The Alpha's Contract (Neah and Dane)

#Chapter 0011 - Read The Alpha's Contract (Neah and Dane) Chapter 0011

Chapter 0011

Dane

"Did anyone have a clue?" I demand as I watch my sleeping mate. She was out cold and likely would be for some time. Raven had gone as far as stitching her up once she was certain the tie had been severed and Neah's body had been pumped full of drugs.

Someone's head is gaing to roll! Aero growls

"No." Eric replies. "Surely if Neah was mated, she wouldn't have left Moonshine so easily.

"But she didn't though, did she?! She practically collapsed at the door."

"I thought you said that was because she had never left? You said a combination of fear and illness."

I turn around to see him leaning against the wall, studying me. He was the only one I had confided in, telling him what Aero had said about Neah being our mate.

"Maybe he was nearby." He shrugs his shoulders at me as my eyes shift to my sister.

She was staring into her coffee, trying to not draw attention to herself, but the silence told me she knew something. The girl barely stay silent for more than a few minutes

"Spit it out!" I snap at her.

'Why the fuck is it always Raven?' Aero prowls around the back of my mind. I already knew he wanted to have it out with Raven's Wolf, Midnight "I don't know anything." Raven keeps her eyes low

"Raven! I nearly killed her by kissing her because of this stupid fucking blood tie! A blood tie can only exist if she has a mate that is still alive." "Okay, okay. You don't need to go all Alpha on me. She had a mate. All I know is that he rejected her.

"Are you certain?

She nods her head.

"Did she accept?"

"I don't know. I'm sorry, talking about it made me think of Salem okay. f kind of went off talking about why he rejected me, okay! If I had known thatwas the reason for this, then I would have questioned her more."

"Come on Dane, you know she is telling the truth." Eric mutters. He moves next to me and peers in through the window at Neah. "I'm more interested to know how she knew she was mated."

"What?"

"You said she was bound, right?" Eric frowns

I hadn't even thought about it. I had been too wrapped up in the blood tie news. "She shouldn't have been able to scent him." I mutter, "How could she have known?

Sitting by Neah's bedside, I watch her in silence, trying to choose the words Fwanted to say. There was a ot of information to unpack, though already knew it would be tad much other to handle at once. \sim

In the bright lights of the hospital, she looked a little better, her skin wasn't as dull and her eyes no longer appeared so sunken

Raven appears regularly to check her and to check the newly stitched wound. Eactscheck up, she would apologise to me, telling me that she never meant to keep it a secret.and that she hadn't thought much of it. Because in her words, who creates a blood tie when they have rejected their mate. Which just adds to the list of questions I have for Neah.

It's almost one in the morning before her eyes open.

She groans and tries to sit up, freezing when she sees me. "I'm sorry."

"What are you sorry for?"

Her blue eyes flash around the room. "I've caused problems. I didn't.... Ow." She holds a hand to her stomach and lies back down. "Raven stitched you up. It's probably going to be uncomfortable for a little while.

She blinks back tears, "Am I in trouble?"

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"The pain came on so quickly."

"No Neah, I'm talking about your mate. Why didn't you tell me that you were already mated?"

She drags her teeth over her bottom lip as she closes her eyes. "He rejected me. He forced me to accept his rejection. He...." she hesitates as she peers though slits at me.

Chapter 0012

"He beat you?" I finish her sentence.

She only moves her head slightly, but she confirms my question.

"Who?"

"Beta Kyle." She whispers.

'But she's ours now, right?' Aero grumbles in a panic.

'Let me finish!" I snap at him.

"How did you know that prick was your mate?" I study her face.

"I don't know. I could smell him." She screws her face up. "He was the first person I scented since I was a kid. I don't know how or why. But he was so angry. So disgusted." Neah hugs herself as she looks up at the lights in the ceiling. "He hated me and I paid for it."

'She could scent him?' Aero mutters. 'How if she was bound?'

'I'm getting to that if you will just be quiet for five minutes.'

"How old were you?"

"It was my eighteenth." She keeps her voice quiet and sighs.

"And he was the one who did that to you?"

She looks at her stomach and shakes her head. "Luna Cassandra... I think." She pauses, pressing her pink lips into a thin line. "Was it badly infected?"

"You don't need to worry about it anymore. The problem has been dealt with. It will heal properly this time."

Rising to my feet, I was about to tell her to get some rest. But I couldn't help myself. "Why could you scent him?" "I don't know. I swear." She shakes her head. "They bound me for a second time after that. I haven't been able to heal since."

I wanted to push for more answers, but I could see she was exhausted even after all the rest she has had.

"Get some sleep. I will be back in the morning."

Leaving the hospital, I find Eric hovering outside, just as I had asked.

"She awake?"

Nodding, "She answered some of my questions. But I'm letting her get some rest until the morning. Eric, she has been bound not once but twice."

"Twice? Are you sure?" He looks puzzled.

"I heard it from her own mouth."

"She must carry some powerful Alpha blood if she needed binding twice."

"She is possibly more powerful than Trey. What other reason could there be that would make them treat her like this other than fear? Why else would they set her up for the death of her parents?"

I don't sleep. Neah had only slept in the bed for one night and it already felt odd to not have her here. By six in the morning, I was back sitting beside her bed in the hospital. Watching and waiting for her to open her eyes.

She groans first, stretching a little before opening her eyes. I see how she panics before quickly remembering where she is too.

"Hospital?" she whispers, looking for confirmation.

"Yes." I watch her as she pushes herself up on the bed, ignoring her pain, and I wondered how many times she had to do that while living in Moonshine. I wondered if she had ever gotten a break. If Trey and the others just let her be for a single night.

Neah pulls her top up, studying her own stitches with a frown. "She made the wound bigger." She mumbles.

"Raven had too. At some point between Cassandra injuring you and me bringing you here. Kyle, blood tied himself to you."

"He what?" she asks, confused. She really didn't know much about our kind at all.

"Blood tie. It can be a mate thing. It doesn't have to be."

"I... I accepted. H...h... he wanted me to accept the rejection. I did." She stutters.

"I think because you were still bound to a certain degree, that the rejection didn't work properly. Or at least not how it should."

'She's our mate!' Aero roars inside of my head. 'He's not having her. I won't let him. I will kill the entire Moonshine pack if it means that she gets to stay with us!'

'Trust me, there is no way she is going back to them.'

Chapter 0013

Neah

It was a lot to take in. First the Blood of Walfsbane and pack runs. Now a blood tie and still sort of being mated to Beta Kyle. Flashing my eyes up to Alpha Dane, I lower them immediately. He was staring straight at me.

"I swear." I whisper again. "I swear I don't know what you are talking about."

"And that is the most frustrating thing, Neah. I know you don't have a clue what I'm talking about."

I wanted to ask why he was so angry, instead, I keep the question to myself.

"I don't ever want to be near Beta Kyle." I mumble and from the corner of my eye, I see his face relax, there was almost a hint of a smile on the corners of his lips.

"Good, I have no intention of giving you back." He rises from his seat. "Raven has said you can come back to the house. Are you up for walking or would you prefer I carried you?

'IL can walk." I mutter

Slipping out of the bed, I straighten myself up, only to feel a long sharp pain rip through my stomach.

"Are you sure?" Alpha Dane asks.

I nod my head, I had been through worse. I had worked through worse. But he seemed almost disappointed that I was putting a barrier between us.

He lets me take my time. Not saying anything even when I stop because the pain is so bad. They had said it would take a while for it to heal completely, but how long was a while?

Stopping again, I glance back over my shoulder and realise I was barely fifteen metres from the hospital and still had a long way to go to get to the pack house.

Alpha Dane moves in front of me, "Let me help." s.... I can do it. "Neah," His rough fingers gently tip my chin up to look at him. "I can see that you are in a lot of pain. Just let me help."

He does that thing, where he changes the tone of his voice to basically tell me that it wasn't optional. Reluctantly, I nod and he wastes no time in sweeping me off my feet.

He is pleased with himself as he carries me through the house and into the bedroom. But he doesn't put me down on my feet, he puts me straight into bed.

"As I said, this is going to take some time to heal. Blood ties are not the easiest thing to dissolve. The pain you are feeling now will likely increase."

"Increase?" Surely it couldn't get much worse.

He sits nextto me, his crimson eyes lock on mine and a shiver runs down my spine: "Usually yes, but giver that you were unaware of the tie and the fact you are still bound. don't knew how it will affect you." ' \sim

"Why would he do it? Why would Beta Kyle do this after making me accept his rejection?"

"That is something I am still trying to figure out. As for calling him Beta, stop. He doesn't deserve that title and neither does your brother deserve to be an Alpha."

I was a nobody, it was my duty to call them by their titles. It as disrespectful to call them by their names. "Tell me; when you found out that he was your mate. Did you hope it would change things for you?"

I shake my head, still remembering the hate that was in Beta Kyle's eyes. "It was a nightmare."

"Did your brother know?"

I shake my head. "I don't think so."

Alpha Dane just nods his head, he suddenly reaches out a hand and I flinch. I hadn't flinched in so long. I had learned to control it because flinching means a worse beating.

Alpha Dane pauses, and then slowly reaches up to my hair and pulls something from it. He shows me a little feather.

"Get some rest. I will check on you in a little bit." He flicks on a screen on the wall opposite the bed and hands me the remote. "I'm sure you will find something you like."

I didn't have the energy to tell him that I had never watched television. It just made my life sound even more depressing.

Alone, I slowly get out of bed and make my way towards one of the big windows and sit in the big comfy chair while trying to ignore the pain in my stomach

Sitting and milling over everything I had been told). I couldn't make any sense of it Why would Beta Kyle. continue to beat me if he knew we- were stil connected? Or maybe that was ay, maybe he was so 7 disgusted by it, but then why-would he force a blood tie on me: what did he hope to gain from it? Content

belongs to

I watch as Alpsa Dane appears outside. HewWa ks like he is on some kind of mission and a few moments later, Jefison and Eric come from= another ϕ direction, meeting Alpka Danealmost directly in frontof the window. 4

The three of them have a quick conversation and then disappear into the trees, out of sight. I wondered where they were going, so I just watch waiting for them to come back.

Chapter 0014

"You are supposed to be in bed, not sleeping in a chair." Alpha Dane's voice is quiet as he slides his arms under me and moves me back to the bed. He pulls the blanket up over me, but I try to sit up. "Sleeping will help you get over this quicker." He gently pushes against my shoulders, trying to get me to lie back down. Io." I push back against him. "Somethings wrong." "I told you your wound will hurt for a while." Io." I mutter sleepily. I couldn't even make sense of what I wanted to say. "It's a trick." I mumble. "I think it's a trick. "A trick?" I nod my head but my tired eyes remain closed as I fight the sleep demons to tell Alpha Dane my idea. "Get some sleep. we will talk about it when you feel better." He orders When I woke, I made myself get out of the bed, there was no way I was letting myself get all sleepy again before I had a chance to explain myself. Splashing water on my face. I stare at my reflection in the mirror. My blue eyes were a little brighter and my skin no longer looked as dull. "You're awake." Alpha Dane mutters, making me jump. I hadn't heard him come in. He walks right up behind me, his eyes locked on to mine in the mirror as I feel the heat that his body produces "How are you feeling?" He asks as his hands move to my hips. I feel my own temperature increase as my neck and my face turn pink. His fingers creep under my top slipping inside the waistband of my joggers edging into my panties as his lips meet my neck and I let out a quiet moan.

"Neah?"

My eyes snap open to Alpha Dane who is standing over me

"You really should be sleeping in the bed, not the chair." He mutters.

It was just a dream. Just a dream. But the dream didn't hide the fact that he could probably smell my arousal. So I clamp my thighs together. "Do you need help?" He asks

"No!" I blurt out a little too loudly and he cocks a brow at me.

'I was only offering to help you get to the bed." I see the small smirk on his lips. He could smell me.

I lower my gaze. "I like to sit here, I like to watch." I mutter, trying to keep the topic off of my dream. "It's different."

"Different?"

"You don't expect me to do anything. You are letting me sleep for as long as I need. And the food..... It's just different." I couldn't explain it any more than that but he nodded anyway.

"Not everyone is a bastard." He tells me as he changes his black tee to a red shirt.

He turns back to face me as he fastens his buttons. I was right when I first noticed no ink. Not a single tattoo could be seen, it was strange. Everyone in Moonshine was covered in them.

"Yes?" He asks

"Nothing

"Neah, I may not have known you for long, but I know when you have a question to ask. Ask!" "You have no tattoos."

"That's not a question."

"Why?"

"They're not really my style. I know others havethem to show their dominance or to show they belong» to a pack But I'm sure you will agree that I don't need them." He points to his etimson eyes. "These areenough to oshow my position in the world. "

He was right, I had never seen another Wolf with eyes like his. Though I thought it was some kind of trick, contact lenses or something. "Trick." I mutter out louder 'I can assure you that these are my eyes.

lo." I shake my head. "No, I was thinking about everything you told me before I fell asleep. The blood tie and still being partly mated."

His eyes narrow when I say 'partly mated.'

"What if it S-a trick? You said blood ties allowcthe mate to walk around freely ip the other's pack. Raventold me that Moonshine had neverbeen heart I of and you said the bldod tie was 5 recent." <

He is just staring at me

"You told me that some of your other brides had been snooping. I haven't." I add when I look up at him. "Could they get in, undetected because of the blood tie with me?"

It was probably the most I had spoken in one ge since being here. "It's a good idea, but no. You would have to be a member of my pack officially for that to work.

"Officially? You mean if you mark me?" I ask quietly. He had mentioned it but had said no more since.

"If I mark you. " Alpha Dane confirms. 'But I can't do that while you have % a mate out there. You think the blood tie pain is bad, it's nothing in. ~ comparison to being marked by one yetmated to another. It will kill you."

Chapter 0015

Dane

It was a surprise that she had said so much. More than a sentence and she would usually clam up. Maybe she was finally relaxing enough to feel she could talk more freely.

You still haven't told her we could smell her arousal.' Aero mutters

I don't need to. I'm pretty certain she has already put two and two together. The rosy skin was a give away.' I know he is desperate to have her, to claim her. Just as I was, but we had a new problem. Kyle

If I marked her, I would watch her die and there would be nothing I could do about it. Neah would be in so much pain as her body burned from the: inside out. I'm cruel, but the Moon Goddess's rules were on another level.

Her eyes hover on my face. slightly off focus. I knew she was fighting back tears again as she replayed my words in her head.

Out of all my brides, she was the only one who surprised me.

Because she isn't brain washed like the others.' Aero muses.

No, but her awareness of our world is limited.' I mutter back as Neah wipes away a stray tear.

"Are you going to take me back?" She asks in a whisper

"Why would I do that?"

""Y... You said that you couldn't mark me."

"Yet. I can't mark you yet." I rise to my feet and turn away from her. "Get some more sleep, Neah. I promise you it will help with the healing process." "Are you leaving?"

"I'm just going to see someone about unbinding you. You won't be alone. Eric and Raven will be in the house if you need anything." Meeting my brother in the foyer, he cocks an eyebrow at me. "Bit smart for a meeting with a witch."

"She wants us to meet her in a high profile place." I look up and down at his jeans and hoodie, "I don't want to bring more attention to myself than needed. I suggest you go and change."

He returns ten minutes later in a grey shirt and deep blue jeans. "Better." I mutter

The driver is standing next to the limo with the door wide open. I give him the name of the restaurant and he bobs his head. "Do you actually think she can help us?" Jenson asks as the door is closed on us.

"It's a long shot. Even if she can't, maybe she knows someone who can help Neah."

"You really like this one, don't you?"

My eyes flicker up to him. He had been warned one too many times about bringing up the women I was interested in.

He zips his lips shut, pretending to throw away the key.

The restauranNs buzzing and we are shown tea table where an older woman igalready sitting, drinking a a~ martini. Mer gold bangles rattled as she moved her arms. A purple Scarf coveted her hair and matched her long dress. 4

"Alpha Dane." She greets me with a smile. "It has been a long time.

"Madame Curie. Thank you for agreeing to meet us." I watch how she drowns her drink so I offer to get another. "No need, but tell your brother to sit down. He is drawing an awful lot of attention to himself."

JENSON! I link him and he silently slides into the booth.

"Now tell me more about this girl." Madame Curie asks

"She's my bride, as I mentioned on the phone."

"Yes, but why are you coming to see me? Have you chosen a human, is that the problem?"

"No, no, she is definitely a Wolf, it's just her abilities have been bound

"Twice." Jenson mutters

"Twice?" Madame Curie asks. She leans back in the seat. "Is this why you want to meet me, you believe I have something to do with it?" "No, not at all. I was hoping you would know of a way to unbind her."

"There is a way, yes. It won't be easy, but tell me. Why was she bound?"

I look around, dropping my voice. "She was accused of killing her parents. But she was just six. Then she was bound again when they realised she could scent her mate."

She taps her long nails on the table. And smiles I 'Strong Alpha blood 2 must rit through her veins. Sa r assume you want her to have her wolfto break the bond with ber mate?" Content belongs ta. -

"It's a little more complicated than that, but yes."

She purses her lips as she studies me. "It can be done, but it will cost."

"Give me a number."

She puts her elbows on the table and rubs her knuckles. "One million.

Jenson spits his drink out all over the table. "Bro, you can't be serious. Not just for some girl. You can go out and choose another mate." "Shut up!" I snap at him.

Locking eyes with Madame Curie. I nod, "Done, you unbind her. You will get your money."

She bobs her head and rises from her seat. "Just one thing, Alpha Dane. as it will help. Which pack is the girl from?"

"Moonshine.

She freezesS-and the colour drains from her-tanned skin. "The deal is Off Alpha Bane. I wish you luck, but? canngt help you." She backs away intos the crowd of people and> disappears from sight. ~

Chapter 0016

"Fucking witches. It would be so much easier if they had a scent." Jenson mutters.

"That's what you are concerned about? It's a fucking good job you weren't the first born. Did you not see her face when I mentioned Moonshine? Something is seriously wrong with that pack."

"So what do you want to do?"

"I need to speak to Eric." I drop some cash on the table for our drinks and head back out to the car. "Take us home." I snap at the driver. "Chill." Jenson beams at me, "it's not his fault that you have your knickers in a twist."

He goes to get in, but I grab him and slam his body into the side of the limo. "Will you shut, the fuck, up!"

"Why are you so touchy about this one? What's so special about her?"

He climbs into his seat and as I take mine, he looks directly into my eyes. "She's the one, isn't she? You have finally found her.

I don't answer him. Because right now, I had no idea how long it would be before I could claim her as mine. If the pack never returns home, how are we supposed to kill Kyle and end the bond between them.

Back at the pack house, I find Raven and Eric sitting in the office.

"How did it go? Is she willing to help?" Eric rises from my chair and moves around the desk. "She was going to help." Jenson tells him.

"Was?" Raven asks. "Jenson, what the fuck did you do?"

"Hey!" He holds his hands up. "I didn't do anything."

"He didn't." I confirm. "Madame Curie heard the name of Neah's pack and walked away." "She walked away? Are you serious?" Raven asks

"Yes." I rub my temples. "Is Neah okay?"

"Been in and out of sleep. A few screams of pain. What are we going to do? We have never been screwed over by another pack. Is that what they are trying to do? Are they trying to tear us down?"

"We will figure it out." Eric tells Raven. "We always do.

I hear Neah scream.

"I will go." Raven mutters.

I stop her. "There is nothing any of us can do. There is no medicine to give her. She has to go through it." We can't just leave her.' Aero growls at me. 'She needs us."

I look at Raven and see the sorrow in her eyes. She was feeling guilty because she was almost blood tied to her mate. "I will go."

Neah is tossing-and turning in the bed. She haetchanged out of the clothes she\ was wearing and was <> now in 'one of my tee's. Sweat glisteced her skin as she thrashed araue yet her eyes were squeezed . Content belongs to ~ Srovel.ne! oS

Moving closer to her, I feel the extreme heat radiating from her. She stills for a second before letting out another blood curdling scream.

Four days it lasted. Four long ucking daysxWith each new day, he slept. little less, but more was spent screaming or thrashi about4y) pain. No one slept in thé house. Eric, Jenson, Raven and mast of the omegas left atshightfall, jut so they could get sorte sleep.

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The fifth day came and the house was quiet. I had taken to running in the morning just so Aero and I could think more clearly but as I creep into the house, there were no noises. No screams.

"Shit!" I charge up the stairs, expecting Neah to have disappeared. Instead, she was laid out like a starfish on her stomach. Her black sweaty hair hung over her face as she slept.

Is it over? Aero asks in a whisper as though he thinks she will hear him We won't know until she wakes.'

Turning the chair around. I watch as she sleeps. I could hear her breathing and the steady rhythm of her heart beating. It was the slowest it had been in days and I hoped it was a good sign.

After an hour she starts stretching her limbs. She sweeps back her hair and locks eyes with me.

'I'm naked." she mutters

"You are." I smirk, happy to see that she was feeling better.

"Can you look away? Please

"You've been naked for days. You were overheating. Raven put you in a tee but even that was too much. So I removed it.

Her cheeks turn pink and slowly spread down her neck. "Please." She asks again as her hand searches for the invisible blanket. Getting to my feet, I grab the blanket that hangs on the back of the chair and toss it to her. "You really shouldn't be so embarrassed.

"You....you didn't do anything to me?"

"You were ikand not of sane mind. I am not nay brother." I mutter, turming my bagk'on her. I could see her.> reflection in the window as she got to her' feet and wrapped the blanket around herself, -

"You didn't let Aero do something?" "No, he was more concerned about helping you." In the window, I see how she presses her hand against her chest and she lets out a big sigh of relief.

"Trust me." I add as I continue to watch her reflection, "You would know if I had fucked you."

Chapter 0017

Neah

My stomach ties itself in knots at his comment. He keeps facing the opposite way to me, but I feel his intent. His patience was waning. The others had probably slept with him on their first night here. He said it himself, he had to hold Aero back.

He moves to the large bathtub and turns on the water, pouring some coloured liquids into the running water. "You need a bath." He announces without looking at me. I sniff my armpits, he was right. I stank. He fills the tub until bubbles are practically overflowing. "Get in."

m....l. can... I can just shower." At least I could sort of hide myself from him

He crosses the room towards me and rips the blanket from my body. With his eyes locked on mine, he lifts me off my feet and carries me to the bathtub, slowly lowering me into the hot water.

Not once do his eyes leave mine. They don't roam my face or the rest of me, like his brothers had. Almost like he was trying to prove a point. "You bathe, I need to change the bedding." He walks back to the bed and starts ripping off the sheets. Something my brother would class as my job.

I don't move or speak, and just let my eyes follow him as he moves around the bed and to the closet to grab more sheets. He pays no attention to me. He doesn't ask me any questions, his eyes don't even flicker back in my direction.

When he's finished, he moves back to the closet and rummages through the clothes he had ordered for me

"I assume you feel the cold."

"Sometimes." I mutter.

He pulls out a pair of jeans and another sweatshirt and places them on the bed. "! will be in the office when you are ready."

He didn't wait for my reply, slamming the bedroom door behind him as he stormed out. His sudden anger made me nervous and I was not looking forward to meeting him in the office.

Rather than taking my time. I quickly wash, dress and hurry down the stairs. Only to find Jenson blocking the hallway "Someone's feeling better." He grins

I nod my head, trying not to be disrespectful

"How's the wound?

"Better. I have to meet Alpha Dane." I murmur, trying to squeeze past his large frame.

"Dane won't mind us talking. I mean if you are to marry my brother, we should get to know each other. You will be family after all"

." What was I supposed to say, Dane didn't want me to be alone with him. But it wasn't like I could escape.

"Hey, you don't need to panic." He drapes his arm over my shoulder and hugs me as my whole body tenses up.

'Seriously Jenson!" I hear Raven» shriek down the hallway. "What isit with you and our brother's brides?!" She strides towards us, pulliog me

out "of his grip. Content belongs to

"I'm just being friendly." He mutters in annoyance

"A little too friendly. You are always like this!" She glares at him and growls as she guides me away. "Where are you going?" She asks as we round the corner away from her twin.

"Alpha Dane wants to see me in the office.

"Funny, he asked to see me too." She gives me a small smile as we stop in front of the office door.

Beta Eric is with Alpha Dane. They drop theieconversation as Raven' opens the door. Alpha Dane's eyés go toray wet, tied up hair, out he doesn't say anything. His look almost made me want to let it down.

"How are you feeling?" Beta Eric asks softly. He always spoke to me with a kind voice and was never in my face like Jenson. I nod my head. "Raven, check her wound." Alpha Dane orders

I turn to Raven before she has a chance to say something and lift my top just high enough for her to inspect it

Her fingers carefully press around the scar that was forming. She ~ smilesat me. "It looks really gaod. I would: say the blood tie is definitely broken." Content belongs I to 7

"Good." Alpha Dane still sounds annoyed. What had I done? Did I say something when I was out of it?

Chapter 0018

"Neah, we will be returning to Moonshine tonight!"

I feel my stomach drop. He was returning me. He finally realised that I was no good. My eyes close and I feel my breath catch in my throat. I should have been like the others Raven had told me about. I should have thrown myself at him. I should have tried harder. I shouldn't have accused him of stuff.

I feel his rough fingers on my chin as he tips my face up. "Neah, open your eyes."

I keep them squeezed shut.

"Neah, I am not returning you."

Continuing to keep my eyes squeezed tight, I didn't believe him. I knew it was going to happen eventually.

"I will try harder." I plead. I may still not know what the future holds for me here, but it had to be better than going back to my brother. "Neah, you are not listening. I am not returning you."

I peek through slits. "We," Alpha Dane peints to Beta Eric and himself. "Are going back tonight."

"Is that a good idea?" Raven mutters. She glances at me and sighs. "What if that's what they want?"

"Raven, I can handle myself and the pack has barely a hundred members. I could kill that many in my sleep."

"Are you taking Jenson?" Raven asks

"I wasn't planning on it." Alpha Danes' gaze shifts back to me. "But now I think it is a good idea."

"And what if they aren't there, like last time?

"Then we will burn it ta the ground." He shrugs his shoulders, "Or I might just do that anyway."

I see how he watches me, waiting for some kind of reaction

"If you see Beta Kyle, rip his insides out through his throat.

Raven's jaw drops open as she looks at me. Beta Eric was staring at me too but Alpha Dane, he had a smile creeping over his lips. "Gladly." He muses.

He shifts his gaze to Beta Eric. "We leave at nightfall."

Beta Eric responds with a simple nod and leaves the office. He pulls a protesting Raven with him, leaving Alpha Dane and I alone. "You've thought about his death?" He asks, curiously

"Beta Kyle

"Don't call him Beta. Twat. prick, spunk bubble, you can call him anything but Beta. I told you he doesn't deserve the title."

"Okay."

"I have more questions about him, but tell me why I can smell my brother on you. Does it have something to do with why Raven asked me if I was taking him with me?"

"He said something about getting to know me." I didn't want to cause problems between them. "Let me guess. Because you will be family one day."

I nod and see how he frowns. I really wanted to curl up in a small ball and pretend that none of this was happening. I didn't need to be causing more problems.

His head suddenly turns to the window. "Neah, stay here. Lock the door behind me.

Alpha Dane doesn't give me a chance to ask any questions as rushes out the door. I see Jenson, Eric and some other men catapult themselves out the door, some already mid shift.

Quickly closing the door, I slide the lock across had no idea what was happening. They could obviously ~ sense samething that I couldn't. by my panic, I shove the chairs in, front of thedoors and sit under the~ window, hugging my legs tomy chest. Content belongs ta

Moonshine had never been attacked and the pack had never attacked anyone, I had no idea what to do.

Peering over the window frame, a

huge beast Was being dragged out of the trees by the Wolves. It was tal and museular with strange tufts of dark for. A body like a human, but its head was just like a Wolf only much larger. I had never seen anything like it

It digs its back feet into the groun as the Wolves try to drag it into th clearing-Large claws swing at the Wolves as it tries to break free-until someone grabbed hold of itsnec ripaing it from it's shoulders 'Content

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Chapter 0019

Neah

I duck back down. What the hell was it?

I couldn't bring myself to look again and when there is a knock on the door, I jump. "Neah. It's me, you can let me in." Alpha Dane's voice comes from the other side

Sitting in silence, I stare at the door as the handle is fumbled with. I didn't want to move, I didn't want to leave my safe spot and I was grateful for the bolt on the door.

"Neah, I know you saw. The beast has been dealt with. It's dead. You don't need to be afraid."

Pushing myself off the ground, I look out the window. All the Wolves had disappeared from sight along with the monster. I start to move some of the chairs out of the way and slowly slide the lock back.

Alpha Dane pushes his way in through the small gap. easily forcing the rest of the chairs back. His crimson eyes look around the office, but he doesn't mention the chairs and I was starting to realise that the stack of chairs wouldn't have really made a difference. He had pushed them back like thay were nothing more than a stack of pillows.

Between shifting back to his human form and coming back to the office, he had found a pair of grey shorts. They hung low on his hips, showing off all his muscles. I find myself looking away, almost embarrassed about the thoughts racing through my mind.

"What..... What was it?" I mutter, trying to force my thoughts elsewhere.

"We don't know.

""Y...you don't?" It shocked me that someone like Alpha Dane didn't know what the beast was. He shakes his head. "I have seen a lot of things, but nothing like that."

"You killed it?"

"It was trying to attack some of the pack. It was the only option."

'It had a head, like a Wolf." I mumble

'I know."

"But the rest... it looked like. ..it looked almost human apart from the tufts of hair and the size. "I know. But now the beast is dead. You don't need to worry about it.

Not worry about it? It would be all I could think about until the beast had a name. Though I could see that he was done with the conversation

'Moonshine will have to wait too." He tells. me as he begins putting. the chairs Back in their correct places. 'Didyou really think the chairs would stop someone from getting'in?"

I shrug my shoulders because at the time, yes, I did believe that. "I think it might be time to enrol you into our training classes."

"Training?"

'Most kids-would have learned a» great dealat school, but you didnt go. And I i would feel a little better knowing that you could protect yauirself on some level." ~~

"You want me to train with the pack?

He straightens.up and turns to face me. "Maybe Rat with the pack just yet. They-have a stronger sense of smell, hearing, and they are quicker. ids would have an upper you. That would be~ putting you at a disadvantage. No, y6u can train with me."

"Y...you?" I stutter. He was a strong Alpha. I didn't stand a chance. "I can control myself far better than any of the others that are sparring. And if you land a hit on me, I won't feel the need to attack you back."

My stomach was tying itself up again. I had spent years closing my eyes whenever a fist came at me. How on earth did he think he was going to successfully train me?

"Now?" I ask. "A couple more days. I want to wait until that scar has completely formed. It is not my plan to put you back in the hospital." My hand goes to my stomach, feeling the bumps of the scar through the sweatshirt.

"Is it hurting?" He was staring directly at me.

Chapter 0020

"No." "Don't lie to me. The last time you held it like that, you collapsed." "It doesn't hurt, I swear."

"Then why are you holding it?"

"It's....It's nothing." I didn't want to tell him that the scar was a reminder of how weak I was. It was going to be a permanent reminder of my weakness. Bruises fade, smaller wounds heal, but this would be there forever. A constant reminder that even though the blood tie was broken, I was still mated to Beta Kyle. Yet even when he dies, it will still be there. A reminder of the horrible life I had.

His crimson eyes narrow as his brow creases into a frown. He leans back in his chair, studying me when I don't explain myself. "Scars will fade over time. It won't always be so prominent."

How could he know what I was thinking? Or was it that obvious?

"You should look at it as a survivor's wound." He continues.

"A survivor's wound?" It wasn't something that was on my radar at all.

He nods at me. "It caused you a great deal of pain and suffering. But look at you, standing in front of me. probably looking the healthiest you have in years. You survived, Neah. You may not think it, but deep down, you are a fighter."

He had such high hopes and time will show him just how wrong he is. The only person I've ever really wanted to kill is Beta Kyle. Other than that, I wasn'ta fighter.

When there was no news of any more beasts in the forest, Alpha Dane told me I didn't need to stay in the office any longer and that I was free to explore.

Standing at the open front door, I watch the snow start to fall, little white wispy flakes blow around and there were already children running around trying to catch the flakes on their tongues.

I take a step outside and immediately step backwards across the threshold. I had never been outside alone.

"Are yOu goingto do that all night?" I turn to see Raven sitting on the bottom of the stairs. Her elbows propped en her knees, her chin.» restingyon her hands as she watches me with a smile. I hated that" cotldn't scent them ©

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& ™

"It's snow. You've seen snow right? I mean Moonshine is not that far." 'I've seen snow." I mutter, looking out at the falling flakes. The snow was getting heavier now and starting to settle on the grass too. "Then what's wrong? I've been watching you for a good twenty minutes and I can't figure out what the problem is. Is it because of that beast, because we have the all clear. It's dead."

I didn't even realise I had been standing here for so long.

I hear her footsteps as she moves towards me.She stops still and links her arm with mine. "You are not ~ alone hete. There is always S someotié to help or talk to." She> freezes and rips her arm away: "Yau're not thinking of running are you?"

"No. I've just..... I've never been outside on my own."

She grabs my arm again, beaming at me. "It's like I said, Neah, we are never alone here." She pulls me out into the snow, completely unphased by the cold as she spins around in jeans and a vest.

She stops and smiles at me. "Everyone thifiks that we are this orrible, raging pack that just wants_ to kill everyone. But what we believe in is loyalty. Here, everyone will protect each other. If you are- outside and someone was to attack, y@u can guarantee that everyone will come to your side."

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"Because I am Alpha Dane's bride?" I ask quietly.

"Partly, but mostly because that is who we are, we protect our own.

But technically, I still wasn't part of this pack.