

Love Venom

By Grey_Wolf

Submitted: November 5, 2008

Updated: April 4, 2009

This story is by Hanna.

This is based on a dream I had a while back, I plan on finishing it!

All characters belong to me except the obvious (Greek gods and so on...)

Provided by Fanart Central.

http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/Grey_Wolf/54752/Love-Venom

Chapter 1 - Past	3
Chapter 2 - Heartbreak	4
Chapter 3 - Danger	5
Chapter 4 - Monster	6
Chapter 5 - The Victim	7
Chapter 6 - The Coffee Shop	9
Chapter 7 - Old Fart	11
Chapter 8 - Pizza	13
Chapter 9 - Tag. You're It.	16
Chapter 10 - Secret Admirer	19
Chapter 11 - The Surprise	21
Chapter 12 - Roses and Broken Elevators.	24
Chapter 13 - Confused	26
Chapter 14 - The Creeper.	28
Chapter 15 - The Face of Death.	30
Chapter 16 - Ecstasy	32
Chapter 17 - Family	34
Chapter 18 - Paranoid	37
Chapter 19 - Ice Cream!	41

Chapter 20 - Strange weather today, huh?	43
Chapter 21 - Tickle-tickle-tickle!!	45
Chapter 22 - Demon in the Window	47
Chapter 22 - Demon in the Window	49
Chapter 23 - Lurking in the Dark	51
Chapter 24 - Choices	53
Chapter 25 - Hello, brother.	54
Chapter 26 - Whoopsie!	56
Chapter 27 - Why are you naked?	59
Chapter 28 - Lust	61
Chapter 29 - Donuts!	62
Chapter 30 - Guilt	64
Chapter 31 - Kitty, kitty..	66
Chapter 32 - Sibling Rivalry	67
Chapter 33 - Destroyer of Trees	69
Chapter 34 - Lunatic	71
Chapter 35 - School	73
Chapter 36 - Condoms?	75
Chapter 37 - Bullies	77
Chapter 38 - I'm scared of Doctors!	80
Chapter 39 - Fairies?	82
Chapter 40 - Nurse Damon	84
Chapter 41 - Video Games	86
Chapter 42 - Werewolves! Oh my!	87
Chapter 43 - What's your excuse this time?	89

1 - Past

Sylas pulled up his sleeve to check the time; almost 10:00 pm. He squatted in a predators stance completely still behind the tall pillars surrounding the church balcony. *Where is she, I could have sworn she took this way home.* He thought to himself. A few weeks earlier a girl who walked the church path at night had caught his rather curious eye, now he watched her and listened in on her thoughts as she walked by.

Her name was Aurora; she was very beautiful; more beautiful than even Aphrodite. Even on the darkest nights her skin glowed with a light that Sylas couldn't resist, he held his breath and tensed his muscles to keep from hurting the innocent girl. Over the centuries he had never come across temptation such as this one, it made him curious as why this one human called out to him.

Sylas had been created by the Greek gods as a guardian; he had begun as a massive red dragon but soon discovered the ability to change into any creature he desired, except a mortal. The gods slowly vanished over time and a new age had begun where he was no longer needed as a guardian.

He searched the world for his new purpose; all the other Greek creatures had also vanished. Sylas had no idea what had become of his creators but he knew he was meant to do something for the new world being born.

He watched as new creatures crawled from the sea and floated down from the heavens; all of different shapes, sizes and colors. Some walked upright and others swam the large waters; Sylas chose the sky along with many other new creatures.

There was no book he hadn't memorized or a language he did not speak, in the centuries that lead up to this Sylas had taken the form of many. Now as he watched and waited he found himself trapped in the body of a new and strange beast, something the humans feared but did not believe in.

He had the form of a human but the instincts of a predator; eyes that pierced through darkness and hearing that picked up a strand of grass breaking miles away. He had extended canines in his mouth that oozed deadly venom and hands with hidden claws. He could travel at extreme speeds and not leave prints in sand or snow; he was able to jump soundlessly through the air for long distances.

There was a great craving that tore him to pieces if he resisted, a blood lust that he had to quench often. Ice blue eyes that glowed blood red in the darkness or when that hunger was strong and demanding. A vampire.

2 - Heartbreak

Aurora walked out into the cool October air, locking up for the night; she worked the closing shift at a small drug store a few miles from home. She preferred walking through the park over driving, even though driving would be safer this late at night.

Glancing at the clock inside she noticed just how late it was, just a few minutes past midnight. Her gut told her to avoid the park for tonight and catch a bus but she decided the walk would be better, just enough time to clear her head.

Before work earlier that morning Jeremy, her boyfriend, had ended the two year relationship without reason. Aurora had been expecting him to pop the question soon but he had other plans, plans with someone else. The other woman's name was Leah, an old friend of hers, not so much anymore. She'd heard rumors that Jeremy had been seeing Leah behind Aurora's back, but she ignored the truth figuring they were nothing but a rumor.

A silent tear made its way down her icy cheek; the hot liquid stung her skin like tiny needles. The literal pain of heartbreak flowed from her eyes steadily as she crossed the street to enter the park.

3 - Danger

Sylas turned his head to the soft sound of footsteps heading in his direction; his eyes made quick work of obstacles such as trees and buildings. A thin layer of lavender slid over his irises and he could see the shape of anything generating heat signatures. Red, orange and white silhouettes appeared instantly, each one with a pulsing black spot over their hearts.

Sylas searched briefly and soon found what he was looking for. Aurora was approaching. To his surprise, the aura he was drawn to generated a warm heat. It twisted around her from head to foot like a mini tornado. The strange thing was that it wasn't red or white in color, it was blue.

He focused his eyes to better examine the strange essence. It appeared to be coming from Aurora like she was some kind of generator. Then her thoughts came flooding into his head, she was in pain.

She didn't look hurt but her internal pain was overwhelming. *Not good enough for him. She betrayed me...* Images were flashing through his head of a boy and a girl together; the boy had his arm around the girl and was leaning in to kiss her. Then the same boy and girl sitting in a restaurant hand in hand, smiling and talking. The couple sitting on a bench leaning close and beginning to kiss; suddenly the images stopped.

Sylas saw through her eyes as she turned to face a smirking stranger. Sylas began searching his mind; *pretty little girl, all alone. Perfect!* He was quickly on his feet and racing toward her. He hid in a tree that hung over Aurora from behind; all he could watch until she was threatened.

4 - Monster

"Hey there, are you lost sweetie?" The man said with a smile, Aurora took a step back.

"N-no. I'm fine." She murmured; the man smiled widely when she stuttered. He took a step toward her, she was frozen in place.

Maybe I should take you someplace warmer, His smile widened even more; turning into a devilish grin. "Like my place." He closed the space between them and grabbed onto Aurora's wrists. She gasped and sucked in a lungful of air for a loud scream, he cupped his hand over her lips in a swift movement.

Suddenly the man was no longer upon her but a few feet away on the ground with a frightened expression. He was opening and closing his mouth as if trying to say something, his bottom lip quivering. He slowly raised his hand and was pointing behind her.

"Monster!" he yelled, his eyes nearly popping out of his head. Aurora turned around and saw a man standing some feet behind her. He was in the shadows but his eyes glowed brightly through the dark, glowed red.

5 - The Victim

As soon as Sylas made physical contact; memories came flowing into his head. The man known as Kyle was a criminal, a sadistic one at that. Images of other helpless woman on their bruised knees pleaded for his mercy. He would find joy from their pain and helplessness. He lived for it, to hurt woman. His hand drew back and it flashed across the poor girls face, knocking her unconscious.

Sylas pulled out of the memory, a sick feeling in his stomach. He glared at Kyle who had just landed on his back from the blow. The bloodlust began flowing through him like fast acting poison; his canines extended and venom filled his mouth, his eyes locked onto his victim. He could now see the pulsing targets covering Kyle s body, the sound they created called to him. The sound of a heart pumping blood through his body, it wouldn t be heard for long.

Kyle raised his arm, Sylas smiled as the word Monster! came from his lips. He shifted his eyes to Aurora as she turned to face him directly for the first time. Her eyes widened and her jaw dropped in surprise and fear. Sylas could see the red glow of his eyes in hers. He took a step forward, shifting his eyes back to his victim.

Kyle s thoughts were racing as he tried to figure out what was happening. Than he realized, he was the prey this time. He began to scramble across the ground and scream for help, Sylas was on him in a flash; grabbing a fistful of hair.

Shut up and stay still. Kyle s screams stopped instantly and his body stiffened, You are going to see what it s like. Sylas created an image in Kyle s head. An image of Kyle being tortured like the girls he had killed. What it s like to die before your time. Sylas leaned down to talk into his ear, his fangs bared and the venom dripping down to Kyle s neck. What it s like to be the victim. Kyle pleaded with his eyes, begged for his life. What it s like to die. Sylas ripped his throat out in a flash, snapping his neck in a quick motion.

Kyle s body was limp as Sylas licked blood from the wound, his heart beat one last time than murmured to a stop. The bloodlust began to fade to a flicker as Kyle s blood warmed his body. Sylas let Kyle fall to the ground and watched as the body began to turn to dust. He wiped blood from his lips before standing and looking at Aurora, she was standing frozen in place with her eyes wide. She was trembling, probably going into shock.

Sylas took a step toward her to test her reaction; she flinched but stayed in place. He took another timid step testing her again. She backed up into the tree, cornered.

Who are you? She whispered, her voice shook as if she were about to cry.

Sylas, He said quietly, to keep from scaring her more. I mean you no harm, I m sorry you had to see that.

How do I know you re not lying to me?

Why would I have to? If I wanted to kill you I wouldn t need to lie. She shuddered slightly, knowing it was the truth.

How can I trust you? Tears formed in her eyes.

I just saved you from being murdered, maybe raped. Sylas closed the distance between them. I don t ask for your trust just that you understand. He wiped away a tear running down her cheek. I ve been watching you for some time now. I m drawn to you for some reason more than the other humans; it s nothing I ve seen before in my entire lifetime.

What are you, a vampire? She glanced at his lips, expecting fangs.

Yes, but I m a shape shifter. I ve been stuck like this for a long time, maybe a century. He explained.

Why me, why am I so special? Sylas sighed.

You ask a lot of questions. Like I said, I m not sure why I m so drawn to you.

Can you blame me? I m talking to a fictional creature! Tears flowed down her face. Things like this aren t real; vampires, shape shifters. She was shaking more now.

You need food, I ll explain more to you once you ve calmed down. Sylas carefully took her hand in his. Aurora flinched, but held onto his hand anyway.

6 - The Coffee Shop

Are there more creatures like you? Aurora sipped her coffee, burning her lips and tongue. Sylas was stroking the rim of his Styrofoam coffee cup, gazing into the dark liquid. His thick black lashes cast a shadow over his cheek bones, making him look godlike.

I've searched, His eyes switched from the coffee to her, So far I haven't found any. I sometimes sense an odd presence but can't pinpoint it. So don't travel alone anymore. He pulled a small sky blue object out of his pocket and handed it to Aurora.

What's this? She examined it closely, it had two holes carved into it and small darker blue designs twisting and turning over the surface that glittered when they hit the light.

A Sylas-Whistle He smiled, I'll hear it if you blow into it, no matter where I am. He turned the whistle so that one of the holes, where the designs seemed to flow out, was facing Aurora.

It's beautiful, what's it made out of?

An ancient stone, it's very rare. I haven't seen anymore of it since my creators left.

Your creators? Aurora looked at him; she noticed he was leaning across the table; his face was just a foot from hers.

Yes, are you familiar with Greek Mythology? Sylas took his eyes away from the whistle to look into hers. His eyes were a striking shade of ice blue with slivers of a darker shade, just like the whistle.

Like Zeus and Olympus? She couldn't take her eyes from his.

Yes. The gods created me as a guardian.

Why?

There was a time that you mortals don't know about. His expression changed to a dark anger.

What happened? Aurora reached for his other hand, he pulled it away slightly.

There were several banished demons in between Hades and the mortal realm. They formed a leader and he led an attack against the gods, all living creatures that stood in their way were transformed into demons and joined the rising army.

In defense the gods created me along with my brother Damon. We fought together in the war but the more we fought the demons the more Damon wanted to become one. The gods suspected him and banished him; he joined the demon army and became the leader's right hand man. Damon soon realized his potential and killed the leader, making him the boss. He paused and Aurora took her chance to seize his hand in hers.

What else, did you win? She stroked his cool skin with her thumb.

After years of fighting I slimmed down the number of demons remaining, soon all that was left were a few loyal warriors and Damon. I hunted him to the ends of the earth until I found him. With the help of the gods we imprisoned him within an underwater volcano that hadn't been active in decades.

Unfortunately I lost the location of this volcano when a chain of explosions around the world killed off a large number of creatures. The explosion caused the earth's plates to shift and form like today, I suspect Damon is somewhere deep beneath Russia.

How do you know he didn't escape during the chain explosions?

The volcano wasn't active, it was also underwater. He most likely would've been killed by the blast or drowned if it did erupt. Sylas looked down at Aurora's hand in his.

Your kind can be killed that easily? She asked.

Yes, he was young at the time; I found that my age contributes to how powerful I am. He brought his eyes back to Aurora's; she bit her lip.

How old are you? Her eyes were wide with curiosity.
It's hard to say. He smiled, his lips only slightly opening to show his teeth. How many more questions do you have?

Just a few, He raised a brow, How similar to humans are you?
I look human, that's about it. His smile faded.

Do you have emotions? She leaned in closer for privacy; people were starting to come into the coffee shop. The clock on the wall said it was four in the morning. Sylas seemed to search her eyes briefly; his icy blues hypnotized her more.

I'm starting to. He said, quietly enough that only Aurora would hear.

What do you feel right now? She whispered, he closed his eyes for a moment to think.

I'm not sure what to call it, he opened his eyes again, But I like it. It's warm.

I think I know what you mean. There's a way to figure out for sure what it is.

What do I have to do? Sylas asked. Aurora searched his eyes, he saved her life but she still wasn't sure if she trusted him. *He could be out for a quick fix*, she thought to herself. So far he seemed to be telling the truth, even if the truth sounded like complete fiction. He was either a hot delusional jerk, or a Greek guardian who swiped her off her feet.

First, I have one more question. She tried to think of something only a Greek nerd would now about, some way to trick him.

Alright, It looked like he was holding back a smile. Aurora had an idea; she would make up a bogus story and see if he could see her lie.

When Hercules fell in love with-

He never fell in love with her, she was his mother. He gave Aurora a crooked smile, her jaw dropped.

How'd you know what I was going to say? She asked in total awe. He chuckled lightly.

I can read your thoughts. He said, Physical contact makes it so that I can read every thought you ever had, every memory of yours included. Even the ones long forgotten.

So you know where I left my house key?

You dropped it on your way out this morning; it's on the carpet inside your apartment. He said.

Crap. That means I'm locked out. Aurora mentally punched herself.

Don't worry; I can pick the lock telepathically. He took a sip of his coffee for the first time.

How, and can you have human food? She asked; he covered his mouth with the back of his hand to keep from laughing.

I'm not exactly sure how the lock thing works but yes I can have people food. He chuckled when Aurora blushed; she distracted herself by looking out the window.

Oh look, the sun's coming up. Aren't you supposed to avoid the sun?

I can be in the sun, I just prefer to sleep when the sun's up. He said, finishing his coffee. We should be leaving anyway, your friend Jeremy will be coming this way in a few moments.

7 - Old Fart

Sylas had never seen Aurora in the sun before; the light hit her wavy red hair and lit up blonde and brown highlights. The blonde sparkled in the sun while the brown shined brightly and looked smooth to the touch. Her skin sparkled like thousands of tiny crystals reflecting in the sun and soaked in color, making her skin creamy. Her lips were pink with a hint of brown; the soft texture was obvious even without touch. But her eyes were absolutely breath taking; they were several shades of green with hints of light blue streaking through. Sylas looked away and shifted uncomfortably as his human body parts began to have a mind of their own.

I d almost completely forgotten about Jeremy, She said suddenly, breaking the silence. I m guessing you know the story there. Her eyes lifted to his.

Yeah, He nodded, I can t see why anyone would choose another over you.

Well... Sylas read her thoughts before she spoke them.

Oh. He grinded his teeth for a moment to contain his frustration, That s a stupid reason to leave.

It is a stupid fantasy; nobody waits until their married anymore. She looked to the ground, a light blush making its way into her cheeks. Are you a..?

Yes. Sylas answered truthfully. He wasn t mortal so he never even thought about sex with another, but suddenly he was curious. Humans seemed to be almost addicted to the act of love making. Than the question popped into his head; could he reproduce?

Have you ever been in love? Her eyebrows lifted slightly.

I m not sure, Sylas thought for a moment, I don t know what love feels like.

Maybe I can show you with my memories, She said while taking his hand, a warm sensation flowed through him when she touched him. A memory came then, of a first kiss. He felt her heart flutter wildly at the excitement from the simple touch. Her lips became warm and her mind started swimming; she had no thoughts but one, a wish for the kiss to last forever. He pulled his hand from hers; a strange feeling was taking over him.

It was almost like he was angry at her, but he didn t know why. The memory of her kissing someone else frustrated him; he tried to make the image go away but it lingered there more, taunting him.

What do you feel, She asked.

Angry. He murmured; she smiled widely at this.

You re jealous. She giggled softly.

Jealous, He knew that one, What does that have to do with love?

When you love someone you don t want them to be near anybody else, so you get jealous when they do. She smiled; her thoughts suddenly caught his attention. *Could he really love me? I wonder what he d do if I tried to kiss him? I shouldn t& It might upset him.*

Sylas considered the idea of Aurora kissing him; he didn t think that it would upset him at all. Why would it? After all a kiss was obviously something you did if you re in love. Did this mean she loved him?

We re here, She turned to walk into a small parking lot, I should probably warn you. My neighbors are a bit paranoid about strangers. She opened a door and stepped into a small room with another door inside.

G mornin , Said a middle aged man behind a desk, Who s this here, Aura? He asked, peaking over his thick glasses to take in the appearance of Sylas.

Oh! Jeffrey, She smiled and waved to the man, This is Sylas. He s a friend of mine. The man named

Jeffrey didn't seem to approve.

Where'd ya find this one? He looks like one of them thugs ya see downtown with their pants around their ankles. He said with a glare.

Oh no, Sylas is a real gentleman. He defended me from someone dangerous when I was walking home from work.

I told ya nothin' good came from walkin' home in that kind of neighborhood.

I know, She shrugged; Sylas didn't have to read her thoughts to know she'd heard it all before. Can you open the door? I left my key in the apartment again.

Sure, He said and pushed a button, the door clicked and unlocked. You gonna be able to get in with no key?

Yeah, In her head she was saying, *Sylas is the key.*

Have a nice day Aura, He smiled at her then looked over at Sylas with a frown, Any funny business and it'll be the fuzz you'll be answerin' to bud. Sylas smiled and Aurora rolled her eyes as she opened the door and walked through, she paused to look back when Sylas didn't follow. Sylas leaned on the desk with his elbows and got up close to Jeffrey.

I'm not somebody to mess with but I am no way a bad person. He said in a menacing voice that would frighten the toughest of them all, I'd worry less about me and more about what really matters. Sylas smiled, winked then walked through the door after Aurora. She had a small smile on her face but Jeffrey was still sitting at his desk speechless.

8 - Pizza

Aurora smiled at Sylas as he came to walk next to her into the elevator, none of the previous boyfriends she'd brought home had stood up to Jeffrey. She pushed the button for the fifth floor, grinning while thinking about the possibility of having Sylas as a boyfriend.

Does anything scare you? She asked with a smile, he returned the smile.

No, nothing I can think of. The elevator stopped on the third floor, the doors opened and Ms. Carl came in to stand between them. She looked Sylas up and down then looked at Aurora with a smile.

Keep this one, She said quietly, He looks like he has a pretty penny. Aurora looked at Sylas and noticed Ms. Carl was right, Sylas looked wealthy. His shoulder length layered hair was black as night but when the light hit it there was a hint of red. His skin was flawless and he had a slight tan, despite what vampires are supposed to look like. His lips were wide and plump with a tan brown color.

His clothes were perfect with no wrinkles or creases, his dark blue shirt fit him well around the hidden muscles. He was wearing black denim jeans; one leg had an intended hole in the knee. He had a black jacket hung over his shoulder; on it was a white tribal dragon on the back. Aurora leaned back to get a glimpse of him from behind when suddenly the elevator jerked and they were at the fifth floor and Ms. Carl had gotten off on four.

Sylas looked at her with a raised brow and a breath taking crooked smile. Aurora knew he'd read her thoughts about getting a glimpse of his butt, she blushed and looked to the floor as she walked out of the elevator. Suddenly his arm was around her shoulders and she was being pulled into his chest, it was hard with pure muscle. Surprisingly he was warm.

It's okay, He said, caressing her hair, You're only human.

Hey! Get a room! Someone yelled from down the hall, it could only be Valerie. Valeria lived in the apartment farthest from Aurora and had a bad mouth on her. She looked for ways to yell at people or get them into trouble with the manager. She also drank too much and liked to pick fights, everyone felt sorry for her husband Greg. Greg was a very nice guy who went out of his way to make things easy for those in need, but Valeria gave him hell day and night.

Hey, didn't you two hear me? I said get a room! She started walking down the hall toward them with her hands balled into fists; she was unsteady on her feet and couldn't focus her eyes, more than likely drunk. Don't you dare make me say it again! She stopped a few feet away, her eyes locked on Aurora.

You! She pointed at her, You are always bringing good for nothing boys home with you, what the hell are you a ho? She took a few more steps toward Aurora; she flinched as Valerie pulled her hand back for a punch, Sylas was suddenly in front of Aurora.

She heard the *thump* as Valerie's punch hit Sylas in the chest, it didn't even faze him. He placed his hands firmly on her shoulders; she looked as though she thought Sylas was Death himself. Suddenly her expression was dazed and blank.

You're going to go back to your room, He said, Then you will go to sleep and wake up a new person. You will be kind to others, especially your husband. Valerie simply nodded, Sylas released her and she instantly turned on her heels and walked straight back to her room. Sylas turned around to face Aurora, he was flushed and slightly pail.

How did you do that? She asked.

My telepathy allows me to brainwash people and hypnotize them into what I want them to be. He rubbed his forehead with his thumb and forefinger.

Are you feeling okay? Aurora placed her hands on his cheeks, they were ice cold.

I just need rest, she was very strong willed. It took a lot of my energy to control her. He said, Aurora took his hand and pulled him down the hall toward her apartment. Hoping there would be no more nosey neighbor problems for now.

Earlier you said you sleep during the day, She said, Do you actually sleep? Sylas smiled. Yes, He yawned, Vampire s are half human after all. The human part demands sleep along with food. They stopped in front of Aurora s apartment, 503.

Are you still strong enough to open my door? She asked, motioning with her hand to the apartment door. Sylas nodded and reached for the handle, when he twisted the knob it opened easily as if it were never locked in the first place. Just as he said, the key was right inside the door on the carpet.

You sir, She smiled at him and flipped the lights on, Are very good. As they walked in her kitten Rayne jumped off the back of the couch and ran to greet them. She stopped when she saw Sylas, her back arched and her tail fluffed up like a Christmas tree. She hissed quietly, being only a baby she could barely hiss. Sylas let out a light laugh then walked in, Rayne took a few steps back from him.

Lovely, He leaned down and sat on the floor, Rayne is it?

Are you going to have a conversation with my cat? Aurora asked as she hung up her jacket.

No. Cats were once guardians, like me. He said, For the Egyptians, they even believed cats to be gods of some sort.

Yeah that s right, She went into the kitchen with Rayne in hot pursuit, Why is she so afraid of you?

She s scared for good reason; she knows that the creature I ve taken the form of is a predator. He yawned again, She s trying to protect you from me by looking tough, she s hoping it ll scare me away. Aurora opened the fridge and looked around for something to eat.

Are you hungry? She asked, looking over her shoulder. Sylas was behind her, looking around the kitchen.

A bit, He sat down at the small table, looking better in comparison by far. Aurora pulled out leftover pizza, took a few pieces out and places them on a plate in the microwave. She leaned against the counter to wait for the microwave to finish.

Sylas was tracing the wood work of the table with his fingers; Rayne was slowly approaching him. She sniffed at his leg cautiously; Sylas shifted his eyes to the kitten without stopping his original movements. Aurora watched as her cat moved to his other leg to investigate and nearly flew out of her skin when the microwave beeped.

She took the pizza out and set it in the center of the table, there were six steaming pieces on the plate. Sylas looked at the pizza with a puzzled expression.

Have you ever had pizza before? Aurora selected a piece and tore off a small corner. Sylas picked a small piece up and examined it like it might bite him if he wasn t careful.

No, He sniffed it, I haven t.

It tastes a whole lot better than it looks, She put the small piece in her mouth and chewed it. Once she d swallowed it Sylas took a small bite from his piece and began chewing it. Do you like it?

Yes, He said after swallowing, he took another bite. Soon Sylas had helped Aurora finish the entire pizza. Now they were sitting on the couch in her living room talking, Rayne had warmed up to Sylas and was curled up on his lap purring away. It was eight in the morning and the sun was shining through the curtains.

I m surprised how well you re taking everything, He said, I m waiting for the screaming. Aurora laughed.

I m surprised too, She thought about it a moment, It could be from some of the weirdo s I come across at work. Last week I think I saw big foot buying condoms. Sylas gave her a look.

Do you know what condoms are? She asked and he shook his head no. *Oh boy, how do I put this?* Aurora thought about it, trying to think of a way to explain.

It's okay, I think I get it. He said, Aurora kept forgetting about the mind reading. They both yawned in unison, she hadn't slept in twenty-four hours and even before that she wasn't sleeping well. Then she was wondering where Sylas was going to sleep.

I can sleep here on the couch, He said.

Do you need any blankets or anything? She asked him.

I'll be fine. He stood up and stretched, his knuckles nearly brushed the ceiling. He had to be over six feet tall to touch the ceiling; he read her thoughts and stretched his arm up, he poked the ceiling. I'm 6'5.

Show off, She said and punched him in the arm on her way to her bedroom, You won't be peaking or anything, right? She turned to look at him; he was sprawled out on the couch facing the other direction with his feet hanging off.

I won't peak, He said and Aurora heard him yawn, she walked into her room. She closed the door behind her and locked it, even though it wouldn't keep Sylas out. She stripped and dressed in her pajamas; which were a light lavender tank top with black shorts. She sat down on her bed and pulled her hair into a pony tail before lying down. She was asleep almost instantly.

9 - Tag. You're It.

Sylas looked around the room he was in; it almost seemed to be a bomb shelter. There was a soft murmur of voices coming from somewhere; he noticed a small doorway to his right, a light was on a few rooms down. He tried to stand to investigate but found he couldn't move his body. He looked down; reinforced steel straps were binding him to a table.

Footsteps were coming down the hall, it sounded like the person was wearing heavy boots. A figure appeared at the door but did not come in; all Syllas could tell was that it was a tall man. The man smiled and pure white teeth shined through the darkness, he had large sharp canines.

Syllas, it's been too long. He said with a chuckle and took a step into the room.

Who are you? Syllas asked, his voice sounded forced and weak.

You will know soon enough, He said, Syllas tried to use his night eyes to try and see through the darkness. You have no powers here; I can't risk you knowing who I am until the time is right. Don't want you running from me now do I? The man laughed, he turned and left the room still laughing.

Syllas opened his eyes and sat up with a jolt. He was in Aurora's living room still and Rayne had tumbled off his chest into his lap. She looked up at him sleepily and yawned quietly.

Bad dream? She asked.

Yes, but I think it was a message. He said rubbing his eyes; he looked at his watch, only seven in the evening.

Was it from one of your people?

I think it was from a demon, He stroked the kitten carefully, I'm still trying to find the last two demons from Damon's army.

This one must've been powerful if he could call out to you in your dreams, She said while purring, *It takes a lot of energy.*

Yes it does, Syllas picked up the kitten and stood, he placed her back down on the couch. I'm afraid I must leave. To be able to invade a dream you need to be near by, he can't be far.

Aurora will miss you, She stopped purring, *Are you coming back?*

I'll come back as soon as I can; I'm going to leave her a letter so she understands. Will you make sure she gets it? Rayne nodded, Syllas grabbed a piece of paper and wrote:

Aurora, don't leave this apartment and don't open the door for anybody. A very dangerous demon is nearby and I'm going to try to locate him. I'll try and be back within a day's time. Use the whistle if you need me.

-Syllas

He placed the note on the counter in the kitchen next to the coffee pot, he knew from Aurora's memory that the first thing she did was get coffee. He stroked Rayne gently before pulling on his jacket to leave; Aurora was stirring in her room, she was beginning to question if Syllas was real or not.

He grinned before turning to leave; Rayne followed him to the door. He opened the door and walked out into the hall, looking back to wave goodbye to the small kitten. She meowed in reply and padded off to Aurora's door to wait for her to come out.

Syllas heard a chuckle down the hall to his left; he recognized the sound from his dream immediately. He jerked to his left and saw someone wearing a hood run down the stairs to quickly to be human. Syllas

took off after it; he was definitely faster than the hooded stranger. He was on his heels in seconds. They flew past Jeffrey to fast to be seen, their passing blew up a draft and caused divorce papers to go flying in swirls around the room. The man burst through the glass doors, Sylas put his arms up to protect his eyes from the shards of flying glass. The man looked back at him and Sylas saw a flicker of blood red eyes.

Sylas jumped forward, trying to tackle him to the ground. He shifted at the last moment and Sylas hit the pavement, he was up again in a flash, back behind the man in hot pursuit. Then he realized that he couldn't hear the thoughts of the stranger, it was like there was a glass wall that he could see flickers through but couldn't break. The man let out a bark of laughter, throwing his head back and bearing fangs like daggers.

Sylas cursed under his breath, this was a very powerful demon. He hadn't come across one this strong yet, he'd have to be stronger. He didn't know if he could defeat him in the form of a vampire, but finding out how to shape shift again would take too much time. The hooded man suddenly sped up in front of him and turned to face him, skidding to a stop in the middle of the park. Sylas stopped as well.

There wasn't a person in sight and the sun was setting behind the trees, the man had a scarf tied around the lower half of his face and goggles covered his eyes while the hood covered the rest. Sylas could see the glow of his red eyes through the thick ski goggles.

Sylas, He said, the smile on his face could be heard in his voice. You can either chase me all night, or turn and go back to your human. You see, leaving her alone was not wise of you. My pets might get hungry. Sylas had dealt with the threats before when he became attached to a stray dog; he knew that Aurora would call if she needed him.

Sorry to disappoint you but she means little to me. Sylas said, hating himself for saying it. But it would protect her from getting caught in between. Now, tell me who you are.

You'll know soon enough, He said with a low chuckle, I'm not going to fight you unless you do not cooperate with my demands.

It seems like you've been planning this for a while.

Ha, you have no idea. He snickered, I've had plenty of time to think things over. I know your weakness, Sylas. You're a guardian; saving damsels in distress is what you do, along with saving the occasional pure hearted loser.

By saving humans I keep this world spinning. Without humans your kind would starve and I would die of boredom. Sylas said and the stranger's shoulders tensed, he knew it was true.

Humans are stupid and weak, He said, They don't deserve to be on top, we should be. Like we once were. The mortals should fear our power and shudder in our shadows. They are small vermin and we are gods! His voice echoed through the park.

We are not gods; we are servants to the gods.

Then why are we still here when they have gone? Why is it that since the beginning WE are the ones that remain? He took a few steps toward Sylas, Don't you see what happened? They left our kind to rule. The mortals began to realize the gods were weak, so they did not respect them.

So what did the all powerful gods do? They sent you to demand the mortals be polite and treat the gods with authority. The humans trembled in fear at your power, you see Sylas? The humans treated you like a god; I bet your power has grown far more than any of the gods. I bet if you tried you could shift the universe to your liking.

They made me this strong on purpose; they warned me that one day my abilities would be more than all of theirs in one. Sylas said, slowly taking a step toward the hooded man.

Then why not use your powers to rule? You hide in the shadows while you could be of the highest authority. The man turned and waved his hands around him, motioning to the universe. All this could be yours. While he was distracted Sylas approached him. He was within arms reach when the man turned

back to him.

Not so fast Sylas, He said, We will meet again. The man began to fade into black dust, he could teleport. Sylas grabbed at him but his hands slid through the black powder. He clenched his fists and cursed. Suddenly a musical noise met his ears; it sounded like a high note on a smooth flute. Aurora was calling him with the whistle.

He turned and darted toward the apartment at top speed, his feet gliding over the ground. He stopped in the parking lot; he hid behind some rose bushes. Aurora and Jeffrey were standing outside the broken doors talking to a police man.

I swear some kids was tryin to kill me wit one o dem rockets! Jeffrey said in a rush, Aurora placed her arm around his shoulders and rubbed his back reassuringly.

If it was a gun shot of that size the whole lobby would ve gone up in smoke, I think it was just some kid s with a nail gun. We found nails all over in there. The police officer said.

I hade some nails in a box on my desk, ya see I was goin to fix some floor boards. Jeffrey said, motioning to the floor inside.

Are you sure you didn t find any bullets? Aurora asked.

No ma am, no bullets at all in there. We ll take the surveillance tap and see if we find anything. For now I d advise caution.

I bet it was that boy ya brought home last night, Aura. Jeffrey said, I didn t like him one bit, ya know he wasn t hear this mornin either. I bet it was him. He had a dark expression on his face.

What was the boys name? I can look up his police record. The officer asked pulling out a note pad and a pen.

Sylas wasn t it? Jeffrey looked at Aurora, Did he give ya a last name?

No, he didn t. She shook her head.

Sylas isn t a very common name, if there s a Sylas in Minnesota we ll find him. The police man said, he turned and went into his car. He began searching for a Sylas on a computer.

Sylas found a small rock on the ground and tossed it toward Aurora gently, it bounced off her shoulder. She turned and saw him in the bushes; she motioned with her head to go up to her apartment, he nodded. He was in the apartment in a matter of seconds; Rayne awoke and looked up at him from the couch.

That was fast, She said, stretched and than walked over to him. *Did you catch the demon?*

No, I didn t. Sylas said, he heard Aurora approaching the apartment. Her mind was angry.

You re going to get it bad. Rayne crawled under the couch; Sylas looked up at Aurora as she came in, her cheeks were flushed red.

10 - Secret Admirer

What the hell did you do to Jeffrey? She asked, after closing and locking the door.

I didn't do anything to him, I was after a demon and he ran through the glass. Sylas said.

God, She placed her hand on her forehead and let out a sigh, I woke up to the noise, when I got down there Jeffrey was terrified. I saw the door and called the police. Then I came back up here to get dressed and found your note, I used the whistle so I could ask you what happened and possibly commit murder.

Why can't the police find your record?

I'm not human; to most humans I don't exist. Sylas sat down on the couch; Aurora cautiously walked over to the couch and sat far away from him on the opposite side. She didn't know if he was safe to be near anymore.

I don't think I can keep you here with the police looking for you. She said but she really just wanted him out. His facial expression changed and it hit her that he probably just heard her thoughts. He looked down at his hands, his eyes looked hurt. She reached her hand out to him but he vanished before her eyes.

Sylas? She whispered into the dark room, no response came back. Rayne crawled out between her legs and hopped up to her lap. Aurora placed her hand on the soft fur and a tear fell onto her hand, followed by another. She slid down the side of the couch and layed on her side, soft sobs escaping along with tears. She brought her knees up to her chest and hugged her legs to her body. Aurora let the sobs shake loose as she fell into a deep sleep.

Aurora slowly sat up a few hours later, she felt dazed and dizzy. The phone was ringing loudly, making her head hurt. She walked into the kitchen and picked it up.

Hello? She said sleepily.

Aurora, It was her boss Michael, Why aren't you here, it's noon, you were supposed to be at work this morning.

I slept in, She yawned, I'm going to have to take today off; I'm feeling really under the weather. It wasn't a lie, she felt dizzy and nauseous, plus a headache was splitting her head open down the middle.

Alright, you sound sick. I can handle the store today, He said, the store sounded quiet in the background. I heard about a shooting at your apartment last night, you and everyone else okay?

Yeah we're fine, She leaned against the counter for support, her head was spinning. They didn't catch the person though.

That's too bad, I hope they get him. There was a voice in the background, I got to go help a customer. Get better. He hung up and the line went dead. She put the phone back in its cradle and went to the bathroom. She opened the cabinet and took out some Tylenol for her head. She swallowed two and went to her room, she took off her shoes and layed on top of the covers.

Sylas' image filled her head as soon as her eyes were closed. She reached into her pocket and found the whistle; she held it close and drifted back to sleep, too exhausted for tears.

She began to dream about him, he was lying next to her in her bed. They were cuddling close and talking softly. She tilted her head up to smile at something he said, he returned her smile. She leaned in and kissed his lips softly for a moment. When she pulled back and smiled shyly he tilted her chin up and kissed her deeply.

Before she knew it their clothes were sprawled out on the floor in random piles. They were lying side by side gazing into each other's eyes; he pulled her to him and she layed on his chest. She sighed happily,

breathing in his sweet scent, he smelled like the forest and fresh spring wind. He kissed the top of her head and rubbed her back gently with his hand, she caressed the smooth skin on his chest. A knock at her door woke her.

Aurora sat up and looked at the empty place on her bed where Syllas had been in her dream. The knock came again at the door; she looked at the clock, she had slept nearly twelve hours. She picked the whistle up off her pillow.

I'll be right there! She yelled, grabbing new clothes and pulling them on, shoving the whistle into her pocket. She walked to the door and unlocked it; she opened the door expecting Syllas. Instead there was a single red rose on the ground with a card attached. *From: Your secret admirer.*

That's pretty, Valeria said, she was waiting for the elevator.

Did you see who left this here? Aurora asked.

No, She said, walking into the elevator. She had a brochure for Feed My Starving Children tucked under her arm. Aurora looked both ways down the halls, nobody. She closed the door and went into the kitchen; she placed the rose on the table and started making coffee.

She sat at the table and examined the rose, it was freshly cut and damp. The card was attached by a golden ribbon tied around the stem. She pulled it loose and something fell out of the center of the rose's petals. It was a diamond ring with eight small diamonds and one big diamond with sapphires on both sides.

She covered her mouth with her hand and gasped, the diamonds looked real. She picked it up and walked over to the window; she pressed the ring to the glass and dragged it over the glass. The diamonds left a large scratch in the window.

Only real diamonds cut glass, She whispered and looked at the ring. It sparkled in the sunlight brightly, reflecting onto the walls and ceiling like a disco ball.

11 - The Surprise

Sylas was sitting behind the church pillars again, his long legs straight out and his feet hanging off the edge. His skin was absorbing the warmth of the sun and darkening into a tan. Aurora's thoughts repeated in his head; *I don't want him here, what if he's a psycho? I need to get him out. Soon. Now.*

Hey, man! Someone said from down on the ground, Dude! How'd you get up there? That's, like, fifty feet! Sylas leaned forward and saw a young guy looking up at him, the boy was sixteen, maybe more but definitely a young teenager.

There's a staircase inside that lets out on the roof, Sylas said, it wasn't a lie. But he didn't use the stairs, he just jumped. The kid ran inside and Sylas heard him racing up the stairs, he leaned back against the stone. The kid came and looked over the edge, after a moment of amazement he came and sat beside Sylas.

What're you doin' up here, dude? The kid asked.

I live up here, He said, And my name isn't dude.

Wow, really? You live up here? That's totally sweet! Sorry man, what's your name? The kid spoke quickly, and fidgeted with his pants.

Sylas, He said, he already knew the kid's name was Steve and that his nickname was Twitch, but he asked anyway. What's yours?

Ah, man. That's an awesome name, Sylas. It's so science fiction and shoot. I'm Steve, He held his hand out to Sylas, he shook Steve's hand. But you can just call me Twitch. Ya know, I'm just a little. Twitchy. Sometimes, I don't take any of the medicine that I'm supposed to. He smiled, still shaking Sylas' hand.

Well, Twitch, it's nice to meet you. Sylas said, Twitch's memories were interesting. He didn't have any friends because of his ADHD and he lived with his mom in a small townhouse with a dog and three ferrets. He was also very, very, gay.

Yeah, you too dude. I mean Sylas. He released Sylas' hand and went back to fidgeting, So why do you live up here? It must get scary at night, I mean. I hear this park's haunted or something. Used to be a graveyard but the city turned it into a park without moving the bodies or something, that's so creepy.

I haven't seen any ghosts, Sylas said, but what Twitch said was true; the park did use to be a graveyard and that's why there was a church.

How about Zombies, Twitch put his arms out and pretended to be a Zombie.

Nope, none of those either, Sylas laughed, Just me, I'm creepy enough.

Aw, man. You're not that scary, He patted Sylas on the knee, You're cute, like a puppy. You've just got a little bite n' growl in ya, grrr! He licked Sylas on the cheek playfully; Sylas wasn't quite sure what to think of it.

Twitch smiled widely when Sylas didn't seem grossed out. *Dude, I wonder if this guy's queer too! He kinda seems like a closet case.* Sylas leaned his leg against Twitch's to figure out what a closet case was supposed to be.

He soon found out it was someone gay who wouldn't admit it or wasn't sure, he just found out about his human emotions so he thought anything was possible at this point.

Hey, can I ask you something? Twitch asked, Sylas looked at him and nodded. I was wondering if you wanted to come stay with me and my mom for a bit. It gets really cold at night, so ya know? I don't want you to get sick or something. That'd be really sucky.

Would your mother let me stay? He asked, Twitch nodded and stood.

Yeah, sure man! He headed for the stairs, My mom s going to love you! Sylas got to his feet and followed Twitch down the stairs.

Mom, I m home! Twitch yelled when he got into the house, the dog from his memory ran and greeted them with slobbery kisses.

Hello, new friend! The dog said excitedly to Sylas, the dogs name was Rex.

Rex, stay down! Twitch s mother said as she walked in to hug her son, she paused when she saw Sylas. Hello, She looked at Twitch with raised eyebrows.

Mom, this is my new friend. He motioned to Sylas, His names Sylas and he needs a place to stay. He s been living in that church in the park, ya know. That haunted one that used to be a graveyard.

It s a pleasure to meet you ma am, Sylas held out his hand, after examining his hand she took it and shook it.

Steve, can I talk to you in the kitchen a moment. She asked, Twitch nodded and motioned to the living room.

Make yourself at home, man. He walked into the kitchen with his mom. Sylas sat down on the floor and Rex came over and rested his head on his lap.

Steven Alexander Johnson, you brought home a hobo? His mom yelled in a whisper, unaware that Sylas could hear everything.

Mom, he s not a hobo, he s got to be loaded. Did you see his clothes? They looked, like, uber expensive. Twitch said.

How do you know he s not an ax murderer or a lunatic? His mom argued.

Mom, come on, I mean. He s super nice; he doesn t judge me or anything like that. Can t you just be happy I got a friend? I think he might become my boyfriend if I m right about him being a closet case. Sylas lifted his brows at the word boyfriend ; Aurora had used the same word, it meant significant other more than just a simple male gendered friend.

Steve, His mom sighed, How well do you know this guy?

We talked for, like, an hour and he s awesome. Come on mom, we can t kick him out. It s going to get cold out, what if he gets sick or something? Twitch pleaded; his mom was quiet for a moment.

Alright, She said, Just for tonight though, any funny business and I m reporting him to the police.

Thank you, Twitch clapped his hands happily, Thank you, thank you, thank you! He ran back into the living room. She said you can stay tonight! Isn t that awesome!? He screamed happily.

Yeah, that s great, Sylas stood, Can I do anything to repay you? Twitch s eyes lit up, his mom walked in and sat down.

Just keep it clean, okay? She said rubbing her temples.

Alright, Sylas nodded, If you need anything at the store I can run and get it if you want. He said to her, her thoughts were scrambled because she needed to get groceries.

Oh, that would be so generous, She said reaching into her purse, Would you please? I ve been so busy lately and I don t know when I ll be able to.

It s the least I could do, He walked to the door with Twitch following, I ll pay for it, don t worry. He left before she could protest.

Aw, man, Twitch said, You don t have to pay for it, you really don t.

I want to, Sylas smiled at Twitch, leaving the poor kid breathless.

Did you ever have braces? He asked.

No, why do you ask? Sylas raised a brow.

Your teeth are, like, perfection. I m totally jealous of you, I mean seriously. I wish I looked as good as you. He looked down at the ground, biting his lip. Sylas looked at the boy beside him; his brown hair was long and wavy, his eyes were different shades of brown with a hint of orange and he was average

height, around 5'9". His skin was pale and clear with a few freckles. His mouth was small but his lips were thick and pink, with a lip ring on the right bottom lip.

You look very nice too me, Sylas said, Twitch looked up and smiled, his teeth weren't perfect but they weren't horrible. They were just a little crowded in some places but very white and clean.

Oh, wow. You really mean that? He asked, when he spoke Sylas noticed a silver tongue ring.

Of course, I have no reason to lie to you. He said, Twitch moved closer to Sylas and wrapped his arm around his and held onto his hand. He stopped walking and pulled Sylas to a stop with him, he wrapped his arms around Sylas tightly and began to sob.

Thank you, Twitch whimpered into his chest, I've never had anyone say that to me before, thank you. His voice cracked, You're my first friend and I couldn't have asked for a better one. His sobs took over and he just held onto Sylas and wept.

You're welcome, Sylas said, suddenly a human instinct took over and he wrapped his arms around the young boy in a tight embrace. You're my first friend as well. He thought about Aurora for a moment; she didn't seem like a friend.

Really, Twitch looked up at him with tears in his eyes and on his cheeks, Why would anyone not be your friend? You're so nice and cute too, perfect package.

I don't get out much, He said, he put his sleeve over his thumb and wiped the tears off of Twitch's cheeks and got the remaining few that escaped. The few people I do see are usually afraid of me.

You are very intimidating, Twitch said, smiling widely. You're, like, six feet tall and really buff. I mean, come on, look at this. He squeezed Sylas' upper arm, You're like a rock! What do you use to work out, hippos and elephants?

I go to the gym a lot, Sylas lied.

More like the zoo to lift the cages, man seriously. Twitch said; they were still standing in the street holding onto each other. Twitch bit his lip nervously and Sylas heard his thoughts; *I want to kiss him.*

Nope, I've never been to the zoo. He said, he released Twitch but he had no intentions of letting go of Sylas.

Um, Twitch murmured, I was wondering, well, if maybe. I don't know never mind, well. Um, do you? He looked back up at Sylas, still tumbling over words. Another human emotion took over and Sylas leaned down, Twitch met Sylas half way and they kissed each other in the street.

12 - Roses and Broken Elevators.

Aurora had found eleven more roses placed around the places she went; the lobby, elevator, front desk, parking lot, mail box, on the bus in her usual seat, at work behind the desk and at the door, in the employee lounge, in the pocket of her jacket when she left work and in the middle of the church path. She was a little creeped out.

Each rose came with another note and expensive gift, the last rose had an address with a phone number and a quote from Shakespeare. *My heart is ever at your service.*

Jeffrey, do you know who's been leaving me these? Aurora asked while she dumped the roses out on his desk.

My, my, He examined the flowers, No, I haven't. Got you an admirer I see. He picked up a rose and read the card.

I've been finding them everywhere I go, it's starting to creep me out. She started scooping the roses back up, Can you look at the surveillance tape for someone leaving a rose at my door around noon?

Sure I can, Aura. Jeffrey handed her the last rose, Any news about that Syllas fella?

No, none, She took the rose, being careful not to prick her finger on the thorns. I don't think he'll be around for a while, I hurt his feelings. She turned and headed for the elevator.

Aurora, Ben said, he worked as a custodian and was mopping the lobby. Someone was here just a bit ago, he was looking for you.

Did he leave? Did you see his face? She asked, her heart starting to race.

No, he was bundled up real tight against the cold. I think he went up to your apartment to wait, he said you gave him a key. He motioned to the elevator, He was a big guy Aurora, want me to call the police?

No, It was probably Syllas, I have a pretty good idea who it is, was he about six feet tall?

Yeah, a real big guy; not fat big either, buff big. He said.

If it's anybody scary I'll scream, She started for the elevator and pushed the button, If there's a murderer up there you'll all hear about it. She stepped into the elevator with her handful of roses. Some of them were starting to slip.

Need any help? A man asked, Aurora jumped and noticed she wasn't alone in the elevator. Before she could say anything he took the roses and held them for her, he was wearing leather gloves so the thorns weren't a problem.

Oh, hello, I'm sorry. I didn't see you there, Aurora took a deep breath, I haven't seen you around, are you new?

Mm, yes, The guy held his hand out and Aurora shook it. Her fingers were trembling, These are very nice roses.

Yes, they are, Aurora couldn't shake the feeling that this guy wasn't up to anything good, I'm sorry, my name's Aurora. You are?

I know, Aurora almost shuddered but the man pointed to her shirt, she looked down and realized she was wearing her work uniform. Her name was on a plastic name tag.

Oh, She laughed quietly, blushing in embarrassment.

Don't worry about it, Suddenly the elevator jerked and the lights flickered, Hmm, that can't be good.

Uh oh, The elevator was very old and sometimes got stuck between floors, We're stuck. Aurora was starting to get nervous.

I'm sure it'll be fixed soon, He said, the lights flickered again. Aurora was trembling; this was probably the last person she wanted to get stuck in an elevator with.

Yeah, probably, Something caught her eye; she looked over and noticed the guy was wearing ski goggles on top of his head. Why are you wearing goggles?

I ride a Harley, He said, she noticed he was also wearing sunglasses, very expensive looking sunglasses.

I didn't catch your name, She said, her nervousness was increasing to fear.

Hmm, He removed the sun glasses; Aurora gasped and flattened against the wall, pressing all the buttons with her back. Damon. He grinned, showing fangs, and his eyes were glowing red. The lights cut out and his eyes were the only thing she could see through the darkness.

13 - Confused

Sylas pulled away from Twitch more than slightly confused, Twitch was grinning ear to ear.

Wow, Twitch sighed happily, You've got perfect teeth, muscles, looks and kissing skills! I mean, wow that was totally amazing, I'm having trouble catching my breath. Twitch grabbed his hand and started pulling him down the street toward the store.

I've never kissed anyone before, Sylas murmured, he was trying to figure out what was going on.

Oh man, seriously? Twitch said, That means your, like, totally a virgin than doesn't it? Dude, this is so sweet!

Yes, Sylas said quietly, I'm definitely a virgin.

Hey dude, what's up? You seem a little down? Twitch wrapped his arms around Sylas' waist.

It's just, Sylas sighed, Until a few days ago I didn't have any of these emotions, for anybody. Suddenly I'm feeling emotions like love and jealousy.

Ah, wait, Twitch stopped walking, For anybody? Does that mean you're involved with someone else?

Well, Sylas looked at Twitch, he was pouting. A few days ago I saved this girl from a dangerous guy, I went home with her and-

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Hold up. You went home with her? Dude, gross. Twitch let go of him and backed away. Sylas read his thoughts to see why he reacted so strangely.

Oh, no, He said, I just slept on her couch for the night. Twitch still was over reacting.

So you woe people than use them for your own selfish needs? You tricked that girl and me into giving you a place to stay? Twitch threw his hands up in the air and tried to think of something more to say.

No, I didn't trick anybody. Sylas put his hand on Twitch's shoulder, another human thing, but Twitch shrugged it off. I really do like you, but-

Oh god, no. Here comes the rejection, you know what? Just go back to the church you live in and freeze to death. Twitch turned on his heels and started marching home. Sylas grabbed his shoulders and turned him to face him, he held him firmly in place.

Listen to me, please, He said; shaking Twitch gently, I'm not what you think I am; I'm not a con-artist or a jerk. I'm not even sure what I am. But I am your friend, and I'm still finding things out about myself.

You make it seem like you've been living in a cave for years, Twitch said quietly, Were you in jail or something? An insane asylum maybe?

No, Sylas closed his eyes and sighed sadly, My job was so demanding that I never found time for myself or anyone else. If I got too close to someone they'd get hurt.

Oh really, Twitch said, What do you do for a living than, huh?

I'm a bounty hunter. It wasn't a lie.

Hmm, either you're a very good liar or you're telling the truth. Twitch pulled out of Sylas' grasp and started walking home, he didn't turn back. Sylas listened to his thoughts desperately. *shoot man, I gotta think things over. A bounty hunter seems logical considering how buff he is. I'll go talk to him tomorrow, after I do some research on this guy.*

Sylas sighed, slightly relieved. But he decided to leave the kid be for now, he vanished from the neighborhood in the blink of an eye. He listened as Twitch's thoughts faded; *He didn't give me a last name, shoot. How am I supposed to find him? Whoa, where'd he go? He was just standing right there.*

Sylas climbed the church wall up to the top, leaped off the side and landed inside the bell tower. For the first time in hours he wondered if Aurora would ever accept him. If she would want to see him again, he

exhaled slowly. Watching as the mist from his mouth swirled and vanished.

He climbed to the top of the tower and sat on the edge, he could see everything from there, including Aurora's apartment. The sky was filled with flashing lights; he looked more carefully and noticed the fire trucks in the parking lot. He examined the building and sniffed the air, no fire.

Sylas focused his mind on Aurora, trying to hear her thoughts. They were muffled by something; she was inside a solid room, meant to withstand great force and impact. Probably an elevator, he waited for her to get out but minutes passed and she hadn't moved.

He stood and the lavender lens came over his eyes, he immediately saw her backed against a wall and a colder figure had her cornered. Her twisting aura was red and purple. The other figure was black in color and solid. Sylas had only seen heat signatures come off of creatures from his time.

He was on his feet and running toward her, *why didn't she use the whistle?* Her thoughts started to become clearer, but it was like a bad cell phone signal while driving through a tunnel. *Get away& Help&It s... Back&Kill me&Evil&*

Sylas made it to the parking lot; he walked toward the apartment at a human pace.

Hey, sir, A fireman cut Sylas off, You can't go in there. We have men in there trying to get the elevator open, there's a young lady trapped inside. We don't know how much oxygen she has left.

I can get it open. Sylas stepped around the fireman and ran into the lobby, there were several people trying to pry the doors open. He turned and ran up the stairs to the next floor; he paused and tried to sense which floor Aurora was closest to. She was in between three and four.

Sylas ran up to the fourth floor and skidded to a stop, no fireman weren't hear yet; they had no idea where she was. He ran to the door and listened briefly. He could only slightly hear a voice, Aurora's voice. She was screaming.

14 - The Creeper.

Aurora was trembling from head to foot, she was gasping for breath and starting to feel faint. She had been screaming for help, but nobody came. Damon stood watching her with a devilish crooked smile.

Honey, stop screaming, He approached her slowly; he spoke calmly and gently in a comforting tone. Aurora screamed at the top of her lungs, her voice cut off and she choked. See? You'll suffocate soon if you don't stop. He put his hands on both sides of her and leaned in close, You're sucking in more air than what's coming in.

What, She gasped, What are you doing here? She coughed.

I just wanted to see if you liked my roses, His smile widened into a toothy grin, Judging by your reaction, you know who I am.

Your Sylas brother, She said, wheezing, You betrayed him and joined the demons.

No, sweetie you have it wrong, He said nuzzling his nose to hers, He betrayed me by not joining me, I asked him to but he said he'd rather die. So I'm going to give him one more chance to be by my side or I'll grant his wish and kill him.

Why did you give me gifts and roses, She asked weakly, And continue to stay hidden when you could so easily overpower me?

You make me look like a bad guy, He stuck out his lower lip, pouting. I think you're gorgeous. He started to lean in for a kiss, Aurora's turned her head but he settled for her cheek, Falling for you was both the smartest and dumbest thing my brother ever did. You're way too good for him, and he knows it.

And you're any better? The air was starting to get thinner.

Much better, darling, He chuckled, I can give you anything and everything. I have no fear and can protect you; nobody is stupid enough to cross me. He licked her cheek softly and groaned, Not only are you gorgeous but you're delicious.

Ugh, Aurora tried to push him away but he wouldn't budge, Get away from me!

Ha, He laughed, You'll come around. He grabbed her chin and forced her to look at him. Tell me what you think of me, and be honest. He said, his eyes glowed brighter for a moment.

I think you're really hot, Aurora said without being able to stop herself. He smiled.

I thought so, He said.

What did you just do? Aurora asked, her head was slightly spinning from looking directly at him. He was evil, but he was also amazingly sexy. She admitted to herself that he was even better looking than Sylas.

Oh sweetie, He snickered; the sweet smell of his breath nearly knocked her off her feet, it was similar to cinnamon. Sylas isn't the only one with abilities.

What can you do? She asked.

I can do everything. He smiled.

I highly doubt you can do everything, She said, Define everything.

Everything is everything silly girl, He ruffled her hair, The only thing I can't do is love you apparently.

I love someone else, She said, feeling proud of herself.

Sylas doesn't love you, He said seriously.

How could you possibly know that? She asked.

Honey, he's gay. He said with a short laugh.

What? No he isn't, She argued.

I've been honest so far, He said, it was true.

Can you prove it? She demanded more than asked.

Of course, He smiled devilishly, But you won't like it, unless you're only acting like you hate me.

What do you have to do? She braced herself for the worst.

You, He pointed at her then shifted his hand to point at himself, Have to kiss me.

You're lying, Aurora glared at him, he shook his head.

I can transport my memories to you, but only through sexual contact. You should be glad something as simple as a kiss can be used. He chuckled, Aurora shuddered but she really did somewhat like the idea of kissing him.

How long will it last, and if you're lying to me I will clobber you. She said in the most threatening voice she could. He looked amused but made no comment, he simply just tilted her chin up with two fingers like Sylas had in her dream. But the kiss that followed differed greatly from the one she imagined.

When his lips touched Aurora's she went limp and her legs collapsed from under her, Damon wrapped an arm around her waist and back and held her up. An image filled her head of Sylas and another boy embracing on a random street; it was almost like she was really there. Suddenly Sylas leaned down and kissed the boy deeply, the other boy kissed him back. They had kissed for nearly five minutes when they broke apart.

Aurora gasped and Damon pulled away, her whole body was warm and tingling. Her lips and every other body part craved him. Except her heart was broken, and she was starting to cry. Damon hugged her to his chest and she let him, his arms were around her securely.

Hold on to me, He said, she did so and closed her eyes tight as tears flowed out. There was a sudden crunch of metal that slowly faded, when her eyes popped open she was no longer in the elevator but standing in a field of overgrown grass and flowers. Damon was gone but at her feet there was a rose with a note, she picked it up and read it.

Love comforteth like sunshine after rain. She whispered as she read it out loud.

15 - The Face of Death.

Sylas punctured the metal with his claws and ripped the elevator doors off effortlessly; he dropped them and peered into the darkness. His eyes adjusted and he saw the elevator a few feet down, he jumped down on the top carefully distributing his weight. He dug his claws into the reinforced steel and concrete, with all his strength he tore through the material to expose the inside of the elevator.

He jumped in but found nobody inside; he looked around and saw the remains of the black powder. They had teleported out.

shoot, He growled, he leaped back out through the holes he had made and ran back to the church. On his way out he heard the thoughts of amazed fireman examining the shredded elevator; *it s torn to shreds, like scissors to cardboard! How the hell..?*

Sylas ran at top speed back to the church tower, his feet barely touched the ground except every couple of steps when he d launch himself forward with his calf muscles. He was frustrated about losing in the game that was starting; a dangerous game of tag and hide and seek. Now it was also something like red rover, what you catch you take and bring it to your side.

He was very worried that the demon that took Aurora would turn her into one of them; she would never be the same. But on top of that, he d have to kill her too. A newborn demon was similar to the fictional view of a newborn vampire; reckless, blood thirsty, and uncontrollably powerful.

Sylas jumped through the air and landed at the top of the tower, he used his power to try and locate the black heat or the strange aura. He paused at Twitch s house for a moment, his mom was pacing in the kitchen but Twitch wasn t home. He focused his senses on her thoughts, *he s late, should I ground him though? He seemed so sad this morning&*

Sylas forced himself to tear away from her thoughts and continue his searching, his frustration and worry growing. He focused on Aurora, trying to sense her somehow. He tried to find her thoughts; he clenched his fists and starting trembling with the effort.

He was far too weak, the bloodlust was upon him and his abilities were weakened by the need. He licked his teeth and felt with his tongue the large bulging fangs that were present, and beside them the smaller sets of teeth that were sharp as well, made specifically for clenching onto flesh and tearing through bone and muscle.

He sniffed the twilight air and hissed as the smell of blood sent his mind into a spinning cartwheel of sadistic thoughts. He looked down at the path to where the smell had come from and saw a group of teenagers, there was a small mass on the ground in the fetal position. Looking closer, he noticed the speckles of blood in the dirt and on the grass.

There were four people standing around the person, kicking and laughing. Sylas crouched down and crawled down to the edge of the church, hidden halfway behind the tall pillars.

That s what you get, prick! Said one of the guys, he pulled back his foot and smashed it into the persons stomach.

Yeah, dog! Said another while landing a kick in the back of the limp body, the third guy laughed loudly and took a sip from a bottle of liquor.

You re so pathetic, The fourth guy sneered, Not even fighting back. Sylas looked closer and realized than that the figure curled up and beaten was Twitch. His fist clenched and the sound of stone cracking echoed through the trees. He looked down to see his hand balled in a fist were powder that was once

stone eased through his fingers. All the teenagers jumped and looked around for the source of the sound, expecting someone with a gun.

What the hell was that? One of them yelled, Is someone shooting at us? Sylas picked up a large stone and chucked it into the trees, creating the sound of footsteps. All the teenagers turned to look, including Twitch. His lips were bleeding and his nose was probably broken, but at least he was conscious. Sylas jumped down, landing behind the group soundlessly. He stood tall and waited for them to turn back and see the face of death.

He knew his eyes were red and glowing in the night, that he had terrifying fangs oozing venom. He had managed to rip up his clothes when he opened the elevator, his shirt was hanging on by a few pieces of fabric and his pants were torn with denim dangling from the holes. He reached up and tore of his shirt; it made a loud shredding noise. He grinned devilishly when ten terrified eyes met his.

16 - Ecstasy

Aurora had no idea where she was, there wasn't a building or house to be seen except a small log cabin half in the field of flowers and partially hidden in the forest. She couldn't see a driveway or path, yet alone a road. There were no cars to be heard or planes flying overhead, not even a boat on the lake. She took a closer look at the lake, checking for docks or boat launches. Nothing but one dock and a small speed boat, but it belonged with the cabin.

She looked up at the sky; no clouds, just a bright full moon and billions of stars twinkling together. After the past few days she wouldn't be surprised if a UFO streaked through the sky or one of the werewolves from Twilight flew out of the trees and imprinted. She shuddered imagining a thirsty vampire finding her standing there out in the open field like a big red light up target.

With one last look at the stars she turned and began walking to the cabin. Attached to the rose Damon had left was a key tied to the stem with a red ribbon, she pulled it loose and stuck it into the hole. The door unlocked and she opened it, she walked in and felt the wall for the light. She hit a switch and lights came on, she gasped.

The cabin was huge and had wooden floors and walls that shined in the light. Before her was a large hallway that had a staircase going down and to her left a living room with a fireplace. Assorted gray, white, and black rocks lined the fireplace and windows; she walked in and ran her hand over a black leather sofa.

She looked right and saw a dining room with a black wood table big enough for eight people, above the table hung a glass crystal chandelier that glittered. She walked in and looked at some of the items on the table; there was a note with a whistle on it similar to the one Sylas had given her except black and white. She picked it up, the whistle was made from a very smooth onyx stone but she wasn't sure about the white designs. It sparkled like fresh snow and was just as smooth as the stone, like marble. She picked up the note and read it; *this is for you, darling. If you need anything, ever, I'll come running.* It was from Damon, of course.

She placed the whistle in her pocket and continued looking through the house. The dining room had a hallway to the right that led into a kitchen the size of a swimming pool; in the center was a dark blue counter with a stove and many drawers, the walls were lined with cabinets and a microwave, then there was the refrigerator.

She grabbed the handle and opened it; it was very well stocked with foods of different varieties. Aurora spotted a container of strawberries and nearly jumped for joy, strawberries were her favorite.

Do you like the current arrangements? Aurora spun around, nearly running into Damon. Her hand flew to her heart.

Yes, She took deep breaths, Are you trying to kill me? He smiled, she wasn't sure if she wanted him to answer.

Now, He started, wrapping his arms around her, Why would I want to kill you when I'm falling for you so?

I don't know, She shrugged, You're kind of creepy, wait. What?

Oh my, now that's not very nice at all. He said and started pouting again, Aurora noticed that he was no longer wearing goggles and that in their place he had horns.

Did you say you're falling for me? She asked, slightly confused about his words. He didn't even know her.

Yes I did, He pressed his forehead to hers with a wide smile, Can you blame me, darling? Aurora tried

to pull away but hit her head on a shelf inside the refrigerator.

Can you remove me from the fridge? She asked realizing she actually was in the refrigerator, Damon laughed lightly.

Only if I can have you for dessert, He licked her cheek; Aurora smacked his head, a sharp pain cut through her hand. She had sliced herself on his horns, Babe.

Ouch, She looked at the wound and saw blood making its way down her wrist and arm, shoot.

Give it here, He said while taking her wounded hand into his, he held it tightly for a moment. The bleeding slowed but didn't stop, for a moment Aurora wondered if she had hit something lethal. Damon leaned in, bringing her palm to his mouth.

What are you doing? She said, yanking her hand away.

Making it better, He said while grabbing and holding onto her wrist, Trust me. He looked into her eyes and for some reason, she did. She stopped pulling back and relaxed, he smiled and brought her palm to his lips again.

Damon stuck his tongue out and for the first time Aurora noticed it was pierced, she also noticed how sharp his fangs were. He pressed his tongue to the wound; there was a brief moment of pain but then a tingling feeling, he licked up slowly.

His fangs tickled her palm but didn't hurt her; she could see blood coating his tongue but couldn't feel anything but ecstasy. He pulled away and licked his lips. Aurora examined her hand, the wound was gone and there wasn't even a scar.

See, He said while pulling her to him and closing the fridge, That wasn't so bad, now was it?

No, She said, It was really enjoyable. What did you do? Damon chuckled and leaned in, his lips at her ear.

You should see what I can do to your G-spot, He whispered seductively into her ear, she shivered involuntarily. He kissed her earlobe and gave it a gentle nip, Aurora felt like electricity was flowing through her.

Hmm, He pulled away, still holding her.

What, She asked, And why haven't you answered my questions?

You ask too many for me to be able to answer all of them, besides, He ruffled her hair, Curiosity killed the cat.

Oh my god, I need to feed Rayne! Aurora exclaimed, remember that Rayne hadn't been feed in hours. She felt horrible.

I can go get her, in the mean time, He snuck in a swift kiss, You should see the bedroom. And he was gone. Aurora sighed and could only wish that she wasn't starting to like Damon more than Sylas.

17 - Family

Sylas had Twitch cornered inside the church but he was hiding, he had killed the four teenagers in front of his eyes and now he was worried. He was crouched forward and searching for Twitch, Sylas could hear the terrified pounding of his heart somewhere. Whenever Sylas would come into view Twitch would run off to a new hiding place.

Twitch, Sylas said in the most comforting tone he could manage, Your hurt, let me help.

No! Twitch screamed, it echoes through the church. A rock flew from behind and smacked Sylas in the head; he wiped around and saw Twitch crawling away. He had him in a matter of seconds.

Ah, let me go! Twitch kicked and screamed for his life, Sylas pinned him down on the floor as carefully as he could but Twitch still winced in pain.

Relax, Sylas said, Twitch automatically relaxed and went limp. His head fell to the side and he whimpered, I m not going to hurt you.

You re going to kill me, Twitch was starting to cry, Did you kill that girl too, like you just killed those guys?

No, now listen. Sylas was trying his best not to lose his temper, I can show you my memories, so you ll understand.

What? Twitch looked at him, irritated at only being able to move his eyes and lips, And take this, I don t know. What is this, a spell or something? Whatever just take it off me!

You ll run, Sylas was reading his thoughts.

No, Twitch was lying, I won t.

Yes you will, Sylas sighed and got off of Twitch, I can read your thoughts, my abilities are telepathic. Twitch s eyes lit up for a moment.

Telepathic, like being able to control things with your mind? Dude, I so hate you right now but that s still cool as hell. Sylas shook his head in amazement, *only Twitch.*

Look, I m going to touch you and my memories are going to be shared with you. Sylas placed his hand on Twitch s forehead, Twitch closed his eyes and viewed the memories Sylas grew up with and the ones of Aurora. After a few minutes had passed he opened his eyes and gasped, Sylas pulled away his hand.

Shape shifter, Twitch whispered, That is so sweet, so you weren t lying? Like, about anything?

No, Sylas said.

Wow, that s really awesome. You re really a bounty hunter? Aw, man. Twitch shook his head in disbelief, A vampire? Sylas nodded.

A vampire, Sylas gave Twitch back the control of his body.

So, He moved his head to look at Sylas sitting beside him, You need to find that girl, and soon? Maybe I can help.

You could help? Sylas read his thoughts.

Yeah, sure man. Twitch sat up, I can look up your enemies and track them, assuming you know their names?

I know their names, Sylas said and stood, They re fake identities of course but they use the names to buy what they need.

Alright, let s go to my house, Twitch said, Sylas helped him up, You re going to have to sneak into my window though. My mom thinks you tried to molest me or something.

Got it, I ll follow you home out of sight. Sylas turned to leave; he paused then turned back to Twitch.

By the way, if the police or anybody asks you about those guys just say they ran off when someone shot at them.

What if they look for bullets? Twitch asked, raising a brow.

I can take care of that, Sylas said and pulled out a small hand gun, he ran into the woods. He bit his finger and dripped blood onto the bullets, the blood in his veins was the blood of the four teenagers so it would be traced to them. He waited until Twitch was clear of the scene and fired six bullets into the church wall where the kids had been standing.

Sylas ran to catch up to Twitch; he glided from tree to tree and never took his eyes off the limping boy. He didn't have any fractured bones but a broken nose; otherwise he was just bruised and sore. Sylas waited in a large oak while Twitch went inside the house, he heard his mom gasp and demand what happened.

Twitch told her that guys from school had jumped him and Sylas saved him from being beaten to death, which was the truth. Sylas scurried over the roof and found Twitch's room; he opened the window without any lock problems. *I guess it works with windows too.* Sylas hid himself in the shadows as Twitch came in with his mom tailing after him.

I still don't like him, Steve. His mom said with her hands on her hips.

Mom, Twitch rolled his eyes, What happened last night between me and him was my fault, I said some cruel things so he left. He shrugged.

There's just something about him, She pursed her lips in thought, It's like he's... She trailed off.

Mom, Twitch went to the door and motioned with his arm for her to leave, I get it, he's the boogieman, now can I just get go to sleep?

Steve, His mom pleaded.

Mom, He groaned, his mom sighed and walked out. Twitch closed the door behind her and waited for her to get back into the living room downstairs; he turned to the room and looked around.

Sylas, He whispered, Are you here yet?

Yes, Sylas walked out of the shadows.

Dude, Twitch's eyes were wide and he was shaking his head with a wide smile, You just materialized out of my wall. That was so fracking cool!

Oi, Sylas rolled his eyes, Twitch scratched the back of his head.

Hey, um, He fidgeted, Could you like, turn around. I want to get into some better clothes. These ones are so gross. Sylas laughed quietly and turned to face the wall.

Not like I can't see through your eyes, He said, Twitch chucked a water bottle at his head. Sylas turned and caught it in his palm, tossed it up into the air, let it spin twice, and caught it again.

Whoa, Twitch had his jaw open, I wish I had your reflexes, man. He turned and started undoing his jeans and belt, Sylas rolled his eyes and turned to face the wall again.

After a few minutes of grunts and tumbling Twitch was in sweat pants and a black T-shirt that read *Lover* in rainbow letters. Sylas raised a brow.

Gay and proud. Twitch said with a wide toothy smile, he walked over to a desk and sat in the chair. He pressed the ENTER button on the keyboard and the computer started waking up.

I'll be right back, Twitch said, I'm going to wash up a little. Sylas nodded, it was a good idea considering Twitch was covered in dry blood and looked like a horror movie victim. Sylas examined himself, he looked pretty gruesome too.

He was shirtless and had a large gash on his chest where one of the teenagers had tried to stab him; the blood had dripped down to his waistline. His face was splattered with blood and his hair was a mess with twigs and leaves tangled in, he reached up and pulled a maple leaf from the side of his head.

You look like you could use hot chocolate, Sylas looked up; Twitch's mom was at the doorway. Come with me, I'll clean that up for you.

How did you know I was here? Sylas asked, following her down the hall to a second bathroom, she motioned for him to sit on the edge of the bathtub.

It's not the first time Steve has tried to sneak someone in, She said with a smile, He's not very good at hiding it from me. She opened a drawer and pulled out a bottle of Hydrogen Peroxide and a clean towel. She wet the towel in the sink and started cleaning the dirt, mud, and leaves off of Sylas.

I'm sorry about yesterday, He said, she shook her head.

It's alright, She got another wet towel and continued, You saved my son today, and judging by this cut it wasn't easy. Twitch appeared at the door, he had a look of horror on his face.

Mom, He murmured nervously, she looked at him and smiled.

I found the boogiemán, She joked, Twitch blushed and slapped his forehead.

This might hurt a little, She said as she started to dab at his wounds with a third towel drenched in Peroxide, Sylas couldn't feel a thing.

Man, Twitch shook his head, his damp hair bouncing from cheek to cheek, I didn't notice how bad that was. If I would've known I'd have got you help sooner. Twitch sat next to Sylas and started pulling debris out of his hair.

I'm fine, Sylas smiled reassuringly at them both with a warm feeling inside, It doesn't hurt.

Jeez, Twitch examined the wound, I'd be doggin' and moanin' like no tomorrow.

I think this might need stitches, His mom said once she'd finished cleaning the wound, It's very deep, it looks like the blade tore through your muscles.

My mom used to be a doctor, Twitch smiled, She quit when I was born to spend her time raising me instead. She nodded.

That's right, She said, she reached over to Twitch and pinched his cheek. He giggled and swatted her hand away, My little boy.

Oh god, mom, He motioned to Sylas with his eyes, Please.

I'll be okay without stitches, Sylas said, Watch, tomorrow it'll be gone.

I'll take a look at it in the morning, She yawned, For now I'm just going to put some bandages on it. After mummifying Sylas' chest with medical wrap she sent them off to bed with hot chocolate.

I really like your mom, He said, watching Twitch take sips from the coffee mug. Hot chocolate was something else Sylas had never tried.

Yeah, my mom's awesome, He said, Don't you like Cocoa?

I've, Sylas looked into the brown liquid, Never tried it.

Oh my god, are you serious? Twitch said in surprise, Sylas sniffed the liquid. Dude, just drink it, it's not poison. Twitch took a sip from Sylas' cup to prove his point. Sylas brought it to his lips and lapped up a small amount to test, it was absolutely delicious.

Do you like it? Twitch asked, Sylas had already drunken half.

Yes, a lot. He finished it and licked his lips. The hot chocolate warmed Sylas physically, but emotionally he was warmer. Because he knew for sure this was love, maybe not relationship love. But family love.

18 - Paranoid

Aurora opened her eyes and yawned, awakening from a deep sleep. A few hours earlier she had decided to take Damon's advice and look at the bedroom; there were two but the other was freezing cold inside, the one she'd chosen was warm and comfortable with a the biggest bed she'd ever seen in real life.

She was sprawled out in the middle with her arms extended on both sides; the bed was so wide that her hands didn't even hang off the edge, same with her feet. Her body was tangled in a large mass of blankets, three different ones covered her.

On the top was a thin silk blanket with black flower designs, under that was a velvety black quilt and then a very thick fluffy white comforter. She breathed in the smell of lavender laundry detergent and closed her eyes again; she was too comfortable to get up yet.

Opening one eye she looked for a clock to see what time it was, she noticed the bed had a white canopy and someone had pulled it down. She rolled over and crawled to the edge, opening the white fabric. There was a night stand next to the bed with an alarm clock that read 8:30 in the morning; next to it was a handful of Daisy's with another note. *Daisy's represent innocence my little virgin.* Aurora's cheeks flushed from numerous shades of pink and red.

Rolling out of bed she decided it would be a good idea to get ready, she looked in the mirror and shuddered. Her hair was a tangled mess of red and all her makeup had rubbed off, she sniffed herself to see how she smelled. She smelled like Damon, *I'm showering.*

She searched the house for a bathroom and found one, after investigating for hidden cameras she decided it was safe and locked the door. She asked herself if Damon could unlock doors like Syllas and sighed, after thinking it over a moment she went to the kitchen and found a cross in the garbage. She pulled it out and went back to the bathroom, she didn't know if it would keep out a supernatural peeping tom but it was all she had. She slid it under the door where it couldn't be seen and took her shower. She listened for the door the entire time, waiting to get dressed in record time if she had to. She peered out of the shower at the door a few times to make sure, nothing happened. She finished washing her hair and stepped out in a towel; she wiped steam off the mirror and liked the reflection a lot more. She peeked at the door one last time to make sure it was safe to get dressed, the cross was gone.

Her hand tightened around the towel and she looked around the bathroom quickly to make sure she was alone, nobody was there. She took deep breaths and figured she was just being paranoid, she got dressed as fast as she could anyway. After she'd finished and was dressed she opened the door and looked around, expecting Damon to be standing there. He wasn't.

She put her hair up in a pony tail to dry and went back to the bedroom to make the bed. There were clothes folded up on the bed with a Geranium flower on top, and of course another note.

The Geranium flower symbolizes comfort. Honey, you seem tense. Relax; I'm not going to let anything happen to you. You are safe here, let the whistle bring you security. You'll find breakfast in the dining room for you, it's your favorite.

Aurora changed into the new clothes and examined herself in the full length mirror, she looked amazing. The shirt was a dark violet and defined her curves; it also gave her breasts an attractive look. The pants were dark navy blue jeans that hugged her butt and thighs, making them look like they belonged on someone who paid good money for them.

After a few moments of admiration she went to the dining room, her jaw dropped when she got to the

table. Blueberry pancakes with whipped cream and strawberries were waiting on a plate, and next to that was a cup of coffee that smelled like French vanilla cappuccino. She almost swooned, it was indeed her favorite.

It didn't take very long for her to finish, she was worried she wouldn't fit in the jeans anymore. She stood and checked her waistline; she stuck her thumb in and was able to hook it, *all good*. Suddenly there was another pair of thumbs hooked in her front belt loops and lips at her neck.

You look amazing, Damon said, his lips nuzzling her jaw line as he spoke. He smelled like the forest after rain.

You are extremely, Aurora paused while she thought of a good word, she settled with the obvious. Creepy. Instead of getting offended he chuckled.

My nicknames The Creeper, He said and turned her to face him, he still looked like something straight out of hell; blood red eyes, fangs, sharp black horns and he was extremely sexy.

It fits, Aurora said truthfully, he smiled and nuzzled his nose to hers.

You, He kissed her quickly, Can call me anything you want. He handed her a Hibiscus flower, Delicate beauty.

Where do you keep finding these? Aurora asked, And how do you know so much about me?

I have my ways, He said.

Please, She pouted and he frowned, he obviously didn't like her upset, Please tell me.

Alright, alright, He said, Just don't look so sad. Aurora smiled. Brat.

Thank you, She hugged him, he scooped her up bridal style suddenly. She gasped and clung to him, she was afraid of heights.

It's okay, He tightened his hold on her pulling her close; I've got you. He carried her into the living room and layed her down on the leather couch, before she could protest he was hovering over her with one knee and a muscular arm holding him up.

What do you want to know? He asked, his cinnamon breath brushing over her face and leaving her disoriented.

Um, She blinked, Let's start with, why you kidnapped me?

I got tired of admiring you from afar, He said, And then I found Syllas watching you, you see. I've been keeping my eye on you for years.

Really? Aurora asked.

Yes, and when I found my brother I was shocked. He believed me to be dead as did I for him. He explained.

Why were you watching me? She tried to remember possibly running into Damon before somehow.

I go from city to city to find recruits for my army; I tracked a strong source here about a decade ago. It turned out to be my brother to my surprise, and then I found my old right hand man, Lucifer. It's not his real name but Lucifer sounds a whole lot more menacing than Louie.

A demon named Louie, She giggled.

Yes, Damon chuckled, He was shocked to see me. He had heard I was killed when my volcano exploded. But luckily for me some of my loyal minions were there already trying to break me free, they found me floating in the ocean and nursed me back to health.

So your volcano did erupt as well, Syllas thought you were still imprisoned. She told him.

Nope, but I would've been if my capturers had noticed the nearby volcano that was still active. He smiled, For a bunch of all powerful gods they were airheads. Aurora smiled, hearing about the Greek gods this way was strange. She couldn't believe she was talking to someone who was actually there.

Anyway, Lucifer explained to me that a bounty hunter of sorts was going around killing demons, my demons. I began my search for this bounty hunter unaware that it was my brother. I tracked him to that abandoned church but didn't find him there, when I turned to leave I saw you walking home.

At first I was going to kill you for fun to get out my frustration, but when I got closer I noticed you weren't alone. That boy Jeremy was with you and I couldn't risk letting one of you slip free and go blabbing, so I followed and waited for him to leave your side. Aurora was surprised, this was probably the night Jeremy walked her home and asked her out for the first time.

I trailed the two of you to your apartment and waited for him to leave, luckily for me that Jeffrey scared him away after he asked you out for dinner. I went to your apartment and waited for you to arrive, when you got in somebody else was with you. So I hid until they left.

I was in your closet, He paused and moved to sit on the couch, Aurora sat beside him. No pun intended. I waited for you to come in so I could make my move, but when you did&

What, She scooted closer, What happened?

You started taking your clothes off. He smiled at her, she blushed.

What? You watched me undress? Her hands balled into fists.

I'm a gentleman, He said, I peeked but I didn't stare.

You still looked, She crossed her arms and felt her eyebrows pull together; Damon put his arm around her and kissed her cheek.

I couldn't help it, I'd never seen a human naked and you're so beautiful. He smiled, I'm sorry. Aurora grumbled a few swear words, Damon laughed.

You prick. She said.

I let you shower peacefully, didn't I? He raised an eyebrow.

I guess so, She sighed and relaxed, uncrossing her arms.

There, He said.

What else happened? She asked, encouraging him to continue.

I waited for you to fall asleep; when you did I approached you. I got close and was about to strike when I took a good look at you, I realized I thought you were beautiful. A mortal.

I was confused, you looked human but I wasn't sure. I tried to see if you were in anyway immortal but didn't find anything, then I looked at your heat signatures and found a shield.

A shield? Aurora asked and he nodded.

Yes, it's pure energy. It has a life of its own and from the start of its life it chooses a host. This one has chosen you. He explained.

Is it here right now? Aurora asked and felt the air around her, the air close to her was warmer than the rest.

Yes, it will never leave you. Its soul purpose is to protect you, He looked to be examining the shield, It calls to immortals like a Siren. Once we hear its song we are forever drawn. This one is still young, but in a year or so it will be able to communicate with you.

Humans with a shield usually think they're crazy and are diagnosed with an illness called Schizophrenia. The medicine they are put on slowly kills the shield; it's literally part of you. It attaches itself to your brain and lives off of you, it doesn't hurt you but people with a shield are generally skinnier than those without.

When a shield chooses an immortal it grows more and more powerful over time until it can take on its own form. It is how some immortals reproduce; Sylas and I were created from shields. At this point Sylas is powerful enough to create a shield, like a child.

Wow, Aurora was truly amazed, Can you create a shield? Damon frowned and shook his head.

No, my brother is far more powerful than I am, he just doesn't know. He sighed, It'll be a long time before I am as strong as he is now.

Do you plan on fighting him? Aurora asked.

I want him to join me, if I fought him I'd surely fall. The only thing that I have over him is my army, together we can kill him. But as I said, I am a gentleman and will fight fair.

What powers do you have? She asked and took his hand. He seemed to be depressed about his

brother.

Many, He said, Would you like an example?

Um, Aurora wonder if she did, Sure.

Come with me. He stood and walked toward the door, Aurora followed him. Her eyes strayed from his head to his butt. It was very nice.

19 - Ice Cream!

Sylas was sitting on the floor next to Twitch's chair; Twitch was looking for some of the demons online; Sylas had given him several of their fake identities to go over. Twitch let him borrow a shirt, it was too small and tight but at least it was something to cover the bandages. Twitch's mind raced whenever he looked at Sylas in the tight shirt.

Dude, I think I found one of 'em. He said and tapped Sylas on the shoulder, he motioned to the screen. Sylas read the name and description; *Louis Georgston*. Sylas knew him as Lucifer.

Yup, Sylas said, looking closer at the data; it said that Lucifer had purchased a log cabin up in northern Minnesota and a large lakeside house in Milaca, both of which were good places to hide a kidnapped girl. One of them was most likely a decoy.

Which one do you think that Aurora's being kept in? Twitch asked.

I'm not sure, Sylas rubbed his forehead, But I need to find her soon.

What're they going to do to her if you don't, Twitch was twirling a pen in his hand, You didn't show me that.

Recruit her, Sylas sighed.

Oh man, like make her a demon too? He put an arm around Sylas.

Yes, if they do I'll have no choice but to kill her. Twitch gasped.

I'm sorry, He said, Hey, do you like, have a thing for her or something?

What do you mean, Sylas looked at him, Twitch rolled his eyes.

You know, do you love her? He asked.

I& Sylas thought about it a moment, I don't know, but she doesn't love me anymore. I scared her.

Twitch put a hand on Sylas's shoulder and looked him meaningfully in the eyes.

When you fall in love, you never fall out. He said quietly, Sylas nodded.

Then I do love her, Sylas said, Because I can't stop thinking about her or seeing the way she looked at me when I made her laugh. And when she'd cry, I felt like I would too. Just because seeing her hurt hurt me like being burned alive limb by limb.

Sylas, Twitch rested his hand on Sylas's cheek, Don't cry. Sylas blinked, and sure enough, a tear escaped. He closed his eyes; Twitch knelt on the floor and embraced him, rubbing his back gently.

Twitch whispered comforting words to him as more tears started running down.

Sylas could feel pain in his chest where his heart was, if it were beating it would be ripping it's self apart.

The warmth from Twitch's body was absorbed into Sylas, making the pain go away. Soon there were no tears left and Sylas felt numb inside, he wondered if that pain would ever return.

Thank you, He said to Twitch, Twitch smiled.

Hey, what're friends for! He said, You look like you need some pity food. He stood and helped Sylas up, they walked into the kitchen and Twitch began digging through the fridge and cabinets.

Pity food, Sylas repeated, Like hot chocolate? Twitch giggled.

No, better, He pulled a carton out of the freezer, Ice cream, are you an ice cream virgin too?

Yes, Sylas smiled, up until these past few days he thought he had humans figured out. Apparently he only had a little bit of it down; this was all new to him.

If you liked hot chocolate and pizza you're going to LOVE ice cream! Twitch said while handing a spoon to Sylas, Take small bits at a time though, it's cold. He sat down at the table and set the carton down, Sylas sat next to Twitch.

Twitch scooped some out and stuck it in his mouth; he moaned dramatically and rubbed his stomach.

Sylas got some on his spoon and looked at the strange frozen cream; it was white with what appeared to be strawberries mixed in. He stuck it in his mouth.

Oh my god, He said, It s delicious! Twitch giggled and nodded.

I know right, He took another spoonful and so did Sylas, I hope my pants fit after this. After a lot of giggling and moaning, the ice cream was gone.

Did you boys just eat all of that ice cream? His mom asked when she came in.

Um, yeah, Sylas has never had sweets before, Twitch said, his mom smiled and laughed.

Really, well don t make him sick. She said before going to her bedroom for the night.

I do feel kind of sick, Sylas said, rubbing his stomach.

We d better go to sleep then; you ll feel better in the morning. Is it okay if we share a bed? Twitch asked he used his brown eyes to beg like a puppy. Sylas nodded and Twitch smiled, he pulled him upstairs.

Will there be room? Sylas asked examining the bed, it was a large twin but Sylas could barely fit on a full.

We can make room, He said, patting the mattress. Sylas layed down next to the wall and Twitch snuggled up to him, wrapping his arms tightly around Sylas. See, plenty of room He smiled.

Yes, Sylas put an arm around Twitch to make sure the boy wouldn t fall off the bed.

Good night, He said while using his foot to turn off the light.

Good night, Sylas said, closing his eyes. He fell asleep quickly.

20 - Strange weather today, huh?

Are we still in Minnesota? Aurora asked while looking up at the clear sunny sky and examining the flowers, October in Minnesota did not look like this.

Yes, Damon said, I've altered the weather in this location.

Won't that screw up the ecosystem? Aurora remembered learning something about the weather having something to do with the life of an ecosystem; in the summer everything lives, in autumn plants start to die and freeze, winter freezes the lakes and dead plants, making them rich and healthy for the spring to bloom.

Not the way I do it, Damon leaned down and examined a flower with envy, I couldn't kill something so beautiful. He looked up at her and smiled.

I see, Aurora blushed, So, how do you do it? Damon stood tall and looked up at the sky; he closed his eyes and concentrated hard for a moment.

What is your favorite season? He asked with his eyes still closed.

I don't know, She thought for a moment and remembered a time when she was little; it was in the middle of the winter and too cold for snow, about thirty below. Winter I guess.

Ah, raining Diamonds. He nodded and smiled, Sun showers in winter, the rain freezes into ice crystals. Making it appear as if it's raining diamonds, very rare weather to come by.

Yes, Aurora looked at him in awe, You can read my thoughts, huh? Damon smiled and went back to concentrating. Some clouds began to form and the temperature started dropping, Aurora wrapped her arms around herself and shivered.

A frost started to cover everything around, the temperature was dropping below zero now. The sun was still shining with a few clouds in the sky; the clouds were growing thicker and grayer. It reminded Aurora of a storm forming in fast motion on the science channel.

Something cold landed on her hand, she looked and saw a melted ice crystal. She looked to the sky and saw thousands more falling, the sun would hit them and they'd twinkle like stars. She smiled and stood watching the diamonds fall from the sky, just like when her mom took her to the park when she was six. Damon's arm wrapped around her shoulders and she leaned against him, he was very warm compared to the winter air.

What else can you do? Aurora looked up at him, he was already watching her.

Plenty ask me something and I'll bet you that I can do it. He grinned and Aurora shrugged, *why not?*

What if I guess right? She asked.

I'll show you I can do it, unless you had something else in mind? He chuckled.

If you can do it, She thought about it, I'll stop being so paranoid that you're going to jump on me.

Hmm, He paused, It would be nice for you to trust me. Despite my appearance, I'm harmless as far as you're concerned.

As far as I'm concerned, She looked at him with raised brows, What about other people?

Honey, He kissed her forehead delicately, You really don't want to know.

Give me a hint, Aurora said, although she was sure Damon was right about her not wanting to know.

Well, He pursed his lips and thought about it, There's a wide variety, most of us are just sadistic killers. Others are disgusting perverts or kidnappers. Aurora shuddered and he held her to him.

Which category do you fall under? She asked.

I'm a killer, but I just do it to those who deserve it. He frowned.

What happened, She asked, To make you need to kill them.

Come inside, He started pulling her inside, It s freezing out here, besides, some answers might be on television today. He opened the door and she went to sit in the living room on the leather sofa. Damon flicked the TV on to the news, and Aurora s jaw dropped.

You, She couldn t pull her eyes away from the screen, You killed Leah, and Jeremy.

Yes, He said as he sat beside her, I first went to look for you at his place, I found them together. They were about to have sex and were talking about you in rude ways. I lost my temper. Aurora pulled her eyes from the screen; he was looking at his hands.

I, She didn t know what to do, he d done it for her but she cared about them. I don t know what to say about this.

Don t say anything, He said without moving, Just know that I m sorry, I really shouldn t have lost control like that, it s just that hearing him say that he only wanted you for your body set me off. Then when she said you were a dumb dog it pushed me over the edge. He sighed.

They felt no pain, He whispered, I used my abilities to stop their hearts instantly. Aurora looked at the screen again; the reporter was saying that they both died from cardiac arrest. She looked back at him and sighed, she wished he hadn t killed them but she understood his reasoning. He really did care for her, and she was starting to care for him.

Damon, She said quietly and he looked at her through a curtain of red hair, I ll get over it, if you promise me never to kill someone I know again.

I can promise you that, except for one person. He said, I might have no choice but to kill my brother, if I even can.

Can t you just let that go, She placed her hand on his arm, He is your brother after all.

I wish I could, He sighed, But he might go after you and try to kill you. Aurora s hand flew to her mouth and she gasped.

Why would he do that? She asked.

He might suspect you as a demon after you ve been here for a while, Damon explained.

Why, Aurora shook her head slowly, I m not a demon.

Not yet, He simply said, straightening up and looking at her.

What do you mean, She stiffened.

Relax, He scooted close to her and rubbed her shoulders, I d only change you for one reason.

What would that reason be? She prepared herself for the worst. He smiled and leaned in, his lips at her ear.

If you wanted to be with me, He kissed her cheek and smoothly slid his lips to hers, Forever. He whispered, his lips nuzzling hers.

21 - Tickletickletickle!!

Sylas had been awake for some time just listening to distant sounds, now he was listening to Twitch's thoughts. *For a big dangerous bounty hunter he sure does look cute when he's asleep.* Sylas cracked a smile, Twitch mentally cursed himself.

Damn it, He mumbled, How long have you been awake? He nudged Sylas playfully.

A while, He opened his eyes and looked at Twitch who was curled up beside him, staring into his eyes with a bright happy smile.

Didn't think vampires even could sleep, He said, Then again, I also didn't think they liked hot chocolate or ice cream. Or that they snore. Sylas laughed at this, he didn't know that he snored.

I snore? He raised an eyebrow at Twitch.

Yup, like a fog horn! He said, imitating the sound of a fog horn. Sylas gave him an evil grin, Uh-oh, I don't like that look.

I know from your mind how ticklish you are. Sylas said, Twitch tried to get out of reach but Sylas grabbed him with one arm and tickled his belly.

Ah, damn it! No! Stop it! He screeched between giggles, he was pointlessly kicking his legs at Sylas and thrashing. His mom appeared at the door with a worried expression, it quickly smoothed over when she saw the scene.

Boys, She shook her head with a light laugh, Don't kill each other.

Mom, Twitch gasped, Help me! Ah! His mom walked over to the side of the bed and watched for a moment, and then she joined Sylas. Twitch screamed bloody murder in between fits of laughter.

His mom stopped when the phone rang downstairs, she went to get it. Sylas stopped tickling Twitch and Twitch layed there trying to catch his breath. He looked over his shoulder at Sylas with a glare.

You, He paused, You butt. Sylas let out a bark of laughter.

A butt, He continued laughing, Is that all you've got?

No, Twitch pouted, You... You misleading super sexy bisexual vampire! Sylas cocked his head to the side.

I guess that's a bit better, He said, he knew what bisexual meant.

Hey, are you going to look for that girl today? Twitch asked as he stood and stretched.

Yes, Sylas said.

We should probably change your bandages first, Twitch said, Let me take a look. Sylas knew the wound was already healed. He pulled off his shirt and Twitch peeled off the medical tape carefully, when he removed the gauze his mouth dropped.

Whoa, He ran his hand over the smooth skin, It's gone. He looked up at Sylas.

I heal fast, Sylas shrugged.

I guess so, Twitch said, still running his hand over Sylas' chest. Twitch's mom walked in and saw the bandages in Twitch's hand.

Oh, I see you had the same idea. Let me just take a look. She trailed off when she saw Sylas' chest completely healed. How..?

It's a long story, mom. Twitch said; his mom gave him a worried look. *What is Sylas?*

I have time, She said and sat down on the bed, Explain.

There's an easier way for me to show you, Sylas said and placed his palm on her forehead, her eyes went blank as she watched Sylas' memories. When she'd seen what she needed to Sylas pulled his

hand away slightly worried about how she'd react.

Oh my, She put her finger tips to her lips, I can't believe it.

Finally, Sylas sighed, Someone with a normal reaction.

Mom, Twitch put his hand on her knee, Are you okay?

Steve, She looked at him, How long have you known about this? Twitch shrugged.

He did the same thing to me last night after he saved me. He explained.

I saw the news this morning, She shook her head, Two teens dead in an apartment and four more missing. Sylas, was that you? She asked.

I only disposed of the four that attacked your son, He said, I don't know anything about the other two, who were they?

A girl named Leah and her boyfriend Jeremy. She said; Sylas stiffened.

Leah and Jeremy, He repeated, Are you positive?

Yes, did you know them? Her eyebrows arched up in worry.

Yes, and this means that Aurora could be a demon already. He said.

Oh, dude, are you sure? Twitch asked.

Yes, Jeremy was her ex who cheated on her with her best friend and then they chose each other over her. She had good reason to go after them. Sylas stood, I have to go check the locations, I'll try to be back soon. He was out of the house before anyone of them could protest.

22 - Demon in the Window

Aurora had one hand tangled in Damon's hair and the other around his waist, she didn't know how long they'd kissed but she hoped it would never end. The feeling the kiss gave her made her feel invincible. And a few other things.

His right hand was rested on her hip and the other was pulling her against him at her lower back. His lips tasted like cinnamon and Aurora couldn't get enough of it, he smelled like spring flowers and every time she breathed it made her want him more. Every so often one of his fangs would tickle her lower lip and send shivers parading up and down her spine.

A warm feeling coming from his touch made her nipples stand up and her clothes feel like a bother. Nobody she'd ever kissed made her feel this way, and before she could get her hand to the button of his jeans he pulled away with a smug smile.

Easy kitten, He purred, Don't want to do it all at once. He kissed her delicately and was gone. Aurora sighed and slumped back into the couch. She licked her lips and tasted the cinnamon, it made her tongue tingle. Her stomach growled loudly and ruined the moment.

She forced herself off the couch and stumbled, she caught herself on the arm of the couch. She was light-headed from the kiss. Once she took some deep breathes and could trust her feet she went into the kitchen. The clock on the wall said it was seven thirty PM.

Opening the fridge she decided she wanted the strawberries, she spotted them and pulled them out.

They were already clean and the stems were cut off. She leaned against the counter and started popping them into her mouth, she was very hungry. They were the best strawberries she'd ever had.

About twenty strawberries later she couldn't eat another bite; she put the remaining strawberries back in the fridge and thought about what to do until it was late enough for sleep. She walked around the house for a bit and found a second bathroom with an indoor hot tub for a bathtub. *I guess he thinks bigger is better.*

She moved on from the bathroom and took a peak out a large window in the living room; she sat down on the ledge and watched the field. It truly was beautiful, and Damon had returned it to summer outside. Suddenly something black ran across the field and Aurora shrieked.

She jumped back from the window with all her hair on end, she wanted to run and hide but she couldn't take her eyes away. She could hear her heart pounding and her pulse racing. She clutched the back of the leather couch and watched, waiting for something to jump out and scare her.

The black figure ran across the other way, closer this time. Aurora's heart was in her throat. She held her breathe and felt her eyes burning as she stared wide-eyed outside the window. It ran across again, except this time it was directly in front of the window.

She turned and jumped over the couch, she ran through the dining room and kitchen. She made her way to the bedroom and began searching for Damon's whistle. She got down on her knees and checked under the bed, it wasn't in the room. She stood and ran back into the kitchen.

She searched the counters and floor. She opened the fridge to see if it fell in there somehow, not there. She started crawling and looking for the whistle under the fridge and counters. Still nothing; she ran into the dining room.

She searched the table and on the chairs without any luck. Once again she crawled on the floor searching for the whistle, not in the dining room. She stood and turned to look in the living room.

She saw it sitting there on the couch, but what she also noticed was the devilish red-eyed creature with

fangs standing outside the window. She froze in place and the creature opened its ugly mouth, slimy blood streaked saliva poured from its lips as it laughed. The ground was suddenly at eye level and the room went dark as Aurora fainted.

22 - Demon in the Window

Aurora had one hand tangled in Damon's hair and the other around his waist, she didn't know how long they'd kissed but she hoped it would never end. The feeling the kiss gave her made her feel invincible. And a few other things.

His right hand was rested on her hip and the other was pulling her against him at her lower back. His lips tasted like cinnamon and Aurora couldn't get enough of it, he smelled like spring flowers and every time she breathed it made her want him more. Every so often one of his fangs would tickle her lower lip and send shivers parading up and down her spine.

A warm feeling coming from his touch made her nipples stand up and her clothes feel like a bother. Nobody she'd ever kissed made her feel this way, and before she could get her hand to the button of his jeans he pulled away with a smug smile.

Easy kitten, He purred, Don't want to do it all at once. He kissed her delicately and was gone. Aurora sighed and slumped back into the couch. She licked her lips and tasted the cinnamon, it made her tongue tingle. Her stomach growled loudly and ruined the moment.

She forced herself off the couch and stumbled, she caught herself on the arm of the couch. She was light-headed from the kiss. Once she took some deep breathes and could trust her feet she went into the kitchen. The clock on the wall said it was seven thirty PM.

Opening the fridge she decided she wanted the strawberries, she spotted them and pulled them out.

They were already clean and the stems were cut off. She leaned against the counter and started popping them into her mouth, she was very hungry. They were the best strawberries she'd ever had.

About twenty strawberries later she couldn't eat another bite; she put the remaining strawberries back in the fridge and thought about what to do until it was late enough for sleep. She walked around the house for a bit and found a second bathroom with an indoor hot tub for a bathtub. *I guess he thinks bigger is better.*

She moved on from the bathroom and took a peak out a large window in the living room; she sat down on the ledge and watched the field. It truly was beautiful, and Damon had returned it to summer outside. Suddenly something black ran across the field and Aurora shrieked.

She jumped back from the window with all her hair on end, she wanted to run and hide but she couldn't take her eyes away. She could hear her heart pounding and her pulse racing. She clutched the back of the leather couch and watched, waiting for something to jump out and scare her.

The black figure ran across the other way, closer this time. Aurora's heart was in her throat. She held her breathe and felt her eyes burning as she stared wide-eyed outside the window. It ran across again, except this time it was directly in front of the window.

She turned and jumped over the couch, she ran through the dining room and kitchen. She made her way to the bedroom and began searching for Damon's whistle. She got down on her knees and checked under the bed, it wasn't in the room. She stood and ran back into the kitchen.

She searched the counters and floor. She opened the fridge to see if it fell in there somehow, not there. She started crawling and looking for the whistle under the fridge and counters. Still nothing; she ran into the dining room.

She searched the table and on the chairs without any luck. Once again she crawled on the floor searching for the whistle, not in the dining room. She stood and turned to look in the living room.

She saw it sitting there on the couch, but what she also noticed was the devilish red-eyed creature with

fangs standing outside the window. She froze in place and the creature opened its ugly mouth, slimy blood streaked saliva poured from its lips as it laughed. The ground was suddenly at eye level and the room went dark as Aurora fainted.

23 - Lurking in the Dark

Sylas was circling the lakeside house in Milaca; he had been outside for almost an hour waiting for somebody or something to leave. There were lights on inside and he could hear shuffling, but no thoughts. He didn't know the full power of the demon he was hunting, but he guessed that the demon had a mind block on Aurora so Sylas couldn't track her thoughts.

He was ducked down in the trees that surrounded the house on three sides, trying to see inside the windows. A few of them were open but he couldn't see anybody inside. He'd need to try and see from the side that looked out at the lake.

Sylas silently made his way to the lakeshore and quietly slid into the freezing water. He knelt down so the only his eyes and the top of his head stuck out of the water. He moved smoothly and slowly to keep from making ripples in the water, he tapped his toes on the lakebed to make sure he wouldn't slip. When he was in front of the house he peaked up and looked into the windows.

He saw the hooded figure from before standing and nodding to what someone else was saying. The figure was still covered completely with the hood, goggles and scarf but this time Sylas sensed something familiar about him. He brought his nose above the water and sniffed the air; he could smell Aurora's scent. But it was very faint, like she had only been there once.

Suddenly the hooded figure headed toward the door and came outside; Sylas ducked down in the water but looked up through the surface. The man walked to the water's edge and looked around, he knew Sylas was there. In his head he heard, *come out, come out where ever you are!*

Sylas heard a strange noise in the water and turned to see what it could possibly be, he saw movement. There was something in the water with him, before he could run for it a large tentacle grabbed him around the torso and lifted him out of the water. His arms were pinned to his sides. The hooded figure crossed his arms and chuckled.

Sylas, He said, We keep running into each other.

Where is she? Sylas demanded, the tentacle constricted and he felt suction cups with sharp edges slice his skin.

Don't worry about Aurora; she's perfectly safe where I have her. He sounded smug.

Let her go! Sylas growled and the man laughed.

She has the choice whether or not to stay, He chuckled, And she wants to stay with me.

If you touch her I'll - Sylas was cut off, the tentacle constricted further and cut deeper into Sylas' flesh. He bit into his tongue to keep from giving the beast the satisfaction of hearing him cry out.

You'll what, The figure walked closer, Kill me? Sylas, Sylas...

I will, I promise you that if you touch her I'll kill you. He said; the man scoffed.

You're too late, He said and turned to leave, She kissed me and tried to make love to me. In a matter of days she will be forever mine. He chuckled.

Liar, Sylas said, he was trembling from rage.

I am many things, Sylas. But I liar I am not, He turned to face Sylas again, Go back to your boyfriend, and leave her to me, a real man.

I love her, Sylas said, I will do everything in my power to keep her from you.

Sylas, The man shook his head, You probably don't even know half of your powers. You could kill me right here, right now if you knew your full potential.

And I suppose you do know; you seem well informed. Sylas said.

Ha, I know everything about you. He laughed.

How do you know, what makes you think you know everything about me? Sylas was starting to feel stronger the angrier he got.

Silly Sylas, He said, I know everything about you because I was there when you were created. I know you re full potential because you were made stronger, but obviously not smarter. Centuries have passed and you still haven t found me, your biggest challenge yet.

And I hear you re the best demon tracker alive, with all the deadliest abilities. Yet you ve gotten yourself trapped in that form and you can t even penetrate my defenses. Tsk tsk, I was looking forward to seeing how far you ve come.

Who are you? Sylas asked.

Sylas, The man leaned his head forward and the scarf fell to the ground along with the goggles, he leaned back and the hood fell. I m you re brother, Damon.

24 - Choices

As soon as Aurora opened her eyes her stomach heaved, she closed her eyes again. She tried to relax so she wouldn't throw up, but the room was spinning. She groaned and brought her knees up to her chest, she heard a chuckle and her memories came flying back. The demonic beast in the window. She opened her eyes and saw a dark skinned man sitting in the corner with one arm resting on his knee and the other leg stretched out. He looked Egyptian, black hair and tan skin with black eyes and dark eyeliner. He was watching her without blinking with a crooked toothy grin.

Hello, He said in a deep voice, Sorry about the scare, sweetheart.

Um, Aurora sat up slowly, Who are you?

I'm Lucifer, Damon sent me to watch you. He thinks Sylas is hot on the trail. He explained; he still hadn't looked away or blinked.

He told me about you, you're his right hand man right? She asked.

Yes, I'm the strongest demon in existence right behind him. He tilted his chin up proudly.

Wow, Aurora said unenthusiastically and yawned.

There might be a battle tonight, He said, Aurora looked at him wide eyed.

Between Sylas and Damon? She asked and he nodded.

Yes, my Lord finally let his brother in on the secret. That he still lived, and that he'd fight for you. Sylas is willing to kill to get you back, though against us he doesn't stand a fighting chance.

What? Damon said he'd fight fair, just how many of you are there? Aurora said, Lucifer laughed at this.

There are millions of us, He said, Aurora gasped, Each and every one of us with the urge to kill Sylas.

Why do you all want to kill him? What did he do to you? She was angry.

He imprisoned our master, the only one who can lead us to dominance. Damon will make us rulers! He said with confidence.

No, Aurora shook her head, There has to be another way, I don't want to lose either of them. He finally blinked and turned to look to his right, What? She asked, looking in the same direction, she didn't see anything.

Heh, He was looking at Aurora out of the corner of his eye, Humans. He materialized into thin air and was gone.

I don't think I'll ever get used to that, She sighed and layed back down on the bed. She fell back asleep after a few count downs from one hundred. She started to dream about Damon.

He was lying in the grass shirtless and she was admiring his features, he was a little more pale than Sylas but the shade was creamy. His eyes were closed and he was smiling as she stroked the lines and creases between his muscles. He shivered and opened his eyes; the red was starting to be less frightening and more comfortable.

She leaned down and kissed his chest a few times gently; he pulled her on top of him and kissed her.

The cinnamon taste was the same in her dream, but something seemed off about him.

Who do you choose, He asked, Choose me and I can give you everything.

Choose me and you'll be protected, Sylas was suddenly laying on the ground beside Damon, I can save you from anything. He said, she looked between the two of them. She was confused; she'd grown attached to them both, Damon for his charm and Sylas for his motivation to protect her.

She awoke and felt a tear run down her cheek; she wiped it away with the back of her hand. *What if they make me choose? Or worse, what if they fight and I lose them both?*

25 - Hello, brother.

Damon, Sylas stared in disbelief at his brother before him, it was Damon but he had changed. His once blonde hair was a deep red with black running through, sharp demon horns shined in the light, his green eyes had turned blood red and he had devilish fangs.

You look surprised, brother, he said, I can't believe you didn't suspect this.

What's happened to you? Sylas asked.

I learned to shape shift as well, but unlike you I didn't let myself get stuck. He chuckled, the laugh turned to a bark as he morphed into a large black wolf with red eyes.

Do you know why I'm stuck like this? Damon nodded and turned back to his demonic self.

You took the form of something that was half mortal, He explained, Changing into something else would be lethal so your body locked the ability away.

Why have you been hiding from me? Sylas demanded.

When my volcano erupted I was badly injured, I would have died if my minions hadn't found me and nursed me back to health. He turned and smiled at a demon standing behind him in the doorway, But it took me centuries, He turned back to Sylas, To regain my powers.

You're very strong, Sylas said and started to doubt that he could defeat him in battle.

Yes, but not as strong as you. He frowned, Sylas, I don't want to fight you. I simply want you to join me and rule with me. An equal partnership, I would control the underworld. You could have whatever you wanted.

Demons don't make peace treaties, Sylas said.

Sylas, Damon shook his head, I'm no demon, I'm your brother. A guardian, I just chose to be the guardian of the underworld.

I'll make a deal with you, Damon's eyebrows went up, Give me Aurora and I will let you and your demons be. Damon sighed.

I can't do that, Sylas He said.

Why? Sylas demanded; he was outraged. The last thing he wanted was to lose her and the only thing he wanted was to have her.

Sylas, she calls to us like a Siren because of that shield. I can't leave her to you, because I too have fallen in love with her. Sylas remembered the shields now, he felt stupid for not seeing it before. His body shook from rage; he knew that Damon was a charmer. He also knew that he could hypnotize people just as Sylas could, he might've already done that to Aurora.

How about this, Sylas growled, Release me and in a month's time we shall fight, one on one, a fair battle for her.

Sylas, you are much stronger than I am; it is far from fair. He said, And the last thing I want to do is fight you unfairly, because I know that I'd win. I want you to rule with me, brother.

Then we shall both spend equal time with her, and we'll let her choose. And no abilities can be used to alter her decision. Sylas offered; Damon seemed to think it over.

Alright, I ask for one more week with her. Then you may have her. He said; it seemed fair enough.

Agreed, now tell this beast to release me. He said and Damon smiled.

This would be a good chance for you to see your power, release yourself. He said before teleporting away. Sylas growled and tightened his fists; he felt his claws digging into his flesh. He concentrated hard, trying to find the shape shifting ability.

He pictured the form he wished to take and let the rage lure the ability back to him from the shadows of

his memory.

26 - Whoopsie!

Aurora let herself sob into one of the pillows for a good hour; the dream had shaken her up, choosing between Syllas and Damon would be the hardest choice to make. Although she did spend more time with Damon, Syllas had stolen her heart and there was nothing she could do about it.

Eventually she sat up and wiped the tears off her face. She did some deep breathing and got herself under control. *One, two, three* She counted in her head to ten then got up. Out of the corner of her eye she saw herself in the mirror, it was obvious she'd been crying and her hair was mostly crazed, the rest was plastered to the side of her head.

Her new clothes didn't look any better; they were creased and wrinkled like they'd been in a ball at the bottom of the hamper for a week. She sighed and decided another shower was needed.

Grabbing a towel and turning on the water was a haze as she slid under the hot water. The steaming water untied the knots in her shoulders and back after a few minutes. She turned and closed her eyes as she let the water roll over her face, it burned her irritated cheeks but the feeling slowly faded away to numbness.

While the water did its job to soothe her, Aurora was thinking of a way to find Syllas and Damon to stop the battle. She wondered if Damon was like Syllas and lived in abandoned buildings or parks. A light bulb went on when she realized that the answer was a big fat no.

She turned off the water after finishing up in record time and stepped out, grabbed the towel, then went straight back to the bedroom. Then it dawned on her that she didn't have any clothes, she cursed and looked for the clothes she came in. Nothing.

There was a closet in the room but Aurora doubted anything was inside; she looked at her options and shivered from the cold. She opened the closet and found plenty of expensive clothing in her size. One of the items still had a price tag attached to the sleeve; she took a look at it and her jaw dropped to the floor. Nearly a thousand dollars!

Nothing but the best for you, darling. Aurora jumped and turned to see Damon sitting on the bed, he was looking at her with a very amused look.

What? She asked and he looked away with a huge grin.

You dropped your towel, He said; Aurora looked down and sure enough, the towel was around her ankles. At first all she did was stare wide eyed, then she grabbed the towel and quickly covered herself. Then thanked herself for deciding to shave.

She could feel the heat in her face and her legs were shaking from the embarrassment, she turned and grabbed the first outfit she touched. When she turned back Damon had left the room so she could change. She took this time to hyperventilate and cry a little more.

Damon returned as soon as the last particle of clothing had been put on, Aurora sniffled and he looked at her. She must've had some tears left because he frowned and a thousand lights went off in his eyes. His arms were around her instantly, one hand was rubbed her back gently.

Babe, He whispered, Don't cry, honey. It's okay. Aurora clung to him and went over the edge. Tears streamed from her eyes and sobs ripped through her, Damon held her tighter and she cried and cried. She cried for Damon, for Syllas, for Jeremy and Leah, for her broken confidence, and for the war between the two people she loved.

Shh, Damon cooed and held her for what seemed like an eternity, but eventually she calmed down. He held her at arms length and looked into her eyes worriedly, I'm sorry I didn't look away sooner, your just so breath taking.

It's alright, Aurora took a deep shaky breath and let it out, then gave Damon the best smile she could. His eyes lit back up and he gave her a returning smile, the smile he gave her turned her fake smile into a real one.

I have something to tell you, He said and pulled her to the bed, they sat down next to each other. It's about Syllas. Aurora's heart went into her throat and she prepared herself for the worst.

It's not necessarily bad, He took her hands in his, We made a deal to avoid fighting. Aurora sighed in relief, but she felt like there was more, and it wasn't good.

And..? She scooted closer to him, at first he didn't look like he was going to say anymore so she did what she knew would make him cave. The first thing she did was arch her back and pull back her shoulders to lift and enlarge her already D sized breasts, that definitely caught his eye.

Um, He mumbled with his eyes locked on her cleavage, We just discussed the future. He said and brought his eyes back to Aurora's, she'd have to do better.

What about the future? She used her most simultaneous seductive voice possible and batted her eyelashes like the girls on TV. His eyebrows went up slightly and Aurora saw a brief flicker of lust on his face.

All of our futures, He said in a nervous voice; she was getting to him. She placed a hand on his thigh and leaned in closer, keeping the arch in her back. Their noses were nearly touching.

Damon, Her voice was quiet and smooth, he looked like he was about to burst. His body was tense, especially in his shoulders, and his jaw was locked tight. Please, She used her finger tips to trail up his leg to his waistline where she grabbed and pulled him closer.

You're the sexiest virgin I've ever seen, He said and leaned in to kiss her, she pulled away and placed a finger over his lips.

Tell me everything first, She said and gave herself a mental high five for doing so well for her first time seducing a man into giving her answers.

You don't play fair, He said and licked her fingertip, she shivered. But I love it, it's like we were meant to be. His eyes were locked on hers and she was losing control, her head was spinning so fast she thought she'd actually get whiplash.

Tell me, She made the best pouting face she could and knew she had him.

Alright, okay& He sighed, But you owe me a kiss. I had this cabin and a house purchased, both appeared to be good places to hide. The house was a decoy; I had my men there waiting to tell me as soon as my brother showed up, I have Lucifer guarding this cabin.

One of my soldiers informed me that Syllas was possibly snooping around the house and when I got there I smelled him right away. Then his thoughts came and I knew he was getting ready to attack me, I put on a macho act and sensed him in the water.

My pet restrained him for me and we chatted for a bit and I revealed myself to him. He demanded you back and said he'd kill me for you, I convinced him that battle was not the way to go. He said and leaned in again for a kiss, Aurora pulled away again and he frowned.

So what did you decide, She asked, If there isn't going to fight. He sighed.

That only one of us can have you, we're going to let you decide. Aurora swallowed hard; her nightmare was becoming a reality.

I, She searched for words, I can't choose, I love you both.

We'll give you as much time as you need. I have you for another week before you go with Syllas, after that it's up to you. He gave her hand a gentle squeeze and she pushed the fear away deciding she'd panic when the time was right, when she was standing between the two of them being questioned.

Okay, She finally said and he smiled.

Now, He pulled her close, I want that kiss. He said and Aurora let him kiss her. The cinnamon taste nearly knocked her into a fit, she pressed closer and licked his lip. He shivered and she found his tongue

in her mouth dancing with hers. Then she realized that she was laying on her back with him over her, one arm held him up and the other was stroking her hip.

27 - Why are you naked?

What used to be a small Kraken blew away as ash in the wind. Sylas was still trembling from the amazing power of his dragon form; he had used a spray of fire to kill the Kraken and now it was ash along with the house and all the demons inside. In the distance he heard sirens.

He tested his shape shifting again and took his former form. He was very weak but still had the energy to flee from the scene. His body trembled with every step and his legs threatened to collapse. He needed to hunt, but he knew he had to hunt something immortal to get the appropriate energy,

He made it to the park and rested in the church, he was leaning against the wall where he had first met Twitch. The white pillars before him were merging between doubles and singles and dancing with each other. Sylas closed his eyes and waited for the dizziness to fade.

After a few minutes of deep breathing the dizziness had only went away slightly. Sylas sighed and slowly got to his feet; there was a demon near by, he could hear its thoughts. It was angry and it was looking for him to even the score, one of his buddies was ashes.

Sylas stood in the center of the park and waited, he was concentrating on the bloodlust to make it stronger. It was raging inside him along with his human anger at his brother. At the thought of his brother his body shook and a menacing growl shook through his fangs.

The demon he was waiting for burst through the bushes and stopped in his tracks when he saw Sylas, looking more evil than anything hell could produce. He took a step back.

What the frack is wrong with you? He growled, You kill my friends and you still aren't satisfied?

No, Sylas snarled; the demon's eyes widened and he turned to run. Sylas locked his eyes on the demon's throat and launched through the air, he saw the demon shift to dodge. He twisted in mid air and landed a kick to the beast's head, a sickening crack echoed off the trees.

The scent of the blood washed over Sylas instantly and the need for it made him even stronger. The demon was up and running again. He was disoriented from the blow and running into trees. The hit would've turned a human's head to pulp, but he was a demon and put up a fight. A fight Sylas was enjoying. He tilted his chin up and laughed from the excitement of the hunt and was off after the creature once more.

Sylas knocked on Twitch's front door looking like he'd been thrown in a wood chipper. His clothes were shredded and Sylas was happy their street had no lamps. Twitch's mom answered and gasped at his appearance then shielded her eyes; she motioned with her hand to come in.

Steve's asleep, She said and handed him a robe, Why are you naked? She was trying very hard not to look down but her eyes trailed down occasionally.

A Kraken stole my pants, a demon ripped my shirt to pieces and my boxers got torn off when I was running back here. Sylas explained.

You don't seem the least bit embarrassed, does this happen a lot? She handed him a cup of hot chocolate, Sylas drained it.

Yes, He grinned, A clothing store in France probably memorized me both naked and clothed. She laughed and started making coffee; Sylas looked at the wall clock. Four in the morning.

Why aren't you asleep, Sylas asked, Do you go by Karen? She smiled and nodded.

Karen is fine, She handed him a cup of coffee; I was worried about you.

I'm a Greek Guardian and you're worried monsters are going to get me. Sylas laughed.

Sylas, there must be someone stronger than you out there. I don't want them finding you; I care about

you as if you were my son. She put a hand on his arm and gave him a worried look.

The only creature stronger than me is scared of me and won't let me near him for longer than five minutes. Sylas took a sip of the coffee and held back a grimace.

Who is he? She asked.

My brother, he has Aurora. Sylas tensed up at the thought of Aurora being anywhere near him.

Oh my goodness, She put a hand to her mouth, The demon guy? He has that poor girl?

Yes, and unfortunately he's slippery and very good with making deals. He said and took another sip of the coffee, this time Karen noticed the grimace.

Here, put some sugar or milk in it. She handed him a tin container containing sugar and a carton of milk. Sylas put both in and stirred it; he sipped the coffee and liked it much more.

Mm, I like coffee too. He smiled at Karen and she smiled back.

Have you ever had donuts? She asked, she seemed very excited about donuts.

No, Sylas shook his head, I lived off of rabbits and deer.

Well, She said and went into the laundry room, she returned with clothes. Put these on and we'll go get some donuts.

28 - Lust

The sound of Damon's soft breathing was the only thing Aurora could hear besides her own heartbeat, his breathe would brush over her neck and her pulse would race. She didn't want to open her eyes; she just wanted to lay there with Damon for the rest of her life.

Damon was laying beside her on his stomach with an arm gently embracing her; she was in his arms laying on her back with her head resting against his. Aurora had never felt more safe than right there with him, with his cinnamon breathe and nature scent.

The feeling she felt could only be explained as soaring; her body felt weightless and the bed was so soft and supportive it felt like she was floating. The only thing that kept her from flying away was Damon, and he wasn't going to let go. She knew he wasn't, she could see it in his eyes that he loved her, in everything he did she saw it.

He stirred slightly; it almost went unnoticed except his eyelashes tickled her shoulder when he blinked sleep from his eyes. His arm tightened around her and he pulled her close, he knew she was awake too. He kissed her jaw line, neck and ear lobe with tender care. Aurora smiled and she knew he was smiling with her. It was like for the moment they were chained together, every thought, movement, or feeling was known to the other.

Open your eyes, my love. He whispered into her ear, she did so and nearly cried tears of joy. The white canopy bed was glowing in the sunlight coming from outside the window, the canopy was drawn up on one side to let the sun shine in and warm their bodies. But the best view was Damon smiling at her in the sunlight, his skin glowing; his eyes were nearly screaming that he loved her.

Aurora smiled at him happily, her happiness made his smile even more brilliant. He kissed her lips softly and nuzzled his nose to hers. It was like a dream come true, except Aurora hadn't originally seen herself with the boogiemer himself. But right at that moment she wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Damon kissed her again, this time the kiss lasted. Once again their tongues found each other and all the hair on Aurora's body stood up straight. His smooth tongue ring clicked against her teeth when he'd tease her by licking the underside of her tongue. His fangs would brush against her lips and tongue and instead of hurting her it turned her on.

He pulled away; it was way too soon for Aurora. She wrapped her arms around his shoulders and pulled him back. She winced when a pain in her pelvis reacted to the movement. Damon layed her down on her back again and nuzzled her lips.

Is my little ex virgin sore today? He teased and kissed her gently.

Only when I move. She said; Damon grinned ear to ear.

Thanks for letting me be first, He said and caressed her cheek with his thumb.

29 - Donuts!

There were a dozen donuts when Karen and Sylas first sat down, now there was only one and Karen was eyeing it. Sylas really wanted it but he'd be the gentleman and let her take it, he pushed the box toward her and she lit up.

Thank you, She said and took the donut, Sylas smiled and got up to throw the box away. Out of the corner of his eye he saw movement outside the window, he looked and saw nothing. But he could sense his brother near by and felt his temper rise.

You okay, Sylas? Karen asked while putting a hand on his shoulder, the only other person in the room looked up.

What's your name, Sylas? He asked and stood up.

Yeah that's me, Sylas turned to the man in confusion, he was human. The guy pulled hand cuffs out of his back pocket and cuffed him.

You're under arrest for private property vandalism. He said and flashed his badge under his coat; Sylas lifted a brow at him then remembered that he was the number one suspect for the broken window.

Oh my goodness, sir I think you have the wrong person. Sylas is a pure gentleman. Karen said.

Is he your son, ma'am? The police officer asked.

No, but I kind of adopted him. She said.

Miss, I have to take him downtown. He's our primary suspect. He pulled Sylas but Sylas wouldn't budge.

When did this crime take place? She asked and crossed her arms.

A few days ago at the Oak apartments, He said and tried to get Sylas to move, he failed again.

Sir, Sylas was at my house all this week. She said, it was half a lie.

Can you prove this? He asked and pulled out a stun gun.

Yes, She rummaged through her purse for a moment, I must've left it at home. She was stalling, in her head she was telling Sylas to run. But Sylas knew that would only make the problem worse.

It's okay, Karen. He said and in the blink of an eye he had the hand cuffs off and he was holding the police man, he used his abilities to hypnotize him.

You did not see us here, He said and wiped his memory, Go back to your table and sit there. The man nodded and did as he was told. Sylas and Karen ran out.

Sylas, did you vandalize that apartment? She demanded, her foot tapping impatiently on the ground.

No, Damon did. I was chasing him and he burst through the front doors. He explained and as he said this he noticed Damon in his hooded outfit in the alley behind Karen. Speak of the devil and he will come. Damon grinned widely and took off down the street, in his mind he was laughing.

I don't see anyone, Karen said as she looked around.

See what I mean about him being slippery, Sylas said and shook his head; he noticed that the sun was high in the sky and that Twitch was going to be awake soon. We should probably get back before Twitch wakes up.

Good idea, Karen pulled out her keys and they drove back to the house in the light traffic. When they got back to the house Twitch was still asleep, Sylas went in and knelt beside the bed. Twitch woke up and jumped when he saw Sylas.

Dude, A smile spread across his face and he hugged Sylas, They didn't get you! Sylas hugged him back, slightly surprised. He could never be sure about Twitch.

No, but they still have Aurora. Sylas exchanged memories with Twitch to fill him in.

Damn, I m never going to piss you off. So you got your shape shifting back? Sa-weet. He fidgeted for a moment, Can I see? He asked; his eyes widening.

It takes up a lot of energy, Sylas said, Sorry.

It s cool, Twitch shrugged and sniffed Sylas, Dude, you smell delicious! Donuts?

Yup, Sylas sniffed his hair and smelled the glazed donuts.

Hey, I want donuts. Not cool, man. Twitch crossed his arms and pouted, Sylas smiled. He licked his lips and tasted the donuts, he got an idea. He sat in front of Twitch on the bed and kissed him briefly, Twitch blinked at first but then he smiled.

You kiss up. He laughed, You taste like glazed goodness. He licked his lips.

Yeah I know. He smiled; then he read Twitch s thoughts. He tackled Sylas to the floor and kissed him again before he could dodge it.

30 - Guilt

Damon had left to go run some errands and Aurora was taking a bath. Most of her muscles were stiff and she had a few bruises, Damon didn't mean to hurt her but he was so much stronger than she was. She was also starting to have regrets.

Her leg was bouncing from her nervousness; Sylas was going to have a stroke if he found out. She was going through ways of telling him, ways to hide it from him. But coming to dead ends; dead ends with Sylas being very, very upset with her.

The only thing she could think of doing was running away from both of them, but that was a last resort. She knew running away would probably fail, considering Damon to be very smart and cunning and Sylas to be an expert bounty hunter. She cursed and leaned her head back, hitting her head on the faucet.

Damn it, Her head started to form a bump; she pulled her hand away and didn't see any blood. She sighed heavily and dunked her head under the water; she listened to the sound of the water and her pulse inside her ears. When she was a kid she was a swimmer and a singer so she could hold her breath for a long time. She eased her eyes open and looked through the water, she saw Damon standing with his arms crossed and burst through the surface. She covered herself.

Hey, She glared at him, You perv.

I'm sorry, He said with a smile, I didn't look at anything, promise.

I think you're lying, Aurora narrowed her eyes at him.

Honey, He shook his head slowly, I don't want to do anything to upset you.

Then get out, His smile faded and he left via teleportation, she cursed and let the water drain, dried herself and got dressed. He wasn't in the bedroom like before; Aurora hoped she hadn't hurt his feelings too much and started searching the house for him. She found him in the living room talking to Lucifer.

He's very angry with me for leaving him to the Kraken, Damon told him, So don't get too close, he took out four soldiers yesterday, and one of them was just for fun and games.

I think your brother is on the wrong side, I really do. He's got the sadistic need to kill, and he kills humans. Lucifer said; his eyes trailed to her, Aurora. He nodded a greeting.

Hey, Aurora gave him a finger wave; Damon kept his back to her and handed Lucifer a thick file.

Make sure everyone gets one, this explains what to do if he attacks them. That way I won't lose too many men. Lucifer took the file, I've been watching him since this morning and I think I covered all of his abilities.

Got it, He said, Anything else?

I want you to get someone to watch him, someone who can get news to everyone if he comes after Aurora. Damon ordered; he used a voice Aurora hadn't heard. A voice of authority and power.

How about Sharp? Lucifer asked with a raised brow.

He'll do, but have Zig watch him to keep him from blowing his cover again. He told him, Lucifer nodded and vanished. Damon walked into the living room and plopped down onto the couch with a sigh, he looked into the fireplace and the wood burst into flames. Aurora came and sat beside him, she leaned against him and he wrapped an arm around her.

I'm sorry I snapped on you, She said and felt him kiss her head, I'm just worried about what Sylas is going to think.

It's okay, He said, He probably suspects it.

Where you a virgin too? She blurted out; he definitely didn't perform like one.

Honey, I was in a volcano for centuries and then blown up. He laughed and so did she.

Is that a yes, She asked and looked up at him, Or is that sarcasm?

Yes, I was a virgin. He said.

Didn't seem like it, She giggled.

Heh, He closed his eyes and leaned his head back; I guess I have skills there then. Aurora smiled and cuddled up to him.

Can I ask you something? She asked.

Hmm, I was waiting for that. He chuckled.

What will happen if I can't choose; if it's too hard? She bit her lip.

Knowing Sylas, he'd do the same as me and take matters into his own hands. I wouldn't make you choose me but I would keep you from him. He explained in a surprisingly calm voice.

You'd kidnap me again, huh? He chuckled again and pulled her onto his lap.

You know me so well, He said before tilting up her chin and kissing her, as soon as she tasted the cinnamon Aurora forgot about her regret and found herself wanting him more. Her fingers tangled in his hair and her pulse picked up. He pulled away slowly like he didn't want to.

Is something wrong, did I do something? She asked and took his hands in hers.

No, I just wish I didn't have to leave you so often when I only have a week with you. It's only six days now. He pouted.

When will you be back? Aurora didn't like that he left so much either, but he had an army of evil to command.

I should be back in time for dinner, you should eat some lunch soon, love He said and kissed her again, instead of disappearing he followed her into the kitchen.

What do you have to do today? The strawberries were gone so she grabbed bread and put two pieces in the toaster.

Stalk my brother for a bit longer; believe me I would much more enjoy being here with you instead of watching my brother suck face with a guy. Aurora giggled at the look on his face.

I have an idea, She said and her toast popped up, she put peanut butter on one piece and jelly on the other and smooshed them together. Take me with.

Honey, out patrolling with demons would be a very bad idea& He trailed off and put his finger to his lips as he thought, Then again, I could protect you easily. Alright, finish eating and put on something you'd be okay with getting torn.

My clothes would get ripped? How? She took a bite from the sandwich.

Jumping and running through trees on my back might do it, He said and leaned over. He took a huge bite from her sandwich and smiled. Yum, you've got good tastes.

You thief, Aurora smiled and kissed him; he kissed her back and pressed her up against the counter. Then she realized that she hadn't even kissed Sylas yet.

Mm, I am aren't I? First I stole you, and then I took your virginity, and now your food. He nuzzled her, At least those things have good outcomes.

Yeah, you're right. She said and finished half the sandwich, she handed it to him and went to put on tree running and jumping clothes.

Make sure the clothes are black, love. He called after her. She opened the closet and found a long sleeved black shirt and black sweat pants. After searching further she decided the first pick would do and turned to put them on, Damon was behind her.

You're sneaky, She smiled at him.

I know, Sylas says I'm slippery. He wrapped his arms around her waist.

Going to let me get dressed so we can go? She asked; Damon smiled and took the clothes from her. He tossed them on the floor.

Only after I undress you, He purred.

31 - Kitty, kitty..

Sylas was sitting cross legged on the floor while Twitch sat on the bed behind him and brushed Syllas hair. Syllas was in desperate need of a haircut; his hair was beginning to have its own life source. He almost looked like a long haired dog who stuck its tongue in a toaster.

Jeez, man, Twitch said as he was carefully combing out knots, Don t you ever brush your hair? Yeah, everyday, Syllas blew hair out of his eyes, When you run faster than a bullet can be fired your hair takes a beating.

I guess so! Twitch grunted as he yanked the brush through more tangles, Dude, I might need to cut it. Be my guest, Syllas handed him scissors.

I don t want to cut it, it s so& He ran his hands through the half that was combed free of the mess, Male models would launch themselves in front of burning trains for this hair!

Here, give me a comb so I can help you. Syllas held his hand up and Twitch placed a wide toothed comb in his palm. He started untangling his bangs from tip to root.

God, we may need reinforcements or something. What the hell did you do to it? Twitch asked.

I ran to a lake, went in the water, got shaken around by a Kraken, burned the tips of my hair, ran to the church, and went running through the trees... He motioned with his hands to say yeah you get it .

Jeez dude, be merciful to it! Those Greek people blessed you with amazing hair and you re torturing it, Twitch shook his head.

I think medusa might have had something to do with my hair since it strangles me at night, Syllas laughed; his hair used to be longer and it would wrap around his neck when he d toss and turn.

Maybe if you gave it a little love it wouldn t do that, Twitch said and sprayed down Syllas head with water from a spray bottle.

That s cold, Syllas said and flinched away from the water.

Oh wow, you re like a kitty! Twitch sprayed him again and Syllas crawled away, he really didn t like cold water seeing that he was originally a dragon.

Stop it, He got up and dodged more water, I don t like cold water.

So I can see, Twitch said and got Syllas in the chest with the spray, he was shirtless. Syllas jumped and rubbed his chest as if he were burned, Okay, okay. I m done. Twitch said and tossed the water onto the bed, Syllas glared at him. Here kitty, kitty. Twitch hugged Syllas.

Have your fun torturing me? Syllas hugged him back.

Yeah, but now you re sad. Twitch frowned; he sighed and nuzzled his head against Syllas chest. You smell good.

You smell good, too. Syllas said; Twitch had his own unique scent that had no word to explain.

Suddenly in Syllas head he heard his brothers voice, *you queer*. His eyes went to the window and he searched for Damon.

Hey, dude, you okay? You re tense. Twitch looked up at him.

My brother is near by, He growled, If he comes into my view I ll kill him.

Hey, Twitch slapped him on the head and Syllas blinked, I don t want violence anywhere near me!

Damon was laughing, Syllas could hear him.

He ll run like a coward anyway. Syllas teased.

32 - Sibling Rivalry

Aurora was clinging to Damon for dear life as he jumped through the trees. Occasionally she'd scream and he'd turn to kiss her reassuringly and promise her that they wouldn't fall. She kept her eyes locked on the trees in front of them instead of looking down, Damon chuckled loudly for no reason she could see.

What's so funny? She asked and he shook his head, still laughing.

My brother, He said and stopped in a large tree in the backyard of a townhouse, Look in the window, love. He said; she looked in the window and saw a young boy chasing Syllas around with a spray bottle. She giggled.

Oh my, Damon smiled at her, and Aurora realized something important. Won't Syllas be able to pick up my thoughts?

I asked your shield to block him out, He explained, It rather likes me.

How? Aurora raised a brow at him and he grinned, he was still looking in the window. Aurora looked and saw Syllas and the boy hugging.

I can communicate with it telepathically, He said and pulled her closer.

It understands you, She pursed her lips, Interesting.

It understands you too, if you're in danger it will call out to the nearest immortal. It called me the night you met Syllas, I was surprised to find him there.

Do you think it called to Syllas? She asked.

No, in that form he is considered human to your shield. He pulled her onto his back again, We might have to move so he doesn't find us, be quiet for now. He said and she shut her mouth tight. A door opened and closed in the front of the house and Syllas came to stand in the yard, he was examining the trees.

Damon, He called, I know you're here. Damon tensed and he lowered his body into a crouching stance, I'd like to speak with you, now. Syllas said and his eyes locked onto their location, Damon slid Aurora off his back and was suddenly standing between her and Syllas.

Yes, He said calmly, Syllas was tense and looked terrifying.

You don't play fair, Damon. Syllas growled, You left me to a Kraken and have demons following my every move. I'm going to warn you now that if any of your soldiers come near me I will kill them without hesitating.

I understand you're angry, Syllas. Aurora was impressed with how calm he was.

Syllas, A woman's voice called from the house, If you want to eat, dinner is ready!

Oh how sweet, Damon crossed his arms, You've got a family.

Yes, and I expect you to stay away from them. Syllas said and looked at the bedroom window; Aurora followed his gaze and saw the boy looking out. He turned and ran out of the room; moments later he was walking around the side of the house, he stopped in his tracks when he saw Damon.

Syllas, He said with worried eyes.

Go back in the house, Syllas ordered; the boy shook his head and came to stand beside Syllas.

Hello, Damon said; the kid jumped when he was spoken to.

Um, hi, The kid waved a shaky hand at Damon and merged somewhat behind Syllas, I-I'm Twitch.

Nice to meet you, Damon nodded, I'm Damon, I'm sure you've heard of me.

Yes, not good things, Twitch was now glaring at him, Why won't you let that poor girl go? Damon

threw his head back and laughed, Aurora could see his fangs from the tree and Twitch looked like his eyes were going to pop out of his head.

Everyone assumes she doesn't want to stay, when she truly can't keep her hands off me. Damon said; Aurora could see his reflection in the window, he was smiling widely and he looked terrifying. She looked at Sylas and saw as Damon's words sunk in that he grew more and more evil looking, he grew to look more like Damon.

This is the end of the second day, Damon. I wanted to know how we would exchange her. Sylas growled through clenched teeth.

Hmm, we could have neutral parties make the switch. Damon suggested.

Alright, but I want both of them to be human. Sylas said with his teeth still locked together.

Okay, I'll see what I can do. Damon said as he turned to leave.

I'm not through with you yet, Sylas tensed and looked ready to pounce if Damon moved, Damon peeked over his shoulder with a crooked grin.

What? Damon asked, I made Aurora a promise to be back before dinner time.

I think she'll understand if you're a little late, Sylas said, You've been around her enough as it is.

I have an army to command, Sylas. I'm not with her nearly enough. Damon sighed.

I can smell her on you as if she were ducked under your shirt, Sylas said and Twitch put a hand on his shoulder as if to calm him down. Damon's eyes flickered to her for a short moment, not short enough. Sylas caught it and looked where Damon did and suddenly there was a large black mass blocking her from view. She saw red eyes and made the mistake of screaming.

33 - Destroyer of Trees

Sylas had sprinted toward Aurora when he heard her scream but he'd run flat into Damon who blocked his path, a snarl ripped through Damon and his fist made contact with Sylas' chest. He went soaring through the air and crashed through a tree. Once the shock from Damon's hit wore off he got back up and searched the yard for Damon, he was nowhere in sight.

Damn it! Sylas smashed his fist against the remaining trunk on the tree, it splintered his hand. Karen came running around the house and stopped in shock at the scene before her. The yard was littered with wood splinters and the tree had fallen.

Oh my goodness, Sylas what happened? She came rushing over; Twitch was standing against the house in shock.

Damon, He growled, He was here. Karen put a hand over her mouth.

Sylas, what did he do to you? She asked with worry creasing her brow.

I heard Aurora scream so I ran to help but he blocked my path and hit me into the tree, Sylas explained and walked over to Twitch with a limp, I told you to stay inside. Twitch looked at him with eyes like an owl.

I, I thought there would be a better chance of him not hurting you if I was there. He mumbled.

He doesn't take mercy on humans, Sylas wrapped an arm around Twitch and pulled him into the house.

Are you hurt, your limping. Twitch was gazing down at Sylas' leg.

I'll be fine tomorrow, I just sprained my knee. Sylas was pretty sure that was it besides a badly bruised butt.

You're so fucking lucky that's all, you should have heard when that guy hit you. It sounded like thunder! Twitch said, Hey, what does your chest look like? Sylas lifted his shirt.

Ouch, He mumbled; there was a large black and blue bruise forming and a burn. Damon had used a fire attack on him somehow without burning his shirt.

Dude, it looks like someone shot you with a firework! Twitch lifted his hand to stroke the bruise but decided not to touch the mark.

It doesn't hurt all that much, Sylas said and poked the wound; it stung a little but not as much as he expected. Karen walked in and her jaw dropped open when she saw his chest.

Sylas, you're worse than Steve with these injuries! She threw her hands in the air, I'll go get you some ice.

It's not as bad as it looks, it doesn't even hurt that bad. Sylas poked it again to show her.

I'll hurt once the shock of impact wears off; trust me it's just the adrenaline overpowering the pain right now. She said as she walked out of the room, Twitch rolled his eyes and plopped down on his bed.

So that was your brother, He shook his head, He's a hottie too! It's not fair! Sylas wasn't expecting that reaction, he burst out laughing. Twitch laughed with him and asked him what was so funny. Sylas couldn't even get the air in to tell him.

Okay, Sylas, Karen said as she came in, Every time I come in you two are doing something else, here Sylas. Put this on your chest for twenty minutes on and off. She handed it to him when he calmed down a little.

Alright, He took a deep breath then started laughing again, Karen smiled and walked out.

Dude, what the hell is so funny? Twitch was still laughing as well.

Of course only you would find my brother sexy in his worst mood, Sylas sat down beside Twitch, Twitch

was smiling.

I like the fierce macho attitude he has, he knows you could easily kick his @\$@ but he still holds an image. Twitch drifted off into La La land and Syllas blocked out his mind to avoid his erotic fantasies. But some images slipped through.

Oh, gross! Syllas shook his head and tried to think happy thoughts. Thoughts about him and Aurora together instead of Twitch and his brother, he shuddered. He sighed and realized that he couldn't wait to see Aurora again.

Hey, sorry, I'm a teenager! I have needs! Twitch threw his hands in the air, Maybe if I wasn't a virgin it wouldn't be so bad.

Don't even think about it, Syllas glared at Twitch.

34 - Lunatic

Aurora had a large clawed hand clamped over her mouth when she saw a large tree fall beside the one she was in, Damon had her around the waist and they were soaring through a blur of color. Her feet weren't on any solid surface and her jaw was locked so tight her mouth hurt. Seconds later, her feet planted on the kitchen tiles in the cabin. She was shaking like a leaf in a tornado.

Are you alright? Damon asked and brushed hair out of her face, she shook her head slowly. Baby, I'm sorry. It's okay; it was just Lucifer defending you. I teleported us back here. You're safe. He was holding her against his chest; his arms seemed to be the only thing holding her together as the trembling tried to shake her apart.

You need to eat something, Damon pulled away and went to open the fridge; Aurora grabbed him around the waist and pressed her head into his chest. He scooped her up and she wasn't afraid, he moved around the kitchen with her in his arms. She kept her eyes tightly closed as he found and pulled out what he needed.

Is Italian okay? He asked after a long silence, Aurora opened her eyes and realized she'd fallen asleep. A breathe of air was all it took to make her stomach growl embarrassingly loud, she could smell some kind of sauce. She looked at the table and saw some kind of pasta, she smiled and nodded.

Italian is fine, Damon set her down in a chair and took a seat in a chair beside her.

You talk in your sleep, He said while caressing her cheek, she dropped the fork she'd just picked up and looked at him.

Oh no, what did I say? She asked in horror, she'd said some pretty bad things in her sleep before. You just said you missed your cat, and that you didn't like demons. He placed her backpack on the table, Open it. She unzipped it and Rayne popped her head out with a meow.

Oh, baby I missed you! Aurora pulled her out and hugged the kitten, Rayne purred happily and licked her cheek. Damon watched and smiled.

I thought she'd make you happy, He said and kissed her cheek, he stroked Rayne and she nuzzled against his palm. I ate already so you finish up; I'm going to take a shower. Sylas got me all dirty. He frowned and Aurora smiled as she pulled wood splinters from his hair, he was covered with them and dirt.

Did you two get into a fight? I couldn't see anything past your evil henchmen. She asked.

When you screamed he was going to run and attack Lucifer, I stopped him and knocked him out of the way. He kissed her nose, Now, can I trust YOU not to peak?

Hmm, She crossed her fingers behind her back, Yes you can, I won't peak. He kissed her.

You little liar. He chuckled, she smiled and he stood to go, But unlike me, you can't unlock the door. He said before winking at her and leaving.

Oh darn, She said and kissed Rayne's fluffy head, the kitten was falling asleep in her arms. You've got the right idea, little one. Aurora yawned and stretched; she looked at the clock, it was only seven. She placed the sleepy kitten on the couch and looked around the house for something to pass the time.

When she walked past the bathroom door she heard Damon start the water, she glanced at the door knob but shook her head. After a brief scavenger hunt through the closet for something interesting she had found nothing but a few books. Three books with no titles or authors; she opened one with a red leather cover and read a few lines. She shut it when she realized it was a journal, Damon's journal. The line she had read said something about finding Sylas. She placed them back in the closet.

Temptation was something she easily refused, except for when Damon's kissing was influencing her. So

she had hardly any urge to read on further, but it did still tempt her. She walked out of the room and walked toward the living room, when she passed the bathroom the door opened. Damon stepped out in new clothes and wet hair, he smelled amazing!

Why hello, He said and wrapped an arm around her waist, he turned her and pulled her to him. Is someone nosey? He teased, she swatted him playfully.

No, I was just looking for something to do. She explained, he leaned his forehead against hers.

I m just teasing, He purred and kissed her, a drop of water came off his hair and dripped down her cheek. She kissed him back and wrapped her arms around his neck, he licked her lip and she pulled away.

Is there ever a time you aren t trying to seduce me, She wiped the water off her face from his hair, You already did once today.

You re tempting, He kissed her again briefly; And I may be an immortal but I still have human urges. He released his hold on her and ran a hand through his wet hair.

You re going to make me a sex lunatic by the time I go see Syllas. She said and he smiled.

I can t see him doing anything about it, he s so prude, the weirdo hasn t even tried to kiss you yet. He rolled his eyes, Yet he kisses a guy, gross.

I don t really see anything wrong with that, She shrugged, You love who you love.

I know, He tilted her chin up and looked deeply into her eyes, I love you. Aurora felt her eyes starting to form tears, it was the first time he d actually said that he loved her.

I love you too, She said and he smiled; all the hints of evil or sadistic features gone from his face.

35 - School

Sylas and Twitch were walking down the street bundled up tight against the winter wind, Twitch had his face tucked into his jacket collar and was shivering.

I appreciate you walking me to school, He said through clenched teeth, I've been having a lot of bully problems lately.

It's no problem at all; I want to keep you safe. Sylas wrapped an arm around Twitch's shoulders and hugged him briefly.

After the incident with those jerks I'm surprised my mom is even letting me out of the house, Twitch rolled his eyes to the clouds and Sylas grinned.

She actually wants me to follow you around, He said and Twitch looked at him with a wide-eyed look. Like, as in follow me in and out of my classes? Or hide in the shadows? His voice had risen a bit.

Follow you in and out of classes, shadow you. The story is that I'm your new older brother who was adopted, I'm supposed to be looking at the school as an option. Sylas shrugged and Twitch looked him up and down with a raised brow.

Dude, you don't look like a high school student. More like a college graduate or something, they'll think you're the FBI or CIA. He shrugged with his palms turned up.

At least I look intimidating, Sylas flexed and winked, Would you want to beat up my little brother?

N-no... Twitch looked like he was about to start drooling, I definitely wouldn't want to do that.

Good, Sylas ruffled his hair and he snapped out of his trance. They stopped and waited for a safe time to cross the street and go into the school parking lot, Sylas examined the school. It was red brick and had two floors, it covered about three football fields of space, and it was overflowing with students.

Hey, um, Twitch turned to face Sylas, Don't let any girls steal you away, okay?

Alright, They smiled at each other and power walked across the street. As soon as they were in the parking lot people stopped and turned to look at Sylas, some of them looked intimidated, others looked territorial. Twitch was looking down at his shoes, suddenly a strange new and quiet Twitch. Sylas held his head high and stared down people who didn't look away.

A few guys leaning against the school sized up Sylas, one of them glared at him and Sylas glared back. This one boy had a lot of nerve and refused to look away, Sylas threw in a psychotic grin and the boy looked away. The group started talking and looking over their shoulders, Sylas didn't need his mind reading to know what they were discussing.

ID please, An elderly man said in a bored voice, his name was written on a plastic ID hanging out of his pocket, Russ Milro.

Here, Twitch flashed his picture and the man nodded, motioning for Twitch to go through the doors. Then he looked at Sylas and his eyes widened.

You aren't a student here, He said and motioned for a guard.

I'm new, Sylas said, transforming from menacing to kind and peaceful. The man nodded and pointed at the office.

Go see Shirley and tell her you need an ID, Sylas nodded at him with a smile and walked over to the office with Twitch hot on his heels.

Sylas, Twitch tapped him on the shoulder when they got into the office, I don't want to leave your side; people are going to ambush me about you if I do.

I understand, besides, I'm supposed to be with you at all times. Sylas smiled at him.

Oh, you must be Shirley started as she turned in a chair; she trailed off when she saw Sylas. Her

eyes were locked onto his crotch but after a hard swallow her eyes made it up to his face, The new kid. Yes, Sylas held out his hand for her to shake it, she shook her head and stood to walk around the desk.

Oh no no, we don't do handshakes here! We hug! She said and wrapped her arms around Sylas; Sylas looked over at Twitch with a raised eyebrow. He nodded and his thoughts told Sylas that Shirley really was just a friendly lady.

Okay, Sylas hugged her back briefly, That guy said I needed an ID.

Oh yes, we have it right here for you. She picked a plastic square off her desk and handed it to him, Sylas Johnson. He felt a grin try to play his lips.

Thank you, Sylas said and a loud bell rang through the building.

We need to get to class, Twitch grabbed Sylas by the elbow and towed him into the halls. They ran smack into the guy from outside and he fell to the ground cussing.

Oh, jeez, man. I'm so sorry; I really didn't mean to do that. Twitch said as he tried to help the guy up. Get the frack off me you queer! The guy said and sprang to his feet; his face was flushed red from anger. Sylas straightened to his full height and tilted his chin up to look threatening. Who's this, your gay sex slave? Twitch opened his mouth to correct him.

I'm his older brother, Sylas cut him off, And if you call my little brother names again I'll kick your @\$@ straight through that wall. Sylas said in a quiet but fierce voice while he motioned to a brick wall. The guy narrowed his eyes at him.

Do you know who I'm fracking am? He threatened as he took a step toward Sylas.

I honestly don't care, Sylas smiled, All I need to know is your real name is Victim to me. He pushed the boy away and he fell onto his rear. Sylas walked around him and walked with Twitch to their first class.

36 - Condoms?

Aurora held a piece of string between her fingers and was dragging it back and forth across the floor while Rayne played. The kitten would crouch behind the couch and settle with wide blue eyes, and then when the time was right she would inch up her rear and pounce on the string. She'd claw and chew the string a few moments before running back to her safe place behind the couch.

Damon was sitting on the couch and watching, he looked blank and statue-like except for when his head would shift to watch the string and kitten. He didn't blink and his body showed no signs that said he was breathing, no lifting or falling of his chest or shoulders. Aurora poked his shin and he shifted his eyes to her, he lifted a brow and cracked a small smile.

I'm amused, He said, I find cats interesting.

I love them, not only are they cute but they love their owners and don't give you crap like children do. She shuddered at the thought of having kids and an important thought clicked in her head like a light bulb, Hey, did you use condoms?

Condoms? Damon switched eyebrows so he was raising the other, Aurora felt her heart stop. *Maybe he just didn't hear me right* But then again, she hadn't seen him put one on. She considered him doing it to fast for her to notice.

Condoms. She said in a higher voice than usual.

What would I use Condoms for? He was starting to look worried; Aurora locked her jaw to fight back the nausea and put her head between her knees, she felt faint. She took some deep breathes and Damon placed his hand on her back, he said something but it was far away. Aurora stood and started pacing.

Not Condoms condoms, She crossed her arms and held herself.

I have no idea what those are, honey are you okay? He was standing now too, watching her pace with worried eyes.

Condoms! Birth control! She ran to the dining room and pulled a calendar from her backpack, her period was late. shoot! shoot! shoot! shoot!

Babe, He turned her and held her, Relax, breathe.

I can't, She was starting to get hysterical, I can't have kids!

Aurora, He was looking deep into her eyes and firmly holding onto her shoulders, I can't reproduce, I told you that. The shield is the only way and I'm pretty sure it's not produced sexually. Aurora was shaking and she wasn't entirely convinced.

How sure, Her voice was shaking as well and high pitched, How sure are you?

Well, He bit his lip and Aurora felt her remaining hopes burn away, We might have to go ask a pro.

A doctor, Aurora started flipping through her calendar for her doctor's number, I'll call my doctor.

No, I mean a specialist who knows about immortals. He rubbed his forehead like he had a headache; she put her calendar back and tried to get herself under control.

How long would it take to find out? She asked and hoped she wouldn't have to tell any of this to Sylas. If we leave now we should be able to get back in time for you to go to Sylas, he frowned, I'd like if we dealt with this after your stay with him, but I don't want you to be worrying.

We can be together for the trip, She wrapped her arms around him and cuddled into his chest; he hugged her and rested his head on hers.

You're not going to be a sex fiend after all, He mumbled in a teasing voice, she pinched him and giggled when he hissed. You evil little beast.

Maybe a little; I just hope a little beast isn't growing inside me. She bit her lip and felt him sigh.

I m sure there isn t, He kissed the top of her head; If there were you d start to become an immortal. He held her at arms length and examined her.

Immortal? She asked and he leaned forward, his lips were at her neck and sending heat through her body. Suddenly there was pain, Ouch! He pulled away and her hand went to her neck, when she pulled her hand away she was bleeding.

No, mortal, He nodded and wiped smeared blood from his lips, Immortals don t bleed. He said as he walked into the kitchen, she followed him and grabbed a towel to put on the wound. He was looking through a drawer and Aurora realized it was filled with eating utensils. He pulled out a knife.

What are you doing? Her eyes got wide as he layed his hand flat on the counter and he raised the knife, No! She yelped but his hand had already come down and the knife was through his hand, it was ringing from the impact of hitting the counter on the other side. He lifted his hand and Aurora saw the knife on both sides, there was no blood at all. With no expression on his face he yanked out the knife and the hole healed instantly.

See, He flashed a smile at her.

You, She was clutching her chest, You re insane.

I know, He walked over and kissed her, Do you love me any less?

Of course not, She smiled, You don t fall out of love if it s true!

That s very true. He said and wrapped an arm around her waist; he started pulling her into the living room. Rayne was sitting on the floor with big kitten eyes next to the string; she meowed quietly when they came in.

Oh baby, Aurora bounced over to Rayne and scooped her up, Do you want to come with? Rayne meowed and purred.

No, Damon crossed his arms, Kitty can stay here.

She ll get lonely! Aurora gave him the pout he couldn t resist, Please? He sighed and groaned quietly.

My time with you is limited, He came over and kissed her cheek, I m not sharing it with a clawed fluff ball.

Please, I can t leave her alone. Aurora intensified the pout by making her lower lip tremble; he looked away from her with more pain on his face than if the knife would ve fazed him.

Honey, He said quietly, Aurora felt a little bad about influencing him this way, I might never see you again after you go to Sylas.

Huh? Her eyebrows went up; he took a deep breath and looked at her with sad eyes.

There s always that small chance that you could run off with him, His voice was so quiet, There s an ability that I have, one Sylas doesn t.

What is it?

ESP, He said, I can see the future, and no matter where I look& I can t find you.

37 - Bullies

Sylas was slouched in a chair against the far wall of the classroom, his fingers drumming impatiently on the desk. He had his eyes locked on the wall clock and was anxious to make it through English. Twitch was sitting beside him with his head bent over a notebook; he was scribbling notes and fidgeting with a pen in his other hand.

Steve, The teacher, Mrs. Sanchet was standing at the front of the class with her arms crossed, Twitch picked his head up and looked at her. Are you drawing again?

No, I was taking notes. Twitch said and she came marching to the back of the room. She snatched his paper and examined it, after a moment she nodded and handed it back. Her eyes locked on Sylas.

You, what s your name? And why aren t you paying attention? She pulled an attendance sheet out and a pen.

Sylas, He said and he heard a few students twist to look back.

Oh, right, the new kid. Unless you want to fail I d advise you to take notes. She rolled her eyes and walked back to the front mumbling something about thugs. A folded piece of notebook paper plopped down in front of Sylas on the table; he raised a brow and noticed his name was scribbled on it in a girl s handwriting. He looked up and the girl to his right smiled.

Twitch cleared his throat and nudged Sylas, his thoughts were warning him. Sylas opened the note and read it anyway, inside was a simple hello and a smiley face. He plucked the pen from Twitch and a few students chuckled, he wrote hello and refolded it. When the coast was clear he tossed it back to her.

She read it and showed it to the girl beside her and they did some giggling, she wrote a response and waited for the teacher to turn her back to them. Once she did she chucked the note back and Sylas caught it midair. A few more girls giggled and Sylas was wondering if all girls were this easily amused.

Twitch stomped on his foot and gave him a pissed off glare, Sylas shrugged and winked. Twitch rolled his eyes and sat, arms crossed, and pouted. Sylas opened the note and read the new message, *I m Linda*. Then her phone number was written by her name. Twitch snorted after reading it over his shoulder.

Now, that s the homework, Mrs. Sanchet said after writing the assignment on the board, You may talk quietly amongst yourselves for the remaining time, but do NOT leave your seat!

Sylas, Twitch whined.

Hey, I m not doing anything illegal. Sylas said and nudged him with his knee under the table, You re just being paranoid. Twitch was looking over Sylas shoulder at Linda and her friend.

Um, hi, He heard her say behind him and turned, she was twisted back in her seat to face him, So you re the new guy, wow, you must not be from around here.

No, Sylas smiled and felt Twitch jab him with his pencil, I m from Italy. Not a total lie.

Omigod, really, that s so cool! She said and flashed a white smile, Do you know any Italian?

Si avete? Sylas asked.

Si! She squealed and Twitch sighed.

Sylas, He said and Sylas turned to face him, You promised. He said with a sad face.

And I m keeping it, He wrapped an arm around Twitch and he lit up.

Are you two, like, in a relationship? Linda asked with her brows in a disturbed frown.

No, you tard, Her friend said, Look at their ID s, they re brothers!

Oh, wow! She blushed lightly, Steve, I never knew you had a brother.

We adopted him, Twitch said.

Oh, that's cool. The girls said in unison.

I guess, Twitch said with a shrug and the bell rang throughout the building again. He jumped up and left the room in a rush, Sylas would've been in pursuit if Linda hadn't been blocking his path.

Hmm, so you're adopted? She asked.

Yeah, Sylas said trying to pass her.

I feel kind of bad for you, She had a sneer on her face, The Johnson's are so & Weird. Sylas blinked. What? He forced out.

You know, She shrugged, His mom is a total slut and he's a prick. I'm sorry you have to put up with it, if you ever need a place to crash, She winked, My place is always open.

No thanks, Sylas pushed past her but turned back to face her briefly, And he's not the only prick in the family. And you're the only slut I see. He rushed out into the hall and Twitch was leaning against the wall with a grin.

I heard everything, dude! He hugged him, Thanks so much for sticking up for all of us!

Yeah, no problem, Sylas said and hugged Twitch back, Students are meaner than I remember.

Yeah, well, that was Linda. She's the school slut, you know? He rolled his eyes.

I could see some of her thoughts, she wanted to do things to me I could never see happening. I was afraid to touch her and see the rest. They both shuddered.

Hey, you, Someone called from down the hall, Sylas turned and saw his buddy with the temper approaching.

Goody, Sylas mumbled with a sigh and Twitch chuckled.

It's wise @\$\$, Twitch joked under his breath as he got closer.

Look kid, He jabbed a finger at Sylas, I don't know who you think you are coming into MY school and trying to take over. But I'm not going to just stand here and let you do it, if you don't back off I'll kill you. Got it? He said; a crowd was forming around them. Everyone looked to Sylas, expecting him to take the scolding and turn in the other direction.

Heh, A few more people crowded around as Sylas closed the distance between the two of them in one large step. Sylas had a good foot more height than him and they were chest to chest, glaring into each other's eyes. I'd like to see you try.

Sylas, Twitch pulled him away, If you get in a fight on your first day mom will murder you. The other guy grabbed Twitch by the back of his collar.

Move out of my way you fucking queer! He threw Twitch against the lockers and tried to tackle Sylas to the ground. Sylas locked his legs and flexed all his muscles so the guy simply bounced off him and landed on the ground in a daze.

He was back up in a heartbeat and had his fists risen, He took a swing at Sylas. Sylas dodged the attack and back handed him into the lockers; he slid down to the floor, unconscious. Sylas looked at Twitch, he was okay but he was staring wide eyed at the unconscious body at his feet.

Come on, Sylas turned and walked away from the scene with Twitch following him, a few people were tagging along and complementing him. He nodded to them and kept walking down the halls to their next class.

Sylas, Twitch was shaking, Do you have any idea what you just did? His voice broke at the end.

That guy was a menace and he was a jerk who thought he was the toughest dog in the junk yard, Sylas rounded a corner and stopped to talk to Twitch, He dealt drugs, stole money and cars, wanted to be in a mob. He needed to be knocked off his high horse before he killed someone; he had a gun in his waistband and was planning on killing someone at lunch to make it in a gang. Twitch's mouth fell open.

I, I didn't know that, He was still shaking, Sylas, what if he shot you or something?

It wouldn't have fazed me, but I guess if I got shot and didn't go down that would be very suspicious. Sylas sighed; he could hear the thoughts of an irritated teacher marching down the hall. We should get

to class.

Good idea, Twitch started walking to the next class and Syllas followed. The teacher rounded the corner behind them, but before they were spotted they slipped into the classroom.

38 - I'm scared of Doctors!

Aurora's feet were tapping in a rhythm on the ground and her hands were wringing her shirt. Damon had brought her to a clinic that looked normal, but he had slipped his mask down when he talked to the receptionist to show he was an immortal.

We need to talk to a specialist, That was when he slipped his mask down, About a pregnancy test. He leaned in and murmured very quietly that Aurora was human.

Alright, Her long acrylic nails tapped on the keyboard, Dr. Kloud will be with you in a little bit. Make yourselves comfortable, he may be a while. And now here they were twenty long minutes later; she was fidgeting nervously with her clothing and taking deep breathes, Damon was sitting in the chair beside her with one long leg stretched outward, he looked to be reading a health magazine.

A door opened and a nurse walked out with a clipboard, Aurora straightened but the nurse called the name of the one other patient. She slumped back into the seat with an aggravated sigh, she saw Damon slip her a look.

Do you want me to go get you something, a drink? He asked in a soft voice, Aurora bit into her lip and noticed how dry her mouth was. He lifted himself out of the chair and disappeared down a hallway. For the short time that he was gone the panic eased in and boxed her, all she saw was darkness. The darkness was almost too thick to be air. Damon's hand on her thigh snapped her out of it, he handed her a cold bottle of water.

Thank you, She squeaked.

Honey, He kissed her forehead, Relax, it's going to be okay. She opened her mouth to argue when a petite nurse called her name. Her jaw snapped shut and her hands clutched the chair in a death hold.

Aurora, Damon pried her hands free from the chair and hooked an arm around her waist, he half pulled her down the hallway behind the nurse. It's alright. Her legs refused to bring her farther so he scooped her up.

I forgot, She stuttered, I'm terrified of doctors. Her voice was raising octaves higher than usual.

I won't let them hurt you, He cooed and kissed the top of her head, You're safe with me. Aurora had a flashback to when she got blood drawn for a test; the needle went in wrong and bruised her vein. The bruise could be seen along her whole arm and she'd lost feeling in her hand for a few days. She shuddered involuntarily.

What about shots, or blood tests? Her hands were clutching his shirt.

You'll be fine, love. He said and turned into a room and layed her down on the exam stretcher, he pulled up a chair beside her and held her hand. The nurse closed the door and sat down at the desk. She took Aurora's temperature and blood pressure; she asked the usual questions about allergies and what pills she was on at the time. After writing all this down she stood and left after reassuring them the doctor wouldn't be long.

Do you know this doctor? Aurora asked; her voice small and shaky.

Yes, Damon said and rubbed his thumb soothingly over her knuckles, I met with him about a previous medical problem.

What happened? She was trying to distract herself, and failing.

I don't think you want to hear about it, it was gruesome. He closed his eyes and let out a small sigh through his nose.

Tell me anyway, She made herself look eager.

Alright, He said in a you asked for it tone, A while ago I had to see him because, He paused and

shook his head, A rival of mine thought it would be funny to remove all my organs and put them in a bag for me, Kloud had to put them all back. Just then Dr. Kloud walked in with a friendly smile.

Ah, yes, Damon. It's so nice to see you again, and in one piece. He chuckled and lifted Damon's shirt, I see it healed nicely, no scarring, wonderful.

Yes, you did a very good job. He said and slid a look to Aurora, he squeezed her hand gently. Aurora's nervous about this, she has medical phobias.

I see, Dr. Kloud sat down and slid the chair over to Aurora's side, opposite Damon. What is it that you are afraid of?

Needles, She forced out, her voice sounded tiny and mouse-like, And new things scare me too.

Well, Aurora, I will need a blood test to see if your body can support an immortal embryo. Her throat and grip tightened, But I can get the sample by pricking your finger, is that better for you? She nodded; it was only a little better but still not her favorite.

Also, we'll need to perform a pap smear to see if you're all okay down there, He said, Have you had one before? She shook her head and a tiny animal noise came from her throat. It doesn't hurt, it's just uncomfortable but since it's your first time I'll warm up the tools first. She glanced over at Damon, he didn't look to happy about this.

After all the exams are done we'll need a urine sample to test for the pregnancy. He said and motioned to a container, she shuddered. We should have the results in a couple of days. Aurora took a deep breath.

Alright, let's just get this over with. She murmured and sat up.

39 - Fairies?

It was finally the end of the school day and Sylas was walking out with Twitch at his side, his mind wondered while he remembered the day's events; the incident with the jerk and many girls who showed interest in him, and one guy. He'd shrugged them off just as he promised Twitch he would. Besides, his eyes were still set on only one girl, Aurora. Three days left until he'd get to see her again.

Man, I don't think anyone's going to forget you! I mean, jeez. You're like a celebrity already after one day; people are starting to talk to me too. Like, ten people wanted to come over today and hang out with us. Not just you either, this guy who was totally hot came up to me and asked if he could come over today. He said he wanted to get to know me! Twitch fanned himself, and faked a swoon.

Is anybody actually coming over today? Sylas asked.

Yeah, I invited two guys over, Twitch was glowing with joy, We're all going to play video games. I think they're gay too so this should be interesting, four gay guys all together.

Just don't go losing your virginity on me, Sylas warned, Who are the guys?

It's Chet and Joe from Chemistry, He licked his lips, Did you get a look at Chet's butt? Sylas mentally gagged himself.

No sorry, haven't been staring at many butts lately. He said and Twitch laughed, they darted across the street and Twitch grabbed onto Sylas' shirt.

We're going to meet up with them right here, He said and gave Sylas a look, Hey, what do you think about my butt?

It's lovely. Sylas said and Twitch giggled, he shoved Sylas playfully.

You're just being nice to me, He said and frowned, I bet you really hate my butt.

Your butt is fine, Sylas said and pinched Twitch; he yelped and swatted his hand away.

Hey, He grumbled and grabbed a handful of Sylas, Two can play this game! Sylas jumped away and held his hands up to grab Twitch if necessary, Twitch came at him and Sylas grabbed his wrists and held him at arms length. Twitch was stronger than he appeared.

Wow, Twitch said with a smile, You're really strong, no wonder Justin went down like lead. Sylas released him.

I hit him harder than I intended to, Sylas said, I wanted him to have a bit more brain cells than what I left him with. He shrugged and noticed two guys walking up behind Twitch, they smiled when he caught their eye.

Hey guys, One of them said; he was wearing all black except for a jean jacket and his brown hair was cut short. He had an eyebrow piercing and green eyes.

Joe, Chet, Twitch waved and motioned to Sylas, This is my brother Sylas.

Hey dude, The other guy said; he was wearing something similar except his pants and jacket were black denim, his hair was longer and pitch black but the family resemblance to the other boy was still there. His eyes were also green but darker, he had the same eyebrow piercing but he had the lip ring to match.

Sylas, They said in unison and smiled.

Um, I always get you two mixed up, which one is which? Twitch asked.

I'm Joe, Said the boy in all black.

I'm Chet, He said and held out his hand to Sylas, Sylas looked at it and noticed something. Both of the boys had their thoughts blocked from him.

I don't like being touched, Sylas took a step away and Chet frowned, Sorry.

Huh, Twitch said, Anyway, so what do you guys want to do first?

I'm really hungry, Joe said and his stomach growled.

You're always hungry, Chet teased.

My mom always has food ready and I called her and told her that you two were coming, Twitch said and turned to start walking home.

Sounds good, Joe said and followed after him, Syllas and Chet exchanged a glance and started walking. Chet moved in close to Syllas and he felt power radiating from him, Chet was sending him a warning through energy waves. Syllas did the same in return; it was a silent dominance battle.

Ah, so you can tell. Chet said quietly.

Yes, Syllas nodded.

So, what exactly are you? He asked.

A guardian, Syllas said, And you?

I don't even know; my brother and I have always had weird powers, like he can read minds and see the future, I can control elements and weather. He shrugged like it was perfectly normal, this was first time Syllas had seen abilities like the ones the two brothers had in a long time.

Hmm, that's very rare actually. Syllas said, I've only seen one other who could control weather and elements.

Wow, really? So me and Joe are a rare find? He looked surprised.

Yes, Syllas nodded and before Chet could ask anymore questions Twitch and Joe called back to them to tell them to hurry up. When they caught up Chet pulled his brother aside to discuss what he heard.

What was that about? Twitch asked with a hint of jealousy.

Chet and Joe aren't human, Syllas explained, I was getting information from Chet.

Oh, really? They look normal, what are they? Twitch asked and glanced over at the brothers.

I'm pretty sure their Fairies. Syllas said.

Fairies? Twitch raised a brow at Syllas like he wasn't buying it.

Yes, Fairies, not like the Fairies you know though. Fairies are actually mostly male and have elemental or mental abilities; such as mind reading and element control.

So what can they do? Twitch asked.

Joe can read minds and see visions of the future and Chet can control weather and elements, Syllas glanced at them, I've never come across Fairies that can do more than one thing.

Wow, Twitch shook his head, I wouldn't be surprised if most of the people in school weren't human, was there anyone who wasn't human?

I'm pretty sure I could pick out a Lycan at lunch, Syllas said and smiled.

Are you joking? Twitch's expression was half smirk and half wonder.

No, There really was one somewhere in the room.

Okay, Joe and Chet said in unison when they returned.

It's like everyone's supernatural but me, Twitch said and rolled his eyes.

Ah, so you are informed. Chet said and smiled, Good, no secrets then.

40 - Nurse Damon

Aurora's cheeks were flushed pink from the Pap smear experience and her fingertips pulsed under the cartoon themed band aids. Now that all the testing was over her and Damon were sitting and waiting for Dr. Kloud.

I told you it wouldn't be that bad, Damon smiled.

Easy for you to say, She rolled her eyes, You left the room when I got the Pap smear.

I was right at the door waiting for you, He said and put an arm around her shoulders.

I know, She giggled, I hit you with the door.

I was anxious, He squeezed her gently; Dr. Kloud's muffled voice could be heard through the door.

What are we going to do if it's positive? Aurora asked and bit her lip; she put a hand to her belly and tried to imagine it bulging with pregnancy.

I'll go with whatever you want, He said and placed a hand over hers on her stomach, I won't be complaining if you want to have a family. Aurora looked up and their eyes locked, his mask was around his neck so she could see his face and the red eyes. The red wasn't scary anymore, it was comforting and familiar. Just as Damon was about to kiss her, Dr. Kloud came through the door with a clipboard of information.

Okay, He said as he sat down at the desk, This is very interesting.

What? Damon and Aurora both asked.

It seems that your body can support an immortal child, you're the first so far. We thought it was impossible to cross breed mortals and immortals, but now we know it is possible. He was sifting through the papers and seemed very excited, We won't know if you're pregnant for a few hours yet but if you are we'd like to keep you under surveillance.

No, Damon said and held onto her.

Damon, Dr. Kloud shook his head, This is an incredible find, surely you understand why we'd want to keep an eye on her. Now that we know it's possible we want to run some more tests to see why Aurora is the exception.

No, Damon repeated and Aurora heard his jaw snap shut.

How about this, you two think it over until we get the results back. He said.

Okay, Aurora said but she knew her answer was the same as Damon's; she definitely didn't want to go through testing, Dr. Kloud nodded and left the room.

Aurora, Damon pulled her onto his lap.

I don't want to be tested, She said while shaking her head, Testing means needles.

I don't want them keeping you away from me, He said.

I don't get it, She pursed her lips, You have authority, how can they keep me away from you if you don't want it that way?

I only have power over demons, but if Sylas joined my side we'd be unstoppable. He said and slipped into his thoughts; Aurora's gaze shifted to the clock on the wall. They'd already been at the clinic for over an hour, she wasn't sure if she could wait a few more hours.

Is it possible for them to call and tell us the results? She asked and Damon snapped out of his trance.

Yes, I'm sure it is; do you want to leave? He stood and she slid off his lap onto the balls of her feet, she nodded yes and turned to leave through the door. He grabbed onto the back of her shirt and pulled her back, he smiled and embraced her.

She wrapped her arms around him and felt her feet leave the ground as they teleported home, she

closed her eyes tight and waited for her feet to touch back onto the ground. When they did she peeled her eyes open and saw the living room, Rayne was on the couch looking at them in confusion.

Aurora sat on the couch beside Rayne and scratched her back, the kitten instantly started purring and nodding off to sleep. When the purring faded into a silence she knew Rayne had drifted to sleep. There was a whooshing sound and suddenly Lucifer was in the room, his eyes were wide and he was bloody.

Sir, He coughed and Damon covered the distance between them with a step, he held Lucifer standing by his shoulders.

Oh my, Aurora stood and helped Damon move Lucifer to the couch; they set him down in a sitting position with his feet up. She took in his appearance slowly and her jaw dropped open, it looked like he had been attacked by something with claws.

His chest had four large gashes that were oozing dark blood down his front; there was a big black and blue bruise on the side of his face that was swollen and gruesome. His lips were split open from the bottom lip to his nose; Aurora took a step back and covered her mouth to choke back nausea.

Get some ice, Damon told her, she nodded and walked quickly into the kitchen. After opening the freezer she leaned her forehead against the ice rack and took some deep breaths. Once she collected herself she grabbed a rag and wrapped it around a chunk of ice.

When she got back into the living room Damon was tending to Lucifer's chest with water and a towel. He had pulled a table up beside him; hydrogen peroxide was placed on top of more towels. She sat beside Lucifer and carefully pressed the ice to his head, despite her carefulness he hissed when the ice made contact.

I'm sorry, She said and pulled back; Lucifer laughed softly.

Don't worry about it, He tried to smile but winced from his split lip; Aurora took the chance to press the ice to his head, once it was in place he held it for her. Damon took the peroxide and a new towel, he dumped a generous amount onto the towel and dabbed at Lucifer's chest.

Now Lucifer, what exactly happened? Damon asked; Lucifer sighed and looked nervous to explain.

41 - Video Games

Karen was standing outside on the steps waiting when the boys arrived; she smiled when she saw Joe and Chet and hugged Twitch. Sylas was the last one in and when he got to the door Karen pulled him aside and into the kitchen. She sat down at the table and motioned for him to sit as well.

How was your first day, She asked anxiously.

It was, Sylas paused, Different then what I remember.

Oh, you went to school before? She topped off her cup of coffee and sipped it.

Yes, when you live forever it gets boring. I decided to give school a try, a few times. Although, I mostly had a tutor, I only went to an actual classroom a few times. He shrugged.

Have you only gone to high school?

No, I ve been to college more than high school, actually. A smile twitched at his lips from a memory.

Really, have you graduated? Gotten a degree? She was leaned forward slightly in her chair.

Yes, He nodded.

What degrees do you have? She arched an eyebrow.

Um, Sylas bit his lip, It s a long list.

Sylas, She smiled wide; before she had a chance to continue Twitch raced in, his brown curls bouncing.

Dude, come on! He said and tugged Sylas into the living room, Joe and Chet were sitting on the couch playing a videogame. Sylas looked at the TV and saw a racing game; the screen was split horizontally in two player mode, it looked like Joe was winning.

Welcome back, They said; only looking away from the game briefly. Sylas sat on the floor next to Chet s legs; Twitch took the floor by Joe s.

Thanks, what re you playing? Sylas asked.

Need for speed most wanted, Chet said, You want to play winner?

I ve never played before, He said as he watched them play, I haven t played videogames since Nintendo 64 came out.

Ha, yeah, Mario was the shoot then. Chet said and side swiped his brother, Joe s car swirled around in a 180 turn and screeched to a stop.

Oh, cheater, you dog! Joe elbowed Chet in the side and tried to catch up. He pressed a button on the controller and his screen blurred at the edges, his cars speedometer climbed up quickly. It stopped at 182 and spiraled down when he took a sharp turn and smashed into the wall, Sylas decided watching Chet was a better idea.

42 - Werewolves! Oh my!

A werewolf did this to you? Aurora was only slightly shocked, in the past few days reality had been yanked out from under her and replaced with nightmares. A few days ago her biggest concern was about boys and what shoes to wear; now it was between a demonic lord that might have knocked her up and pissed off werewolves.

Yes, Lucifer's eyes had glazed over, a dazed effect from the pain he was in. Damon had examined him and found that under the bruised and gashed skin were broken ribs, a fractured shoulder, sprained knee and shattered hand. He was using an ability to heal Lucifer's wounds but werewolf venom was making it difficult.

How did it get close enough to bite you, it's an eight foot tall muscled beast, surely you heard it coming? Damon said; his eyes still locked on the wounds he worked on.

I was distracted, Lucifer explained, I was keeping an eye on Sylas when it jumped me from behind.

Did it give you a reason for its attack? Damon moved to a different wound.

No, but it was mature so it wasn't just childish game. Lucifer closed his eyes.

Are werewolves a problem? Aurora asked.

Yes, they live in packs but don't accept other creatures as allies; especially vampires. Damon explained.

So the legends about vampires and werewolves being enemies are true? She asked.

Very true, most vampires have been killed off by the werewolves. Infact, I need to warn Sylas. Is he still in the vampire form? Damon asked Lucifer.

Yes, he's surrounded by humans though. The werewolves don't want to harm the humans. He said without opening his eyes, Damon nodded and a knot that had formed in Aurora's chest eased. The thought of a werewolf attacking Sylas was terrifying. Suddenly the phone in Damon's pocket went off and the three of them jumped.

What? Damon demanded when he answered, his anger faded slightly and his eyes flashed to Aurora for a split second. After a few heartbeats he hung up without a word.

Was that the doctor? Aurora asked; her hands tightly clenched at her sides and her lungs empty. He nodded and she tried to swallow, but that was like trying to swallow a brick. What did he say?

The test came back, He said, But it was unreadable, like the test was saying maybe .

I didn't think that was possible. Aurora's hands went to her stomach.

I didn't either. Damon said.

Uh, sorry but, Lucifer broke in, What's going on? Damon looked at him with an emotionless face. His eyes slid to her.

Do you want him to know? He asked her, Aurora shrugged. She saw no harm in it. Lucifer's eyebrows were raised; he knew it was something big.

As long as he can keep it a secret, She said.

Alright, Damon nodded and looked to Lucifer who was sitting up and waiting anxiously, Aurora may be expecting.

Expecting, as in... Oh! Lucifer's eyes were wide, But sir, she's mortal! It's against our ways!

I don't care, Damon said, I'm changing the old ways.

The elders would kill you both if they could, Lucifer said.

Yes, but they can't, now can they? Damon said and grabbed Aurora's hand, Unfortunately love, it's time for me to bring you to Sylas.

I thought that was tomorrow, She raised a brow.

Yes, but I have to warn him about the Lycan as soon as possible. And tomorrow I will have my hands full hunting the beast down. He kissed her cheek before teleporting them to the tree they were in before.

Now what? She whispered.

We wait, Damon said and sat down on the branch.

43 - What's your excuse this time?

All the hair on Syllas neck stood up, he could feel his brother near. His body tensed but he tried to ignore it and continue playing the video game. Chet was beating him but not by much.

Are you even trying anymore? He teased and nudged Syllas with his leg; Syllas grinned and sped by Chet, taking first place. Chet grumbled and tried to catch up, but Syllas took a turn carefully and won by inches.

Being cocky won't get you far, Chet. Syllas said as he stood and stretched.

Where are you going? He asked.

I need some air, He responded and started toward the door. Chet stood and started following him.

I'll come too, I'm afraid of what I'll hear. He joked and cocked his head to listen in the direction of Twitch's room. A few minutes before, Twitch and Joe had retreated to his room to talk.

I think you should stay in here, Syllas said, Chet seemed to notice the warning in his voice.

Why, what's out there? Chet asked and went on high alert.

My brother, Syllas sighed; Chet's eyebrows nearly flew past his hairline, So you know him?

Y-yes, Chet said and retreated back to the couch, he sat and pressed back into the cushions. Syllas could hear his brother's faint laugh outside, Chet's eyes widened and swiftly checked around the room. He'd heard it too.

Don't worry, he's here for me. Syllas reassured him, Chet nodded but his expression clearly said that he was afraid for Syllas. He gave Chet a small smile and patted him on the knee. He continued outside and circled around back and followed his brother's scent to the large oak in the back. The tree that he'd knocked over before was still laying there beside it. Damon dropped down from the tree and landed silently.

Syllas, He said with a smile.

What is it this time? Syllas growled, Damon looked up in the tree and motioned for someone or something to join him. Lucifer landed beside him with a loud thud. Syllas gasped when he saw him; Lucifer was covered in wounds.

This is business, Syllas. Damon explained, Lucifer was keeping an eye on you for me when he was attacked by a Lycan. I'm here to warn you and beg you to take on another form.

I understand your concern, but do you know how many are in the area? Syllas was all business, he knew how much of a nuisance werewolves were.

No, Lucifer only came across one and it was alone. Damon said and motioned to Lucifer's wounds, As you can see, it was too strong to be a loner.

I came across a young one today, so obviously there is a family somewhere in the area. Syllas sighed, I'm not sure what form I can take to ease their anxiety.

Anything but a vampire, Damon said quickly, I'm going to spend the day looking for the Alpha tomorrow, maybe I can arrange something.

I'd take back-up if I were you, Syllas said after a quick look at Lucifer's injuries. Damon nodded in agreement, following his gaze. Syllas started to ask about Aurora when Damon held up his hand, silencing him. Damon leaped up into the tree and Syllas took a step forward, before he could get any closer Damon landed in front of him again. This time Aurora was in his arms bridal style. She looked up at Syllas and smiled.

Syllas! She cried out happily and crawled out of Damon's arms to hug Syllas around the waist. Damon's eyes widened and he tried to grab her again but she was already out of reach. Syllas soon found out why

he didn't want Aurora to touch him, the instant her arms were around him her new memories rushed into his head.

Sylas hissed and pulled away swiftly, but it was too late, he'd already seen all of them. Aurora was looking at him, pained and confused. Then realization hit her and she retreated back over to Damon who stepped in front of her in a protective crouch, Lucifer joined Damon and blocked her off from view in his demon form.

You, Sylas snarled through his teeth, now fangs, How dare you violate her in such a way!

Sylas, please, it was my fault too! Aurora said from behind the two of them, she was trying to get around Damon but he had a hold on her with one arm.

Aurora, you're only human, but HE has control. Sylas said and crouched down, his claws ready to strike. Suddenly a large mass knocked him off his feet from the side; he leaped back and spun to face his attacker. He came face to face with an eight foot tall wolf-man on two legs, ripping his brother apart would have to wait.

The werewolf barked a laugh and opened its muzzle in a grin, its tongue falling out the side. Sylas quickly looked at Damon and Lucifer, Lucifer was leaving with Aurora on his back and Damon was circling around the beast to attack from behind. Damon met his eyes and nodded.

The werewolf cocked an ear back and turned on Damon, pinning him down. There was a moment of piercing light and the beast howled in pain, his cry choked off and he turned to ashes. Sylas stayed frozen in place as Damon got up and started to kick around the ashes, making sure the werewolf couldn't regenerate.

Sylas looked at the house and noticed the three boys staring out at them, faces pressed to the glass. Chet looked to Sylas with wide eyed horror. His eyes traveled away as Sylas felt Damon at his side, Damon laid a hand on Sylas' chest and he flinched away from the touch.

Easy, you're bleeding. He mumbled and pressed his hand to his chest again. Sylas looked down and saw blood seeping through his shirt.

It'll be healed by morning, He said and pulled away from Damon, Where did he take Aurora?

I told him to return in a half hour, Damon crossed his arms and put his weight on his left leg, Until then, I'd like to talk to you. Sylas groaned and rolled his eyes.

I'm going to take a shot in the dirt and guess that it's about me joining you in your quest for power, Sylas said, I already gave you my answer.

Sylas, He sighed, Suppose that our creators had given us further instructions, what do you think they would've wanted you to do after you rid the world of demons? Just fade into the background as a mortal, or take control?

The world will always have demons, I'm sure they were aware of that. They just wanted a controlled number; like rabbits in Australia, the way they keep trying to bring the population to a controlled number. Sylas said.

Hmm, Damon pursed his lips slightly, True. His eyes flicked to the house and his eyebrow rose slightly, Sylas didn't have to turn to know that Karen was watching.

Is everything alright, Sylas? She asked; Sylas turned to face her.

Yes, He replied and nodded once, she smiled.

Just wondering since we're running out of good trees. She laughed nervously; Sylas jumped when Damon barked out a laugh. He turned back to his brother; Damon was looking at the fallen tree. He walked over to the tree and examined it thoughtfully; he looked up and smiled at Karen.

Then he leaned down and pulled the oak off the ground, pushing it back into its proper position and sealing it there. The tree seemed to come alive for a moment as Damon's magic flowed through it, its branches waving back up to the sky from their depressed and broken piles. It shuddered and sighed, going back to its original pose before it had fallen.

How did you&? She trailed off, her eyes wide and her jaw dropped.

That s my way of apologizing, Damon said and walked over to Karen, he took her hand, We haven t been properly introduced, He kissed her knuckles; I m Damon.

Karen, She replied quietly with a light blush on her cheeks; one of the boys made a gagging noise. Sylas looked to the window and realized it was Twitch who had done it. Damons charm wasn t fooling him.

It s very nice to meet you, Karen. Damon said and lowered her hand back to her side.

Come inside, it s getting cold out. Karen said and started walking toward the house; Damon followed her with Sylas behind him. When they got into the house the boys were nowhere to be seen.

May my brother and I speak in private? Damon asked in a velvety voice, Karen nodded, powerless. She moved out of the room quickly.

Womanizer, Sylas said and Damon shrugged.

Back to business, He said and took a seat on the couch, looking completely out of place. Sylas stayed standing and crossed his arms.

Why is it so important to you that we join forces? Sylas asked.

I want the same thing that you do, Sylas. I want peace between mortals and immortals. He said and folded his hands behind his head.

And how would our alliance do this?

For centuries the war between the two has been silent, but each day more and more mortals die to become demons. The demons are out of control at this point and too many good forces have fallen. You are one of the few things that stand in their way, you and me.

Despite what you think, the demons who serve me want change; they are the few who don t want war. I have control over the others but there are too many for me to watch all at once. I need you to help me control the two, if you joined me you d be in charge of the bad along with me to help me put the violence to rest.

I don t know if you ve noticed, Sylas said, But considering that I ve been hunting them down and killing them, they don t exactly like me. Damon chuckled.

They don t like you because they fear you, which make s the idea of you being in charge even more appealing. He smiled.

So you ve been betraying them, Sylas said and Damon opened his mouth to say something but Sylas continued, Just like you did before, with me and our creators.

No, you have it all wrong. You all jumped to the conclusion that I was joining the enemy, when the truth was that I d come up with a plan of my own; with much less bloodshed and death. He said, his brows coming together in a frown.

I don t believe you, Sylas said quietly, looking away, I saw the amusement in your eyes, the pure evil there that layed in shadow.

Sylas, I was amused because some of the demons didn t want to fight and the pure irony humored me. The evil that you saw was the hatred I felt for myself for finding this humorous, it disgusted me that I had darkness in my mind. Damons voice was quiet as well; Sylas slid a look at him. His brother was sitting forward staring at the floor; his red eyes were distressed and blank.

If what you say is true, then explain something for me. Sylas watched his brother collect himself and nod, What is the plan that you mentioned?

I was going to go to the demon leader and ask to join his force, but as a spy and not as a traitor like you all assumed. I managed to convince him I was serious after, Damon stopped briefly and made an angry face, After I brought fifty mortal souls to him to be converted to demons, and to do it without hesitation like someone with guilt would. I did it and gained his trust.

He let me in and I fought with them, soon I learned that the Gods were calling me a traitor so I killed the

demon leader. I hoped it would convince them that I was still good, but it had the opposite effect when the demons made me leader. I had to keep their trust or risk my plan failing, so I lead the final attack with the idea that it would fail.

Then you found your potential and started killing off the demons, Damon smiled slightly, shaking his head, I couldn't believe how fast you were, how many demons you went through! When you'd killed off most of them is when I met Lucifer, he came clean to me about not wanting war. So I told him about my plan and in exchange he told me about a group of demons who were forging their own alliance as good demons.

I met them all and we made a plan to surrender to you and explain everything, but on the way I was captured and falsely accused then sealed in that damned volcano. He stopped and shrugged, That's everything. Sylas bit into his lip and thought the story over, it seemed reasonable.

Would Lucifer back up your claim? Sylas asked.

Yes, he would, and you could see his thoughts are the same as well. Damon said and his eyes were anxious and nervous; he was also wringing the hem of his shirt.

Why are you fidgeting so much? Sylas asked; Damon's eyebrow twitched.

I'm waiting for you to jump me, He said, a smile threatening to break out on his face. Sylas narrowed his eyes at him, remembering Aurora's memory.

Boys, Karen called from the kitchen to everyone, not just to Sylas and Damon but to Twitch, Chet and Joe as well, Dinner's on the table! Sylas sniffed the air and the aroma made his mouth water.

Smells good, Damon said and stood swiftly, too fast to be human. Sylas went into a defensive position and Damon turned his side to him in his own defense pose. They both had their eyes narrowed at each other and their lips were curled back slightly, Sylas showed some teeth but Damon didn't.

You two look like cats in each other's space, Karen said with a giggle.

More like junk yard dogs, Joe teased, out of the corner of his eye Sylas saw Chet give his brother a worried look. Damon relaxed and walked into the dining room, his eyes on Sylas the whole way. Sylas straightened but didn't relax as he followed and took a seat far away from Damon.

Twitch sat next to Damon with Joe beside him, Chet was between his brother and Sylas; Karen sat on the other side of Damon. Chet reached under the table and squeezed Sylas' fist, Sylas unclenched his hand but still didn't relax. Karen, Joe and Twitch were all gazing at Damon like he was the last piece of chocolate in existence.

So, Joe started, putting his elbow on the table and resting his chin in his hand, he leaned toward Damon with a smile. Where are you from? Damon met Sylas' glare for a moment and everyone glanced at Sylas.

Italy, Damon said.

That explains your accent, Twitch said, It's a lot more noticeable than Sylas' is. It's super sexy, especially the way it mixes in with the American.

Steve, Karen warned and turned to Damon with a wide smile, Is there a misses? Karen, Twitch and Joe all leaned forward hoping for a miracle.

It's complicated, Damon replied, But I do love her, He glanced at Sylas again but this time nobody noticed, She's my world. His three admirers all frowned and leaned away, Twitch slumped in his chair. His thoughts flowed into Sylas' head; I knew it was too good to be true! Sylas saw a smile twitch at the corners of Damon's mouth; he'd heard the thought too.

Do you need a place to stay tonight? Karen asked.

No, I should actually be leaving soon. I came to switch with Sylas quickly before going to work. He said and stood; he looked at Sylas and motioned for him to follow. Sylas followed him out of the dining room, through the house to the door and outside to the street. They stood on the sidewalk, completely normal men at first glance. Except Damon's glowing red eyes, luckily his hooded sweatshirt hid his

horns.

They'll be here in about ten minutes, Damon said quietly, his eyes were looking down the street. Sylas listened and heard a car coming, about to turn down the block. When it did the headlights hit Damon's eyes, they reflected the light like an animal's did. The car crawled by them, the occupants were looking out at Sylas. He recognized a few faces from school.

The car went a few feet farther and stopped, doors opened and three people stepped out, one of them had a metal baseball bat. Damon shielded the red glow of his eyes as he looked back at them; he turned back to Sylas and rolled his eyes. In his head he heard Damon's voice, friends of yours I presume? Sylas nodded and grinned, maybe if Damon had stayed pure, he thought to himself, we could've been friends now.

Yo, kid, One of the guys said, he was stalking toward them bravely, You Sylas?

Yes, but why does it matter to you? Sylas asked; his voice fearless and vaguely threatening.

You messed with the wrong guy, dog! The one with the bat said as he approached, he lifted the bat and prepared to strike even though he was still too far away. They all got within arms reach of Damon when he laughed a menacing chuckle, stopping them in their tracks.

Who're you? Asked one of the boys, he looked like he was about to run and bolt. Damon's voice sounded in Sylas' head again, I have ALWAYS wanted to say this!

I'm, He dropped his hood and turned to face the group, they all went bug-eyed, Your worst nightmare.

S-s-a-s-a-SATAN! One of the boys screamed, the one with the bat dropped it and bolted across the street and jumped a fence. Another ran flat out down the street screaming and holding on to his pants as they began to slide down. The last one stood frozen in place making small noises, he was opening and closing his mouth like a fish out of water, his eyes rolled into the back of his head and fell over backwards.

Sylas bent over and put his hands on his knees, shaking in silent laughter. Then the smell of urine sent him over the edge, he was laughing loudly enough that it echoed off the trees and houses. Damon was in the same state but leaning against a stop sign.

That was, Sylas gasped for air between hysterics, More than hilarious! Damon was snorting into his hand trying to hold back another wave of laughter; they must've already woken up the whole city.

The kid on the ground started to stir slightly, he moaned and twitched. Damon waved his hand toward him and he disappeared. They both straightened and took deep breathes until they could trust themselves, but it wasn't working for Damon, he had a full-blown case of the giggles.