



Series

The Millennium Wolves



Book 5 - Chapter 30

Aiden



My mate disappeared.

Sienna was there one second, and then she was gone.

The assembly hall had gone eerily quiet, the baby's wail no longer haunting us. No sign of Konstantin anywhere other than the corpses of his copycats that littered the floor.

"Where..." I said, spinning, looking left, looking right. "Where did she go?"

Josh and Raphael hurried over to the altar where I stood. "Did you see..." I started, and they both nodded.

"Konstantin took them somewhere," Josh said. "I *had* him. I was this close, goddamnit!"

"Aiden," Raphael said, putting a hand to my shoulder. "We'll find her. They couldn't have gone far."



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I watched as Michelle ran into Josh's arms, holding him tight, and felt a pang of panic swell up within me. What if I never got to do the same with Sienna?

What if, this time, Konstantin won?



“GAHH!” I shouted, panicking, feeling like I was losing my mind. “I have to find her. I can't...I can't lose her too.”

“I know where they are.”

We all spun to see who had spoken. Entering the assembly hall, his beard as long and scraggly as ever, was Rowan. Sienna's biological father.

“What are you doing here?” I asked, confused. But he shook his head.

“There's no time. We must make haste.”

“How do you know where to find them?”

“Years ago, Konstantin took Vanessa and me to his hideout near Lumen. I know where he's taken my daughter.”

“Tell me, I'm going now.”

“No, Aiden,” Rowan said. “I'm going with you. This ends tonight.”



I wanted to argue with the man, but there wasn't time. I nodded, and a split second later, we'd both shifted. I'd never seen a wolf quite like Rowan's before.



His white fur seemed to float as if he were mid-air; his eyes looked otherworldly. But there was no time to marvel at the sight of my father-in-law's true essence.

We had to run. We had to get to Sienna before Konstantin killed her or the child. We had to save them.

A second later, we were both sprinting as our wolves, out of the assembly hall, into the city streets, and finally bursting from Lumen's city gates outside to the woods.

I'm coming, Sienna, I vowed. Wait for me!

Sienna

I held the child close, stepping back, nearly tripping over a branch, as Konstantin moved toward me.

He wasn't walking. He was floating. Slowly, steadily, the vampyre moved closer and closer.

“Give me the child!” he said again, reaching out his hand.

I felt a strange telekinetic tug, and the baby lurched away from me, floating toward Konstantin's outstretched hands.

The infant wailed in terror as I stood, paralyzed, powerless, constricted by the vampyre's mental ropes.



"NO! LET HIM GO!" I shouted.

But Konstantin had ahold of him now. He looked down at the baby, smiling cruelly. "I have never seen eyes like his before..."

Then he reached down and took a long dagger from his belt. "When I have cut him open and feasted on his blood, you may have what's left of him."

He gave me a small twisted smile. "I understand that's your way with children anyway, isn't it?"

It felt like someone had reached into my chest and ripped out my heart. The monster was mocking me, my infertility, my loss.

But, suddenly, it wasn't grief that I felt.

As Konstantin lifted the dagger in one hand, I felt a new emotion wash over me. It almost felt like the haze, an uncontrollable urge from within, except it wasn't sexual in nature.



It felt like calm. Like peace. Like all-knowing, all-powerful serenity.

I closed my eyes and felt Konstantin's mental ropes fall away. I felt my body and mind expanding as time became still, and I shifted...but not into a wolf.



Into what I was always meant to become.

A force, a power hitherto unimaginable, swept through me, and as I opened my eyes, bursts of energy blasted from them, piercing Konstantin's chest and sending him flying.

He smacked against a tree and fell to the ground in a heap.

He couldn't breathe. He was gasping for air, looking up, teary-eyed.

"What...what are you?!" he gasped.

The baby floated back into my arms, and when I looked down into its strange eyes, I felt the deepest kinship I'd ever known. A fellow powerful being carried tightly in my arms.

A being who may not know what he was truly capable of for decades.

Just as I hadn't until now.

Just as I hadn't until now.

"You wish to kill a deity," I said to Konstantin. "But the blood of deities does not run through your veins. Not like it does with mine. Or his. The child's."



"I'll take it," Konstantin said, trying to get to his feet. "I'll drink it, and I will—"

"You'll feed your appetite and nothing more. You are weak."

Then, with barely the nod of my head, I made the ground go out from underneath Konstantin. The roots of the tree began to ensnare him, burying him underground.

"You think this will be the end of me?!" He laughed. "You have no idea what I am capable of!"

"SIENNA!"

I turned, the spell broken, to see Aiden and Rowan running up. *No!*

"Before I go," Konstantin cackled, "here is one last gift!"

Then, with another snap of his fingers, Konstantin was floating mid-air again and, with all of his remaining power, unleashed a

flurry of black, boiling tar from his mouth

It was going to hit Aiden.



With his last gasp, Konstantin was going to kill my mate.

Rowan

When we ran up and I saw Sienna glowing, I knew she'd finally done it. She had tapped into the power of the deity within. The genes I had passed down to her had finally unlocked.

Although she was not a God by any means, she was more than a match for a vampyre as powerful and cruel as Konstantin.

Aiden, however, was another story entirely.

“SIENNA!” he shouted out.

He might have been the Alpha, the strongest of his pack and one of the strongest wolves alive in the world. But he could still be killed.

And when Konstantin unleashed a flurry of his black sick essence upon him, I knew Aiden wouldn't be able to take it.

He fell to the ground as it hit him, shaking

He fell to the ground as it hit him, choking as it slithered into his veins, trying to stop his heart.

“NO!” Sienna cried out.

But between protecting the child and killing Konstantin, there was no room to save her mate.

No energy in her left.



I knew what I had to do. It was what I should have done years ago to protect Sienna's mother. It was the only gift I had left to give.

I threw myself before Aiden and absorbed Konstantin's darkness.

Every poisonous drip of it.

I knew his Alpha body would be able to withstand some of it. But not this much. I'd never experienced such pain before in my life.

It felt like my body was being torn apart from the inside.

My veins heavy with liquid as thick as cement.

But as I fell to the ground, I saw my

daughter with tears in her eyes, holding the child. And I smiled.

She would make a great mother, I thought.

A second later, all went dark.

Sienna

Aiden was convulsing on the ground.



Rowan was still as death.

Konstantin coughed, laughing, still floating mid-air.

“You think you know what power is...but you have no idea,” he spat. “You’re nothing but a little girl.”

I lowered my arms, allowing the infant to float mid-air as I felt a protective force field encase him and shroud him. Then, when he was aside and I turned back to Konstantin, I knew what I had to.

“For my mother,” I said. “For my father. For my mate. For me.”

Then I allowed the person I’d always thought of myself as to disappear.



I dismantled my identity.

I let Sienna Mercer-Norwood shatter into a million pieces...as the purest energy from my core took over.

I was a radiant star with one purpose. To put out the darkness in this world.

With a thunderous howl, I unleashed all of my energy onto Konstantin.

The brightness swallowed him, making him small and pathetic and weak. A black blip against the expansive universe.

I heard him cry out once more, "I will always be in the back of your mind, Sienna!"



Then, with a sound like two worlds colliding, the energy snapped him in half and he collapsed into a pile of ash at the ground.

A gust of wind blew the pile away, and Konstantin was no more.

I gasped for air, blinking. I was alive. I was myself again. My body felt drained, but my mind knew that my mate was in trouble.

I quickly grabbed the child and ran over to Aiden and Rowan, both lying still now.

“AIDEN!” I shouted, grabbing his face between my hands. “Please say something.”

He was still, and for a second, I was terrified he might be dead. But then he slowly stirred and blinked his eyes open. “Sienna?” he asked. “Are you okay?”

I kissed him, tears in my eyes, grateful beyond words. “It’s all over,” I said.

He craned his neck back, looking at Rowan. “What about...”



I scurried over to Rowan next. His chest was still moving up and down but faintly. His eyes were closed.

“Rowan,” I said. “Are you alright?”

“...no...” he whispered. “...but you will be...”

Rowan opened his eyes once to look into mine and smiled. “Your mother and I loved you...always...I hope...”

But then the words slipped from his tongue as his body went still.

“Rowan?” I asked. “Rowan?! Please!”

But I knew he was gone. Soon, Aiden was huddled over me as I cried for Rowan, for his sacrifice, holding on to the child.

At last, the infant’s cries had abated. But I knew it would be a long time before my tears were dry.

For every saved life, there was always a cost. That cost had never seemed more clear than it did it right now.

“Thank you,” I said to Rowan once more, finally calling him what I always should have.

“I love you, Dad...”



EPILOGUE

THREE WEEKS LATER...

Sienna

“Sienna!”

“I’m up here!”



“I’m up here!”

Aiden burst inside the room and threw his arms around me, twirling me around and making me giggle.

“What’s going on?”

“Nothing,” he said, grinning. “Can’t I just be excited to see my own personal deity?”

“I’m *not* a deity,” I said, rolling my eyes. “Far from it.”

“Maybe...” Aiden shrugged. “But after the things I’ve seen you do...it makes me wonder what else you’re capable of.”

He kissed me, placing a hand against my back, moving closer toward my ass as he grew more heated.



“Aiden,” I said, pulling back. “Not in here!”

We were in the middle of the nursery. We’d rebuilt it entirely, making it the perfect space for our new little companion.

“Konstantin was right about one thing,” Aiden said as he looked down at the crib, smiling. “He’s got the most amazing eyes I’ve ever seen.”



The infant, we found out, was an orphan with nowhere to go. The longer I'd held on to him, feeling his little breath against my chest, the more and more connected I felt to him.

Especially because, like me, this child was no ordinary child.

And twenty-one years ago, I, too, had been adopted.

Who knows what else we would have in common.

I bent down to squeeze the baby's rosy cheek. "Little Rowan...we are so happy that you are ours."

Saying that name always made my heart sting a little. What my biological father had done to save my mate's life was a gift I could never repay. But naming this child after him was, at least, a start.



"What should we do today, love?" Aiden asked. "If my idea is off the table."

I laughed. "Don't worry. When Rowan here is asleep, we can come up with something."

I gave Aiden a lustful wink. Just because the haze was over didn't mean we couldn't have some fun. Then I bent over and picked up



I laughed. “Don’t worry. When Kowan here is asleep, we can come up with something.”

I gave Aiden a lustful wink. Just because the haze was over didn’t mean we couldn’t have some fun. Then I bent over and picked up Rowan, holding him, looking down into his eyes.

They shifted from shape to shape, changing color, swirling like one of my paintings. The most magical eyes I’d ever seen.

I didn’t know who my child really was. *What* he was.

But I knew who he belonged to.

I kissed Aiden once more. “I love our family.”



“Me too, Sienna,” he said. “I love *us*.”

The three of us stood in there in silence for a long time, holding each other, rocking back and forth. A family planting its roots.

Beginning again.

Next Chapter

