

## Chapter 10

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# The Bat

I staggered back to the room, sore and strangely exhausted. My body had been put through paces I didn't want to think about without the benefit of my mind operating it. I had been both asleep and awake and I didn't like that feeling.

Packing my backpack again, I decided to get out of the motel first thing in the morning before Wanda got any more bright ideas. I was *not* going to be out on the streets at night without some kind of protection.

I shuddered at the image of the werewolf pack around the kill. That could easily have been me.

A knock came at the door, and I was surprised to see Joyce standing there. "You okay, honey?"

"Uh, yeah."

She grinned. "I saw Slade drop you off for your walk of shame."

I shivered at his name, and had a momentary feeling of the heat of his body. It had felt so—

I blushed.

"Ahh, yeah. Demons have that effect on humans."

"You've been with him before?"

She sighed. "Yeah. When Wanda has no one to take and feels randy, she takes me."

"Will she do that once you're—"

"Guess we'll find out, won't we?"

I nodded.

"I was wondering—"

I looked up at her. "Hmm?"

"Well, Dominic is on his way over. I'm going to drink from him tonight and—"

I waited.

RAINE MONDAY

“Well, I’ll be feral afterward. He’ll drop me off in the morning, but I don’t have anyone to watch over me as I sleep.”

“Ahh.”

“Would you mind?”

“Won’t you be craving blood?”

“Yes, but Dominic will leave some blood bags. When I get hungry, you can toss me one.”

I nodded. “Sure, I guess I can do that.”



“Good!” She hugged me fiercely.

“You going to be okay?” I said.

“Nerves,” she said. “It’s not every day you give up the last of your humanity.”

“Well, at least you’ll still be sexy,” I said, holding her tight.

“What?” She looked at me. “Oh...hah. No, I won’t baby.”

“I dunno, Mary-Beth still looks pretty to me. Even with the fangs and all.”

“It’s a facade, though. Underneath you’ll still be able to tell I’m a monster.”

I nodded.

DARKWATER FALLS

“But,” she looked up at me. “Can I ask a favor?”

“Sure.”

“Can you...hold me? Just until Dominic comes?”

I smiled, and took her in my arms.

She snuggled back into me. “I just don’t know how much of *this* I’m going to be able to do once I change.”

“Doesn’t Dominic snuggle with you?”

“Oh...no. He will be my liege and I’ll literally owe my existence to him, but there’s not much in the way of human...or vampire...contact.”



“Are you sure you want to go through with it?”

She nodded, but I heard her sniff. “It’s really too late for anything else.”

“You said Mae was a powerful reality shifter. Maybe she could...”

“Her power only extends to natural creatures and humanity. Not the supernatural.”

“Ahh,” I said.

“Anyway, thank you. I really need this.”

RAINE MONDAY

“I like snuggling. And if there’s any way we can snuggle after your change, I’m all for that too.”

“You probably won’t want to touch me,” she said. “It’ll be okay if you don’t.”

I nodded and held her for a time.

She leaned up and stared into my eyes. “And how is your change progressing?”



“Nothing new today, so that’s good. Other than my breasts are a bit swollen from...”

She giggled. “Slade can be a bit rough.”

“I don’t wanna know,” I said.

“At least Wanda spared you all the details.”

“At least,” I grumbled.

“So you prefer women?”

I nodded, brushing her hair back. “Yes.”

She leaned up and kissed me softly. As if on cue, we heard a horn honk outside.

“Darn,” she said. “Just when things were about to get interesting.”

“True.”



## DARKWATER FALLS

She gave me a hard tight hug. “You’ll be here when I get back?”  
I nodded. “I promise.”

“Just...be careful of me, okay? Don’t get too close.”

“Aww,” I said, smiling. “But I like being close with you.”

“Me too,” She smiled. “Who knows, maybe we can find a way  
to—“

“Maybe,” I said.

“Okay, gotta run!” She gave me a swift kiss on the lips and then  
was gone.

After she left, I watched some TV, then turned off the light and  
fell asleep.

I didn’t even hear the moaning coming from the ghosts in the  
surrounding rooms.

##

I was awakened by someone banging hard on my door. Con-  
fused, I got up and opened the door. As it opened, I heard some-  
one gun the engine of a large vehicle and pull out of the parking  
lot in a smoky burnout. I caught a glimpse of a long black vehicle,  
but it was gone before I could identify it.

Something emitted a loud *screee* and I glanced down to see a  
rather large bat standing in the doorway.

Startled, I drew back...



## RAINE MONDAY

“What in the—“ the bat was easily the largest I’d ever seen with glowing red eyes, and twin vampire fangs extending down from its...

“Oh my god! Joyce?” I said.

It screeched and nodded, opening its wings to reveal its furry bat body.

It didn’t appear to be attacking me, or feral in any way. It tried to take a step forward, but something held it back as if it was hitting a wall or something...

“Come in!” I said, remembering vampire lore. “Come in!”

It took a few steps into the room, and made another screech.



“Can you understand me?”

It nodded its head, then screeched again.

“Is this...are you a cobra vampire, like you wanted to be?”

It shook its head, violently, screeching loudly and raking its claws into the carpet.

“Okay, okay.”

I remembered the lore of vampires and how some could transform into bats. One version transformed into a cloud of bats.

## DARKWATER FALLS

“So, all you have to do is transform back into your vampire form, right?”

The bat shook its head and screeched again.

“You don’t know how to do that?”

It shook its head again, screeching and clawing.

“Damn, it sucks that you’re totally non-verbal.”

It nodded its head.

“Are you in any pain?”

It shook its head, then flapped its wings and jumped up onto the bed.

“Still learning to fly, I see.”

Again it nodded its head.

“Are you hungry? Did Dominic leave any blood for you?”

Using one clawed talon on the tip of its wings it pointed to the door.

I opened it and saw a small ice chest sitting on the railing. I brought it in. Inside were ten blood IV bags.

“Did you want one of these?”

It nodded, and I set one out on the bed. Opening its mouth, the bat sank its fangs into the bag, and I heard it sucking deeply. In a few minutes it was drained.

“Well, I guess we just have to wait until you transform into your vampire form.”

It shook its head, appearing sad.

“Wait, you do have a vampire form, right?”

Again, it shook its head and gave a small screech.

“That can’t be right, can it? You mean you’re stuck like this?”

It nodded and scratched at the floor with a talon.

“I don’t believe that,” I said. “Where’s Dominic?”

The bat gave a vague shrug of its wings.

“Well, I’m going to go over to the hospital and give him a piece of my mind!”

The bat screeched and flapped its wings, shaking its head wildly.

“It’s daylight, I know, I’ll have to be careful, but this is when he’s at his weakest, right?”

The bat nodded.

I got dressed in an outfit I’d found in the lost and found. I left the ice chest slightly open, so the bat could slide the top with its clawed feet.

“I’m going over there and getting some answers. You try to rest, and if you need blood, it’s here in the chest.”

It nodded, hopping and flapping.

“Don’t worry, honey, we’ll get this fixed.

It hopped and flapped as I left the room.

Dominic had some explaining to do.