

I tapped my finger softly against the chair as I sat in the library waiting for my date as I always have. I felt my pocket, making sure my small package was still secure. The timing had to be just right or else life as I knew it would be over. Well in a different way than I wanted.

There! I stood up and smiled at the young woman rounding the last shelves of books, holding two cups of coffee in her hands. "Carter! How are you?" She handed me one of the cups.

"Astra! I'm doing well and even better with you by my side Milady" She giggled as I bowed elaborately and kissed her free hand. "How are you?"

"I'm well Dear" A distracted look came into her eyes when she responded. *Interesting. Looking for something my dear Astra.* I thought as I said. *Soon, soon, it will be over. The waiting and the torment. Soon.*

Astra sat down next to me and lovingly placed a hand over mine. I idly took a sip of coffee. The hot drink seemed more bitter than usual. I slowly moved my hand down to my pocket where the package lay.

I stopped, my throat was closing over and each breath slowly became more of a struggle. Astra's hand tightened over mine in an almost painful sort of way. I looked over at her and a grim look stood in place of her usual bright smile.

"A-As-stra?" I choked out, trying to control my panic.

"Yes, I know Carter. I know" She said the last two words with stern iciness that chilled me to the bone. *She knew.* "Do you think I'm dumb?" She asked, any trace of her usual cheeriness gone. "I saw your face that night. You know which night. The night you decided to take two lives from this world. And of course it was never enough for your family no, no. It was never enough. You started with my parents then my brother and now me. You think I didn't notice a pattern?" She shook her head.

"That poison in your pocket. That was for me wasn't it?" She asked, letting go of my hand and standing up in front of me. I opened my mouth, breath escaping my lungs faster than I could fill it.

"The lengths your family would go to see their rivals dead astounds me Victor Enubi" Astra said, using my real name. "Well then, I suppose this is goodbye." She leaned in close and whispered in my ear.

"The rest of your family is next. You will pay for killing my family Victor" Then everything went dark.

