

The Millennium Wolves

Book 5 - Chapter 29

Sienna

He was everywhere and nowhere at once.

As Michelle and I grabbed each other's hands, circling, spinning, different versions of Konstantin began to emerge throughout the crowd. Copycats.

All of them looked identical. All of them grinned, their sharp teeth gleaming. And all of them were cornering Michelle and me in the middle of the Lumen pack's assembly hall.

"Which one is really him?" Michelle asked, panicking. "Where's Josh or Aiden?"

"Don't worry," I said, even though I was scared out of my mind. "I'm sure there's a plan."

"A plan?" One of the Konstantins laughed. "Please. Your boys don't know the first thing about plans. I, however, am a master at them."

"Is this the part where you tell us what







you've been planning all along?" I asked, teeth clenched. "Because no one's interested."

"On the contrary," another Konstantin chimed in as I spun to face him. "I think if you knew what was at stake, you would be very interested. Anyway, you certainly were intrigued when I entered your mind, Sienna... Weren't you?"

He was toying with me. Trying to make me feel small. Reminding me of his violation as if we'd been playing a little game. I felt my hands shifting into claws as my rage escalated.

"JOSH!" Michelle cried out, seeing him in the crowd.

But Josh was still as a statue, nodding to a few of his warriors, dispersed throughout the room, each choosing a version of the vampyre to follow.

He was playing this quietly, trying to suss out the *true* Konstantin.

"He couldn't save you last time, Michelle," another Konstantin purred cruelly. "What makes you think he's up to the challenge now?"

"WHAT DO YOU WANT?!" Michelle

I tried to grab my friend's hand, to keep her calm, but seeing this vampyre in the flesh and so many copycats of him, at that, was clearly messing with her head.

After what he had done to her, how could it not?

"What I want is simple, Michelle," another voice rang out. We couldn't even see this version of Konstantin. There were so many surrounding us now. "I want the rarest powers in the universe. The kind that belongs to only very special individuals. Like you...Sienna."

One of the Konstantins raised a finger and pointed at me.

Then another.

Until all of them were pointing.

It was the most unnerving sight I'd ever seen.

Now, even I was wondering where the hell Aiden and Raphael were.

"Years ago, your blood would have been perfect," one of the Konstantin's said. "It was pure that of an unspoiled child Now?"

was pure, that of an unspoiled child. Now?"

They all lowered their hands. "It's nothing. Not like *his*..."

And then they pointed to the massive altar at the center of the room. At the top of it, suddenly, a small bundle appeared and a crying voice rang out.

The cry of an infant!

"That's the child," Michelle whispered. "The one Gregory Grantwell was talking about."

"This child is like you, Sienna. He's different," Konstantin said. "His powers, unknowable and untapped. Until now."

Suddenly, the doors burst open, and Aiden and Raphael barged into the assembly hall.

"KONSTANTIN!" Aiden bellowed. "GET AWAY FROM THEM!"

"Ah, there's the little Alpha." One of the Konstantins laughed. "Haven't we been through this before at your parents' house? You can rip me apart, and, still, I will remain."

Raphael put a hand to Aiden's chest, holding him back from lunging at one of them.

On top of the summer altar, the baby wailed. Hearing that piercing cry turned my stomach to knots. It reminded me of what might've been.

Of my own lost child.

I had to protect it.

No matter the cost.



"All the powers I have been feeding on have been leading to this moment," Konstantin roared. And now his voice was everywhere.

Every copycat was speaking in unison, a chorus of horror drowning out every other sound in the assembly hall.

"Soon, I will be no match for any mortal. I will have the power to kill a deity. A God-killer, can you imagine that?"

Aiden and I locked eyes from across the room, finally understanding the depths of Konstantin's wicked plan. If he could kill beings as powerful as deities, what would happen to the rest of us?

"Only two souls remain to be taken," the Konstantins said. "The child, the purest of all, will be saved for last. But first..."





Then, all at once, all hell broke loose.

Nina

No one had noticed me since I first stepped into the assembly hall, and that was the way I liked it.

As a rogue, I was used to working in the shadows.



So when I saw the different versions of the vampyre beginning to disperse throughout the room, I stayed close to the wall and waited for any sign of a physical threat.

They could bark all day. I didn't give a shit; all I cared about was who was going to bite.

Then I saw him. One of the copycats was sneaking behind Raphael, the Alpha of the Millennium, a glinting dagger in his hand.

All the talking, the showmanship, the copycats—they were a distraction.

The Alpha was about to be assassinated. Konstantin would drain his power. Become even stronger.

I had to act first.





As Konstantin raised his knife, I shifted in a single instant and lunged, sinking my canines into the vampyre's arm.

He shouted out in pain as I flung him backward to the floor, pinning him then ripping his throat out in with a claw.



Blood was everywhere. But when I looked up, Raphael, the Alpha of the Millennium, was staring at me in shock. And with thanks.

I'd just saved his life.

I'd finally redeemed myself.

But now that I had attacked one Konstantin, every version of the vampyre was enraged, and mobilizing to fight.

I quickly shifted back to my human form and grabbed the fallen knife from the floor, ready to protect the Alpha at all costs. Then I turned to the Beta. "JOSH! NOW!" I yelled out.

And, all at once, the assembly hall became a whirlwind of violence.

Aiden

I sprang toward Sienna, but there were too many Konstantins in my way.



"Get away from her!" I shouted, slamming a fist into one's face, throwing another across the room.

I needed to get to my mate. I needed to protect her.



Now, I could see Josh and his warriors each ambushing a different version of Konstantin.

But it made no difference.

For each one killed, another two would emerge into the room.

The vampyre was everywhere.

Until we could identify the real Konstantin, the original, we'd be wasting our energy. Not that this was stopping me.

"SIENNA!" I shouted out.

But she was doing something strange now. She was climbing the altar as fast as she could, trying to get to the infant on top.

Of course!

If we could save the child, we could stop Konstantin from acquiring any of his power. I saw a few Konstantins chasing after her and knew what I had to do.



I shifted, allowing my wolf to get its bloodlust out.

With an ear-splitting roar, I went after every copycat of Konstantin that was threatening Sienna. If she was going to save the child, I was going to pave a way for her to do it.

Michelle



"JOSH!"

I was spinning, surrounded by vampyres, closing in. They all were smiling creepily.

The same way he'd smiled the night he invaded my mind...and my body.

I felt my arm burning and looked down to see the glowing mark pointing at one of them.

That was the real Konstantin, I realized.

Just as they were about to descend upon me, Josh's wolf leaped to my defense, soaring overhead and stopping in front of me, circling, baring his teeth.

Protecting me.

"Josh, it's that one!" I cried out, pointing at the Konstantin I knew was real "That's the the Konstantin I knew was real. "That's the real one."

I didn't need to tell him twice. Josh leaped, tackling Konstantin to the floor, and suddenly...every single version of him disappeared.

There was only one Konstantin now.



Josh had cornered him.

He was finally going to get revenge.

We were finally going to get revenge.

Josh

After all this time, all this planning, at last, I had the vampyre where I wanted him. I growled and lunged at him, biting, but he kept my wolf at bay.

His arms stronger than any version I'd fought so far.

Because this was the real, truly powerful Konstantin. And he wasn't going to go down without a fight.

"You think you are a match for me, Beta?" he asked with a laugh. "Just ask your mate.



You'll never be half the man I am."

Except he was wrong. Because I wasn't a man. Only the wolf reigned now.

And if I couldn't kill the vampyre, you better believe I was going to make him bleed. After what he'd done to my Michelle, nothing was going to stop me.

All the powers in the universe were no match for how much I loved my mate.



"This is for Michelle," I growled.

Then I ripped at the hollow of his throat, the same place where he had marked Michelle with his loathsome fangs, and watched as a fountain of blood burst forth.

He threw a hand to his neck, eyes wide, shocked.

So much for a God-killer.

Konstantin

This couldn't be happening.

This was not the way it was supposed to end.

Of course, the Beta's little scratch would

heal easily. His animal instinct was no match for my raw power. But the fact that he'd even been able to wound me made me furious.

I shot up from the floor, throwing him backward, and felt the scar tissue healing my neck, sealing my sacred blood inside.

I had lost too much already. I needed the Alpha of the Millennium's blood *now*. But he was guarded by that fearsome rogue. I wouldn't have time.

No, the infant would have to suffice.

But when I turned to the altar, I couldn't believe my eyes. Standing at the top, picking up the child, was Sienna.

She was trying to take away the source of my God-killing power. I didn't think so.

I levitated from the ground and looked her in the eye, watching as her Alpha below leaped futilely, trying to reach me.

"Sienna," I said. "Going somewhere?"

Then, I snapped my fingers and...

Sienna



Then, I snapped my fingers and...

Sienna

I blinked. I was holding the wailing child, alone, in the middle of a forest clearing.

Everyone was gone.

The Lumen pack's assembly hall was gone.

We had been transported.



And we weren't alone. For stepping out of the shadows was Konstantin, a new wound to his neck but otherwise looking as powerful as ever.

"I wasn't planning to finish what I started years ago," he said, looking at me with murder in his black eyes. "But I am adaptable."

He held out a spindly hand.

"Hand over the child, Sienna. Or I will kill you both where you stand."

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