any one of the well-being of either of their Kingdom is threatened, the other would help. The Elves give away 12 humans to the Vampires every year.

The Giant trolls?

Well they don't actually give a damn about anything. They aren't smart or civilized to have a decent conversation with. They act like barbarians. They do what they do best. Try and conquer as much land as possible. Try. It was all ne until they came a little too close to the Fae Kingdom. Something you need to understand is that the Fae creatures are extremely important. They keep the balance of nature and they also help and make sure there are enough crops. (plants, vegetables and animals too) The Fae Kingdom also holds the source of white magic used to maintain balance to Mother Nature and all its creatures. So they must be protected. That's where the Elves come in. To defend the Fae Kingdom. The Trolls however, well they don't care. So they attack. And there you have it.

A war.

Faes and Elves against the Trolls.

Coming back to the Royals, they rule over the rest of the vampires, werewolves, fae creatures, pixies, trolls and lastly us humans.

Human.

A simple word for a simple being. We possess nothing extraordinary. No super strength, agility, vo-Doo talent stuff, or pixie dust. Hence, we are the ones they pick on. Little weaklings they'd call us. Sadly, there's no denying that. Those of us who live in the Vampiric Kingdom suffer the most. We are needed for our blood, slaves to the Royals oh and more blood. It's compulsory that we humans donate our blood at least once a month. If anyone refuses it's against the law, if it's against the law, it's against the Royals, if it's against them, you die in the worst way possible. Simple as that. I don't understand how one can make us slaves. We are already at the bottom of the food chain. Witches do live among us but they hold a higher position, we don't have many resources and we depend on others. So at the time, I couldn't imagine what a slave life was. Wasn't it already bad enough?

No.

They actually can make your life more miserable by making you a slave. They practically own us and in return we get security. Like they don't know it's them that is the real threat to us. Anyway, on the plus side, there's no murder, burglary, rape or any kind of a nuisance. At least we get to be only scared of the Vampires, the Royals. Then there's the Great Annual Sacrifice. Every year 12 humans from the Elf and Fae territory must be handed over to the Vampiric Kingdom. Just like that. No buts. To be used as pleased. Either they make you join the army or just to increase the population over here.

Why are the werewolves not bothered? Because they're already required to serve in the army as it is their responsibility. Seeing as they are the second strongest creature and under the Royals Pure Blood's rule, the Royals make full use of them. The army in the Vampiric Kingdom is practically half Vampires and half Werewolves.

However, humans who live in the Werewolf, Elven or Fae territory have a much better chance of surviving and living happy. They still have their own responsibilities like helping out by becoming a pack warrior to maintain a strong army. Also, a werewolf can have a human bear his pups if one does not have a mate. In the Fae Kingdom, humans help the fae creatures with fresh crops and finding new ways to multiply the crops and taking care of the plants and animals. Even if some of them have to be handed over once a year, it's not until you're 18. So yes. They're much much happier with a better life.

Why can't the humans just leave if they want a better life? Excellent question!

Simple answer. We humans can't. Once you step in the Vampiric Kingdom whether you want to go there or you're just passing through or whether you just wandered through into the Kingdom,

You. Can't. Step. Out.

You are stuck there till the day you die. And you know what? They don't tell you! Nobody warns anyone! It's against the law they say. Well that's how it is. Too bad.

And I haven't even mentioned the biggest problem of all yet. Or rather who the problem is.

Him.

Darkness itself.

The Prince of Darkness they call him.

## Chapter 1

1705 Words

"Remember Eve. The dough has to be perfect. It's gonna be our food for the next two weeks." Alex reminded me. "Aye aye Captain." I salute him which he responds by ruing up my hair like a child. He always does that. Treat me like a child. As if I was a fragile little thing.

I've known Alex my whole life. Whole life meaning after the age of seven. That's one thing about me. I seem to have no memory before the age of seven. I don't know where I came from. I don't even know what happened to my real family or if I ever had any. Alex is now my whole world. Whenever I asked him about myself. He'd just tell me the same story. The vampires took his parents as slaves thirteen years ago and that they're probably dead. He was alone for two years until he found me lying near the stream we always went to. He was only eleven at the time. He said that I was bruised up and had a big gash on my head. He said he had no heart to just leave me there. He thought about it but just couldn't seem to do it. So he brought me to his house and nursed me back to health. When he asked me about my family and home. It seems I couldn't answer him. So he just let me stay and now here we are.

Honestly, though, I was never really satisfied with his answer. He didn't have much himself. Why burden himself by taking in another person? He literally had to double his resources just got to keep us alive. Well, maybe he was just young and didn't care. Whenever I tried digging deeper he'd feel uncomfortable and I'd take that as my queue to stop asking. Maybe he thought I'd leave him.

Whatever the reason was, he still saved my life and I'm forever indebted to him. I love him like the brother I never had and I'd do anything to make him happy. Anything. He always filled the emptiness in me and protected me from any harm.

"Yo! You done? I'm going to the stream to cool off. Wanna come?" he asks. "Yes of course I want to. Just give me ve minutes." With that, I grabbed my favourite blue cloak which is very dear to me and I never go anywhere without it.

When we started walking across the market square, it was still kind of crowded with people bustling around, buying whatever they could with what little they had. Just to survive. We weren't even halfway through when I felt a heavy hand on my shoulder "Where are you off to sunshine?" one of the castle guards sneered at me. The kingdom is always full of them. They're always making sure there's order and not any one of the rules are broken. "Just the market. To get some carrots. And she's with me". Alex said coming in the middle. I noticed his hands were steady. He was controlling his anger. Alex always gets ticked off whenever someone touched me. "Oooohh look who's here to save you sunshine. Again," he then looked straight at Alex "I wasn't asking you boy!! Now move it!!!" the knight shouted. A few heads immediately turned our direction. Geez, what's his problem?

Whatever it was, I couldn't let this get out of hand. I knew what Alex wanted to do. "Please good Sir, we were only going to the market to get some vegetables that's all. My friend here is not well so he's a bit cranky. I apologize for his behavior," I said with a light bow. This seemed to please the stupid Knight.

"See now that wasn't so bad now was it? Back before six," he barked out then turned to Alex "You should take some speech classes from her every now and then," he turned to leave.

"And you can take wisdom classes to decrease the level of your stupidity," Alex mumbled under his breath. The knight stopped and before he could turn back, Alex grabs my hand and sprinted towards the crowd.

The stream which Alex and I go to is in the forest. Not too deep and not to upfront. But no one really knows it's there. It's Alex's favorite place to go and eyes to relax. I positioned myself under my favorite tree and closed my eyes to relax. I then heard ruing of clothes. Alex always goes for a swim to cool off. I just remained seated there enjoying the sounds of birds chirping and the faraway waterfall. As long as I can remember, I've always felt connected to the trees and the little creatures that live here. It's almost like I could talk to them and they'd answer me. Though I've never actually tried it. That would be just plain weird. The very thought made me laugh.

"Oh great she's in Evie wonderland again," Alex's voice cut into my thoughts. "Were you thinking about me again?" he asked.

"You wish," I heard him chuckle at that.

"Hey, Alex?"

"Yeah?"

"I really love it here."

"You've said that a thousand times Eve. You're welcome."

"I feel so drawn to everything here. The ground, the sky, the trees and animals. I feel more at home here. I like this. Even, e-even more than being around people. Can you understand? Am I making sense?" I looked at Alex hopefully. Only his head was above the water. I wanted someone to understand me.

"Yeah... You know what? I think I can understand, I...I totally get you," he gave me a deep meaningful look for a very long time, then stared straight into my eyes and "You, Eve Kheelan, are mentally disabled. I've always suspected your mentality but now I know. For sure," my face began to heat up. I swear I looked like a tomato.

"You!! How could you be so so mean?!!" Alex was laughing his lungs out. "I'm leaving. I don't like you!" I yelled back. Never have I been so embarrassed. Eerrggghh.

"Hey wait!!! Eve wait! I'm sorry. Don't be like that. You know you love me!" he whined like a kid. I stopped and gave him my scariest glare I could muster. "Awww don't be so cute. Wait...are you glaring at me?! Haha! You're even more adorable!," Alex said going into another ture of laughter.

"That's it!!! I'm going!!" Laughter again. I started my speed walk towards the town. I could hear ruing of clothes again. A few moments later I was suddenly picked up by the waist. I squealed as Alex spun me around. "You know you can't stay mad at me Evy baby," Alex cooed as he slowly put me down.

"Yes. I. Can", I said with determination but I couldn't wipe the smile off my face. He was right. I do not have the ability to stay mad at anyone. Seriously, forget about Alex, even if I really dislike someone, anyone, holding a grudge is a heavy burden to carry.

We walked back hand in hand.

It was almost 6.30 when we got home. We were lucky not to have been stopped by a guard or a knight.

"I was worried sick!! WHERE WERE THE TWO OF YOU????!!" Tonya shouted.

She and two others became me and Alex's house mates about a year ago. They couldn't afford a whole other house and the one we currently live in had more than enough room for the ve of us. "Hellooo????!!!", she screamed again. "Just went for a swim Tony. Caaalmm doooooo!!!", she screamed again. "There we go! Very good," Alex said putting both hands on her shoulders. I giggled behind him while Tonya only glared.

Tonya is actually the eldest at age 25. That explains why she takes the motherly role. She has light brown curly hair that frames her face perfectly and brings out her dark skin. She also has the most beautiful chocolate brown eyes. Tonya always made sure we were all together and not don't get into any trouble. I like her a lot. Next is a girl named Henrietta better known as Henri. Henri is a tall girl with dark hair and pretty blue eyes. She's nineteen. Three years younger than Alex. Last but not least, a guy named Kyle. He has blonde hair and brown eyes with a fair complexion. He's really good looking but I'd like to think we all are if weren't for the fact that all of us were poor and malnourished. Do you know how hard it is to see a fat human? Even if there were. They would be the real victims. Kyle said Vampires like blood with a little more fat. Apparently it gives more taste. Kyle is seventeen same as me. I love my small family. Everyone had their own personality. We fought and argued but we stick together.

"Dinner's ready guys!" Tonya announced. "What did you cook Tonya? Smells good," Henri walked into the small dining area.

"Wow! you say it we have so many bloody options. Like Tonya has so many bloody options. We are going to eat what we've been eating for the past what? Two bloody weeks?" Kyle said with bored expression, sulking as usual. "Hey be nice to her Kyle. She's only asking okay. Don't be so gloomy all the time. We're lucky to have anything to eat at all," I replied a little annoyed by Kyle's sulky mood. Kyle just rolled his eyes. I swear he does it better than most girls. He then turned to Henri "Sorry Henri, let me make you understand. It's the only kind of good we're ever going to get are carrots, cabbages, nuts and if we're really lucky a few fruits. And once in a f\*\*\*\*g blue moon, maybe a cute little bunny. That's it! Why? Because it's all we'll ever be able to afford! Now since that's cleared up, kiss kiss?"

"Ewww. Let's just eat". She retorted as Kyle pouted.

Me and Alex helped Tonya arrange the bowls on the table. Just as we were going take our seats, Henri signalled for us to stop. "Did you guys hear that?"