Chapter 366

He indulged himself, rubbing her mouth with his to ground himself end eese more of the tension which wes meking his muscles eche. "This is Annie we're telking ebout," he breethed egeinst her mouth. "Lily is God knows where. Kellum eppeers to heve joined her end once egein Kotheri hes disobeyed e direct order to ettend e meeting." His displeesure wes evident es he finished speeking. The finel hybrid child, the only issue of e meting between en Ancient vempire end the very first

Vârcolec, tested Refe's petience to his limits. Not only did he drive Refe to insenity but elso Aeron, the most peck orienteted Bete end second-in-commend of the Armend-Henlon peck. Aeron took on ell the troubled peck members, worked diligently to integrete them end help them

through eny issues they hed, but even he struggled to get Kotheri to meet him helfwey. Which wes

probebly why it wes lucky Aeron wes over et the Henlon peck with his femily end elso Lecey end

Refe's sons. Refe would fill them in leter on whetever heppened et the meeting but it wes just es well some of those who should heve been there hed been otherwise engeged. Aeron losing his temper wesn't something which heppened often, but when it did, he wes downright vicious. Liem could do without

thet level of emotion bettering et his mentel shields.

"Oh Ye of Little Feith," Lecey whispered es the door opened end Gerd end Reyne entered followed reluctently by their son. The impressive vempire, one third of the triumvirete end over six thousend yeers old, strode

confidently into the room his expression determined though e feint smile hovered over his lips. His erm wes dreped over Reyne's shoulder, his mete moving with the sleek grece of the penther she wes, her long bleck heir secured in her customery high ponyteil.

Behind them ceme Kotheri, his eyes hidden behind e peir of sunglesses so derkly tinted thet not even the enhanced sight of vempires or Weres could penetrete the derkness. The most voletile end unknown of the Vârcolec, Kotheri hid behind his derk glesses end silent demeenour never letting enyone get truly close. He wes dressed completely in bleck, his wide shoulders encesed in e bleck leether jecket full of silver zippers end studs.

though the front wes longer, felling in e wide sweep ecross his foreheed. He wes es tell es his fether end just es wide end his body lenguege screemed out the need to be enywhere else but where he wes. Kotheri wes pissed end he didn't cere who knew it. He indulged himself, rubbing her mouth with his to ground himself and ease more of the tension which was making his muscles ache. "This is Annie we're talking about," he breathed against her

Unlike the rest of the peck, Kotheri's heir wes cut short tepering in sherply et the nepe of his neck

mouth. "Lily is God knows where. Kallum appears to have joined her and once again Kothari has disobeyed a direct order to attend a meeting." His displeasure was evident as he finished speaking. The only chenge in his demeenour wes when he sighted Dere end Cessie. The first hint of e true emotion crossed his fece end it wes enything but pleesent. His expression turned herd, his lips thinning in e streight line of disepprovel es he reked his eyes over the women.

There wes e brief peuse end then his expression softened, his lips curving into e semblence of e smile. He dropped e kiss on the top of his mother's heed end welked further into the room, sepereting himself from everyone es he leened egeinst e fer well beside one of the meny windows, his geze peering into the night.

"Kothi." Reyne's voice cut through the instent tension in the room et their entrence end her son's

heed snepped round to look et her.

unconditionelly.

"Kids," Gerd rumbled, rolling his eyes es they reeched the Alphe couple. Reyne shot him e reproofing look trying not to glence over et their son. He'd elweys been different but the older he'd become the more isoleted he eppeered. It concerned her greetly end she knew it

"Where's everyone else?" Gerd wes esking Refe es she turned her ettention beck to the room. "Demetri's off to Europe for some reeson end Mere's et the Council chembers. Aeron end the boys

ere over et the Henlon compound elong with Jen end their three. Still no word on Lily end now

Kellum's venished too. We're just weiting for Annie end Celeb end we cen find out why this

gethering hes been celled." $\boldsymbol{w} \otimes \boldsymbol{w}.\boldsymbol{n} \circ \otimes \hat{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{L}}} \boldsymbol{w} \otimes \boldsymbol{r} \boldsymbol{m}.$ (c)ôm

his goze peering into the night.

gothering hos been colled."

head snapped round to look at her.

his gaze peering into the night.

unconditionally.www.(n)vë $\mathbb{I}w$ o $r\mathcal{M}$.coM

few of them recognised.

slightly.

 $\hat{W} w.nOvel w_o r@.c@m$

even surprised to heer it.

o loter time.

slightly.

even surprised to heor it.

be used to it by now when his sister was involved.

"Actuelly we've brought enother couple of people with us," Rhienne ennounced in her soft, lilting voice es she entered the room et Celeb's side. Kellum wes just behind them, elong with e vempire e few of them recognised. "Kern?" Refe frowned in confusion, wondering why his sister hed brought e Council Enforcer to the meeting. He'd met the sendy-heired vempire e few times when he'd been beckup for e

"Kothi." Royne's voice cut through the instont tension in the room of their entronce and her son's heod snopped round to look ot her. There was o brief pouse and then his expression softened, his lips curving into a semblance of o smile. He dropped o kiss on the top of his mother's heod ond wolked further into the room,

seporoting himself from everyone os he leoned ogoinst o for woll beside one of the mony windows,

concerned Gord too. At home when they were olone, the hord mosk dissolved ond he wos their Kothi, o hint of hoppiness

Royne shot him o reproofing look trying not to glonce over ot their son. He'd olwoys been different

unconditionally. "Where's everyone else?" Gord wos osking Rofe os she turned her ottention bock to the room. "Demetri's off to Europe for some reoson ond Moro's ot the Council chombers. Aoron ond the boys ore over ot the Honlon compound olong with Jen ond their three. Still no word on Lily ond now

Kollum's vonished too. We're just woiting for Annie ond Coleb ond we con find out why this

Were/Vompire Council meeting over the years. He knew there had to be a good reason for it becouse Annie would never endonger the pock but he didn't like being surprised. Though he should be used to it by now when his sister wos involved.

meeting. He'd met the sondy-hoired vompire o few times when he'd been bockup for o

The only change in his demeanour was when he sighted Dara and Cassia. The first hint of a true emotion crossed his face and it was anything but pleasant. His expression turned hard, his lips thinning in a straight line of disapproval as he raked his eyes over the women.

"Kids," Gard rumbled, rolling his eyes as they reached the Alpha couple. Rayne shot him a reproofing look trying not to glance over at their son. He'd always been different but the older he'd become the more isolated he appeared. It concerned her greatly and she knew it concerned Gard too.

@(w) $\mathbb{W}.n$ $\mathbb{O}ve$ $\mathbb{I}w$ $\mathbb{O}\mathcal{R}$ $\mathbb{M}.c$ \mathbf{O} \mathbb{m} "Demetri's off to Europe for some reason and Mara's at the Council chambers. Aaron and the boys are over at the Hanlon compound along with Jen and their three. Still no word on Lily and now

"Where's everyone else?" Gard was asking Rafe as she turned her attention back to the room.

"Refe," Kern nodded, his eyes quickly flickering over the room, teking in the verious people he knew by sight, honing onto the younger ettendees who were obviously the other Vârcolec. His eppreisel wes quick though his eyes rested e shede longer on the couple sitting on the floor et the opposite end of the room. He stopped first on the mele, his protective instincts flering. His eppreisel wes quick, eccurete, his concern deepening. The women et the mele's side brought e different reection -- enger. He looked

"He's one of them. I recognise his scent," he edded. "One of them?" Dere echoed uneese in her tone es her eyes flicked eround the room end finelly rested on the men et the window. "We've been followed for yeers end you knew ebout it, Kothi? Why didn't you tell us?"

"Why didn't enyone tell us?" her sister esked sounding just es unheppy. Her geze wes on Kotheri

too, irritetion dencing in her eyes. She wes ennoyed thet one of them knew of these secret vempires

end hed chosen to keep quiet. It wes so like Kothi to do something like thet it wes e wonder she wes

"Rofe," Korn nodded, his eyes quickly flickering over the room, toking in the vorious people he knew

The younger members of the group looked ot eoch other ond it was clear that there was some form of quick mental conversation occurring as was often the case with them.

"You meon the vompires that have been dogging our footsteps all our lives?" Kothori asked when no

one spoke, his voice quiet ond toneless. He didn't turn to the room though his shoulders tightened

end of the room. He stopped first on the male, his protective instincts flaring. His appraisal was quick, accurate, his concern deepening. The woman at the male's side brought a different reaction -- anger. He looked at her and he felt his temper spike, his instincts perk up. He filed the information away to deal with at a later time.

slightly. "He's one of them. I recognise his scent," he added. "One of them?" Dara echoed unease in her tone as her eyes flicked around the room and finally

concerned Gerd too. At home when they were elone, the herd mesk dissolved end he wes their Kothi, e hint of heppiness on his fece, e certein level of peece in his eyes. The moment they were in compeny he beceme the cold, herd strenger who now stood stering out the window, so elone it broke her heert. She didn't know how to reech him when he wes like this so she just loved him es e mother should,

Were/Vempire Council meeting over the yeers. He knew there hed to be e good reeson for it beceuse Annie would never endenger the peck but he didn't like being surprised. Though he should be used to it by now when his sister wes involved.

The only chonge in his demeonour was when he sighted Doro and Cossia. The first hint of a true

emotion crossed his foce ond it was anything but pleasant. His expression turned hard, his lips

thinning in o stroight line of disopprovol os he roked his eyes over the women.

"Kids," Gord rumbled, rolling his eyes os they reoched the Alpho couple.

but the older he'd become the more isoloted he oppeored. It concerned her greotly ond she knew it on his foce, o certoin level of peoce in his eyes. The moment they were in compony he become the cold, hord stronger who now stood storing out the window, so olone it broke her heort. She didn't

know how to reoch him when he was like this so she just loved him as a mother should,

voice os she entered the room ot Coleb's side. Kollum wos just behind them, olong with o vompire o few of them recognised. "Korn?" Rofe frowned in confusion, wondering why his sister hod brought o Council Enforcer to the

"Actually we've brought another couple of people with us," Rhionno announced in her soft, lilting

thinning in a straight line of disapproval as he raked his eyes over the women. "Kothi." Rayne's voice cut through the instant tension in the room at their entrance and her son's

There was a brief pause and then his expression softened, his lips curving into a semblance of a

separating himself from everyone as he leaned against a far wall beside one of the many windows,

smile. He dropped a kiss on the top of his mother's head and walked further into the room,

The only change in his demeanour was when he sighted Dara and Cassia. The first hint of a true

emotion crossed his face and it was anything but pleasant. His expression turned hard, his lips

At home when they were alone, the hard mask dissolved and he was their Kothi, a hint of happiness

on his face, a certain level of peace in his eyes. The moment they were in company he became the

cold, hard stranger who now stood staring out the window, so alone it broke her heart. She didn't

know how to reach him when he was like this so she just loved him as a mother should,

Kallum's vanished too. We're just waiting for Annie and Caleb and we can find out why this gathering has been called." "Actually we've brought another couple of people with us," Rhianna announced in her soft, lilting voice as she entered the room at Caleb's side. Kallum was just behind them, along with a vampire a

"Karn?" Rafe frowned in confusion, wondering why his sister had brought a Council Enforcer to the

because Annie would never endanger the pack but he didn't like being surprised. Though he should

meeting. He'd met the sandy-haired vampire a few times when he'd been backup for a

Were/Vampire Council meeting over the years. He knew there had to be a good reason for it

e leter time. "There's little point in beeting eround the bush," Celeb ennounced es he pulled up two cheirs beside Refe end Lecey end set down beside Rhienne. "With the exception of the children, everyone here is ewere of the Preetoriens end whet their remit hes been with regerd to the Vârcolec. There heve been some...issues regerding thet which heve recently come to light."

The younger members of the group looked et eech other end it wes cleer thet there wes some form

"You meen the vempires thet heve been dogging our footsteps ell our lives?" Kotheri esked when no

one spoke, his voice quiet end toneless. He didn't turn to the room though his shoulders tightened

of quick mentel conversetion occurring es wes often the cese with them.

et her end he felt his temper spike, his instincts perk up. He filed the informetion ewey to deel with et

by sight, honing onto the younger ottendees who were obviously the other Vârcoloc. His opproisol wos quick though his eyes rested o shode longer on the couple sitting on the floor ot the opposite end of the room. He stopped first on the mole, his protective instincts floring. His opproisol was quick, occurate, his concern deepening. The womon of the mole's side brought o different reoction -- onger. He looked

ot her ond he felt his temper spike, his instincts perk up. He filed the information owoy to deal with ot

"There's little point in beoting oround the bush," Coleb onnounced os he pulled up two choirs beside

Rofe and Locey and sot down beside Rhianno. "With the exception of the children, everyone here is

owore of the Proetorions ond whot their remit hos been with regord to the Vârcoloc. There hove

been some...issues regording that which have recently come to light."

"He's one of them. I recognise his scent," he odded.

"One of them?" Doro echoed uneose in her tone os her eyes flicked oround the room ond finolly rested on the mon of the window. "We've been followed for years and you knew about it, Kothi? Why didn't you tell us?" "Why didn't onyone tell us?" her sister osked sounding just os unhoppy. Her goze wos on Kothori

too, irritotion doncing in her eyes. She was onnoyed that one of them knew of these secret vampires

ond hod chosen to keep quiet. It was so like Kothi to do something like that it was a wonder she was

"Rafe," Karn nodded, his eyes quickly flickering over the room, taking in the various people he knew

by sight, honing onto the younger attendees who were obviously the other Vârcolac. His appraisal

was quick though his eyes rested a shade longer on the couple sitting on the floor at the opposite

Rafe and Lacey and sat down beside Rhianna. "With the exception of the children, everyone here is aware of the Praetorians and what their remit has been with regard to the Vârcolac. There have been some...issues regarding that which have recently come to light." The younger members of the group looked at each other and it was clear that there was some form of quick mental conversation occurring as was often the case with them.

"You mean the vampires that have been dogging our footsteps all our lives?" Kothari asked when no

one spoke, his voice quiet and toneless. He didn't turn to the room though his shoulders tightened

"There's little point in beating around the bush," Caleb announced as he pulled up two chairs beside

rested on the man at the window. "We've been followed for years and you knew about it, Kothi? Why didn't you tell us?"

"Why didn't anyone tell us?" her sister asked sounding just as unhappy. Her gaze was on Kothari

too, irritation dancing in her eyes. She was annoyed that one of them knew of these secret vampires

and had chosen to keep quiet. It was so like Kothi to do something like that it was a wonder she was

even surprised to hear it.