

The Alpha's Contract #Chapter 0511 - Read The Alpha's Contract Chapter 0511

Chapter 0511

Dane

"Girls?"

Damien nods his head at me. "You had a fifty-fifty chance."

"Two of each is good enough for me." I smile

"And no more." Neah adds. "Four will be plenty." She stares at me until I reluctantly agree. I love being a Dad, and she knows that if I had it my way, she would have more. But she also knows I will respect her decision.

"At least they will already have older brothers to protect them." I grin and watch as Neah presses a hand to her mouth. It was definitely time for us to go.

I sweep her off her feet and she presses a hand against my chest. "I can walk."

"And I can carry you. Just let me enjoy carrying all my girls at the same time."

As soon as we are back at Eric's house, Neah races past Mallory and dives into the bathroom.

"She's suffering a lot this time, isn't she?" Mallory murmurs.

"It's just one of those things." I mutter

Mallory slowly nods her head. "Are you on board with it?"

"The pregnancy stuff?"

She shakes her head at me, folding up her arms.

'She's talking about Samara.' Aero mutters

"You can't always help who you fall for." I reply to Mallory.

"It's like he has completely forgotten what happened. I mean, I told him to go for it, but I never would have if I had known it was her."

"We have seen a different side to her since she has been able to shift."

"And that is probably put on as well."

I couldn't be certain if she was jealous or annoyed.

'Maybe both.' Aero mutters

"If it were put on, I'm sure Brax would have said something. It's not like he keeps that kind of thing to himself. Especially now the whole situation of him losing his abilities has been sorted."

"I still don't buy it."

"She ripped her brother's head off." I remind her. Mallory hadn't been on the Hunt, but she had learned how Cooper died.

"Could be part of her plan?"

"Have you spoken to Eric about this?" I ask. NovélDráma. Org

"He says I'm reading too much into it." She mutters as she frowns.

"Or maybe you are upset that your best friend has found happiness in an unlikely source." I sigh. "Neah is right. Samara is the most watched person in our pack at the moment. The moment she puts a foot out of place, Damien is likely going to be the first to know. Do you think he will just sit by and let it happen?"

"No, he has too much respect for Neah."

"Exactly. Things didn't go to plan with my sister. She... When she should have lent on him for help, she didn't. She shut him out, she also concealed everything from everyone. Her twin, that she always had issues with became the apple of her eye. It's actually a little concerning when I think about it."

I shake my head. "Damien should have been able to settle down with her, there was even talk of them starting a family, but that was taken away from him. And then Eris was fucking crazy. Surely you can see why it has become his choice. He is not interested in what has been set up for him. And I get that. Before Neah, I was considering settling down with someone who wasn't my mate."

"They have nothing in common." She murmurs

"Did you and Eric?" I ask

She frowns and shakes her head.

"If I were you, I would let Damien carry on. He can still be your friend and have Samara as his mate, but if you keep having a shouting match with him, who do you think he will choose? Who do you think he will walk away from? Don't ruin your friendship over this."

Upstairs, Luca starts crying and Mallory leaves before another disagreement leaves her lips.

I hear the bathroom door open and a sweaty Neah makes her way towards me. She leans in against my chest and slips her arms around me. "Do you think she will give Damien space?" she whispers

"I don't think she will have a choice."

A few weeks pass with no real dramas, thankfully. Neah had hit the stage where the pregnancy fatigue was kicking in and is currently crashed out on the sofa while the twins follow me around.

Mallory hadn't said anything more about Damien. Any meetings Eric, Damien and I needed to have, we held at Damien's place. Purely so it didn't start an argument.

Though Mallory hadn't said anything, I had seen her face when she came in from her walk an hour ago. It seemed like she was trying, but the irritation was stronger. I had hoped the space from Damien would give her time to reconsider, but so far, it wasn't working.

Picking up the boys, I head out to check on the packhouse.

Chapter 0512

All the rubble had been removed and the new groundwork was already getting started. The plan is to have it built and decorated, and for us to move back in before the girls arrive.

While Evrin holds my hand, staring at the space where our home once was, Logan runs around us in circles. The boys were so different and I still didn't know why Logan couldn't shift. Technically, he was the eldest. It would be his birthright to become the Alpha, but Evrin just seemed more aware

Though I had only heard from Klaus once, he had confirmed he could find nothing about Evrin. Eventually just putting it down to following in his mother's footsteps.

Ryken appears on my left. "It's coming along nicely. I'm making sure everything is as it needs to be."

"Thank you." He had taken the lead on the build. Checking in with me regularly about the progress.

Just before the work started properly, he had come to me and told me that before he came to Black Shadow, this was the job he did to support his family.

As a pack, we had always managed to stick up new houses ourselves, but the packhouse was the largest place here. It needed someone that could spot problems that we might not see and Ryken seemed to be the man for the job.

He glances down at Logan who is busy pulling up grass. His eyes shift to Evrin who is still staring at the empty space. "Different, aren't they?"

"Yes."

He dips his head but doesn't say anymore and strides over to meet with others that are already gathering to help with the work.

I had forgotten to ask how Kade was doing. He had been home for a while now, but was yet to return to school. It was the teacher that had told me, because neither one of his parents had. I will check in later if I have time.

"Let's go see uncle Damien."

The boys push through the door before Damien has a chance to open it all the way. I knew who they were after. They loved climbing all over Dorothy, but they were about to be disappointed because Brax and Maddie had taken her into the city to pick up a few things.

Their smiles quickly disappear as they realise she isn't here. Samara is quick to the rescue, bringing out some toys for them to play with.

Neah had been a little hesitant about the boys being around her. I understood why, but with the promise of me not letting them out of my sight, she agreed.

"I wasn't expecting you. Neah sleeping?" Damien asks

"Thought we could give her a little bit of peace." I mutter with a nod

"Actually, it's a good thing you are here." He tells me. "Samara has been going through that book Klaus gave her." "Still?"

He nods at me. "We think she might have found something."

"About their location?"

"It's not named, but there are hints throughout the book. Light descriptions of areas."

He grabs the large book off the kitchen counter and hands it to me. Glancing through to the lounge at Samara putting together a train track, he smiles. "I actually think her and Klaus would have gotten along." "Really?"

"If you open the book, you will see why."

Paragraphs are highlighted in a multitude of colours. A piece of paper is folded in the front with the matching colours and a description of what each one is for.

"She's desperate to find out if there are other family members out there." He tells me

"I wish I could say the same about Neah." I mutter. "She has had too many bad experiences with the family she had. That won't just go away. I'm certain she will change her mind on this."

"The descriptions are vague." Samara tells me as she moves to the kettle. "But there are a few that cross over. There is mention of a small beach in one part when they are getting ready to battle. Another bit mentions a tide washing out the beach landers, sending them crashing into the cliffs. There's something about the waves being dangerous and if people don't know the area, they shouldn't go. Boats are rarely seen in the area. Things like that."

She shuffles into a chair. "It took me a while to see it."

"To find the descriptions?"

"I think it's more than that." Samara tells me

Damien shakes his head, "It's just her theory. We don't know anything for certain."

I glance over to the boys who are attempting to climb up on the sofa. I had no more family to offer them. I couldn't give them any more insight on who they are or their bloodline, but Neah could, especially if she knew more.

"Let me hear it."

"I think this was written specifically for Kitsons to find their way home."

Chapter 0513

Neah.

"I was just about to link you." I tell Dane as he comes in with Logan sat on his shoulders. I look down to see Evrin sitting on Dane's foot with his arms and legs wrapped around Dane's leg.

"I took them to see Damien. It seemed like you needed the nap." He lowers Logan and leans in to press his lips against mine. "Did it help?"

"For now." Logan holds his arms up to me. Opening and closing his hands to tell me he wanted to be picked up. "Samara thinks she has found something." He tells me as I swing Logan up on to my hip

"About White Cliffs?" It had to happen sooner or later. Damien had said she was being pretty relentless at trying to find something. "Klaus said there was nothing."

"He did, but she has a bit of a theory." He tells me

"And Damien believes it?"

"Belief is a strong term. I think he is trying to take a step back and let her figure this out. Yet he is cautious. It seems as though he is trying to keep her level headed and not run away with an idea. While I was there, he did tell her we needed something more concrete and that we wouldn't go on a hunch."

"Was she annoyed?"

"No. She took the book and started reading it, again. She is determined."

'He wants us to go there.' Nyx murmurs

"What was Samara's theory?" I ask. I can ask him the other thing in a minute.

"She thinks the book is to help Kitsons find their way home."

I snort, "This pack is my home. This is the twins home. You took over from your father here. You've grown your pack. I somehow helped the Lycans move in and made it even bigger. My home isn't somewhere with a name like White Cliffs."

'I agree.' Nyx murmurs

"And how is it that of all the Lycans here, no one knows anything about that pack? Yet the majority of them knew there was a female Alpha? Even Blair knew before I did. I know you said they are likely a secretive pack, but someone has to know something."

"I don't have that answer, but I also didn't know what you were when I met you." He gives me a small smile." Maybe it is somehow ingrained into the Lycan connection. Maybe it's the importance of your bloodline. Maybe they grew up listening to stories of a prophecy. And when you accepted who you are, that broke everything that was keeping you disconnected."

'It makes a tiny bit of sense.' Nyx tells me in a huff. 'Like how it is ingrained in us. Maybe that's why Dakota believes she is supposed to be our Beta.'

"We talked about this." I mutter to Dane.

"We have,"

"You said you would accept my decision." I murmur

He nods his head at me. "You also said if they found something, you would consider it after the pups are born. You know I will support you, but this, I think, is something you should seriously consider, for them." He gestures to the boys. "Their home will always be Black Shadow no matter what their legacy is."

He takes Logan from me. "Now go get dressed, we are going out."

"Out?"

"It's about time I took you on a proper date, isn't it?" He cocks a brow at me. "Athena has already agreed to take the boys and she is currently Lycan proofing her home. Just in case Evrin tries a repeat of what he did here." "You told her?" I mutter in surprise

"You did say there was no point hiding it anymore. Though I am still surprised that Blair hasn't run her mouth off." 'Because no one will believe her.' Nyx snorts.

Mallory helps me choose something to wear. She pulls a long black strappy dress out of her wardrobe. "It stretches so it will fit the bump and will show off your figure." She smiles at me. "I think you will look better in it than I ever did."

I had stayed clear of dresses as much as I could. Only wearing them as a last resort. Being forced to live in a ratty maids outfit for years made me hate them. Give me jeans or joggers and I was content. But I hadn't lived that life for a long time. I couldn't let things like that hold me back anymore. I had found my place and I was finally thriving.

Chapter 0514

Running my hands over the soft fabric, I sigh. I knew Dane would like it. It was simple, no embellishments of any kind. Something you could dress up or down, depending on the situation.

Thanking Mallory, I take it as she asks where Dane is taking me.

"I don't know. He just said to wear something nice."

"Fancy or non fancy?" She presses

I shrug. He had given no clue.

"Have trainers and heels prepared." She winks at me. Then randomly adds, I think I might have something that will cover both.

After I shower and change, she has me sitting at her vanity table so she could curl my hair.

I wanted to ask her how she was, especially with the whole Damien and Samara situation, but I said nothing. It was easier not to poke at the wasp nest. But it was her who brought up the topic.

"Do you know if he has marked her yet?" She asks as she wraps my hair around the curler.

"I haven't seen anything."

"Oh."

"He might not be ready yet. A lot has happened to him this year."

"I thought men found it really hard to hold themselves back from marking us." She frowns and my hand goes to my neck. My mark had released my Lycan abilities. Though Dane had managed to hold off marking me until I agreed.

"And now you love me." Nyx chirps as I roll my eyes

"Can I ask you something?" Mallory murmurs

I bob my head as her eyes lock with mine in the mirror.

"Why is it always the men?"

"Huh?"

"Why is it that the men do the marking, but not the women? Surely we claim them as much as they claim us."

"It's not... it's not something I've thought about."

"It's just, if the men are shitty, they can force their mark on anyone. Or like Damien, not even bother."

"That's not fair Mallory."

'It explains why she has gone down this rabbit hole of hers.' Nyx murmurs

"I'm just saying." Mallory mutters

I stand up and face her, I didn't care that my hair was only half done.

"It's not fair that you of all people are doing this to him, Mallory. You should be happy for him. Do you not remember him telling you that Raven was his light? That Raven kept the darkness from seeping in? I have been watching him ever since I had to kill her. Making sure that he was okay. When he shifted to take part in the Hunt for Cooper, I was certain that was it. That we would lose him to Rogue life."

She opens her mouth.

"No, you need to listen, Mallory. He didn't lose his shit. He could have, easily. Yet somehow, he didn't and I think

she is the reason. I don't know exactly why, but I see more happiness in his eyes whenever he looks at her, then I ever did when he looked at Raven."

She lowers her gaze. "I'm worried."

"Then be worried, don't project your fears onto him. It's not fair. It's not like he ever stopped you being with Eric is it?"

"No." She pouts

"And trust me, he had a lot to say about that, but he kept it to himself because he is your friend. If things had gone bad, who do you think would have been there for you?"

She stares at me, "I'm overreacting, aren't I?"

I nod, "We have all been trying to tell you that. I'm not saying you have to be best friends with her. I'm not. But as long as he is happy, let him be happy. Plus, I'm pretty sure he will be the first one to find out if things are not right. And I think Samara has actually learned that there is no point in lying. I don't think Dakota will let her get away with it."

She nods and gestures for me to turn and sit back down.

She mulls over my words and quietly asks "Is it weird to find out that you have another family member." "Yes. I grew up only knowing of my mother, my father, the guy who pretended to be my brother but was actually my uncle and the pack. That was it, that was my so-called family. And what an amazing family they were." I mutter with frustration.

Chapter 0515

She doesn't say anymore on the subject and mostly talks about Luca as she finishes my hair. My dark hair and the black dress seem to make my blue eyes pop even more.

"Do you want makeup?"

"No." I scoff and she laughs. She had asked me so many times. Waiting for the day that I would agree, that I think it had just become a habit of hers.

Dane is waiting for me at the bottom of the stairs. He was all in black too. A crisp black shirt, black jeans and black boots. It makes him look like a mystery. A man with many secrets of his own. He radiated Alpha and yet his crimson eyes don't leave me as I make my way down.

"Whatever you are comfortable in." He tells me as I ask him if it was a fancy date or not. His crimson eyes drift down, taking in every inch of me as Mallory comes forward with a pair of pristine white platform trainers.

"Somewhere in the middle." She smiles at me as Dane pulls me in against him. His nose settles in the crook of my neck as he inhales my scent.

"Where are we going?" I whisper, as his lips leave little sparks across my flesh.

"Let's see where we end up." He mutters as he peels himself away.

He lets me put on the trainers and then with his hand pressed on the small of my back, he guides me to the passenger side of the black car that sits out front.

As I take the seat, his lips press against mine and he pulls the seat belt around me. The tingle of his lips lingers. I wasn't sure if it was just our bond, or the excitement of actually doing something other than pack stuff.

We pass Blair's old house as we head to the city. It had been Cooper's hideout, but now it sits abandoned and like no one had lived there for years.

"Where are we going?" I ask again

"I'm taking you to a restaurant. One that I haven't been to for a long time."

"You've been there before?"

He nods. "You remember Madame Curie, it's the place where I would meet with her, and they also do excellent food."

He rests his hand on my thigh. His thumb moves back and forth across the black dress covering my leg and I already knew he was desperate to get it off of me. The question is, how long could I make him wait?

As we pull up, some kind of worker opens my door. A Human. Dane gets out and rushes round the car. "I should have warned you. It's just valet parking." He looks at the Human. "She's getting used to a different kind of life."

The guy bobs his head. "Yes sir."

My interactions with Humans were still limited. I had barely met any and the ones I had, have either been turned into Lycans, Or they were Lycans that lost their abilities.

Danes voice settles in my head, 'I should warn you, if you haven't already scented it, there are a lot more Humans here than there used to be.'

"Okay.' I whisper back as Dane tells another Human that we have a reservation.

"Of course sir, right this way." The Human opens the door and out of all the people here, I could tell there were no other Lycans. A few Wolves, but at least eighty percent were Human.

We are led to a booth where Dane gestures for me to sit down first. As I slip into my seat, I couldn't help but look around at the crowd. The majority may be Human, yet there was someone here with power and it wasn't Dane.

Note : Author says

Hey everyone, hope you are all well.

Just to give you a little update moving forwards. There will be no chapter releases at weekends for the month of September. You will still receive daily updates Monday to Fridays, just none at the weekends. If you want to blame anyone, you can blame all the people deciding to get married next month and my parents for having me in September ;)

Taylor West

Chapter 0516

Neah

My eyes move over the crowd of people. They are completely unaware that someone powerful is here.

"You smell it too?" Dane asks quietly. He is more subtle than I am at casting a glance across the room.

Inod. It was definitely an Alpha of some kind. A Wolf too.

"Don't read too much into it. It's a place where anyone can go. Sometimes others pass through. Remember, neutral territory." He tells me

Even I could see that deep down, he was pissed off. He wanted to take me out. A peaceful evening and we are probably going to get as much peace and quiet as we did when the twins were newborns.

When the waiter comes over, Dane orders himself a whisky while I just order a water.

"We have some delicious wines." The waiter tells me, a stupid grin plastered to his face. "I'm sure there will be something to your taste."

"I don't drink." I mutter, glancing down at my bump.

He makes his excuses to leave, his cheeks burning. He probably thought I was just on the chunkier side.

'There isn't an ounce of fat on you.' Dane links me. 'Humans are very central.'

What do you mean?" I ask curiously

They have an idea about things and can't always cope when they realise they are in the wrong.'

The waiter comes back with our drinks. He doesn't make eye contact with either of us and announces that another waiter would be over to take our order.

My eyes scan the crown again, I just wanted to pinpoint where this Woll was

Dane places a hand on mine. "Stop."

"I'm just...."

"I know. But tonight is about us. Don't you think if we can smell them, they can smell us? If they were that interested, they would have already come over or at least made their presence known. They are keeping their distance just as we are."

"Okay." I whisper

'I will keep an eye out." Nyx tells me.

"That goes for Nyx too." Dane muses as he takes a swig of his drink

Nyx huffs, but I knew she wouldn't just let it go.

"Okay, "I sigh. "Where is the ladies room?" I ask. "These girls are using my bladder as some kind of trampoline today."

Dane grins and gives me directions to somewhere near the back of the restaurant. Every single step I took away from our booth, the more I felt as though I am being watched and not by Dane. I still couldn't pinpoint the location of this Wolf. The scent seemed to shift easily. and I'm also certain it's them who is watching me. Surely they wouldn't try anything in a building full of Humans?

"I would hope not." Nyx mutters. That will just bring more problems to our pack. And we could also just puncture their heart.' I feel the sting at the tip of my fingers from my claws that are already trying to come out.

'Problems we don't need' I whisper back shake my hands.

Stepping out of the bathroom, I smooth down the black dress. Mallory was right, it did hug me in ways I didn't expect and somehow, it made my bump look even bigger than it was.

I'm about to head back to my seat when I spot crimson eyes staring at me. They belonged to a face that looked just like Danes. It wasn't him though, there was no woody scent. Just an aura of power. The one we were quickly made aware of when we entered the building.

'Is that the man Eris spoke of?' Nyx asks

'She never met him, but judging by the eyes, I'm guessing so.' I keep my movements fluid, ready to walk straight past his booth.

"Do you always ignore family?" His deep voice carries and sends an involuntary shiver through me. I hadn't even made it all the way past his table.

He had a different accent to Dane, showing me that he was not raised anywhere near here.

"I'm sorry."I mutter. "I don't know who you are." I lie. It was obvious he was Silas. He is a completely identical man to Dane. Just the lack of mate scent and the accent separated them. My stomach involuntarily ties itself up in knots.

Seriously? Now the twins want me to vomit?!

He smirks. "Is that what you are going to tell my brother? Do you often deny the truth?"

Eris may not have known him, but some of the stories Cooper had told her were true.

Chapter 0517

"If you knew he was here, why haven't you bothered introducing yourself?" I should just turn and walk away, but he is like an irritating itch that I need to scratch.

*And ruin his evening with his beautiful pregnant mate. Why would I do that?" He takes a swig of his drink. Swirling the remaining liquid in the glass before he puts it down with a soft clink.

His crimson eyes lock on to mine. "You can go." He waves his hand as though he was sending a waiter away.

*I can go?" I frown

"I know where you are now. So you can go back and enjoy your evening with my brother. There will be plenty of time for a catch up."

*You call him your brother, but you don't even know him." I try to keep the anger buried. This was not the place. "I know enough."

"You know enough?" My arms fold up as I glare back at him

*That is what I said." His crimson eyes lock on mine as he takes a bite of his meal. "Are you always this sensitive, or is it the pregnancy?"

"Why are you here?"

He gestures to his meal. "I was hungry." His eyes don't leave mine. "And this seemed as good a place as any."

I start to walk away and he calls out, "You can thank me another time."

*Thank you? For what?"

*I freed all of Cooper's prisoners. Most have been returned to their packs. The Lycans have been relocated to White Cliffs. Many need to be rehabilitated. Can't have them going Rogue now, can we?" He gives me a lopsided smirk and a wink.

"You set them free?" I don't know why I was so surprised, but he had just given me a lot of information in a few sentences. He knew about White Cliffs. He knew about Lycans and going Rogue. He knew about Cooper and his prisoners. Was Black Shadow the last pack to find out about my kind?

*Cooper has been a pain in my ass for a long time. So you are welcome. Now go." He rubs a thumb across his knuckles. Another difference. Silas has tattoos, Dane doesn't

I turn away from him and as I look back over my shoulder, he is busy eating the rest of his meal. Not even remotely interested in me.

"Is everything okay?" Dane asks as I slip back into the booth. "I was about to come and look for you."

I frown. "I met Silas."

"What? Where?"

*He was sitting at a table not far from the bathroom."

Dane stands up, looking across the room. "What did he say?"

*He knows who we are. And that he wasn't going to ruin our evening. Then he told me some stuff about Cooper's prisoners." I screw my face up. "It was such an add interaction."

'It was all very weird.' Nyx mutters. I nod in agreement.

"And Eris wasn't wrong. He is identical to you. And I don't mean in the same way that Blair and I look alike. You are identical. If he had your scent and spoke like you, I would have thought it was you."

Dane frowns. "Did he touch you?"

"No."

After a few minutes, I realise the powerful scent I had picked up is slowly fading. He had left before Dane had a chance to meet him.

We fall into a weird uncomfortable silence. Dane was bothered and by the time our meal arrived, he had barely spoken two words.

His eyes were glazed over. Likely speaking to Eric and Damien, or even his Wolf, Aero.

"Are you angry?" I use my fork to push food around the plate. I had lost my appetite completely and was doing everything in my power not to dash to the bathroom.

His eyes settle on me. "Frustrated."

"Because he was here." I nod.

"He didn't attack. He didn't threaten you. He didn't introduce himself. But he gave you some information to try and win you over."

"That's a good thing, right. We can't all have asshole siblings. Maybe he just wants answers."

*Don't fall for it, Neah."

"I won't. If anything, I was thrown by his...."

*Kindness?"

This time I hear jealousy. "How he casually provided me with information." I add quietly.

"He already hates him.' Nyx murmurs. 'He doesn't like how Silas spoke to you first or how he never made his presence known to Dane.'

'I'm not blind.' I murmur. 'But Dane didn't want to see who it was that we could scent."

Chapter 0518

Dane

Neah pokes her food around her plate. She doesn't think I'm watching, but I am. I'm always watching. Especially since she passed out

Her eyes flicker between blue and black as she speaks to Nyx. But this time, I stay out of her head, letting them vent to one another.

Her blues flash to me as I end my conversation with Aero. Tonight was supposed to be about me and my mate. We are supposed to be having time together, away with the constant noises of the pack. A break from the chaos of parenthood.

As usual, nothing is ever simple and now the brother I never knew is here. Too close to home for my liking.

"You need to eat." I tell Neah

"If it's not my bladder, it's my stomach." She replies, taking the tiniest bite of potato.

"Did you tell Silas that Cooper was dead?" I ask

"I didn't think I needed to. I didn't say anything, because it seemed like he already knew." She puffs out her cheeks. "He called Cooper an asshole. It seems like he upset more people than just us."

I nod. "Well, he has left now. So for the time being, we can forget his existence."

She stares at me a little too long. An eyebrow raises as she nods. She knew I wouldn't just let it go. But at the same time, I wanted her to have all my attention. It's been spread a little thin lately.

I ask her the question that she has been dying to get the answer too She had asked Damien a couple of times now, but it was still too early. "Do you think they are Wolves or Lycans?" She wanted to know, but was yet to make it clear on what she thought about it.

"I thought I wanted to know. But does it really matter? As long as they are healthy, right?"

"Right." I smile

"And I still don't know if I'm ready for four."

"You are more ready than you know." I lift her hand off the table and bring it to my lips, kissing the back of it.

"Well, we could both be wrong." She shrugs her shoulders at me. "Half breeds exist. Klaus told me so and then there was Cooper, Half Lycan, half Witch, What if I produce girls that are a combination of us. Will the world be ready for that?"

"I don't even know if the world will be ready for Evrin." I murmur.

She stares at me with wide eyes.

"Your parents were not ready for you. You didn't get to experience the life you should have had. They stopped that from happening. Evrin is you. The difference is, he is allowed to live

his life. Shifting and all." I smile at her

Neah lowers her gaze. "Do you think there is something wrong with Logan? I thought he might have shifted by now. He was the first to crawl, to walk, to learn new things and it just seems like Evrin has suddenly flown by."

"No, of course I don't think anything is wrong with him. He will shift when he is ready, even if that means waiting until he is thirteen. Maybe the boys are both supposed to be Alphas. One as a leader of Wolves and the other as a leader of Lycans."

"Maybe you are right." She mutters with a scowl

"Only time will tell." I glance at my watch. "To be honest, I was half expecting a panicked link from Athena or Sebastian by now." I grin as she pushes another piece of food across her plate.

"Do you want to get out of here?" I ask. The evening was tainted and I could see she wasn't as relaxed as when we left the pack.

"Home?"

"No, there is somewhere else I would like to take you." I tell her. I was ninety nine percent sure she would never have been. I had searched her mind and couldn't find even a hint of a memory of it.

Chapter 0519

I call for the bill and the waiter that had tried to convince Neah to get some wine hurries over. His cheeks are already the colour of beetroot. He could barely look us in the eye. Neah presses her lips into a thin line but I see her shoulders jiggling up and down as she tries not to laugh.

As we walk to the car, Neah links her arm with mine, almost pestering me like a small child, asking me where we are going.

"You will see."

I drive for another hour or so down to the coast. It had been a long time since I had been here. I used to take Jenson and Raven all the time when they were little, but as they grew up, the trip became just for me. A place where I could clear my head. A place of peace as I listened to the sea crash along the sand before it dragged itself out again.

It had been almost four years since I had been here.

Nesh is silent as the car comes to a stop. She slowly unclips her seatbelt and leans forward on the dash, smiling at the waves.

"The beach." She whispers

"I haven't been here for a while, but I thought you might appreciate it as much as I do."

I've never been." She starts pulling off the trainers. Excitement flooding through her and a strange pang of happiness hits my heart.

She gets out of the car before I have a chance to say anything and runs down onto the sand.

For a moment, she just stands there. Wiggling her toes in the soft sand as she stares up at the crescent and stars that light up the night sky.

Looking back at me, she smiles and stretches out her hand in my direction. "Coming?"

I take her hand and she pulls me towards the water. Stopping a few feet away. Nervousness radiates from her. It was different, new and not something that was purposely trying to cause her trouble.

She hikes the long black dress up to her knees and lets out a small giggle as she steps forward, letting the cold waves wash over her feet.

Slowly, she turns around to face me, laughing as a wave crashes into the back of her legs, sending her stumbling towards me.

"You've never told me about this place." She looks up and down the deserted beach. "The boys will like it here."

"My father used to bring me here. Before the twins came along. To teach me about the power of the ocean. After he died, I tried to do the same with Jenson and Raven, but they missed the point. Raven had her own ideas for her future and Jenson just wanted what everyone else had. Maybe that was part of their downfall."

I wrap my arms around her, holding her flush to my chest. "Father used to tell me how easy it

is to lose power. To keep it, you had to stay alert and own it. Constantly fight for it."

"He used the sea to teach you a lesson?" She asks as the water licks our feet.

"He did."

"You think that's why Silas is really here. To take your place, just how Blair thought she could take mine?"

"I won't let him. Black Shadow is mine. Always has been and always will be until the boys are ready to take over."

"He called me family." She mumbles into my chest. "I was just going to walk right past him and he asked me if I always ignore family. He didn't want to interrupt us, that's why he didn't make himself known. Maybe I got the wrong impression" She shrugs her shoulders and shakes her head.

"To me, that doesn't sound like he is coming for what he thinks is his. Not everyone we meet has to be bad. Not everyone can have a secret reason for showing up. I refuse to believe that, because otherwise, what kind of world are we bringing children into?"

Chapter 0520

Neah

He tips my head back and leaves a lingering kiss on my lips. "How is it that you can be so hopeful after everything that has happened in your life?"

"Because it's not me I'm thinking about." My hands sit on my small bump, "I know if there is a problem, we can handle it. Because that is what we do. That doesn't mean I want that for any of our pups."

"Which is why you are not keen on exploring the White Cliffs topic." He softly combs his fingers through my curls. "It's not about you, it's about the ones who call you mum. You want to protect them."

He presses his lips against mine once more. The waves that had barely been licking our feet, suddenly crash into me. Dane does everything in his power to hold on to me as we are both knocked over into the water.

He loses his grip on me and the waves drag me out from the beach and away from him. My heart races as panic sets in. I had no idea how to swim.

Just as my face clears the surface to take a breath. Another wave hits me and sucks me down. As I'm pulled beneath the surface, hands find my shoulders. They half drag me, half carry me from the sea and up the beach as I try to spit and cough out all the sea water I had swallowed.

"Are you good?" I look up at Dane. He's leaning over me, his black hair is wet and stuck down to his forehead. Crimson eyes are etched with concern, but it wasn't him. That odd accent rings in my ears as he repeats the words. Turning my head, I see Dane a few metres from us, hunched over and spitting up water

It takes a second for my senses to fall back into place as Nyx mutters 'That's Silas.'

"Silas?" I splutter at the man standing over me.

*I was waiting patiently by the car." He points up the beach as if I didn't know where the car was. "Neither of you were paying attention to the waves. Just because you are capable of healing, it does not mean that the ocean won't take that power for itself. Many Wolves have been lost to treacherous waters."

"Were you listening to us?" I frown as I get up.

"No." He stares at me with as much curiosity as I had about him. "I saw the wave hit you and drag you out. Why didn't you try to swim?"

"I can't." I cough up more water as he raises an eyebrow at me.

*Interesting."

*Leave her alone." Dane mutters as he crawls towards me.

*I am keeping my hands to myself." Silas tells him, holding them up. "Would you rather that I didn't help? I could have left her to drown, though that would have been unnecessary and would have cost me my life."

"I want you to explain why you followed us." Dane snaps

"You think I followed you?" Silas sneers. "I would say it was the other way round. There is a small house just up there, around the curve of the beach. It's where I have been staying."

"I couldn't scent you." I mutter. I thought it would have been obvious after the restaurant, but it's only now, up close that I could smell him but it was still mixed with the scent of the ocean.

*The beauty of staying near the beach." He tells me. "The mix of the sea breeze, the constant air flow and the scents of mother nature is enough to make it seem like I was never here."

*How long have you been here?" I ask as Dane checks me over

"Here? About a week." Silas tells me.

"Why were you waiting by the car?" Dane demands

"I wanted to know why you followed me. It's not like you have tried to find me previously, is it? And again, you were having a moment. I wasn't going to interrupt. There would be a time when I could say my piece."

"I was told you were stillborn." Dane mutters

"What about after you found out the truth?" Silas stares at him. "And don't say you didn't know. Because this is not the reaction of someone who finds out their twin is alive."

"I had siblings to look after." Dane is frustrated. I see the way he stares at Silas, ready to break his jaw. "And what about you, it sounds like you knew about me?"

"New information. Why do you think I'm here?" Silas's crimson eyes shift to me. Likely because I hadn't stopped staring. It was almost freaky how identical they are. And I still couldn't look away.

He winks at me.

"You came to find Dane?" I ask

"Yes and no."

*Do you want something from me?" Dane demands.

"I'm just curious." Silas tells him. "I'm a little surprised that you are not."

"Where do you usually live? Where is your pack?" I ask. He was definitely here alone.

*Sorry, I thought I had made myself clear when I informed you of Cooper's prisoners. I live in White Cliffs."

"You are an Alpha?" I was so confused. If it was a place where my family was from. Why would a Wolf be running

it?

He snorts. "No. Why on Earth would I want that role?"

The smell of power tells me that he is lying. Nyx murmurs. I trusted her. His scent is thick with power. Nothing like Damien or Eric's and possibly, even stronger than Dane's. Was Silas the first born?