the sight of our son. Oh, if only he knows that even our little baby girl is alive! 2 "Royce... you're alive... I got worried..." he says as he slowly enters the room. "I sensed your emotions, Catherine... I... Winona instantly turns her face away Marcel pulls her into his arms, turning and slightly as if shielding her from Kenneth's view. And even Royce steps forward, blocking her from view. I find it odd. Does she not want to meet him? But something is definitely wrong. Even Marcel's demeanour has changed. "I am alive. Are you surprised, Father?" Royce asks quietly. "What is the meaning of this? Why are you meeting like this? Why did you lie about being dead?" Dad asks as he looks between Royce and me. His eyes glimmer with anger. "He's alive, Ken! What more do we need? And, there's more. Do you know who else is alive?" I say as I close the gap between us and cup his face. I'm unable to hold back the happiness I feel. He needs to know our baby girl is here! "Not now Mom... because I assure you, you will want to hear the rest of the rest of the story before proceeding." Royce's calm, almost cold voice makes me look at him sharply. 1 The unease that something isn't right about all of this is only growing inside of me. "I want to know why you put us through this, Royce?" Kenneth's voice is sharp as he watches Royce intently. "What have you been planning?" Planning? Why does he think that he's planning anything? "Ken..." "My mate is not responding. I need to find her." Royce says quietly. "As for the answer you seek; that is something only Aleric can answer. Unless you already know, Father. Are you really surprised, or is it an act?" My heart is pounding violently at the coldness in Royce's voice, and I turn to Kenneth. Why is it almost as if Royce is trying to insinuate he knows something or is somehow behind him having to fake his death... Kenneth didn't know, that much I am certain of from the look in his eyes. Confusion, annoyance, curiosity, and anger. "Royce. We may not see eye to eye, but your are my son, and I would, of course, want you alive." "You only care for me because of the power I hold," Royce says. Then.... The rumours of a Solaris King mean that you are the..." Kenneth trails off, hist eyes flashing as they lock with Royce's and hold his gaze. "Correct. You're looking at the Solaris King I've claimed the council and things will change going forward," Royce replies. "So awesome." Charlotte hums, but Royce is clearly agitated. "Right now, I need to go find Skyla. Let's do this later," he says, taking my elbow and about to guide me to the door when I pause. I have to tell him! "No, you go, Royce, your father needs to know about Victoria-"1 "Mom," he cuts me off when Winona speaks. "No... it's alright... He should know," she says, and I turn to see her eyes blazing, not turning away from the embrace of her mate, and she looks at Kenneth. But there's no sadness or love in her eyes, only.... Anger. My heart plummets a little more. Something is indeed very wrong.

"I'm here, go," Marcel says to Royce. 1

"Kenneth... Victoria is not dead, she was

found at a human orphanage," I explain,

"Victoria?" he asks, looking confused.

"Our Victoria, our baby!" I say, shocked that

His face loses all colour as he stares at her

voice rings in the air, making my heart skip

"But he couldn't do it, so left her at the

My breath hitches, and it feels as if time has

I watch as Charlotte, Winona and Marcel

Is this what Royce wanted to tell me?

'I'm sorry Mom, it's the truth.' Royce's

My heart feels as if it is about to shatter.

I look into the eyes of the man I love, trying

to make it make sense, but I am not a fool.

The signs and hints... are beginning to make

He had barely let me hold the baby when she

I wrench out of his hold, my heart thundering violently.

"Catherine... are you believing this

I wonder if this is some sort of sick

I've stepped from a dream straight into a

"But she's alive!" Kenneth cuts in, his eyes

"No, listen to me, Catherine!" His alpha

the flames of rage that now spread from

"Did you scheme to set it up that she was

stillborn?!" I scream. I don't care about my

command swirls around me and it only fuels

cheating... you... you didn't want a daughter

I feel a thousand emotions, but at the same time, I feel numb.

voice comes through the link. 9

Kenneth tried to kill our baby?

Our first born Angel?

them, darling."

sense...

7/12

buried..:

nonsense?"

nightmare.

horror movie.

"It was..."

I'm not alone.

flashing. 4

within me.

"[…"

"You as good as killed her!"

"Yes or no Ken!" I snap.

"I told him to, yes, but-"

image anymore.

as I clench my fists.

How dare he....

All I want is to know the truth.

"I did... and like I said, it was in poor

I have never felt angrier in my life.

"Yes, but the thing is, you cannot!" I shout

"Understand? Understand that you are a

psychotic monster! If you really cared if

you had even an ounce of remorse in you,

"Catherine! We will talk about this later,

enough!" He snarls, grabbing my wrists as

Marcel moves forward, but I wrench free,

"No, Catherine no! You will not reject me!"

motioning to Marcel to stay back.

the Shadow Wolves Pack-"

judgement. I am sorry, Catherine. I wish I could turn back time-

"I'm sorry, please - Catherine, don't do this to me. I need you to understand-"

you would have come clean, but all you did was think of power!" I shout in anger. 4

"You are right. It is enough. But the time for talking is over. I Catherine Arden, Luna of

"-REJECT YOU, ALPHA KENNETH HENRY ARDEN AS MY MATE AND ALPHA!" My

shrill voice rings in the room as I feel the violent pull of the bond breaking, plough through me. 44

"Your greed for power is sickening! You tried to have your own daughter murdered! In fact, how dare you be able to look me in

the eye after you sent her to her death!" I scream, slamming my fists into his chest and sending him stumbling backwards.

"[…"

1. He knows my anger.

orphanage!" Charlotte says defiantly, her heart thundering,

watch Kenneth with clear hostility and hatred in their eyes.

Suffocating pain squeezes my heart and I place my hand on my chest.

was born, saying it would only hurt more... he had been on edge until she had been

I even remember screaming that it's not my baby and that I know my baby can't be gone

way that you, an alpha, can have a girl as their first child. You even accused me of

I watch him, needing an answer. He's watching me intently, but he knows I mean

"No. You listen to me. Did you or did you not ask Quade to kill our baby girl?" 2

... Am I wrong?" I ask, my voice so low and calm it sends a chill down my own spine. (1)

and his heart thuds violently, realisation

putting my hand on his chest.

he doesn't realise what I mean.

sinking in.

a beat. 4

Kill her.

Kill her?

What?

slowed.

"Excuse me," Royce whispers as he leaves the room, breaking into a run. 1

"I don't understand," he says, his heart thudding violently. "There is no way..."

"Of course, you would think there was no way, wouldn't you father? After all, you ordered Beta Quade to kill her." Charlotte's

"Don't listen to them, it's a misconception. Why would I do such a thing!" Kenneth says, grabbing onto my elbows. "Don't listen to

Of course, I thought it was my grief, but the look of guilt he always had in his eyes...every time I broke down over Victoria... But

"Yes... because when I told you we are having a baby girl, you refused to accept it... you even went as far as to say there is no

The fear that I'll lose Victoria once again suddenly overwhelms me and I take another step back from Kenneth. "Answer me."

"Don't lie, Kenneth, for the truth can be revealed by a simple mind probe," Marcel says, his voice rough and dangerous.

"Answer me! Tell me that I'm wrong... and if you lie..." I leave my threat hanging, glaring into the eyes of my mate.

"It was a mistake, a grave mistake..." His voice is low, almost guilty. "Her aura was so low, she wasn't even up to par of an

"Enough!" I snarl, my eyes blazing brown as I let my aura swirl. "Without a woman, you would not be on this planet!" 8

Alpha's daughter... So I let my ego get in the way and did not want the world to know that I had a daughter, a weak one at that-"

above all it was the words he had spoken when I told him it was a baby girl that now makes my blood run cold.

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His face is pale as he stares at Royce in shock before that changes to relief in his eyes at

I look up when the door opens and although I'm expecting Skyla, my son's mate, it's not her, but Kenneth. 2

9 min read

A Mate's Betrayal

CATHERINE.

Chapter 127