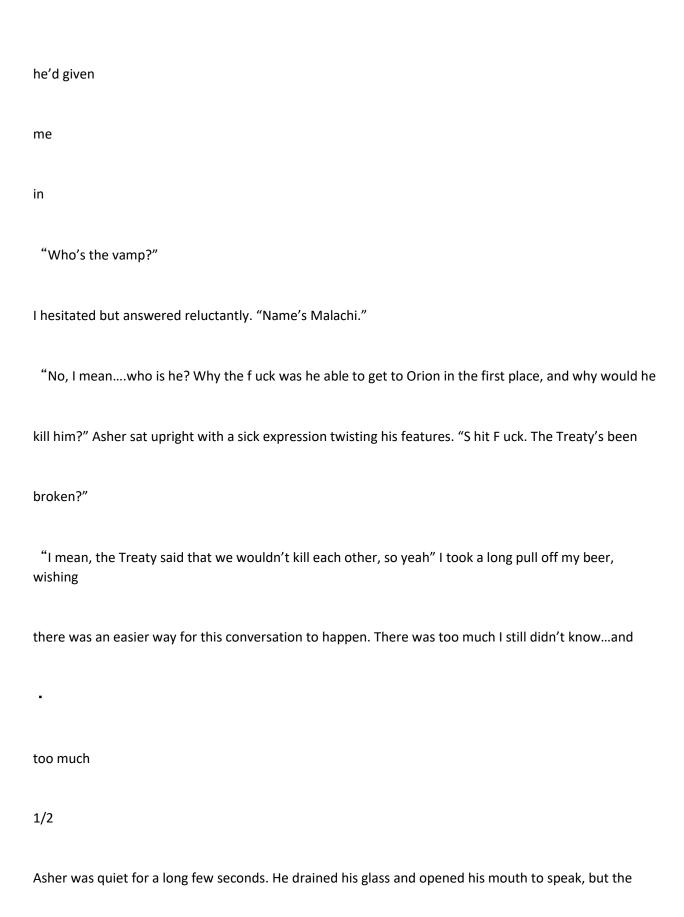


"I'm not even sure where to start."
"How about with what the f uck did you mean by an ancient vampire killed Orion-f ucking-Constantine?"
Asher lost the smile and leaned across the table, pitching his voice low. It still slapped at me, each
word sharp
as a razor.
•
"I guess that's a good place." I tried to sound light, but Asher wasn't having it.
His lip curled. "The f uck were you doing around an ancient vamp to begin with?"
"You're go
going to hate this answer, but I can't really tell you." I braced myself for his fury, but Asher only let
out a low growl of laughter.
He shook his head and leaned back in his seat. "Of course you f ucking can't. You're so full of secrets!
can smell them oozing out your pores."
"Look, there are things I shouldn't even know for my own safety, and there's no way I'm going to put
you any danger because of it. And I will not risk my family, either," I told him in the same growling tone



waitress arrived with the platters of food. She put them on the table, chattering away and flirting with him-or trying to. But unlike before, this time, Asher didn't give her a charming smile.

а

His face had gone dark. His teeth gleamed, too sharp. His eyes flashed, setting her back a few steps.

He flicked a hand at her in a gesture more authoritative than I'd ever seen him make.

"Go. We don't need anything else from you. Do not come back," he added without looking at h burned

into mine. "My friend and I need to be left the f uck alone. You got that?"

"Yeah, sure," she mumbled and scurried away.

"If the Treaty has been broken, why hasn't anyone heard about it?" he asked finally.

would not be able to explain, I answered her quickly and then put up a shield.

her. His gaze

I rubbed at the space between my eyes as a pulse came in from Lanie. She was checking in on me, and that should've made me feel good, but it only reminded me that the man across from me had once been interested in her. It reminded me that she and I were connected in ways I didn't understand and

