



Vampires, Wolves, and Hunters Oh My! Killers, Detectives, and Kids! But Why?

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The Vampire Hunter



I was lying in bed sleep when my mother burst through the door with my brother. He is six years older than me. I am seven and he is thirteen. “Kaylee it’s time to go. I need you to be brave my love,” my mother says as two people burst through the door. “Run.” My mother did something extraordinary. One minute she was empty handed and the next she had a sword in her hand. She moved with such grace that I stood shocked. “Out the window. Run. Now. Don’t let them get you. Kevin take care of your sister. Tell her everything.” My brother grabbed my arm and jumped out of the window. We floated towards the ground.

“Let’s go,” my brother says. He pulled me with him as we ran.

I was startled out of my sleep from the sound of my alarm. My brother raised me, but we stayed on the run. My brother told me that our family are vampire hunters. He explained to me that our family has been doing it for centuries. I have special powers that come in handy when I need them. My brother put me in karate, kung fu, Wing Chun and gymnastics. It has been twenty years since we lost our parents. I have a black belt in karate, kung fu, and Wing Chun. Searching the house, I find that my brother isn't here. I know he left last night. I continue to search for proof he came home last night. Opening his bedroom door, I see he hasn't been here since his bed hadn't been touched.

I pick up the phone and call his hunting partner. Not getting an answer, I get worried. After getting dressed in cargo pants, I put my gun holster under my jacket and my knife holder on each leg. Putting on my built-in sword scabbard jacket. Having gotten ready, I close my eyes. I am connected to my brother so I can feel if he needs help. I let my mind search. It's dark and cold where he is. "*Kevin.*" I say mentally.

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“Kaylee. Help. It was a set up. They want you. I am in Kentucky at an old plant. Be careful. They want you. Damien is with them, don’t trust him.” Damion was a trusted friend. We kept that I could communicate through minds. My powers grow as I grow. I get in the car and take off towards Kentucky. I got there in five hours and stop at a hotel to get a room. Once the door closes I unload all my things on the bed. Sitting with my things, I close my eyes.

“Kevin.”

“Kaylee. Are you safe?”

“I’m close. I can sense you. I’m coming.”

“Whatever happens I love you.”

“I love you too.” I close my mind. I have to rest in order to fight well. My eyes are closed for a second when I hear the door creak. Slowly touching the gun, I fake sleep. Flipping the safety off and getting ready to get in position. As the person gets closer, I roll off the bed into a knelling position. “Stop there.” I point my gun at his head.

“I heard your thoughts,” a man says.

“When?”

“When you were talking to Kevin.”

“Slowly turn on the light.” He does slowly and when he turns to meet my eyes, they are a beautiful brown.

“Who are you?”

“Deandre Brown. Who are you and why can I hear your thoughts? I only hear one person thoughts and that is my mother. What is wrong with me?”

“Nothing. You are a telepath. I’ve never met one before. You can only communicate with people you are closest too. I only communicate with people I am emotionally connected too.”

“Why can I hear your thoughts?”

“I don’t know.” I’m baffled. I didn’t think it was possible.

“Kaylee, help. I don’t have long before I change. He bit me. You have to come kill me and everyone else here,” my brother says.

“*I’m on my way,*” I reply. “Look I have to go. What is it that you do?” I turn to him. “I hunt vampires.”

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“Me too since my dad was attacked by a vampire. My mother learned everything there was about them and began teaching me,” he answers.

“They have my brother, I have to go,” I say grabbing my gear and leaving the room. I sat in my car, and he sat beside me. “What are you doing?”

“I’m helping. If you wait a second, I will get my things. I keep a bag in my car.”

“Hurry.” He grabbed his bag and we left. I followed my feelings, and it took me to an abandoned warehouse. Getting out of the car, I surveyed my surroundings. Pulling out my sword and my gun. I have stakes in on my pants. Slowly moving inside. It’s dark because it is daytime. The windows all have boards. We quietly and quickly move through the building. He surprises me. He points towards the other way. He goes right and I go left. I haven’t ran into any problems. When I get to a big room Deandre comes around the corner. “You ready?” I whisper. He nods and I open the door. My brother is hanging the with three men standing around. “Hello boys.” They look at me. Two come at me and one at him.

My training kicks in. I get in my fighting stance. I kick one with a roundhouse and he falls. I pull a stake out and put it in his chest.

The second comes at me and I hit him twice, then take my foot and swing it around kicking his feet from under him. As soon as he hits the ground I put my stake through his heart. Someone walks around the corner clapping. "Hello Beautiful," my brothers partner says.

"Why? We treated you like family," I ask.

"Because they are my brother and sister," he answers.

"We trusted you," I say.

"Tell me how you found him so fast?" Damion asks.

"You'll never know now," I spit.

"We let him stay human to get to you. He have plans for you. Your gift would be awesome if you were like us," A female says. She came from behind some boxes.

"Don't give too much away Brenda," A male says.

"Justin don't tell me what to do," Brenda says. She wears a frown.

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“She is a beauty. When you told me I thought you was being blinded by your friendship with her brother,” Justin replies.

“Kaylee.” My brother whispers. “I love you. Don’t let them get you. They are not behind it. Fight now.” Just then I pointed my hands towards them, and sunlight came out. They ignite in flames.

“No,” Damion says. Coming at me but before he could touch me, I pulled out my sword and cut off his head.

“Kaylee,” My brother whispered. I ran to him and checked him over as Deandre took his restraints off. We help my brother out of the warehouse. “They are coming for you.”

“I will be ready,” I answer.

“Yes, we will,” Deandre counters.

“Why?” I asked.

“I feel connected to you. My mother will want to come with me,” Deandre says. I couldn’t deny that I felt connected to him too.

“Okay,” I answer.

“I thought they bit me, but they didn’t,” my brother said. We head towards Deandre’s house.



The Vampire Hunter: Deandre



I was five years old when I got taught a painful and bloody lesson. My father and I were walking to the store when we got attacked by someone that bit him. He thought he was fine until that night he tried to attack my mother and me. Right before he could kill us, a woman came in and stopped him. She was magnificent and moved with so much grace. One minute she was kicking and hitting, in the next she had a sword in her hand, killing him. After that day, my mother taught me karate, Kobudo, kyūjutsu and Kenjutsu.

Kenjutsu teaches you a Japanese swordsmanship. That makes me incredibly talented with a sword. Kobudo teaches you traditional techniques for the use of ar-

mor, blades, and firearms. It also teaches you combat and horseback riding. Kyūjutsu teaches you how to yield a bow. My mother taught me basic schoolwork and I had special trainers for the rest.

After finishing my training, I started hunting down people like the ones that attacked my father. I never saw the lady again, but she was special. Sometimes I can hear what people think. When I am fighting I can sense what someone will do next. If I am connected to them I can sense them and talk to them in their minds.

“Did you get them?” my mother asked.

“Every last one.”

“Good. I’m getting too old to keep going son. I don’t want to get you hurt.”

“You won’t.”

“Kevin,” I hear a voice say.

I don’t hear anything else. It is silent in my head, so we head back to our house. “What happened back there son?” My mother asked.

“I don’t know. I heard a girls voice in my head,” I answer.

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“Has that ever happened before son,” my mother asks.

“No. I talk to you, and I can sense when I am in danger. I can also sense what someone will do next when fighting them but other than that no,” I answer.

“If you hear it again you need to see if you can sense the person talking. It’s happening,” my mother says. I look at my mother dumbfounded.

“What’s happening?”

“When we were saved, the woman that saved us said that this would happen. You have to go to her.” I nod my head as I head into my room.

“Kevin.” I hear the voice say again. I listen. “I’m close. I can sense you. I’m coming.” Silence. “I love you too.”

I grab my gear and put something else on since I have blood on my clothes. I could sense the girl was close. “I can sense her closeness. I have to find her. Something is telling me she is important.”

“She is. Go and be careful,” my mother says as I’m leaving I show my bag and she nods. I follow my sensing ability. It leads me to a hotel. Getting out of the car and

putting my gun in my holster, I head to the door. After picking the lock, I slowly walk into the room. When I get close enough to the bed the girl rolls to a sitting position with a gun pointed at me.

“I heard your thoughts,” a man says.

“When?”

“When you were talking to Kevin.”

“Slowly turn on the light.” I do what she says then I turn around to meet the most beautiful blue eyes I have ever seen. She is beautiful. Pale skin, long brown hair, she is the perfect size. “Who are you?”

“Deandre Brown. Who are you and why can I hear your thoughts? I only hear one person thoughts and that is my mother. What is wrong with me?”

“Nothing. You are a telepath. I’ve never met one before. You can only communicate with people you are closest too. I only communicate with people I am emotionally connected too.”

“Why can I hear your thoughts?”

“I don’t know.” She gets quiet. Someone is talking to her.

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"I'm on my way." She turns and looks at me. "Look I have to go. What is it that you do? I hunt vampires."

"Me too since my dad was attacked by a vampire. My mother learned everything there was about them and began teaching me," he answers.

"They have my brother, I have to go," She said as she grabbed a bag like mine. I followed her out of the room and into her car. "What are you doing?"

"I'm helping. If you wait a second, I will get my things. I keep a bag in my car." I said.

"Hurry." She replies. I grab my things and we leave. We get to a warehouse and go inside. We both move silently through the building. I go right she goes left after she points that way. I see two vampires standing guard. I pull out my sword and get ready. I swiftly move towards them without a sound. Before they see me I put my sword through his neck. He's head comes off without problems. The other turns towards me and we do hand to hand combat. He is fast because he is a vampire. We fight for a few minutes before I cut his head too. I take my stake and put it through their hearts, and they turn to ash. I keep going forward. I do not have

any more problems until I round the corner and see her. “You ready?” I nod.

When we go in I see a guy hanging. There is three men standing around him. “Hello boys.” She says. They look at her. Two of them go after her and one after me. I move swiftly. I kicked out and knock him down. He gets up fast. We fight hand to hand before I cut his head clean off. I put a stake through his heart. I look at her and she is finishing off the second. She is beautiful in action.

Someone walks around the corner clapping. “Hello Beautiful,” some guy says.

“Why? We treated you like family,” she asks. I take it she knows him.

“Because they are my brother and sister,” he answers.

“We trusted you,” she says.

“Tell me how you found him so fast?” the guy asks.

“You’ll never know now,” she spit.

“We let him stay human to get to you. He have plans for you. Your gift would be awesome if you were like us,” A female says. She came from behind some boxes.

“Don’t give too much away Brenda,” A male says.

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“Justin don’t tell me what to do,” Brenda says. She wears a frown.

“She is a beauty. When you told me I thought you was being blinded by your friendship with her brother,” Justin replies.

“Kaylee,” the guy hanging whispers. “I love you. Don’t let them get you. They are not behind it. Fight now.” She points her hands towards them, and sunlight came out. They ignite in flames.

“No,” Damion says. Charging towards her but before he could touch her, she pulled out her sword and cut off his head.

“Kaylee,” the guy whispers. She ran to him and checked him over as I took his restraints off. We help him out of the warehouse. “They are coming for you.”

“I will be ready,” She answers.

“Yes, we will,” I counters.

“Why?” she asked.

“I feel connected to you. My mother will want to come with me,” I say.

“Okay,” she answers.

“I thought they bit me, but they didn’t,” the guys says. We head towards my house stopping at the hotel to get my car and they followed me. When we get to the house my mother is waiting.

“You made it,” my mother says. She hugs me.

“This is Kaylee and her brother,” I say. I figured it out without them telling me.

“Kevin,” Kevin says.

“Nice to meet you,” my mother replies.

“We are going with them,” I say.

“I’m not much of a fighter anymore. I’m tired,” my mother says.

“You don’t have to fight anymore. We can handle it if you come with us,” Kaylee says.

“Okay,” she answers. We packed our things and followed them to where they lived. They packed their things and we set off to find a house where we could all live comfortably.



The White Wolf of Benu



When Brana's mother was pregnant she visited a seer. The seer told her that Brana would grow to be something special. Her destiny was to stand above the rest and save her people. When she was two her mother started teaching her everything she could to make her smart, kind, strong, and reliable. Her mother did a great job. As Brana was growing older she began being a little more curious about the outside world since her mother never allowed her to be like other kids.

When she turned twelve, she fought against a group of kids her age to become a warrior. The boys laughed at her and told her that she could never be as strong as them. Until she fought against them and

won every fight. Benu was a small village of one hundred people, more kids than adults. Brana worked in the fields with her father and helped with the animals. The day she turned eighteen was the day her destiny started.

She was outside with her family tending to the cattle when she heard horses in the distance. She stopped what she was doing to see who was visiting since people seldom traveled through. She heard a bell in the distance signaling the people approaching her village. Being a female she wasn't called on her to protect her village.

She grabs her spear and locks her family in their home. She doesn't just run headfirst in the fight; she slowly works her way towards the fighting. She hears women and children's screams and cries. Closer to the battle she readies herself to fight. The first two men she takes down easily. The next three she comes across she spins on her knees as she takes her spear and cuts their legs, coming up and killing them fast. By the time she makes it to the middle most of her people are dead, and some are being held by men.

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Their leader tells them to burn everything. Before being seen she goes back for her family to get them to safety. She leads her family away to a neighboring village. She tells of what happened and rallies the warriors in that village. She leaves her family in the care of the leader and heads out. As they travel she becomes close to a man her age name Ragnor. As they approach the Vikings that raided her village she produced a plan. She was going to sneak in at night and free her people. She wanted them out of harm's way before she fights.

That night she sneaks in with a small group of men. They make sure no one sees her as she lets her people go. She learns that most of the young women and girls are not with them. As she is freeing the last man, one of the soldiers catches her. She tells the men with her to get them to safety. She disarms and kills the soldier but not before the rest wake up. She fights with everything that is in her and kills the soldiers holding the prisoners. She learns that the leader moved ahead with the rest of the soldiers with the kids and women.

She goes back to get companions and they are packing up to head back with the people they have. She asks who wants to go after the rest with her. Three of the young men agree to travel with her. Ragnor, Igor, and Freydis get their things. The rest of the men take the prisoners back to their village. Brana and her three companions head off to save her people. One night as her companions were sleeping, she was keeping watch when she heard music in the distance.

She follows the noise and comes to a meadow that seems like the sun is shining but it's dark where she is. She moves closer and feels the warmth as soon as she crosses the threshold. A lady appears by a lake that goes on for miles. "My child. Your journey has been long, and you are getting tired," she says when Brana gets close.

"Who are you," Brana asks.

"Brigit. You are coming to the end of this journey but there will be many more. You will save your women and children," Brigit says. "You are destined for greater things. Do you want our strength to help you defeat your enemies?"

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"What do I have to do?" Brana asks. "What do I have to give in return?"

"Drink this water," Brigit says holding up a cup. "We want you to be our warrior. After you save your people you will lead our armies. When the time comes we need you, you come without question."

Brana agrees and drinks the water. She doesn't feel any different, but Brigit assures her that she is. She leaves the meadow but as she looks back it is no longer there. When she gets back time hadn't changed at all. After her companions get up she goes after her people. When she makes it to the Vikings she is more powerful than any man and she kills them all. When she gets back to her people they decide to stay in that village and start their lives there.

Ragnor takes interest in her, and he asks for her hand in marriage. She agrees and marries him. Ten years later Brigit comes calling and she sets out to battle. It takes her ten more years and fifteen battles before she returns home to live the rest of her life with her husband. The Goddess Brigit never bothered her again.



The Hunt For A Serial Killer



“Detective Reynolds do you have a second?” our captain asks.

“Coming,” my partner headed into the captain’s office.

My phone rings as I am going over the photos and letter he left us. He left it at this last scene, and it’s addressed to me. “Hello.”

“Isn’t she beautiful.”

Looking at the phone I say, “She’s not a part of it.”

“It doesn’t matter. Catch me if you can.” Silence follows.

My heart speeds, my breath hitches, and tears fill my eyes as I rush to my sisters. After searching the house, I

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call my partner. "Get to my sister's house. Bring the CSI team with you."

I hang up the phone and called mama. "I have bad news. It's about Sabrina."

"What happened."

"She was kidnapped."

"How did you let this happen?"

"How is this my fault?"

"You were supposed to protect her. He should have taken you." Tears fill my eyes. She always made it known she didn't love me. Sad thing is it wasn't my fault my dad didn't stay.

"I need you to be strong."

"Being strong is hard when there is no hope. Get my daughter back." Silence follows. My partner and a few squad cars pull up. The CSI team sweeps for anything to help find my sister. A few hours later everyone heads back to the station.



IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK since my sister was taken. We found three more girls. My captain called the FBI in for help. We are in the conference room. We found fingerprints at my sisters which helped get the unsub's name.

"We got something," my partner says from across the table as I pace back and forth looking at the scattered photos. The women are looking at me as my stomach churns. They tell a story that I have to find the ending too. They beg me to stop him from killing anyone else.

One of the agents had a map in front of him drawing circles and lines. "I have something too," one of the agents said. "He is in this area." He points to a small area.

One of the agents picks up his phone and walks out to make a call. "We have an address," he says when he walks back in. Our teams suit up and we head to the address. We park in front of this big house. We all put bullet proof vest on. We move towards the house quickly and quietly. The door gets opened and we move through the house clearing it.

I move towards the last door in the house that looks like it is the basement door. I look at my partner and he

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nods his head. I open the door and he taps my shoulder before we walk down the steps.

The cold and stale air hits my face, and I see him standing with a knife to my sister's throat. "You don't want to do that. You kept her alive all this time. Why?"

"She's a substitute. Not my type."

"What is your type?" I'm trying to keep him talking so he doesn't hurt her. Tears flow down her cheeks. I know by that look in her eyes that those eyes have seen a lot in the week she was gone.

"You. I proved they were weak."

"How were they weak?" I kept his attention on me.

"They sold their bodies for money." His grip tightens. Light blood tickles down her neck.

"Me for her." I have to get her away from him.

"Tell him to leave." He nods towards my partner.

"Only if he can take my sister with him." I sat my gun on the ground.

He nods his head as he moves the knife. She moves to my partner.

“It’s okay partner you can go.” My partner takes my sister and leaves me alone with the unsub.

“Why kill them?”

“My mother was a whore. When her customers got done with her, she let them have me. She was weak. I picked girls that looked like her until you. You were on the television. Smart, beautiful, and strong. You are everything that she wasn’t. I knew I had to kill you.”

“You don’t have to do this.”

“Yes I do.” He launches at me with a knife.

My heart races as I move just in time for him to miss. It grazes my side. It stings. I swing my elbow around knocking the knife out of his hand. It tumbles to the ground ringing loudly in my ears. He swings his left fist and I’m quicker than him. I connect my right knee with his stomach.

“Aughhh!” He swings his left fist around and I barely escape contact.

I do a round house kick with my right leg, and he falls. Jumping up he runs at me tackling me to the ground.

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“Aughhh!” Agonizing pain as my back hits the ground. He gets up and goes after his knife at the same time I roll to my gun. Pointing the gun, I put two in his chest. Bile rises in my throat.

Commotion happens as I’m lead out of the house. After our hospital visit we go to our mothers house. I knew that my sister would never be the same. We never asked what she went through, but I can see the pain and agony in her eyes.



His Dragon's Future



She looks around the room as she sits waiting for her turn. Shelves line the walls. Tarot cards and crystal balls are for sale. A crystal ball and a stack of tarot cards cover a small table in the corner. A woman sits at the table.

"Talmarie," the psychic says.

Looking up the lady stares. She walks over to the table and sits.

She grabs her hand before Talmarie can say anything. She frowns while rubbing her index finger across the lines.

"He is your destiny. Change is upon you," the psychic says.

Talmarie snatches her hand away and throws money on the table before running out of the shop. Maki waits as

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she comes through the door injecting her with a needle before she goes limp in his arms.

“Save her,” my dragon yells in my head.

Startling from my slumber, I open my eyes, seeing only darkness, my dragons eyes adjust. I was my people’s protection for a time. A sire came to see me one night. She gave me her body, some food, and a glass of wine. It’s hard to remember anything else, trying makes my head hurt. Turning back into my human form, I walk out of a small rock opening. I see unfamiliar buildings in the distance. Nothing looks as it was before I slept.

I walk in the direction of my castle. Once inside my castle it looks empty. What happened to my kin? There were only four of us dragons in the world. I walk deeper inside and find the walls crumble from years of unuse.

“Save her,” my dragon yells in my head. “He has her. I can feel her fear, she needs us. Give me control.”

I shift into my dragon. When in dragon form I feel a tug. It’s like an invisible line leading me to a mountain. I don’t see an opening, but I can feel her. Taking a deep breath, I blow. When I’m finished ice covers the moun-

tain, I swing my tail around, knocking a hole into the rocks, hovering outside. The sun shines on my scales, making the light turn blue. Our eyes met and I wink.

“He is your destiny,” she whispers wide eyed.

I turn back into my human form as I land. I smirk at her wide eyes. “We were friends once Maki.” I turn to my old friend confused.

“Until you killed my mother,” Maki said.

“I never met your mother. Why take my mate?” I ask.

“I knew it will break your dragon if she dies. Sabrina Drake is my mother,” Maki said.

“She died having me.”

“You will die for that,” Maki said. How do we have the same mother? Why pretend to be my friend years ago, but be my brother the whole time. How could I not know? *“I have a brother?” dragon asks.*

“I guess.”

My brother runs towards me and tackles me off the cliff. As we fall we shift into our dragons. His scales are

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green but look like mine. I can see the resemblance now. Pushing off, we hover dragon to dragon.

"Why? We could have been family," I ask.

"You robbed me of my mother, so now I will rob you of your mate," he answers.

"I'm sorry."

"Not yet."

He opens his mouth and blows fire at me. I swing out of the way and come around locking my teeth onto his shoulder. The taste of iron hits my tastebuds.

He brings his claws up connecting with my abdomen. I roar in pain as he connects.

My teeth loosen as he spins us both. He keeps his claws in my gut. I bring the sharp end of my wing up and stab him in the same place he stabbed me.

His teeth lock onto my neck drawing blood. He loosens his teeth and I fall toward the ground, stopping to hover before I hit. I look up and see him hover outside the opening where I knocked a hole in the mountain. Flying as fast as I can, we grapple as I connect with him. He has a hold of me with his feet and wings. I grunt as

I feel skin ripping. I dislodge from him and use my bottom legs to push him towards the ground. I head dive until I wrap my wings around him and push him down till he connects with the ground. Dust flies as we hit. When the dust clears I see him laying still but as a human.

“Brother. Why didn’t you just come to me?”

“Don’t call me that.” He closes his eyes.

“You are my brother. We can’t change that. Was your father a dragon too?”

“No. He was human. He told me about her. I only found out later how she died.”

“I’m sorry. We could have been a family.”

“No, we couldn’t. I hated you since I first learned of you. My father didn’t want to tell me about you.”

“I was adopted.”

When I can no longer hear his heart beating I realize that I will never get the answers I need. I fly up to the opening where my future waits. She is lying on the floor. I break the bars, picking her up and putting her on the edge. I change into a dragon and pick her up gently with

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my claws before flying her to safety. I know I have a lot to learn from my family and a lot to tell her. By the time we get to the castle she is awake. I tell her everything from back when I was a lad to when I woke up in the cave.



TWENTY YEARS LATER...

Years later we have two kids. They are both dragons. Come to find out my mate was always a dragon. She learned of it when she got pregnant and changed just like me. Her scales are purple, with an unseen benefit. We lived happily ever after.



The Journey



As I stand looking out off the edge of the cliff I know what I had to do. Looking at the danger sign makes my heart flutter. Looking down at the opening of the mine I can see a gate blocking my way. “Do you really want to go in there?” I asked myself. I close my eyes as I lean my head back.

“Grandpa. Tell me a story,” I said.

“When I was young lad I worked in the mine. My best friend Charley and I were hard workers. We had our hardhat on and our pickaxe in our hand,” my grandfather said. “Charley talks to me about taking his woman out.” He smiles. “Before I can say something the earth shakes. I can hear some of my friends scream. My hands shake and

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my heart speeds up. I look to my friend, and he's stuck in place. I hear people yelling. I run towards the voices. The ground is still trembling, but I know I have to save them. Rocks hitting the ground echo off the walls. Clink, Clink, Clink sounded through the mine."

"SABRINA," my best friend said. My heart flutters.

"You scared me Rachel."

"I'm sorry. What are you doing out here?"

"I'm doing it."

"What?"

"I'm going to go find grandpa's treasure?"

"Huh?"

I look at her, and her face wears a frown. I think back on that day and talk like Grandpa Russell.

"When I was a young lad, working in the mines, there was an earthquake that killed my best friend Charley and a few other guys I worked with. I hid something deep inside while being stuck for three days. I knew this was going to be the last time I was here. I knew I would never go back," my grandpa said.

"What was it Papa?" younger me asked.

“When you’re older, you will have to go find it yourself,” Grandpa said.

“But Grandpa,” younger me said.

“Time for bed little one,” my mother said, interrupting my grandfather.

“He never told you did he?” Rachel asked.

“No but you’re going to help me find it,” I order. “She is my best friend so she should know what I was about to do,” I thought to myself.

“No. You’re not getting me in trouble Sabrina,” Rachel said. “When do we start?” She breaths out heavily.

“Now,” I said. I turn from the cliff and head into town. She starts smiling.

“Where are we going?” Rachel asked.

“The library,” I answer.



AFTER HOURS OF RESEARCH, we find a lot of articles from the earthquake that closed the mine. I found

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a map of the mine. With only one way in I know what I needed now. I know my mother isn't going to like what I'm planning. We go our separate ways. I'm getting the money I had saved up from years of allowance when my mother comes into my room.

"What are you doing?" She watches intently.

"I wanted to go to the store," I answered.

"Need a ride?" she asked.

"No. I got it," I answered. I go to the local hardware store for rock climbing equipment. After I get everything I need I go back home. Tomorrow is Black Cat Day and that is when I'm going. I have till the end of the festival to get the treasure and get it back before my mother knows I am gone.

"Dinner's ready," my mother yelled from the kitchen. We sit at the table. "How was your day?"

"Good. Rachel and I went to the library."

"What for?"

"Just a little reading." We stop talking.

She gives me her look, so I know she is reading to me.

I hurry up and finish my food. I know I need a lot of rest if I'm going to make it safely into the mine and back. "Can I be excused?"

"Yes."

"I'm going to bed after my shower. I'm tired."

"Sweet dreams."

I take my shower then get dressed for bed. I know she will come to check on me so I can't look at the map tonight. I climb into my bed and swiftly fall asleep.



"BEEP, BEEP, BEEP." The sound of my alarm wakes me up. I search the house and find that my mother is not home. I grab my backpack with my rock-climbing gear and leave. I get to the cliff and hide my bag in some bushes, so no one finds it.

"You sure you want to do this?" I asked myself. "You could get hurt or stuck down there." I turn and look at the sign. "DANGER: DO NOT ENTER." We wrote

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in big bold red letters. Taking a deep breath, I look at the mine one more time. “I’m doing this.”

I get back home and as soon as I walk into the house my mother is standing at the table with something that looks like my map in her hand.

“Sabrina, what is this?” my mother asks.

“What?” I say. My mother holds the map in her hand. My heart beats out of control, and my palms get sweaty.

“Don’t play coy with me young lady,” my mother says. She’s frowning.

“It’s a map,” I say. As she looks at me, I keep a blank look on my face.

“I know it’s a map. I’m not stupid. The question is why do you have a map of the old mines?” my mother asks.

“Is that what that is?” I ask. Thinking to myself, “I hope she doesn’t figure it out.”

“It’s closed off to people for a reason.” I look at her with a blank stare. “That’s it. You’re going to Black Cat Day, I am too. You think I don’t know what you’re up

too. You are just like him,” my mother says. I knew I couldn’t be lucky enough to get away with playing dumb. My mother catches my every time.

“I am,” I say, excited.

“Yes. He stayed in his own world. You do the same. Eventually that is what got him killed,” my mother answered. “Let’s go.” I grabbed my jacket and followed her out. Shortly after arriving at the festival, my mother decided she wanted something to eat. “I want some cotton candy. You want some?”

“No,” I reply. We get to the booth with cotton candy hanging. My mother turns to pay, I slip into the crowd.

“SABRINA!” my mother yells. I know she’s mad, but I have dreamt about doing this since the day my Grandpa told me the story. I know I have a limited time to find the treasure before the night is up. I get to the tree line, turning back I check for my mother. I take a deep breath before I venture off into the forest. The deeper in the trees I get the darker it is. I make it to a cliff where the big, big tree hangs overhead.

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“Good thing I stashed a bag earlier, if not I wouldn’t have had what I needed,” I said to myself out loud.

“No good thing I’m here so if you don’t make it back I can get help,” my friend said.

I gasped as I jumped.. “You scared me.”

“Your mother looked like she was going to kill you. It never fails you are sly as a fox. Time to go if you want to get back before dark,” my friend says.

I pulled the rope out of my backpack, wrapping it around the tree and anchor hitching it. I pull it tight before putting on my Harness. Putting my backpack in place when I’m finished securing myself. Now that I’m connected, I began my descent as the rain begins to fall. It’s not normal for it to rain this late at night. It’s not that far but it’s slippery and wet.

“You okay down there,” my friend yelled. The rain makes it slippery, so I lose my balance and slip. Kind of poetic since I slipped out of my mother’s sights. My heart pounds in my chest. I stop moving. Steadying my feet, I look up to the sky, blinded by the moon and rain,

I closed my eyes. Taking deep breaths, I continue my descent.

“Yes.” My feet land on a tiny ledge and I release the rope. Carefully walking on the edge, I know I can’t move too fast, but I can’t waste too much time. I only have a few hours. My foot slips again and I struggle to keep my balance. I start to tremble, but I know I have to be strong. Taking short breaths, I get to the entrance. “I know. Forbidden entry.” The sign on the gate says it. I get the bolt cutters out and cut the chain off the gate.

“Bark.” It doesn’t sound like a dogs bark, so I turn on the flashlight connected to my hat. I knew I needed to see while still using both hands. Slowly walking into the entrance, I see them. It looks like a momma fox, and she is protecting something.

“Hi. I’m just going in the mine. I will leave you alone.” The fox watches me closely as I slip past her. I got deeper into the mine and stop. Laughing at the irony of the fox. The deeper I get into the mine the darker and slimmer it gets. Luckily, I’m small enough to get past it. I get to a part in the mine where there are a bunch of

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rocks, moving deeper, I see where my grandfather was trapped. I look behind me seeing nothing but darkness. My heart starts to flutter and beat faster. Sound echoes off the walls.

The ground starts to shake. "This was the dumbest thing I have ever done. I'm already here I need to finish it." I move farther pulling out the map. I look around the floor where I stand. I see something sticking out of the ground. I walk to it and see it's a string. I start to pull as the earth shakes again. I have to hurry. I drop to my knees, taking out the small shaver I purchased at the hardware store and start digging. After digging a little I find a small box. Opening it up I only find a letter and a locket.

"Seriously that's all you put down here, grandpa." I open up the locket and see two faces I have never seen before. The earth shakes and I know I have to get out of there. I walk fast to get out. I can hear the rocks falling. They echo loudly. I see the roof falling as I run faster than I have ever ran. I see it before it happens. I jump out of the way just before the rock hits me. When I get out

and up the cliff my friend is no longer there but in her place is my mother.

“You are in big trouble and once again you got Rachel in trouble too. You just couldn’t keep well enough alone,” my mother says. She is unusually calm. I follow behind her the whole way home without making a sound. When we get home my mother looks at me. “Go to your room. We will discuss this tomorrow.”

I go into my bedroom, pulling the locket and letter out. I open up the letter. First words in the letter were, “Dear Charley.”



His Wolf's Protector



Christopher

I am sitting at home on the couch eating dinner and watching a movie call “Blind Color Blinded By blood.” It is a really great movie. I hear my phone ringing on the side table. “Detective Reyes,” I say when I pick up.

“Captain told me to call you. We have a body. I’m on my way now do you need me to pick you up?” My partner asks. I have been working with her for two years since my last partner left to be with her mate. She was attacked and she had to go.

“Yeah. I’m getting ready now,” I reply. We hung up the phone and I put my work clothes on. Today was my off day but being a homicide detective, I never really get

off. We haven't had a murder for a couple of years. After the serial murders a couple years ago my life has become slow. I like slow because that means nobody lost their lives until today. I put my gun holster with my gun on my hip and put my badge around my neck. I hear a car horn. I left out of my house and got in the car. "Do you know anything?"

"It's brutal. She was raped, then the person dressed her and posed her. That is all they told me," She answers.

"Where was she found?" I ask.

"On the corner of fifth and raspberry. She was by the swings in some bushes on the playground with her head poking out. They took pictures of her and the M.E is already there. She is waiting on us," my partner replies. "They said she looked in her late twenties early thirties. That is young."

"Yes, it is," I answer. We drive the rest of the way in silence. When we get there, we park close. We began to walk to the body and when I see the hair, I pray that they aren't back. We get to the scene, and it is as I feared. I

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know what I have to do. "I will be right back." I walk away from my partner and call my old partner.

"Hello Chris," She says.

"It's not a personal call Talitha. There is another one and it looks like he or she wanted me to find her," I say.

"We are on our way," Talitha says and hangs up the phone. I walk back to the scene and get everything that we need. My partner and I head back to the precinct. The M.E gives us the autopsy report and identity of the girl. I don't know how long we worked on finding evidence and researching the girl we found. We find where she lived and go to her house. After searching her house from top to bottom we found a few things but nothing to go on. She didn't look like she had been home for a while. When I get back to the precinct the love of my life is there with her team. That was fast. We greet each other and we go to a conference room to set everything up. We are going somewhere where my partner leaves to get us something to eat. We look at the evidence waiting on my partner when I received a phone call.

"Hello," I answer.

“I knew you wouldn’t tell her what I was. She didn’t even know what was coming,” The sinister voice said. “Come alone or she dies. I’m sending you an address now.” I look at my phone and the text is there. “I have to go alone. He has my partner. He wanted me from the start.”

“You are not going alone,” Samantha orders.

“I have too,” I argue. I left out of the building and went to the location on my phone. When I get to 17th, and Disney, I park and go in with my gun out. I pulled my flashlight out because the lights were out. Walking inside the living room of the house there was someone in the shadows. The hair on the back of my neck was stood.

“I didn’t think your mate would let you leave. I am surprised she can leave you at all. Why does she only come back once a month for you?” The guy asks.

“I know you. You were on the basketball court the other day. You were on the other team. I thought you were too good to be human,” I reply.

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“I had to meet you. Why did your partner leave you? You are bait for her. Mr. Thomas wants her. She was the one that got away. You are a means to an end,” He grated.

“Your stupid to think I wouldn’t find him,” Samantha says as she came around the back to put her gun to his head.

“Welcome to the party. Your partner isn’t here. Good luck finding her,” He says then turned into a wolf. Before Sam could change, he charged towards me. I shot at him, but he kept coming. He bit down on my leg before I could move. I hit him four times before he bit me.

“Don’t move. Do you feel different?” Samantha asked. “He bit you, didn’t he?”

“Yeah,” I answer. She started checking the bite mark. She pulled out her phone and called someone.

“Tommy. He was bit I need to get him away from here. Can you guys come now? He shot the killer. It was a trap to bring Talitha back out. The organization wants her. He called him Mr. Thomas. We need to find his partner. Come fast. Corner house on 17th and Disney,”

Samantha says as I start feeling weird. My body is burning, and I can smell something sweet.

“You smell good. Is that perfume?” I asked.

“Your changing. Time to go. Talitha and Tommy are on their way,” Samantha says as she helps me to my feet and walks me to my car.

“My partner,” I ask.

“They will find her,” Samantha says as she sat me in the passenger side. She got on the driver’s side and drove off. She drove until she got to the woods. She pulls over. “Get out.” I do what she says, and I follow her to the woods. As soon as we get to the woods, she turned to me. “You can turn now.”

Just as she said that my bones started transforming. It hurt but when it stopped, I looked at my feet and they were replaced with paws. They were black. We ran through the woods a while until I was tired. We changed back and went back to the station. When we got back my partner was there and she was safe. The look in her eyes says she has seen a lot that she cannot unsee.



Blessings



I was sixteen when my daddy got back from the war. He changed that day. He never talked about it, but I know it changed him. I still love my daddy, but he was never there mentally. I lost him physically a year after he came home. That is one of the main reason I got into the profession of Psychology. I finished school with a 3.8 grade point average. That is how I met my current boyfriend. He was a fellow Psychologist. I didn't know he was worse than the patients that had reason to be the way they were.

He never hit me, but I knew if I didn't get out then it would turn that way. I'm on my way home now. He scares me but he never put his hands on me. I love him

and pray that he never does. I park my car and head into our apartment. When I get into the apartment I notice that there are clothes scattered all through the house. I don't say anything when I hear something weird. I go to the door, and I see something that I never wanted to see. My man with another woman.

He looks up at me and stops. I turn and walk away from them.

"Baby," he says running after me. "Stop."

I stopped and turned. I looked at him. "Where I lay my head at night?"

"You wasn't supposed to find out."

"Did you really just say that?"

"You're not leaving."

"Watch me."

He grabbed my arm to stop me. I turned and looked into his eyes. The same chestnuts eyes that used to make my heart melt now made me tremble from fear and a broken heart.

I snatched my arm from his hand. I walked out of there. When I got outside it looked like it was going to

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rain. Shaking my head as the tears fell in waves, dark clouds roll in, drops of rain mix with my tears. I get in my car and leave. I drive to my mother's house. When I get there she is in the kitchen with my stepfather.

"Hey baby," my mother says, "What's wrong?"

"I caught him with another woman in my bed."

"Do you need to stay here till you find a place?" my stepfather asked.

"That would be great. When I get my things I need one of you to go with me."

"Has he ever hit you?" my mother asked.

"No but I see my dad in him."

My mother nodded then went back to cooking.

I sit at the table with my stepfather. My phone goes off. I see it's him. I answer the phone. "Leave me alone. I will be to get my things."

"No, you won't. You are coming home."

"It's over."

"It's over when I say it's over."

My stepfather takes the phone from me. He is an ex-police officer. "It's over now. You will leave my daughter

alone. I still have friends at the precinct. Don't make this uglier than it has to be."

"We'll see."

"Let it go." He hangs up the phone and hands it back to me. "If you need me to make a call let me know."

"I will."

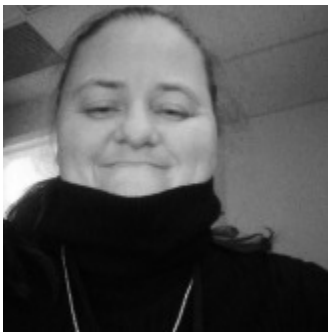
Dinner is finished and we eat. After we eat I go into my old room and get to work finding a new job. I put my application in before I got to bed.



IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS since I left him. I got a job with the VA hospital. I found an apartment for myself. I met a great guy that loves me, and I love him. I am happy and no one will stop it. I'm at the grocery store when I see him. He is with the girl I caught him with. She has bruises on her arms and her eyes are black. I thank the Lord that I got out when I could. He sees me but I go the other way. I leave the store and know that the day I left him it saved my life.



About the Author



TALITHA GHOLSTON IS a Novelist who specializes in Romance, Science-Fiction, Thriller, Interracial, and inspirational. She is earning a BFA in creative writing from Full Sail University. She has published seven books

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