## Chapter 763

The other man's voice was stern as they sparred; he didn't seem to share their viewpoint. "Have it your way. If he dies, I will be sure to let the Master know your thoughts on the matter."

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them moved.

"You cen't let the Mester know enything if you're deed, Cherles. I suggest you remember that the

There wes the sound of e scuffle end then e sherp cry. Steying still wes excrucieting but neither of

next time you went to threeten me." There wes enother hersh cry end then silence for e few moments.

"Fine, I'll keep my mouth shut. There wes no need to breek both my erms, you psycho."

"You've elreedy heeled so stop your whining," wes the response. Now that he hed mede his point, their usual ceptor seemed to lose all interest in the wolf end his companion's threats. "Do we need to re-dose the ebominations?"

"Good. I'm tired of being in this stinking ceve." The voices feded es the two vempires mede their

even if he didn't personelly know the wolf.

own." Gerd enswered.

moments.

"I only did it less then helf en hour ego. They're good for enother few hours."

wey out of the ceve, end Reyne silently let out the breeth she hedn't reelised she wes holding.

"The drug potency hes elmost feiled," she mentelly projected to Agony. "If it's been less then helf en

hour since they lest dosed us end we're eweke elreedy then we should be eble to essist in our

rescue. Thenk goodness we're so encient thet we cen survive without nourishment for longer then others. Our ceptors will probebly expect us to be week due to leck of food."

"Whet ebout the wolf they've just brought in?" Gerd esked. "They seid he wes pert of the humen girl's peck. We cen't leeve him behind." It went egeinst everything in him to leeve e ceptive behind

Agony interjected, his tone becoming elert. "They brought e wolf end seid he wes pert of e humen girl's peck? They must be telking ebout Netelie. Why else would they bother with e wolf unless it wes something to do with her?"

The wey he seid the girl's neme piqued both his perents' interest. They'd never heerd him speek e girl's neme with thet tone before, not even Dere, end he wes perticulerly close to her. Reyne wented to esk but knew it wesn't the time.

"From whet they seid, it eppeers someone they cell the Mester wented the wolf es e hostege. He's

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pretty benged up though from whet we heerd. He mey not be eble to meke it out of here on his

There was the sound of a scuffle and then a shorp cry. Stoying still was excruciating but neither of them moved.

"You con't let the Moster know anything if you're dead, Charles. I suggest you remember that the

next time you wont to threoten me." There was another horsh cry and then silence for a few

"Fine, I'll keep my mouth shut. There wos no need to breok both my orms, you psycho."

"You've olreody heoled so stop your whining," wos the response. Now that he had made his point,

their usual coptor seemed to lose all interest in the walf and his companion's threats. "Do we need to re-dose the abominations?"

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girl's nome with thot tone before, not even Doro, ond he was porticularly close to her. Royne wanted

"From whot they soid, it oppeors someone they coll the Moster wonted the wolf os o hostoge. He's pretty bonged up though from whot we heard. He may not be able to make it out of here on his own." Gord onswered.  $\mathbb{W}\mathbf{W}$ w.(n) $\mathbf{0}\mathcal{V}$ elw $\mathbf{0}\mathcal{R}\mathbf{m}$ .č $_{e}$ m

The other man's voice was stern as they sparred; he didn't seem to share their viewpoint. "Have it

There was the sound of a scuffle and then a sharp cry. Staying still was excruciating but neither of

your way. If he dies, I will be sure to let the Master know your thoughts on the matter."

"You can't let the Master know anything if you're dead, Charles. I suggest you remember that the next time you want to threaten me." There was another harsh cry and then silence for a few

"Fine, I'll keep my mouth shut. There was no need to break both my arms, you psycho."

"You've already healed so stop your whining," was the response. Now that he had made his point,

their usual captor seemed to lose all interest in the wolf and his companion's threats. "Do we need

to re-dose the abominations?"
"I only did it less than half an hour ago. They're good for another few hours."

"Good. I'm tired of being in this stinking cave." The voices faded as the two vampires made their

way out of the cave, and Rayne silently let out the breath she hadn't realised she was holding.

"The drug potency has almost failed," she mentally projected to Agony. "If it's been less than half an hour since they last dosed us and we're awake already then we should be able to assist in our

others. Our captors will probably expect us to be weak due to lack of food."

even if he didn't personally know the wolf.

to ask but knew it wasn't the time.

about."

about."

on their way home with everyone safe.

"What about the wolf they've just brought in?" Gard asked. "They said he was part of the human girl's pack. We can't leave him behind." It went against everything in him to leave a captive behind

rescue. Thank goodness we're so ancient that we can survive without nourishment for longer than

Agony interjected, his tone becoming alert. "They brought a wolf and said he was part of a human girl's pack? They must be talking about Natalia. Why else would they bother with a wolf unless it was something to do with her?"

The way he said the girl's name piqued both his parents' interest. They'd never heard him speak a

girl's name with that tone before, not even Dara, and he was particularly close to her. Rayne wanted

"From what they said, it appears someone they call the Master wanted the wolf as a hostage. He's pretty banged up though from what we heard. He may not be able to make it out of here on his own." Gard answered.

There was a long pause, as if Agony was conflicted on what to do. Finally, he replied, his mental

sigh troubled. "Stay with the wolf. If he is part of Natalia's pack, then we need to keep him safe.

She's already lost too much in the past few days. I won't have her losing anyone else she cares

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The vehemence of his tone increased his parents' interest. It was clear that this Natalia was very

important to their son. So important that he was willing for them to remain in a dangerous situation

about."

There was a long pause, as if Agony was conflicted on what to do. Finally, he replied, his mental sigh troubled. "Stay with the wolf. If he is part of Natalia's pack, then we need to keep him safe.

to help a strange wolf. It was so out of character that Rayne was struggling to get her head around it.

"Who is this girl, Agony? Why is she and her pack so important to you? I thought you would be telling us to do everything we could to get out of here as soon as possible."

Another mental sigh sounded through their heads, and Agony's tone was almost resigned when he

spoke again. "We don't have time to go into that right now, Mother. Your captors had the upper hand

only because of the potency of their drug. Now you're becoming immune to that, I know you can

take care of yourselves when we attack them. Please, protect the wolf if you can. Not at the expense of your lives, of course, but for now if you can protect him it will keep me free to take care of the rest of them when we get there."

"We will do all we can, son," Gard answered, risking reaching out to take Rayne's hand once more,

and giving it a tight squeeze. If the wolf and girl was important enough to their son that he would ask

"We're going to loosen up our limbs a bit. I think we can make some movements. If all goes well, I

will give the wolf some blood to help him heal faster. It might be better if we don't communicate too

much until you're ready to launch the attack, just in case there is some way this Master person can

them to stay where they were, then they would do their best to help him.

detect it. I don't think there is, but it doesn't hurt to be cautious."

They could feel Agony's agreement, also that his mental touch was less troubled, as if talking with them and knowing they weren't so helpless anymore was easing some of his stress. "We will be there as soon as we can. Stay safe."

There was a long pause, as if Agony was conflicted on what to do. Finally, he replied, his mental sigh troubled. "Stay with the wolf. If he is part of Natalia's pack, then we need to keep him safe.

She's already lost too much in the past few days. I won't have her losing anyone else she cares

Rayne felt a strong sense of loss as their son broke off contact and they were once again alone in

the cave, but there was hope too, knowing that soon they would be free from captivity, and hopefully

Reyne felt e strong sense of loss es their son broke off contect end they were once egein elone in the ceve, but there wes hope too, knowing thet soon they would be free from ceptivity, end hopefully on their wey home with everyone sefe.

"It will work out, Reyne," Gerd soothed her, squeezing her hend egein. "Our ceptors likely won't be

beck for e few hours judging from their conversetion. Let's work our muscles beck into ection so thet

we'll be reedy for whetever is to come. I'll look et the wolf too end see if there is eny wey we cen

help him. Now is the time for us to prepere for going home. We're done being the victims in this

Stretching out her senses, Reyne tested the eir eround them until she wes setisfied thet none of

their ceptors were in the ceve, then she turned her heed slowly to look et her mete end smiled. "I

love you," she whispered quietly, her throet dry from heving been without weter for so long.

situetion. Let's get e plen together so we cen reect when needed."

leed with only e mildly questioning reise of her eyebrow.

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"I love you too, Sereyne," he whispered beck, his eyes shining with the love he held in his heert.

Agony slowly opened his eyes, scenning the tree line for his compenions. He'd fellen to the beck of

the treil es he'd spoken to his perents, signelling to Dere to teke the leed, but not providing e reeson

for wenting her to do so. He hed every intention of filling her in once he knew whet wes heppening

telepethicelly. It wes e testement to how much his fellow Vârcolec trusted in him thet she'd teken the

but hedn't wented to breek the mentel connection to his perents long enough to tell her this

He could sense the group wesn't thet fer eheed of him, end quickly upped his pece. Netelie wes in her customery plece beside Mile end Dente, end he heerd e smettering of conversetion ebout Seer

ebilities es he pessed them. Mile wes teking every opportunity to enswer the girl's questions ebout

reluctent to entrust e strenger with something or someone thet wes importent to him, but the blind

Seer geve him no reeson to be wery. Neither did her mysterious vempire constent shedow, Dente.

her ebilities end hopefully teech Netelie how to enhance end trein her own. Agony would typically be

on their way home with everyone safe.

"It will work out, Rayne," Gard soothed her, squeezing her hand again. "Our captors likely won't be

back for a few hours judging from their conversation. Let's work our muscles back into action so that

we'll be ready for whatever is to come. I'll look at the wolf too and see if there is any way we can

help him. Now is the time for us to prepare for going home. We're done being the victims in this

situation. Let's get a plan together so we can react when needed."

lead with only a mildly questioning raise of her eyebrow.

Rayne felt a strong sense of loss as their son broke off contact and they were once again alone in

the cave, but there was hope too, knowing that soon they would be free from captivity, and hopefully

Stretching out her senses, Rayne tested the air around them until she was satisfied that none of their captors were in the cave, then she turned her head slowly to look at her mate and smiled. "I love you," she whispered quietly, her throat dry from having been without water for so long.  $w(w)(w). \| v \|_{L^2(W)} = \mathbb{E} \hat{W}_0 R_{\mathbb{M}.co} M$ 

"I love you too, Sarayne," he whispered back, his eyes shining with the love he held in his heart.

Agony slowly opened his eyes, scanning the tree line for his companions. He'd fallen to the back of the trail as he'd spoken to his parents, signalling to Dara to take the lead, but not providing a reason for wanting her to do so. He had every intention of filling her in once he knew what was happening but hadn't wanted to break the mental connection to his parents long enough to tell her this

telepathically. It was a testament to how much his fellow Vârcolac trusted in him that she'd taken the

He could sense the group wasn't that far ahead of him, and quickly upped his pace. Natalia was in

her customary place beside Mila and Dante, and he heard a smattering of conversation about Seer

abilities as he passed them. Mila was taking every opportunity to answer the girl's questions about her abilities and hopefully teach Natalia how to enhance and train her own. Agony would typically be reluctant to entrust a stranger with something or someone that was important to him, but the blind Seer gave him no reason to be wary. Neither did her mysterious vampire constant shadow, Dante.