

# S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

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The team is back, with a case that might be too dangerous for even their expertise. When Alex's team is sent to investigate a case of vampire killings, it is not the ancient bloodsuckers they are after, but the mysterious man who is assisting the agents. Alex's team is to find out who he is, and what his intentions are.



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## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires : Chapter 1

They hunt during the dark hours of the night, taking their unsuspecting victims lives before they know what is happening. These ancient creatures have had centuries to perfect their art, feeding off of a hunger for blood. They do not discriminate, nor are they afraid, because they know there is not a soul on Earth that has the strength to stop them. That was before now...

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Bailey Lewis woke up to the sound of an annoying ringtone. Groaning, he covered his head with his blanket. When he realized it was a call and not an alarm, he reached over the sleeping man beside him and opened it.

"Hello?" He answered the phone without looking to see who it was. He didn't really care, except that it was someone with the indecency to call at 6:00 in the morning.

"Good morning, Agent Lewis. Is your leader anywhere near his phone?" His captain's voice sounded tired.

Bailey held the phone away from his ear, leaning down to speak to his lover. "Hey, the captain wants to talk to you," he whispered, brushing back the tangled, black hair.

Alex Mathias smiled over at Bailey, then glared at the phone. "Thanks, babe," he said, kissing Bailey lightly on the lips. "Hi, captain," he mumbled, still half asleep. "What do you have for me?" He yawned, pulling Bailey against him.

"Well, it can't really be explained over the phone," the captain sounded puzzled. "I need to show you some pictures. The entire force is on this one. I have never seen a case like this."

Alex groaned. "What do the pictures look like?" He was grouchy this morning, after only getting around four hours of sleep. "Never mind. We'll be there." He closed the phone, kissing Bailey on the neck. "We have to go, unfortunately."

Bailey looked amused. "Okay, let's get up, then."

Alex sighed and sat up. Pulling on some boxers, lounge pants and a loose, black tee shirt, he stepped into flip flops. He ignored the snicker he received from Bailey, topping off the look with his glasses.

"You look professional," Bailey grinned at him, getting dressed in jeans and a dark green tee shirt. "You still look good, though, as always. I like the glasses," he kissed Alex on the lips, then opened the door. "Let's go see what the captain has to show us."

"Sure," Alex offered Bailey a tired smile. "Let's go, so we can get back to our day off," he emphasized the last two words.

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When they got to the investigation room, Will patted the seat next to him. When Alex sat down, his brother gave him a strange look, wanting to ask about the clothes. He received a warning glare from Alex, and left it alone, smiling at Bailey, who was seated next to Alex. Bailey only shook his head, smirking.

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The chief addressed the room, turning on the slide projector. Looking over the crowd of agents, he appeared serious.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very important case. There have been sightings of attacks," he ran the first slide, which showed the body of a man, obviously dead. Zooming in on the neck, he pointed out the two small puncture wounds on the neck. He glanced out over the crowd before continuing. "You can see why this is a serious issue. The police department handed this case over to me, because it was beyond their expertise. Their coroners have already examined and tested the body, confirming that it is the work of a true vampire."

One of the agents raised his hand. The chief looked impatient, but pointed at him. "Agent Andrews, what is your question?"

Alex grimaced, because Terry Andrews was one of his men.

Terry stood up. "I don't believe this could be a vampire, because they don't exist."

The chief smiled at him, a rare occurrence. "Well, you have the power of telekinesis. A lot of people would consider that to be impossible. However, you are partly correct. It could be the work of a very good mimic, who has done his homework."

Terry nodded and sat back down.

Alex smiled over at him. "That was a good observation, T."

Terry smiled. "Thank you, sir."

The chief started showing more slideshows, explaining the nature of vampires to them. When he had finished, he smiled at the agents.

"We have been given the lovely task of investigating these bastards and bringing them in. We will use killing as a last resort, of course, but you will receive special equipment," he nodded to the weapons expert, who was now standing next to him.

The man pulled out a case, which was filled with guns and ammunition. "These are regular handguns, as you can see. The ammo is what is unique," he picked one of the bullets out. "These are silver laced tranquilizers. If you shoot a vampire with one of these babies, they will not die, but simply fall asleep. It will render their body in a comatose state, from which it will be safe to transport them."

Alex smiled at Will and Bailey. "This is actually a really cool case."

"Assuming we don't get caught," Bailey gave him an unsure look, obviously nervous.

Alex placed his hand on top the speedster's. "Baby, I think you have the speed to get away." He could understand his lover's hesitance, since this was his first big case. He had only been an agent for a year, but was learning quickly.

Bailey sighed deeply. "I hope so."

"Well, there have not been any sightings, so I am sending in team A, and B, since they are the most experienced," the chief ignored Alex's look of annoyance. "Team C will be investigating from the base, along with the regular officers. If we need them, they will be called in. Here are copies of the reports. I want

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everyone to go over them carefully and educate yourselves. That will be all, for now. Be careful out there, and good luck. Dismissed," the chief stepped down from the podium, walking out of the room.

"Well, I guess that takes care of our day off," Alex smiled apologetically at Bailey. "We get to stay here and study."

"I'm kinda okay with that," Bailey still looked nervous.

## Chapter 2

For the rest of the day, Alex and his team studied the reports from sighting and trained. Alex wanted to be out in the field, but he could understand the chief's hesitance. They were still a new team, and it was probably a good Idea to keep one team on the base for backup, in case things did not go well. He changed into regular clothes, and put his contacts in. He would need them for working in the field, if called in.

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Meanwhile, teams A and B investigated the site where the man had been killed. They tried using their telepath to track the vampires, but he came up blank, since they were not living creatures. That told them that they were dealing with the real thing, and not a mimic. They resorted to conventional methods, searching on foot.

Coming up empty handed, the teams returned to the base around nightfall.

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That night, a figure dressed in all black disabled the alarm system expertly. Jumping to the roof, he picked up the body he had tranquilized. Opening the trapdoor, he dropped down to the floor without making a sound. Punching in a code, he entered the examination room and placed the still form on one of the beds, strapping it down securely.

Jumping up through the roof again, he closed the door and locked it. He reset the alarm, then disappeared into the night.

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The next morning, the captain called Alex into his office. When the young man arrived, he smiled at him and offered a seat.

"What did you need, Captain?" Alex stifled a yawn.

The captain stared down at the table for a long moment before answering him. This was not going to be an easy conversation. He sighed, then looked at the younger man. "Alex," he began softly, using the agent's first name, which was uncommon. "...I have been slacking on the rules, as you know. I would like to let things stay as they are, but I simply cannot. The station would come down too hard on me."

Alex tensed, shaking his head. He knew what this talk was about, and he did not want to hear it.

The captain caught the young man's eye. "Like I said, I have been bending the rules. There cannot be an existing relationship between a leader and his subordinate. The only one they may have a relationship with is their second, who is almost on equal ground. It has been a standing regulation for as long as the department has been open. Some agents have chosen to ignore this rule and keep things quiet, but I do not advise that. When the department finds out, they could terminate you both, and I would hate to lose you. If I could, I would change that particular rule, since your personal life should be separate."

Alex covered his face with his hands, not wanting to show the captain the hurt. He had been afraid of this, thinking about it all year. Finally lowering his hands, he slammed them down on the table. "Damn it, captain. If you thought it was still an issue, why the hell did you let it go on this long! You can't ask me to do this," his last words came out as more of a plea, than a demand.

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"Alex, I know you love Bailey, and it pains me to have to do this," the older man said with genuine concern. "I am so sorry I let it go on. I just couldn't break it off right at the beginning, like I should have. It's either this, or a transfer."

Alex swallowed hard, glaring at the man he viewed as a father figure. "Fine, I'll see what Bailey wants to do. He should have a say in this, too. I'll be the one to break his heart and possibly chase him away for good," he stood up. "I think we're done here." Alex hurried over to the door, before the captain could stop him. Stepping outside of the office, Alex didn't stop until he had reached the garage. Jumping on his bike, he left the base.

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While Alex was gone, the captain found out about the vampire in the lab. Alarmed, he called a meeting without Alex.

"There have been some new developments. Last night someone tripped our alarms and handed a vampire over to us," the captain smiled. "While I appreciate their assistance, we do not know where it is coming from. That is where you guys come in. I need teams A and B to continue working on the investigation of the killings. Team C will be tracking down this mystery helper of ours. The reason I am sending team C in is because we need speed to catch him. He is obviously fast, and agile. That is where Bailey will come in."

Bailey's head snapped up, nervous. He did not say anything, but just looked back down, swallowing hard. He turned to Will. "Where's Alex. I haven't been able to get a hold of him all morning."

Will glanced at the brown haired man, looking away almost immediately. "He went for a ride. I'll let him know, when he gets back."

"Okay," Bailey shrugged. "I guess we should go get ready, then."

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When Alex got back, Will took him aside. "Are you okay?"

Alex glared at him. "Don't ask me that, right now. Was that all you needed?"

Will sighed deeply, smiling at his brother. He hated seeing him in pain. "The captain is sending us in on this vampire case. Apparently, we have help..." he continued to fill Alex in on the situation.

Alex stared at him blankly. "Okay, I'll get ready. Tell the others to be ready in fifteen minutes," he said, hurrying to his room to change.

## Chapter 3

Twenty minutes later, they were in Will's pickup, going to the latest siting of their mystery helper. They searched the entire area for something to track him with. When they found nothing, Alex gathered them back together.

"It looks like he has already moved on," Alex smiled at Bailey. "I guess you won't need to do any chasing, today."

"I guess not," Bailey grinned back.

"We could look around some more, or head back and see if he shows up again," Alex smiled at his team. "What do you guys think?"

"I think someone should stay up and wait for him," Bailey answered. "That way, we won't have to do this again and come up with another dead end. This guy is good at covering his tracks."

"Yeah, he is," Alex glanced at him. "However, it could be dangerous to wait for him. He knows what he's doing, and he is helping us. I think we should go back to base and talk this over with the captain."

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When they got back to that base, Alex immediately filled the captain in on what had happened. He found it odd that they wouldn't even find a hair at the scene, but declined the offer to stake him out. It was too dangerous, since he might be too difficult to bring in. They did get a call about one of the other agents, who had been attacked by a vampire. He had only been cut and bitten on the arm, so his team had taken him back to the base. His prognosis seemed to be good, as long as the doctor could withdraw the poisoned blood. The danger of another attack was the main reason the captain did not want to leave anyone waiting for their mysterious hunter.

After they had finished talking to the captain, Alex retreated to his room. Locking the door, he turned on his laptop and began a letter to the main headquarters of S.T.A.R. In it, he explained about his relationship with Bailey, and how it was not fair that someone had to be his second for him to date them. He knew they might turn him down, but he was going to, at least, try to change the rule before talking to his boyfriend.

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That night, the figure in black got in a fight with a vampire, suffering several deep scratches. It took him longer than usual to tranquilize the dark creature, but he was able to. The scratches were beginning to make him feel sick, but he made it to the base, anyway.

Putting the vampire on his back, he climbed up the ladder on the side of the building this time. He was weak, and he did not have the strength to jump. Laying it down, he opened the door. Unlike the last time, he tied the creature up, then lowered him down onto a bed, using a rope. Leaving it there, the man closed the door and locked it.

Sitting back against the wall, he looked at his arm. The bleeding had stopped, but it was still hurting horribly. He sighed, jumping lightly off the roof. It was time for him to head back to his superiors and get medical attention.



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Alex did not act any different around Bailey, and did not intend to, until he heard back from the main headquarters. He spent as much time as possible with the speedster, just in case he would have to fight them to keep him.

The captain called another meeting about the mystery man. He also had a bag, which contained a small drop of blood. It had not been sent to the lab, yet, but they all figured it belong to their helper. He called off all searched, until the results came back. He also let the teams have two days off to rest, since they had been working nonstop. After that, they would all be sent out to find this strange man.

## Chapter 4

On their first day off Bailey held Alex back from leaving their room. Looking into his eyes, Bailey smiled slightly. Taking Alex's hand, he pulled him over to the bed. Once they were comfortable, he looked at his lover again.

"Something has been bothering you. What is it? Did I do something?" He asked, snuggling up next to the other man.

Alex sighed, looking at him. "Things are just tense, that's all. It was nothing you did, and it has nothing to do with us," he said, hating to lie to him, but knowing he had to. "We should go do something," he grinned at Bailey, kissing him lightly. "Just the two of us."

Bailey smiled, searching his eyes. "Okay, sounds wonderful. What did you have in mind?"

"I'm not sure, yet," Alex pulled him closer. "Do you have any ideas?"

Bailey thought for a moment, then grinned. "Have you ever gone paintballing?"

Alex looked surprised. "No, I haven't. It sounds fun, though."

Bailey grinned. "Cool. I'll find out what time the park opens. We could go alone together, or invite the rest of the team. It doesn't matter to me."

Alex nodded. "That could be a nice opportunity to get to know some of the guys better. After that, we could split from them and go get something to eat," he smiled at Bailey. "With all that has been going on recently, it seems like we haven't really had any time together. I just feel like I'm not being fair to you."

Bailey was quiet for a moment, then he kissed Alex softly. "Don't worry about that. Things will settle down, once we finish this case."

"I know," Alex said, grabbing some jeans and pulling them on. "We had better go tell the other guys what we're doing, and find out what time we're going."

Bailey smiled. "Yeah, let's."

\*\*\*\*\*

For the rest of the day, the team enjoyed themselves, relaxing after the last few days of searching for the mystery man. When they had finished paintballing, Will pulled the others aside. "We should go get something to eat." He glanced at Alex and Bailey. "Are you going to join us, or go by yourselves?" He was able to say this in front of the rest of the team, since they were fine with their relationship.

Alex grinned. "I think we're going to ditch you guys, this time." He looked at Bailey, who nodded.

Will smiled at them. "Okay. We'll see you back at the base, then."

"Do you all have your guns with you? You never know when you might run into vampires," Alex knew he was not on the clock, but he couldn't help checking on his team.

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"Yeah, we have them," Will held up his gun. "You guys be careful, too."

"We will," Alex looked at Bailey, who was already leaning against his bike. "Let's go eat, baby."

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They went to the closest Olive Garden, spending time talking and reconnecting with each other. When they were both done, they left the restaurant. Alex felt uneasy as soon as they walked out, and pulled his gun. Staying alert, they walked out the bike. Bailey kept his gun out as they rode, ready for anything.

As they were nearing the base, they saw something run in front of them. It did not look quite human, but was similar. Alex parked his bike, glancing at Bailey. The speedster still had his gun out and he was very focused.

Alex radioed his brother, telling him there was something odd going on. Will agreed to be there as soon as possible.

Alex turned to Bailey. "Do you think you can catch it? If so, I can stun it with my electricity."

Bailey smiled at him grimly. "I'm sure I can catch it if I know which way it went."

Alex looked around. "I think it headed into the trees. Maybe we should wait for the others, though."

Bailey shook his head. "If it's a vampire, it might find a victim by the time the others get here."

Alex nodded, knowing he was right. "Okay, but be careful. I love you."

Bailey kissed him quickly. "I love you, too," he said, disappearing in a blur.

He ran in the direction he had seen the vampire, but did not see anything. He slowed down, paying attention to the tracks. Changing direction, he saw something dark and started to go over to it. He stopped when he saw glowing, green eyes. As far as he knew, vampires did not have glowing eyes. That was something that would make them stand out, and, as creatures of the night, they could not afford that.

As he approached the figure slowly, it turned to him and hissed loudly. "Stay back," the man ordered, turning his attention to something deeper in the trees. He ran silently, then jumped up into a tree. Climbing higher, he leaned out over the edge. While Bailey watched, the man jumped down silently, but quickly. Bailey heard an unearthly scream, then silence as the vampire fell to the ground.

Alex radioed Bailey, asking him if he was okay. He answered that he was fine, but couldn't talk. Drawing his gun, he pointed it at the man. "Don't move, or it'll be the last thing you do. Who are you, and why are you helping us?"

## Chapter 5

The man raised his hands, showing Bailey they were empty, then dropped his guns on the ground. Bailey grabbed some handcuffs, then, realizing they were the power inhibitors, he decided against them. He had never trusted them, and he was not going to subject someone else to them. To him, it did not matter if it was his worst enemy. Approaching the man instead, he picked up the guns, then grabbed his arm.

"Who are you? My name is Bailey Lewis, and I work for the S.T.A.R. organization," Bailey picked up his radio again, calling Alex.

"Where the hell are you, and why were you not answering me a minute ago?" Alex's worried voice came over the crackling speaker.

Bailey frowned. He sometimes forgot that Alex was his leader, and he had to do what he said. "I'm in the trees, still. If you want, I'll bring him over there. I'm talking to him, right now."

"No. Stay there. You scared the crap out of me, baby," Alex sounded relieved. "You should answer me more often."

"I know, I'm sorry I stepped out of line," Bailey was still watching the man. "You guys are on your way, right?"

"Yeah," Alex smiled. "Keep talking, and we can follow your voice."

"Yes, sir," Bailey answered quietly. Turning back to the hunter, he kept the radio turned up. "So, like I was saying, my name is Bailey, and we have no intentions of hurting you," he smiled. "This gun is for the vampire."

The man glanced at the gun. "I know what those are. They're full of silver laced tranqs, huh?"

Bailey looked surprised. "Yeah, they are. You're good." He heard the others come up behind him, but did not turn around.

Alex glanced at the man, surprised by his glowing eyes. "Who are you?" he asked bluntly, reaching for the inhibitors. Bailey laid his free hand on his lover's arm, his blue eyes wide and pleading. "Please, don't use those. I think he'll come with us willingly."

Alex smiled at him gently. "I have to, babe. They're standard."

Bailey backed off, frowning. His eyes flicked to the hunter, irritated. "I'm sorry," he said to the man, offering a weak smile. He was beginning to feel sick to his stomach, just thinking about them.

The hunter did not move as Alex placed the inhibitors on his wrists.

"Who are you?" Alex repeated.

"My name is Jorden, and..." he paused. "Can we talk somewhere else? I would really like to speak with your chief or captain."

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Alex rolled his eyes. "Okay, well, you'll be meeting them soon enough," he glanced at Bailey, who avoided his eyes.

They headed to Will's truck, which had Alex's bike in the back. Alex rode in the back seat, next to the hunter, with the other members in the back of the truck, watching the tranquilized vampire. Will glanced at Bailey, who had stayed in the back of the group the entire way there. "Can we talk when we get back?"

Bailey nodded quietly, looking out the window.

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When they got back to the station, Alex took the man straight to the interrogation room. The chief and captain were both already waiting for them.

When they had secured the vampire, the chief turned to the team.

"I was not expecting you to catch him so soon," he looked at the man, whose eyes had dimmed. In the light, the pupils of his bright green eyes had widened. They were slit, like a cat's, instead of human. He had light blond hair that fell over one eye, and pale skin. "What's your name, son?" The chief smiled at him softly.

The man smiled back, glaring at the light momentarily. "My name is Jorden Daken, and I have been working undercover for S.T.A.R. for two years now," he pulled out a badge, which verified what he was saying. "My chief knew you guys were having trouble with vampires, so he sent me to help you with catching them. I'm sorry I couldn't tell you sooner, but there were too many of them out there."

The captain nodded slowly. "Which location do you operate from?"

"Washington, D.C.," Jorden smiled at him. "As I understand it, one of your members is thinking about leaving, though. Do you need a replacement?"

The chief frowned. "We would need to verify your word first, no offense. On top of that, we need to find out more about you."

Jorden nodded. "Of course. Dig away," he glanced at Alex, somewhat intimidated by him.

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While the chief and captain talked to Jorden, Will smiled at Bailey. "May I speak with you alone?"

"Sure," Bailey offered a tiny smile.

Alex started to object, but Will held up a hand. "Alex, I need to speak with him, without your two sense worth, sir." He added the last word sarcastically. He turned to Bailey. "Will you take a walk with me?"

"Sure," Bailey glanced at Alex, who smiled at him quietly.

Bailey smiled back, then followed Will.

They walked out into the courtyard, following the winding paths. Will was quiet for a moment, then he turned to the younger man.

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"Alex didn't mean to hurt you by using the inhibitors. Like he said, they are standard, and should have been put on the guy immediately," he grinned at Bailey. "I can understand why you didn't, though, and I think Alex does, also. That's why he didn't mention it to you."

Bailey nodded, sighing deeply. "Will, sometimes I feel like I'm out of place here. I mean, you guys grew up into this, and the rest of the team was taken from either another location, or academy. I was rescued from the streets and ..." he paused. "It just feels like I was taken pity on."

Will shook his head, his brown eyes serious. "No, you weren't. The captain saw something very special in you, and it wasn't just your powers. He saw an agent," he paused. "Do you know what I'm saying? No one took pity on you."

Bailey stopped to look at one of the trees, which was beginning to bloom. "It just seems so fantastical to me, still. You guys have given me so much, and I don't know how to repay that."

Will smiled at him. "It wasn't what we gave you, but what you have given us. Especially Alex," he said, looking into Bailey's eyes. "You gave him a reason to believe someone could love him. He has always doubted himself, when it comes to love, partly from growing up without parents and being turned down so many times when he has gone on dates. You were the first person to stick around, and he's a bit insecure about that."

Bailey smiled, laughing softly, embarrassed. "I'm not going anywhere. He's everything to me, and I will do all I can to make sure he doesn't forget."

Will nodded. "I know. Thank you. Did you have anything else that was bothering you?"

Bailey started to shake his head, then looked at Will. "Is there something bothering Alex, recently?"

Will shook his head. It was best to keep that from Bailey, at least, for the time being. "No. I think he's just stressed right now."

Bailey looked a little unsure, but smiled, anyway. "Okay, that's good. Hopefully, we still have tomorrow off. All of our days off seem to be stolen from us, recently."

Will grinned. "No shit. Let's head back inside and see if the captain will let us in on the details of this Jordan guy."

## Chapter 6

The next morning, Alex woke up early. Glancing over at Bailey, he smiled. His boyfriend had not said anything except goodnight last night, and had fallen asleep quickly. Alex couldn't blame him, since last night had probably taken a lot out of the speedster. He was very proud of the way he had handled the situation, and Alex felt bad for using the inhibitors. He hated them almost as much as Bailey did, because they took away all freedom.

Leaning over, he moved the sleeping man's hair back, where there was a deep scar above his right eyebrow. Bailey had never explained how that one had happened, but Alex knew it would always be a reminder of bad memories. He knew the speedster had gone through more pain and hardships than the rest of the team, but he was adjusting well. Alex had learned how to love from him, and he was willing to help Bailey move past the painful memories of his past.

Kissing Bailey's forehead, he rolled over, getting out of bed carefully. Getting dressed quickly, he left the room and called the captain.

"Hey, how is that Jorden guy doing? Did you hear back from headquarters yet?" He kept his voice fairly quiet, since he was not far from his room and his sleeping boyfriend.

"Yes, we did," the captain's tired voice came over the other end. "I would like to meet with you, if that's okay. I promise I won't take up your entire day. You deserve to have this one off. There is another issue I would like to address with you, also."

Alex sighed. "Sure, I'll be there in five minutes."

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When he got there, Alex noticed the captain and chief were there. Seating himself, he smiled at them. "What did you need, sirs?"

The captain smiled back at him. "Thank you, Agent Mathias. We received information about Agent Daken. Here's his chart. Look over it and tell me what you think, please."

Alex took the file, flipping it open. Inside were several medical charts, and a copy of his power statistics. From what it said, he had been a successful test subject for animal DNA merging. He had come from a donor mother and father, where the scientists mixed cat DNA into his embryo. He had been the first success, and was trained as he grew up to be an agent. He had all the speed, agility, sight and hearing advantage, and light-footedness of a housecat. He also had the temperament, which was a bit reclusive, but feisty. Jorden had been trained as an agent, but worked best alone, because of his standoffish attitude. The government had sent him after the vampires because of his superhuman abilities and his hunting prowess. So far, he had been 100 percent successful.

Alex put the file back down, smiling at the captain. "That's cool. I've heard of the experiments the government has been doing, but didn't know they succeeded. If he will, we could definitely use him on our team. Of course, I will have to talk it over with the others, but I think they will agree with me."

The chief smiled. "He doesn't need training, except in teamwork. As his file states, he has not had experience on a team, and he may be moody and difficult to work with. Talk it over with the others, as you said, and let us know what you think. Regardless of whether he joins you, he has agreed to help with the vampires."

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According to him, there are not very many left, and they might move on. If they do, they will not be our problem anymore."

Alex nodded. "Captain, there was something else you wanted to speak with me about?"

The captain smiled tensely. "Yes, there was. Do you remember a few days ago, when one of the agents got bitten by a vampire? Well he is not doing very well," he paused, looking at Alex more closely. "One thing I never mentioned to you was that when we tested Bailey's blood last year, we found out that, because of his high metabolism, he heals quickly. His blood type, O, would be compatible with anyone, so it could possibly heal another person, by coursing through their system and driving out the toxins. The only problem is that we would need more than we have. I was wondering if you could talk to him about letting us draw some more blood. I know it is a touchy subject for him,"

Alex sighed. "I understand what you're saying, and I think he might be at the point where he would permit that. Would you like me to ask today?"

"If you feel comfortable with it, please. We need to do something as soon as possible," the captain stood up, shaking Alex's hand. "Thanks for meeting with us."

Alex smiled. "You're welcome. I'll talk to the rest of the team about our cat guy, and also Bailey."

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Alex left, going back to his bedroom. When he got there, he noticed Bailey was already awake, but not out of bed. He was reading a book, but put it away when he saw Alex.

"Hey," he grinned, looking up at Alex.

Alex sat down on the bed, biting his lower lip. Smiling at Bailey, he took one of his hands. "I'm really sorry about the way I acted last night. There was no excuse, and I shouldn't have treated you that way. You are my equal, as far as I'm concerned. Screw the subordinate shit, because you mean more to me than anything. I was just worried about you, and stupid to pull rank."

Bailey hugged him, pulling him down on the bed. "It's okay. I promise I will pay more attention next time, and try not to worry you so much."

Alex looked into his eyes. "I love you so much," he whispered, kissing him softly. Bailey leaned back, allowing Alex to deepen the kiss. From the looks of things, they would be spending half of their day off in bed.



## Chapter 7

That afternoon, Alex got dressed for the second time that day. He smiled at Bailey, who was already dressed, since the settings on the protection had been turned down, and he was able to use his powers indoors now. He was very happy about that, seeing as it had taken him less than a minute to get fully dressed.

Alex had already told Bailey about Jordan's situation, after they had both recovered from their fierce lovemaking. The brown haired man was surprised, having never heard of enhanced genetics. He was willing to work with the man, regardless. He had told Alex that it was not a criminal he saw when he looked at Jordan, but a scared, untrusting young man.

"So, shall we?" Alex grinned at his lover, who nodded happily. "Oh, you might want to take your taser, as a precaution. I'm not sure how he will react to us."

Bailey frowned. "Did they remove the inhibitors? I can understand if they didn't."

Alex smiled softly. "Yeah, they did. He was given a room in the west building, where the settings haven't been changed. He shouldn't be able to use his powers."

Bailey cocked his head, thinking. "I don't know. He's not completely human, and he doesn't have mutant powers."

"Yeah, I don't know how that works, baby," Alex sighed. "Ready?"

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They made their way over to the west building, talking to the security guards there to find out which room he was in. Going up to the third floor, they made their way down the hall to room 108. When they did not receive a reply from knocking, Alex opened the door slowly.

Jordan was sitting on the twin bed, calmly sorting through the belongings that had been overnighted to him. He did not look up when the two men entered, but did seem to tense up.

Bailey glanced up at Alex, grimacing nervously. Alex only shrugged, moving closer to the light blond man. When he did, Jordan turned his head toward him slightly, remaining silent.

"Uh...hi," Alex smiled at Jordan, who still would not look at them.

Jordan sighed deeply. "Hi," he answered shortly. "Are you here to question me some more? I guess I'm supposed to join your team. It would have been nice to have a say in it."

"I thought the captain said you agreed to it?" Bailey looked confused. "Didn't you come here because you wanted to help us?"

Jordan finally looked up at them, his green eyes cold. "I do what they say. That's how it's always been. I thought it had been made clear that I was not to be put on a team, but I guess they decided to change that," he lowered his eyes to his bags again, unwrapping a small figurine of a cat, which the other two found to be fitting for him. Carefully placing it on a shelf, he turned back to them. "What do you want, anyway?"

"Just to say hi, and see how you were doing," Alex glanced at Bailey.

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"Well, as you can see, I'm fine. They will probably move me to your housing, once you decide I'm going to be on your team," he growled, sounding very much like a cat. "That'll be okay, except that I will have to pack and unpack again."

Bailey smiled at him. "If you let me help you with that, it would be done very quickly."

Jorden regarded him warily. "I thought S.T.A.R. stopped hiring speedsters a long time ago. You eat too much, therefore costing the organization too much money," he studied Bailey's face thoughtfully. "You do have very nice eyes, though. That counts for something."

Bailey looked away. His eyes had been one of the main things that had intrigued his kidnappers the year before, and also why he had been raped. He had been a virgin before then.

Alex glared at Jorden, who was beginning to piss him off. "Shut up. You have no right to judge Bailey, especially since you are just a..." he stopped when Bailey laid a hand on his arm.

Jorden watched them carefully, then frowned. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. I was just surprised to meet a speedster, that's all," he said quietly. It seemed as if his mood had suddenly changed.

"Uh, huh," Alex was still irritated. "Well, I hope the rest of the team decides that you are okay, so I can teach you some respect."

Jorden looked bored. "Are you done? I'm really quite tired, so if you would leave, it would be appreciated."

Bailey smiled at him. "Sure, we'll leave. You didn't have any more questions, did you, Alex?"

"No," Alex answered, glaring at Jorden. "Let's go, and let the cat sleep." He walked out of the room, letting Bailey close it.

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As soon as they were out of hearing range of Jorden, Alex turned to his boyfriend. "Damn, he's irritating! I'm not so sure I want someone like that on the team. He has mood swings worse than any woman I have ever met, seeing as he was all nice and helpful last night. That's not even what pissed me off the most. It was the way he acted to you," Alex shook his head.

"Well, he's right about me eating too much," Bailey smiled at him. "I eat three times as much as you guys do."

Alex laughed. "You do, but you have a much faster metabolism than the rest of us. It makes me wonder if you think faster than we do, or do you have the ability to control that. I've heard that some speedsters can't."

Bailey grinned. "Growing up with two sisters, I have had to learn to slow down my thought pattern. Now, I can choose to think in super speed, or normal speed."

"So, if you want to tune me out, you can just think in super speed," Alex smiled. "I can't believe I have never asked that before now."

Bailey grinned. "I would never tune you out. I hate it when other people do that to me."

"Yeah," Alex agreed. "So, I think we should leave out moody cat alone for a while, and go enjoy the rest of our day off." After he had finished speaking, he remembered what the captain had said about Bailey having

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the ability to heal through his blood. He turned to his boyfriend, smiling. "Actually, baby, the captain was wondering if you would be willing to give some blood to help the agent that got bitten by the vampire. He says it could possibly heal him."

"Really?" Bailey looked surprised. "If it'll help him, I would be happy to give blood."

"Are you sure it wouldn't bring back too many bad memories for you?" Alex asked, concerned.

Bailey shook his head. "If it does, I'll be fine. Memories are there for a reason. If I didn't have those, I wouldn't appreciate how good I have it now. That's why we have the ability to move on."

"That's true," Alex pulled him into a tight embrace. "I'm just glad I had the chance to meet you."

"I am, too," Bailey said softly. "So, let's go to the lab, so I can help this guy get better."

## Chapter 8

The next morning, the captain called a meeting for all the S.T.A.R. teams. Once they were all gathered in the lounge, he began.

"Agents, I have called you in here because we have another lead. We got a tip from an anonymous source about the location of the vampires. We need to come up with a game plan to get these bloodsuckers, for good," he looked out over the small group. "Does anyone have any suggestions?"

One of the agents stood up, clearing his throat. "Well, we could storm the place and take them by surprise. That way, they wouldn't know what hit them."

"That would only give them free range," Jorden argued. "If you think about it, vampires work at night, and they are very quick. Since there are probably more of them than us, they would surround us and that would be the end of it."

Alex glared at Jorden, mainly because he had not wanted the other man to join them. He did not see Jorden as an agent, and he did not like the guy's switching attitudes, on top of that.

The captain pointed at Jorden, who had remained seated. "While the idea of storming would normally be a good idea, Agent Daken has a good point, also. Vampires are creatures of habit, and they will not stop just because the group is larger. Unless we storm them during the day, we would be offering ourselves as a feast. We have already seen what they can do with just a minor bite to the arm. I would hate to see that become a neck."

"What do you suggest, then, captain?" Alex asked, leaning back on the couch he shared with Bailey and Will.

"Well, Agent Mathias, it would probably be a good idea to split into two teams. We would leave the fully functioning teams together, and mix the remaining members of team B into the other two," the captain addressed the entire group. "This way, we can make two different approaches, by sending one team into the forefront, and the other will stay back to attack with the silver bullets once the vampires have been drawn out."

"Sir, why are we not using powers?" One of the members of team A asked.

"That is a good question, but it has a simple answer. Unfortunately, vampires are not effected by supernatural powers," the captain smiled. "You can use your powers to surprise them and avoid them, but the only thing that is going to catch them is speed and precision."

Alex closed his eyes momentarily. He knew where this was leading. The captain had spoken to him a few days ago about using Bailey to catch the vampires. While he agreed with it working, he still did not like the idea of his lover going up against something that could kill him.

"Sir, since Agent Daken has experience with vampires, and has already been catching them for us, why don't we just wait until night, and let him continue what he has been doing already?" the leader of team A asked, smiling at his girlfriend, who was his second.

"That had crossed my mind, but it would take too long. While he has been successful in bringing in two vampires for us, it has taken time," the captain glanced at Jorden. "The government is already on my case about this, and if we don't do something, they are going to step in with their people, and take the vampires out

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forcefully. With their lack of knowledge, they would probably be devoured."

Alex grinned at his brother and Bailey. "It sounded like he was talking about a cat, when he mentioned Jorden."

Will smiled. "Technically, he is," he whispered.

Bailey tapped him on the arm, motioning to Jorden, who was staring at them. The young man looked even more catlike now, with his green eyes shining in the dim lighting. His pale skin only added to the illusion. Bailey had to admit that, while the other man was very abrupt, he was also intriguing.

Jorden turned away from them, looking back at the captain.

"So, agents, I think it would be a good idea to take a bit from all suggestions. I will discuss this with the chief, and get back to you guys this afternoon," the captain smiled at the group. "Thank you for your input. You are all dismissed." He stepped down from the podium, approaching Alex's team.

Alex smiled at him, standing up. "Yes, sir? Did you need something?"

The captain smiled back. "Not from you, Alex. I just wanted to thank Agent Lewis again for the blood he donated," he turned to Bailey. "You saved Agent Benson's life. He is doing much better, and is expected to make a full recovery. Thank you, Bailey."

Bailey blushed. It had been a little bit difficult for him to step into a lab again, but it had been worth it. "Thank you, sir. I'm glad it helped."

Alex put his arm around Bailey, smiling at the captain. He was still waiting to hear back from the headquarters about his relationship, and seeing the two agents together earlier had brought the subject back to the surface. He was thinking about emailing them and asking what their decision was.

Jorden glanced at Alex, then slipped out quietly while they were still speaking. There were too many people in the room, and he was feeling claustrophobic.

Running out past the courtyard, he bolted over the fence easily and climbed one of the trees that had been planted on the base. He felt completely out of place, since he was not a mutant like the other agents. Like Alex had almost pointed out earlier, he was a test subject for a weapon. That was the only reason he had been created in the test tube. All the other agents he had met had been born with their special abilities, whereas his had been planted inside him. He wasn't even fully human.

Leaning back against the tree, Jorden thought about the situation. He was not used to working with other people, and the close contact was making him uncomfortable. He had not meant to upset Alex earlier, but he had been correct when telling him he did not want to be on a team. He had always seen life as unfair, where the people with authority made all your decisions for you, where you did not have any room to object.

Jorden lay there, dozing off, until he heard footsteps on the grass. Opening his eyes quickly, he looked down to see who was there. When he did, he found Bailey staring up at him.

"Hey, Jorden," Bailey smiled at him. "It looks comfortable up there, and I would join you if I could climb as well as you. Unfortunately, my climbing skills are shit, when it comes to trees."

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Jorden grinned down at him. "That's surprising, since you have an athletic body." Jumping down from the tree, he smiled again. He liked Bailey's attitude. "Hi, I don't think we really met. My name is Jorden Daken, as you know. Bailey, right?" He held out his hand to the taller man.

Bailey smiled, shaking it firmly. "Bailey Lewis. It's nice to officially meet you. You're from D.C., right?"

Jorden nodded. "Yeah." He had been created in one of the S.T.A.R. labs in Washington, D.C. He had never met his donor parents, and had been raised in the compound. "What brought you here, Bailey?"

"Well, it's kinda odd," Bailey grinned. "I was kidnapped by a mutant fanatic group, and drugged. When I escaped, Alex found me on the side of the road." When he noticed Jorden's wide eyed expression, he laughed softly. "I'm not kidding. It's true."

"Oh, I believe it," Jorden pushed his light blond hair away from his eye. "I'll believe anything, after what I've seen in the past. So, where are you from?"

"New Hampshire," Bailey answered quietly. "I was here in New York for school, when I got kidnapped. I don't think I will ever move back."

Jorden nodded. He didn't really know what it was like to have a choice in what he did. "That's good. It's a nice place to be," he sighed. "We had better be getting back in, I guess. We still need to meet with the others and figure out what we're going to do about the vamps."

"Yeah, we should," Bailey offered a half smile. "It was nice talking to you."

"Yeah, you too," Jorden let the other man go in front of him, watching him leave. He was beginning to think this team may not be so bad, after all.

## Chapter 9

While the agents were waiting for a decision, they decided to work on drills. This way, they could practice working together before they were in the field. They split up into two teams, as they would be in this particular case. Team A was put as the offense, first, which left team C as defense.

The game began with team C hiding behind whatever they could find. Alex found an old shed, which was falling apart. Hiding against one wall, he created a ball of energy. It was not strong enough to hurt anyone, like it would be with the vampires, but would work to stun an agent momentarily.

Will decided to hide on the ground itself, laying flat out where the other agents would not be able to see him very well. He would be ready to jump up at a moment's notice.

Terry hid inside an old pipe, planning to use his telekinesis to throw his opponent.

Jorden decided he was going to stay in the open. He had learned not to hide, as it could leave you with more vulnerabilities than advantages. He thought it would be easier to avoid and attack the other team as they came at him. What surprised him was that Bailey had the same idea, planning on using his speed to get away. Jorden smiled to himself, wanting to work with Bailey.

The game started out with team C taking their positions. Jorden glanced at Bailey. "What's our plan?"

Bailey shrugged. "I don't know. Just avoid them, and attack where you can. Defend the hiding agents."

Jorden nodded. "Sound good."

The two stayed on guard, and when team A rushed at them, Bailey led them in circles, away from his hiding teammates. The agents were used to Bailey's speed, but still irritated that they did not have a chance at keeping up. He ran around the compound, unseen by the agents, and attacked them by surprise. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw a figure jump onto one of the practice beams. The agents chasing him stopped, distracted by the strange sight.

Jorden was walking on the beam, taunting the other agents. One of them shot at him with the rubber darts they had been given. As Bailey watched, Jorden darted sideways, avoiding it completely. He shot back at the agent, hitting him in the neck and taking him out of the game. The other agents stopped chasing Bailey, watching Jorden's catlike movements. He had managed to avoid everything by moving quickly, with perfect balance and precision.

Deciding this was a good opportunity to train the new agent, the leader of team A motioned to Bailey. He rushed to the beam, shaking it and almost causing Jorden to lose his balance. The leader took the advantage, sending a gust of air from around his hand, shooting at Jorden. He saw it coming, flipping into the air and landing on the ground. He disappeared before the other agents could process what had happened. This paused the game momentarily, and the other members of team B began to emerge. They did not see this as a game against team A any longer, but against Jorden.

Alex grinned at Bailey, who smiled back quickly. He was completely focused, ready for Jorden to attack at any time.

Will touched the beam, trying to read Jorden's prior movements. What he saw shocked him. Several testing sessions, performed on the young agent, whether he liked it or not. At times, he would beg the scientists to

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stop, but they ignored him, forcing him to endure them. Will could see him giving up, yielding to his superiors. It made Will sad, and he stopped before seeing any further. He needed to stay focused, in case the catlike man decided to show back up.

They all stayed on guard, keeping their defenses and powers up.

While they were waiting, Jorden crept behind the female second of team A, Deana. She never saw or felt him coming, and was caught around the waist before she could resist. Jorden placed the dart gun at her head, treating it as a hostage situation. Making eye contact with the other members, he backed away, pulling her with him. He stopped when he was out of the range of the rubber bullets.

The leader of team A glanced at Alex, who grinned back. "He just gave us a good opening for practicing a hostage situation. I'm sorry it had to be your girl he took."

The other leader, Mike, shrugged. "She can take care of herself. That's why she's my second, mainly."

Alex shook his head, frowning. It was also so they could be together. He really needed to figure out something about Bailey and himself, but that could wait. Right now, they had a hostage to worry about.

Moving over to the other leader, he motioned for the rest of his team to join them. Once they were all huddled together, he spoke.

"If we attack straight out, he's going to blow her head off," he glanced at Mike, who nodded with a smirk. "We don't know what he's capable of, so we need to be careful. Does anyone have any ideas?"

"Well, I could get her away before he knows what happened," Bailey suggested quietly, trying not to sound boastful.

Alex nodded. "That's true, but he may be stronger than you, and could hold onto her. It would have been better to test his strength before now."

Will grinned. "Bailey did a good job of distracting team A while we were hiding, so we could let him play mind games with the cat, while we attack him with our powers. The only thing with that would be avoiding hitting Deana."

Alex glanced at Mike. "It's your call, since your second is in jeopardy. No pressure," he smiled at the other leader.

Mike grimaced. "Thanks, Mathias. I think we should mix Bailey and Will's plans. Use Bailey to distract him, at first, while attacking with our powers. Will should stay back with the dart gun, ready to take any opening he can get. Bailey can then rush behind Jorden and grab him."

Alex nodded. "Sounds like a plan. Let's get into position."

Bailey glanced at Jorden, who was still holding Deana tightly against him. "Guys, how do we know he didn't hear us? He has cat hearing."

Alex chuckled. "From the info on his charts, he's too far away for that. We're safe."

They began their game, with Alex starting out with a shot at Jorden's shoulder. The other man moved quickly, pulling Deana with him and keeping the gun in place. When she tried to head butt him, he ducked away,



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squeezing her tighter. She glared at him, elbowing him in the ribs. He smiled at her, trapping both of her arms behind her before she could resist. Turning back to the other agents, Jorden made eye contact with Alex.

Alex glared back at him, shooting at his head with a dart. The captor avoided it, glancing at him again. Bailey sped away from the group while they were focused on Jorden. Unseen by the blond man, he rushed behind him, placing the gun at the back of his head.

Jorden froze, knowing the speedster had caught him by surprise. He also knew Bailey could move faster than himself. Glancing at Bailey, then the others, he noticed that they had lowered their weapons.

Bailey smiled, his face mere centimeters from Jorden's. "What's your plan now, kitty?" He whispered, teasing Jorden by running his hand through the other man's hair. He could feel his cock becoming hard from the close contact with the other man. It bothered him, since he was with Alex.

Jorden took a deep, but shaky breath. "If I move, you'll counter. What would you do for me if I let her go?" He asked this while smiling at Bailey.

Bailey grinned back. "Well, seeing as you can't take me out, I think I already have you. If you let her go, I would take you in for questioning, and if you cooperate, I might let you go."

"I see," Jorden frowned at him. "I don't have a chance, then?"

Bailey shook his head. "Nope. Sorry, but I'm with Alex."

Jorden laughed quietly, tightening his grip on Deana, who was not fighting them anymore, but listening. "You don't know the rules on that, do you?"

"What rules?" Bailey glanced at the others, who were still in position to take Jorden out.

Deana shook her head, as well as she was able to. "Nothing, Bailey. Just ignore him," she glared at Jorden, surprising him by prying into his mind with her telepathy. It took longer than usual for her to get into his mind, but when she did, she frowned. 'I can see what you are trying to do, and no, he doesn't have any idea what the dating rules are in the department. You should stay quiet, especially since he already turned you down.' She stepped out abruptly, leaving Jorden with a slight headache.

Jorden glanced at the others, who were still in position. Lowering the gun, he smiled at Bailey. "You're good. I give up, at least for now."

Bailey backed off, nodding at Alex. The game was over.

## Chapter 10

After the game, Alex called the captain, asking him if they had decided what the plan was. He found out they had, and wanted to meet with all the agents. He informed the others, and they got ready to leave.

Mike stopped Jorden as they were leaving. Staring steadily into the other man's eyes, he spoke quietly. "If you ever touch my girlfriend like that again, I will rip your nuts out, then shoot your head off. Are we clear? She is higher than you, and you do not treat her like that."

Jorden grinned at him. "I think she enjoyed it. She may like me better than she likes you. What would you do about that, sir?" He added the last part sarcastically.

Mike glared at him, opening his mouth to argue. Alex placed a hand on his arm, shaking his head at the other leader.

"He's not worth arguing with, Mike," Alex glanced at Jorden, who just rolled his eyes. "While I may agree with you, now isn't the time. The captain is ready for us," he glanced at Jorden again. "All of you."

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When they met with the captain, he smiled at them. "I enjoyed watching the playback of your drill, though Agent Daken switched the offense. It was good practice, but next time you should stay on the offense when you are set on it." He glanced at Alex and Mike, motioning for all of the agents to seat themselves. Once they were all seated, he explained their plan to them.

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"It's nice that we're off tomorrow," Bailey smiled against Alex's neck while kissing him.

Alex laughed softly, trailing his hands down his boyfriend's body. When he reached the young man's jeans, he slipped them off quietly. Sinking to his knees, he took Bailey's hard cock in his mouth. Bailey groaned as he sucked expertly, taking him down his throat deeply.

Looking into Bailey's eyes, Alex pulled back. When Bailey began to lie back on the bed, Alex stopped him. Grabbing the bottle of lube, he smiled at the other man. "No, my love."

Bailey looked confused for a moment, but stayed quiet as Alex sank down on the bed. Offering a half smile, Bailey laughed quietly. "Are you sure?" He looked a bit uncertain.

Alex reached up, pulling him down. "Yes, I'm sure." He spread his legs, guiding Bailey's hands back to his entrance.

Bailey watched his face, dipping his fingers into the lube. Working at Alex's opening, he stretched until he knew his leader was ready. Moving back up, he kissed Alex.

Placing his cock against Alex's opening, he pressed in slowly. Once he had the head in, he stopped, looking at Alex, who smiled back with heated eyes. Thrusting in all the way, he pulled out almost completely. Alex arched his back, taking Bailey in again. He kissed Alex again, thrusting to meet him. Alex groaned loudly as Bailey hit a sensitive spot. He grinned, thrusting faster, hitting the same place with every thrust. Bailey could feel himself getting close, so he thrust harder. Alex cried out, shooting onto Bailey's stomach at the same time

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that Bailey shot his seed into him, pressing as deeply as he could.

They lay there, trying to catch their breath, and Alex pulled Bailey down for a kiss. "That was amazing, baby."

## Chapter 11

The next morning, the captain called Jorden into his office. The young man was nervous as he made his way to the office, especially since he had been reprimanded the day before. When he knocked on the door, the captain answered quietly, inviting him in.

Once he entered, the captain smiled at him, offering him a chair. He almost declined, but knew the meeting might be more awkward than it already was. Sitting down quietly, Jorden glanced at the older man.

The captain smiled at him warmly. "Good morning, Jorden," he said, surprising the other man by using his first name. "I believe I owe you an apology for yesterday. I know you were not trying to break rules by switching the offense, and it turned out to be a good practice. It gave me a good look at your powers and skill. It also helped to train some of the less experienced agents in a hostage situation. The only problem the department would have with is that it was not planned. However, if they don't know anything about it, everything will be fine," the captain grinned. "The higher ups tend to blow things out of proportion sometimes. Your performance in the practice was very efficient, and I could tell that you were seeing another side than the other agents. How do you feel about things, so far?"

Jorden sighed, looking down at the table. "Captain, I am not trying to piss the other agents off. I just don't like working on a team. It makes me nervous to follow orders, when they are coming from someone I am supposed to be working with," he glanced at the captain. "It's nothing against the others at all. It's just not the way I am used to. I work better alone, but I will try."

The captain smiled at him. "I understand that you are trying, and I need to have a talk with the others, also. They are not giving you a fair chance, or trying to understand you. This does not make things easy for anyone. However, I think we should wait to deal with that, until you guys get back from this mission."

Jorden shrugged. "I agree, if you think it needs to be addressed. I will back off on the flirting, since it will not get me anywhere. Yesterday, I wasn't trying to make Agent Green mad by teasing his girl. Or Agent Mathias, by flirting with Agent Lewis. He's hot, that all."

The captain grinned. "Jorden, that's normal," he paused. "It's human to want other people."

Jorden looked away from him, shaking his head. "That's another thing...I'm not human," he said quietly. "I don't think or act the same way the other agents. I think that may be intimidating them, as it did the other agents I worked with before. They did not want to deal with something they didn't understand, so my chief sent me on missions alone. I have to say, I liked it better that way...but I will try."

The captain nodded. "I already knew your past work experience, and I still wanted you to join us. You have the experience as an agent, and the skills needed here," he looked into the young man's eyes. "Jorden...enhanced genetics do not make you any less human. You still have a human heart and mind, and that is what counts. You are special, no matter what anyone else says."

Jorden shifted, getting uncomfortable. He nodded without replying.

The captain smiled at him. "I think that is all. Maybe you should try to get to know the other agents. You don't need to start a conversation with them, but just try hanging out with them. Like I said, I will have a talk with Mike and Alex. I think that is all I had to speak with you about, so you may leave, if you did not have anything to add."

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Jorden nodded. "I will try, sir." Smiling at the other man, he turned to leave.

The captain suddenly jumped up, grabbing a letter off his desk. "I almost forgot. Could you give this to Alex for me?"

Jorden sighed, but took it, anyway. "Sure."

The captain smiled. "Thanks."

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Later that afternoon, Jorden found Alex. Stopping the other man, he smiled quickly. "The captain wanted me to give you this," he said, handing him the envelope.

Alex smiled at him, but it did not reach his eyes. "Thanks." Walking away from Jorden, he opened the letter. Taking a deep breath, he began reading it.

Agent Mathias;

In reply to the issue you have brought to our attention, I have decided to reconsider some things. You let me know how you feel about Agent Lewis. Before I agree to overturn the policy, I would like to inform you of the reason this policy is in effect in the first place.

In the past, there have been agents romantically involved, and it impaired their judgment. That can be a deadly mistake, since they tend to be more worried about their lover than the rest of the team. If your significant other is your second, however, you are on almost equal ground, and the worry is not as strong. That is the reason it is allowed.

I talked this issue over with national headquarters, and they have agreed to overturn the policy. This is not because of your situation, entirely, but for the fair treatment of all agents.

I hope I have answered all of your questions. I wish the best of luck, and thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heimerman

head of national security

As soon as he finished reading the letter, Alex grinned. Running to the office, he thanked the captain, telling him about their decision. The captain was happy for him, but also kept him in long enough to speak with him about Jorden.

## Chapter 12

As soon as Alex left the office, he was caught by Bailey. He was surprised, and tried to pull back, dropping the paper in the process. Bailey grabbed it before he could react, himself. Holding it, but not reading it, the brown haired man stared at him.

"I need to speak with you, if you have a moment," Bailey said softly, handing the paper back. Alex looked confused, but nodded. Bailey took that as an acceptance, grabbing his arm and rushing them to their room. Once there, he resumed his intent stare.

"Okay, babe," Alex smiled nervously. "What's up?"

Bailey snorted. "That's a good question! What has been going on with you? Don't you dare fucking lie to me," the young man shrugged. "Though I think you may have, already." When Alex opened his mouth, Bailey held up a hand. "I'm not accusing you. I just know when you are lying, but that's not the issue here," he glanced at the paper, which was still in Alex's hand. Sighing, he seemed to calm down a bit. Sitting down, Bailey smiled at Alex, and he saw insecurity in the speedster's eyes.

Alex sank down on the bed, himself, staring at the paper in his hand. "You're right about things being on my mind. Before you read this, you might want to see my letter to him, first. It's saved on my computer...go ahead," Alex picked up his computer, opening the document. He handed it to Bailey and leaned back against the headboard.

Bailey glanced at his boyfriend, then read the document in seconds. His face was neutral as he took the letter carefully, reading it at a conventional speed. When he had finished, Bailey sat still, staring at it.

He finally spoke, without looking up. "What...when were you planning on telling me about this? What does this mean?"

"Well, it means that we are still together...and headquarters doesn't have a problem with it," Alex replied quietly, seeing anger and hurt begin to build on his lover's face. "I would have..."

Bailey's head shot up, and he pointed at Alex. "What if they had said no, and it had ruined your career? Not to mention the fact that you didn't tell me, and we could have been torn apart by them. I wouldn't have had any warning, and might have broken it off, right there!" Bailey glared at him. "You could have, at least, been honest with me, and trusted me enough to fight against them with you! No. You don't even think about that...what if they had transferred one of us? They do have the power to do that, and we wouldn't have much to say about it. I would probably have been the one to go, and I might have just quit. Do you see what this could have done?"

Alex was quiet for a while, surprised by Bailey's outburst, but knowing it was the truth. He should have talked to him before, regardless of the consequences. "Look, baby...I'm sorry I didn't tell you, and wasn't honest with you. I really should have told you. I was just afraid that it would rip us apart in the time of not knowing what they would say...I know it was killing me, and I didn't want to subject you to that."

Bailey frowned. "Well, sometimes you have to risk subjecting me to stuff. I'm not fragile, you know," he was quiet for a moment, then continued. "We're okay, though. You'll be honest with me from now on, right?"

Alex nodded. "Yeah, I will, no matter what anyone else says."

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"Good," Bailey smiled softly. "I'm sorry for yelling at you," he paused again. "I think we should get out of here for a little while. I haven't seen my sisters in about six months, and you haven't met them, either. What do you think about going?"

"Today? Sounds good," Alex smiled at him, pulling him close.

\*\*\*\*\*

The two of them left that afternoon, using Bailey's powers, instead of the bike. They visited for a while, and Bailey's oldest sister asked Alex a lot of questions while Bailey was not around. She wanted to make sure he was a good guy, and Alex understood that. The four of them hung out at the house for a while, then went out to eat.

They stayed until that evening, when Alex got a call from the captain. He wanted to run the plan by everyone again, so everyone knew what they were supposed to do the next day when they would apprehend the vampires. It was not going to be an easy task, and he wanted to make sure they were ready for it.

## Chapter 13

The next morning, the captain called another meeting for all the S.T.A.R. teams. The leader of team B attended, though he understood that he would not be going with them. He was still healing from the bite, and he had not regained his powers completely. He had asked if he could attend, so he knew what was going on.

The chief waited until everyone was seated, then began.

"Ladies and gentlemen, headquarters has decided that you will not go in tonight, but this afternoon. That will give you an advantage, in case something should go wrong. We will send Agents Daken and Lewis in first, since they have the powers and knowledge to deal with this. If they should come in contact with a vampire, they are to try and draw it out of the warehouse. If the vampires come out, they will turn to ash. That is why we are going in during the day," he looked over the crowd, noticing that Alex did not look pleased with the plan. He also knew that the leader would not question him, and liked that. "One obstacle Agent Daken brought to my attention is that there are two types of vampires: Old World and New World. The first is the one we are dealing with, that can be killed by stakes, silver, holy water, the sun, and so on. The second type is the type we do not see very often. They look exactly like us, and can retract their fangs. The only things that can kill them are holy water in strong amounts, spells, and silver bullets. It is almost impossible to detect them, since humans cannot sense vampires. They do not hunt as openly as their counter parts, and when they do, it will still be at night. They are more like criminals with fangs, than super natural creatures. Does anyone have any questions?"

"Yeah, Chief," Alex still looked pissed off. "If these vampires are so dangerous, why are we sending in our fastest man? These blood suckers are fast, too. They could catch even Bailey, most likely," he squeezed his boyfriend's hand. "I do not feel safe sending him in, when there is a chance he could be caught by these demons."

The chief sighed deeply, looking at Alex. This is exactly what the department was afraid of, when they did not want you to stay with Agent Lewis. He becomes a liability to you, and that is not something we should be able to afford. It leaves your team blind. He stepped out, and Alex saw Deana glance at him. He frowned, knowing the chief had channeled her power to speak with him. He had the power to manipulate other people's powers, but did not have telepathy, himself. Alex had never been comfortable with that power, especially since the chief had not given him any time to argue.

"Sir, Agent Mathias does have a point," Jorden smiled. "I do not need Bai...Agent Lewis, to go with me. I can scope out the place, myself."

The chief shook his head. "Thank you for the concern, Agent Daken, but it would be better to send you both in. That way you can rely on each other's instincts and powers, while you are looking around."

Will chuckled softly to Alex and Bailey. "Okay, so we can rely on his cat instincts...right. He is a born hunter, and will probably go for the kill immediately."

Alex frowned at him, noticing that Bailey's hand had tensed in his. "Will, don't say that. If he did that, it would put Bailey at risk, and blow our plan. He had better not even go there."

"Dude, I was joking," Will grinned at him, glancing at Jorden. He knew the blond man had heard him, but did not care.



## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"Well, Agents, there is the plan. You will leave as soon as everyone is ready. The vampires should be in their warehouse, sleeping, so we have the element of surprise on our sides," he smiled at them all. "Be careful, and good luck. Dismissed."

Alex shook his head, standing up and pulling Bailey with him. He did not like this plan, but knew he did not have a choice. Glancing at Jorden, he walked out. They needed to get their equipment ready.

\*\*\*\*\*

An hour later, they were in the truck, headed to one of the agent's homes. That would be where they would leave the vehicles, since it was close to the warehouse. They would be walking from there.

Jorden caught up with Alex and Bailey. "Agent Lewis, may I have a quick word with our leader?" He smiled at Bailey, who nodded and dropped back to walk beside Will.

Alex watched him leave, then rolled his eyes over to Jorden. "What do you want?" He asked the question in a flat tone, showing that he was not interested.

"I just wanted to reassure you that Bailey will not be hurt or jeopardized on this mission. He can take care of himself, and I will not be overprotective," he smiled. "I will be there, if he needs me, though."

Alex snorted. "I'm sure you will. You have been trying to steal him from me from the moment you laid eyes on him," he stopped, motioning for Will to take the others around him. Once they had, he turned to Jorden. "Look, the only reason I don't like you is because you seem to like Bailey one moment, then you are insulting him the next. It's not even a matter of you stealing him from me. If he left me for you, that would be his loss. I am not going to force him to stay with me, and I would value him as a friend and a teammate," he offered Jorden a bitter smile. "There is also the fact that you were trying to steal Deana, also. That tells me that you are a player, and would throw Bailey away when you were through with him. I will not tolerate that, since he has been used enough. If you hurt him, I will kill you myself. Do you understand me?"

Jorden smiled. "Of course, but you just gave me your permission to try and take him. Believe me, I was just playing with Deana, but never Bailey. I want him, and will not throw him away, once I get him. I guess that means the chase is on, dear leader."

Alex sighed. "Whatever. Like I said, he's free to do what he wants." He walked ahead of Jorden, catching up with Will to speak with him about the mission.

\*\*\*\*\*

When they got to the warehouse, Jorden turned to Bailey. "Do you think you are ready for this?"

Bailey took a deep breath, then nodded. "I'm about as ready as I'll ever be. We are just scoping the place out, right?"

Jorden nodded. "Yeah, to see what they are up to. They should not be able to detect us, with the rock salt on our jackets. They might hear us, but they won't know where the noise is coming from," he smiled at Bailey, his green eyes shining. The pupils were wide slits, and Bailey found himself captivated by them. "Let's go, then."

"Yeah," Bailey grinned. "Hang on a sec," he said, turning to Alex and kissing him deeply. "See ya. I love you, and be careful out here."

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

Alex nodded, caressing his face lightly. "You, too. I love you." He kissed Bailey on the forehead. "See you later."

Bailey rejoined Jorden, who had been watching them with a neutral expression on his face. The two of them approached the warehouse, walking carefully and quietly. Sneaking around to the back, Jorden poured rock salt on the threshold of the door. That way, they could get out, but the vampires could not follow them. That was assuming there were not any Old World vampires in the warehouse.

Once they entered, they noticed that the entire place was quiet. Jorden stayed in front of Bailey, walking with his gun drawn. He knew that on this mission, they were not planning on taking any prisoners.

Checking every room, they noticed that the warehouse was empty. That most likely meant that the vampires knew someone would be coming, and had split. Now, they would have to track them down.

\*\*\*\*\*

While they were inside, Alex got a call from the captain. Answering it, he heard worry in the older man's voice.

"Alex, the test results from Agent Benson's blood tests came back," the captain paused. "He had been bitten by an Old World vampire, and most likely turned," he sighed. "He would have healed from the bite, and the marks are gone. I'm sorry we didn't see this sooner, and you guys need to get back here now. He knows our plan, so we need to come up with a new one."

"Shit..." Alex sighed. "Sir, is he still there?"

"No, he left as soon as you guys did," he cursed softly. "This is something we should have seen coming."

"Well, we didn't. We can handle this, sir," Alex said goodbye, then hung up. Picking up his radio, he spoke to Bailey and Jorden. "Be careful, guys. Agent Benson is one of them now."

## Chapter 14

Bailey glanced at Jorden, who was scooping the rock salt into a bag.

"Why are you doing that?" Bailey found it strange that he would be picking it up, after they had just laid it down.

Jorden glanced at him. "If Benson sees this, he'll know we were here, and he may be able to track how long we have been gone. I don't think the New World vampires have the power to do it, but the Old World do. They are stronger and faster. Some have telepathy, and if Benson is a mutant, he will have powers that will make him even more difficult," he glanced around to make sure he had not missed any salt, then stood up.

Bailey smiled at him. "We should be getting back, so we can talk this over with the captain."

Jorden sighed. "Yeah, we should."

\*\*\*\*\*

No one spoke as they all walked to the vehicles. Heading back to the base, they all parked and went to the lounge. The chief and captain were already there, and they waited until the agents were all comfortable.

Bailey had snuggled up against Alex on the love seat, tired from the stressful day. Jorden glanced at them, then settled down on one of the futons in the corner.

The captain looked at all of them, smiling sadly. "As I am sure you all found out from Alex, Agent Benson was turned into an Old World vampire. We are not quite sure how the bite on his neck healed so quickly that we did not see it, but it did. I am truly sorry I was not more careful with keeping him completely protected, and will not take the same chance with you guys."

"Sir, what are we going to do about team B now?" Mike asked, holding Deana tightly against him. "They are now one man short, and need another member. Is headquarters going to pull someone from the academy, or will they bring in a transfer?"

The captain shook his head. "I really don't know," he looked at the leader of team B, who seemed to be blaming himself for it. "We can all discuss this later, but for now, we will do as before and mix the teams. Numbers are our best defense, right now," he turned to the rest of the group. "Since Agent Benson was turned, then injected with Bailey's blood, he will be much faster than the normal vampire, and he will still have his power of intangibility. He will still remember you, but may not be able to bring himself back to his human senses. He is a dangerous creature now, and not your teammate, so do not take him lightly," he glanced at the leader of team B again. "Are we clear?"

The leader swallowed hard, then nodded. "Yes, sir. I understand, and will make sure my team complies." He was speaking softly, and Bailey felt sorry for him. He also felt bad for adding the extra speed to the vampire. He had only done it to help the agent, and everyone knew that.

The same weapons expert they had seen before stepped up to the podium, wearing a suit that covered his entire body, except for his head and fingers. He was also carrying a helmet. Smiling at the agents, he cleared his throat.

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"This will be the uniform you will all be assigned. It is thin and light, but has the strength to protect against vampires," he unzipped it down to the chest. The inside had a type of netting over it, under the nylon material. "The netting you see here is a form of chain mail, and will protect against vampire bites," he grinned. "Add rock salt to that, and you have a powerful uniform. They were designed with mutants in mind, and that is why your fingers will be free. You will wear your regular boots, so you don't need to worry about breaking in any new ones. The suits have been effective, and are fairly comfortable to wear."

The chief joined him on the podium. "Agents, this is a very serious case, as I am sure you are already aware. You are expected to go against our former policy, and shoot to kill. The department will not come down on you, since these are not humans we are dealing with. I would like all of you to use your best judgement and work together. We need to get this done, and discord will not be tolerated," he glanced at Jorden, then Alex. "Now, get out there, and do your best. Be careful, and pull back if things get out of hand. Good luck, agents."

\*\*\*\*\*

As soon as the chief, captain and weapons expert left, they all began exchanging ideas.

"Well, we could let Jorden lead us on this, since he has the most experience with vampires," the leader of team B seemed to be more stressed out than the rest of the members, since they would be after a vampire that had been one of his men. "I mean, he has given us good pointers, so far, and if he will be willing to take charge, we can get this taken care of."

Alex shook his head. "Well, he isn't a leader. Maybe we can take guidance from him, but we will be leading this. "

The other leader rolled his eyes. "I didn't mean for him to completely control the situation, and we listen to everything he says. It's just that he knows a lot about vampires, and how to handle them. It just might be a good idea to follow his ideas."

Jorden shifted uncomfortably. He did not like it that the others were speaking about him like he was not there.

Will smiled. "I think we just need to figure out something, before they do. We need to come up with a plan."

Bailey took a deep breath. "Guys, I know the captain had mentioned something about using me to catch the vampires. Well, if Benson does have the speed of one of them, I think I should try to catch him. I think there may still be hope for him. If he hasn't made a kill and tasted human blood, it's possible that we could turn him back," he smiled at Benson's leader. "It might be worth a try."

Jorden was watching him carefully as he spoke. "I don't know where you got that information, but it's correct. The only problem with turning him back is that he may not come back the same, and he may not be good as an agent, after that."

The leader shook his head. "It would be worth a try, even if he isn't the same..." he seemed to space out for a moment. "We have to try, but if not...we will have to take him out."

Bailey was watching him as he spoke, and he thought he may have seen something beyond general concern in the man's eyes. That made him want this to work. He glanced at Alex, smiling. "I think we should track them down, and try the same strategy we had at that warehouse. We have the powers and equipment to take them out, and, like Will said, we need to hurry."

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

Alex smiled at him. "Yeah, we do. I think it could be a good idea to go in, but there should be more of us, now that we know what we're up against. Old World vampires are sure to be there, since they would not let Benson out of their sight. I think we should storm them, once we find them," he turned to Jordan. "Do you think you can track them? I know we can't sense them, but you might be able to, since you are not entirely human."

Jordan looked surprised that Alex had spoken to him. "Yes, I can. That is how I was able to catch the other two."

Mike nodded. "Well, are we set, then? We can have Jordan lead us to them, then he can speak to Deana to let us know where they are in the building," his girlfriend shot him a glare, at that. "After that, we can storm them, but try to catch Benson."

"Sounds good," Alex sighed, hugging Bailey against him before letting the other man up. Bailey squeezed his hand as he stood up, smiling softly.

When the others had cleared the room, Bailey turned to Alex. "You know I trust you, right, liebe?" He used the German word for love, something he had taken to calling Alex, recently. "Everything I said in that outburst the other day was stress and anger speaking. "I didn't mean that I can't trust you. Ich liebe dich." He smiled at Alex, kissing him softly.

Alex grinned at him, caressing his face, lightly. "I know you do. Now, let's go kick some vampire ass, and rescue Benson."

\*\*\*\*Ich Liebe Dich means 'I love you' in German\*\*\*\*

## Chapter 15

They all left the station, having decided to find and take out the vampires, for good. It meant they would be killing at least some of the dark creatures, but it was better than letting them run loose.

The agents were all tired, but knew this was their only chance to try and save Agent Randy Benson. The vampires would already know they were being tracked and would try to get Benson to make a kill before they got caught. That way, he would be one of them, and there would be no turning back. He would not have the conscience he had now, where he could decide not to kill. The agents were all hoping he still had that mind set.

Jorden led them downtown, where there was not as much traffic, and it was quieter. They parked the vehicles, deciding they were close enough to go on foot.

While they were walking, Alex turned to Jorden, reluctantly. "So, what's the deal with your powers and the vampires? How can you track them?"

He wanted to shoot himself for being curious, but was tired of being surprised by the other man.

Jorden offered a small smile. "Well, with not being completely human, my blood is poison to them. Since I have mixed genetics," he glanced at Bailey and Will, who were listening, also. "Seventy percent human, and the other thirty feline, it would be too much. It's kind of like mixing two blood types and using it for a transfusion."

"How is it possible to mix human and animal, then?" Bailey asked, now very curious. "Obviously it was okay, in your case."

Jorden glanced at him. "That was because the human blood had the right aptitude. It had to be that way from both donors."

Bailey smiled quietly, finding it sad that Jorden would be calling his parents 'donors,' though that was exactly what they were.

Alex looked over at the leader of team B, then Jorden. "How long do we have until we get there?"

"About fifteen minutes," Jorden answered quietly.

"Okay," Alex said, dropping back to speak with the other leader. "Hi, Kyle. May I speak with you for a moment?" He used the agent's first name, since this would be a personal conversation.

Kyle shrugged. "Sure." He still looked stressed out, and had been staying away from the other agents.

Alex sighed. "I know this is very stressful on you, since he's one of your men. On top of that, I know you were hiding the relationship you have with him." When Kyle tried to interrupt, Alex raised his hand, smiling. "I have known both of you for a long time, and it's obvious to me that you and Randy are together...I know how difficult that can be. I just wanted to let you know that we are going to do everything we can to save him. That's why we're going tonight, and not in the morning."

Kyle smiled at him. "I know you guys are trying to help, and I appreciate that."

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"Sure," Alex flashed a grin at him. "I just wanted to make sure you understood that we weren't going to just go in killing. We may need to tranquilize him, though."

Kyle nodded. "I know. Thanks."

"Of course," Alex looked at his gun, making sure everything was in order. He also checked his tranquilizer, seeing it was completely loaded. "Well, I had better get back up there with the kitty, before he decides my boyfriend is up for grabs."

Kyle grinned at him. "Yeah, no kidding."

They walked for about two more blocks, then Jordan stopped. He glanced at the others. "We're almost there. If we go any further, they will be able to hear us, so I would suggest everyone getting ready for a fight."

Bailey grimaced, cocking his gun. "Alright, let's do this."

## Chapter 16

Alex glanced at the others, then tossed a device that would begin ringing when it hit the ground. The vampires were immediately alerted, and began coming their way. Many of them dropped to the ground from the noise, so the agents started shooting at them.

Alex located one of the old world vampires, coming out of a shed. The creature was not focused on him, therefore not having time to react when he shot it in the neck with a silver bullet. He was not going to waste tranquilizers on monsters that had not good in them. The vampire screamed, falling to its knees, then turning to dust. When this happened, several of the new world vampires stopped, turning to the pile of dust. Alex nodded, now knowing it had been the only one of its kind out in the open.

When the vampires had stopped, the agents did, also. Kyle glanced around, but frowned when he did not see Randy anywhere.

"What do you want? Our new arrival is with the masters, and has most likely already made a kill," one of the vampires grinned at them, and Kyle began to lunge at him. Bailey was beside him in an instant, holding him back. The speedster glared at the vampire, but noticed it had not moved when Kyle had attacked.

Alex frowned, unsure of what to say. He did not know how to reason with a vampire. Jorden saw this and took over.

"Listen, do you know what I am?" He surprised the vampire with a grin.

The creature shifted uncomfortably, then nodded. "I do," he answered quietly.

"You are not approaching the masters, nasty creature," one of the other vampires interrupted in a deep voice. "Your kind should not be in existence, and you may not visit them."

Jorden laughed. "Did you not see one of our agents kill one of your masters a few fucking minutes ago? He dropped just like the rest of you did. They aren't so special."

One of the vampires hissed, jumping at Jorden. The vampire that had been speaking first stopped him with a shove sideways.

"This is not a time for violence, Rynce. Let the vile thing finish." Turning to the agents, he glared. "You may come with us, but keep the cat's claws in."

Alex almost laughed at the comment, but restrained himself. "Fair enough. You will lead us in, then."

"Certainly," the vampire glared at Jorden, then stalked off. The agents were then surrounded by several of the night creatures as they were led into the compound.



## Chapter 17

The inside of the compound was dark, with only a few lamps lit. They followed the vampires down a long hall, which had lanterns hanging on the walls. The agents all stayed alert, ready for anything.

When they were further down the hall, Alex pulled Jordan over to him.

The other man smiled slightly at him. "I didn't realize that the reason you wanted me to stay away from Bailey was because you are attracted to me." He grinned at Alex quickly, then became serious from the stern look he received.

"I hope you have a plan, genius. Thanks to you, we can't just take the vampires out and rescue Benson. Now, we'll have to fight them off, as well," Alex glared at him.

Jordan smiled again, this time subdued. "Alex, you don't understand how vampires work. Normal humans cannot reason with them, as they would rather just kill you or turn you. However, they will listen to me, because if they don't, I could destroy them. Vampires don't like hybrid types, so they will cooperate with me. If they don't, I have a plan."

"How could you destroy them?" Alex was very confused, now. "What's so special about you that they hate you?" he shrugged. "Other than the obvious."

"Remember what I said when we were on our way over, about my mixed blood being poison to them? Well, I wasn't joking," Jordan glanced at the other agents, who had moved closer to be able to listen. "I can't tell you much right now, since they have very good hearing, but it's true. Just trust me. I will get us all out of here alive."

Alex nodded. "You had better, or I will kill you once we get home."

"I know you would. Don't worry, though," Jordan glanced at the vampires, noticing they had turned a corner. "It's almost time, so be ready. We can't use our powers, but stay alert."

"We can't use anything against them, as mutants, but can you?" Bailey asked, smiling at Jordan. "I mean, you aren't a mutant."

"You are correct that I can attack them, but I don't have powers. I have all the tendencies of a cat, but nothing more," Jordan glanced at Bailey.

"I have a question that is more to the point," Kyle said, sounding tense. "Where would they be keeping Randy?"

Jordan smiled at him gently. "I'm not sure. He's probably still here, somewhere. From what they were saying, he probably hasn't been completely turned, so there is a good chance that he will remember us. At the very least, he should remember you."

Kyle nodded. "I hope so."

"They are turning to us, so we should be quiet," Jordan glared at the vampire approaching them, and it tried to return the glare uncomfortably.

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"What do you want?" Jordan did not care that he was being rude to the creature.

"We are at the chambers of the masters. Be ready to defend your friend, if you think you have a chance," the vampire sounded like it was taunting Jordan.

"We do, though I'm not so sure about you," Jordan glared at the vampire again.

"Come this way," the vampire moved to let them go in front of it, and Jordan knocked it with his shoulder as he was passing.

When they walked into the other room, they saw several vampires standing around, with one sitting in a large chair. The one sitting down stood up, smiling at them. Bailey shivered when he realized the cup of blood in the vampire's hand.

"Welcome to my domain," the vampire took a sip of his blood. "I believe there were some matters you wished to discuss with us, dear hybrid," the master looked straight at Jordan, his eyes shining a bright blue. "Please, have a seat, and we can discuss this matter."

Jordan took a seat carefully, motioning to the others to do the same. "Yes, we do. I believe you have one of ours."

## Chapter 18

Once they were all seated, the vampire smiled at them. He seemed to be ignoring everyone, except Jorden. He also did not show the fear that the other vampires had.

Smiling at Jorden, he took another sip of his blood. "This particular human tastes quite delicious. He was a politician, and I am certain that no one will miss him very much." He licked his lips, smiling again. "I believe there was something you wanted to discuss with me. It had to do with our new recruit, did it not?"

"It does, because you will let him go," Kyle glared at the creature. "I won't let you have him."

The vampire shrugged. "Well, I do have to admit that he did not taste very good. Mutants never do. I think it has to do with the mixed blood."

"Well, I must disagree with you," Kyle pulled out his knife, but found that he could only lift his hand a few inches. Glancing at the vampire, he dropped the knife. "What did you do to him? If you have touched him, I willâ€"!"

"Sir, please let me handle this," Jorden smiled at him, then turned to the vampire with a neutral expression on his face. "Master vampire," he addressed the creature respectfully. "First of all, what are your conditions? I know the regular humans can't reason with you, but I can."

The vampire sighed, setting his empty cup aside. "There is not much to discuss here, but you insist there is. I will give you the opportunity to leave peacefully, or none of you will be leaving, at all." He glanced at Alex. "I hate humans, but must congratulate you on your kill. He was old blood. I can see why you are a leader," he turned back to Jorden when he did not get a response from Alex. The leader of team C only stared at him, which took away the satisfaction of the moment. "Those are my conditions, little hybrid. There is nothing you can do about it, since you chose not to carry any weapons in were that can kill me."

Jorden smiled when he noticed the room was filling with vampires. That made the other agents nervous, but he was glad. "Master vampire, do you understand anything about physics? Probably not, huh? Well, in the laws of physics, if you take one poison and mix it with another, it will most likely emit a gas that will be deadly to most creatures, right?"

The vampire looked confused, but nodded, anyway. "Okay, it seems that it would. What does this have to do with the situation?"

Jorden smiled at the other agents, who seemed confused, also. They didn't know where he was going with this, but were willing to let him finish.

"I hope he knows what he's doing," Bailey seemed to be more nervous than the others, and was completely on edge. Alex pulled the other man against him, trying to reassure him.

"Physics has a lot to do with this," Jorden continued. He reached into a pocket inside his jacket, taking out a vial. It had blood in it, but was coated with a white powder. The master vampires all seemed to tense up when they saw it, but he was not worried. "Do you know what this is?"

The master still appeared to be nervous. "Yes, I do. That's a nice touch, adding the rock salt and silver to the glass."

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

One of the vampires moved over to Alex and Bailey, shoving the leader aside. Before any of the agents could react, he had Bailey against him, holding him tightly. When Alex started to move toward him, Jorden placed his free hand on the leader's arm. "It'll be okay. I said to trust me, didn't I?" He glanced at the vampire who was holding Bailey. "You really don't know how to pick your meals, do you? He's not only a mutant, but he's also a speedster. If you drain him, his blood will be too fast for your system, and you'll burn out like a bad fuse."

"That's true," the master smiled at him. "I agree that he would be that comfortable for my lower vampires to drink, but it would be entertaining. That blood in the vial, on the other hand, is not. I would suggest you put it away, or we will kill all of your friends here. It was a nasty trick to bring it in here, and I do not tolerate tricks."

"Let Bailey go, or I will kill the nasty thing holding him, then you," Alex glared at the master.

"Agent Mathias, please let me handle this," Jorden smiled at him, then glared at the vampire master. "Did you just completely pass over the fact that I have this blood in my hand?"

The master glared back at him. "No, I did not. That is why I took matters into my own hands," he glanced at the vampire who was holding Bailey. The agent had become still against him, unsure and frozen in fear. "Kill it. It means nothing to me, and the hybrid is not listening."

## Chapter 19

Jorden looked nervous for the first time since they had walked in, since he knew the master vampire would not care if one of the lower vampires died a very painful, slow death. He had suspected that the master would react in that manner, but had not been prepared for it to choose Bailey. He was determined to make this work, especially since the vampires had just raised the stakes.

"I think you have forgotten that I have the high card, here," Jorden fingered the vial, studying it, while also keeping an eye on the vampire that was holding Bailey. "If I drop this vial, this entire place will fill with gas. It will not effect us, as humans, but youâ I'm not so sure." He was careful to not let the vampires, or Alex, for that matter, see how shaken he really was. This was where the situation could go in their favor, or completely into the vampire's. If the creature killed Bailey, it would die, either from the blood or Alex's hand. If that happened, the agents would fight, and most likely lose.

The master glanced at Bailey, ignoring Jorden and clearly pissed off. "Young speedster, what do you think of this situation? It seems they have two agents on jeopardy, and you are one of them."

Bailey glared at him, but was unable to hide the panic on his face. "Iâ I think your friend here can rot in hell, after he drinks my blood. We are not leaving, and I would suggest listening to Jorden."

The master frowned, unsatisfied by the response. He turned away from Bailey, glaring back at Jorden. "Your friend has balls, especially since he is one of the victims, now. So, what were you saying earlier about blood and poison?"

Jorden glanced at Alex, who was unsure of what to do. "I think you will bring Agent Benson in here, and trade he and Bailey for all of your lives. You will leave, and never come back to New York."

The master regarded him carefully. "How do I know you will keep your word, and not drop it, anyway?"

Jorden glanced at Bailey, then the vampire. "I always keep my word. If I intend to do something, I stick to it."

The master glanced at the vial again, then nodded. "Fine, but you understand why we had to play dirty. Payback's a bitch."

Jorden shrugged. "Sure, it is. Now, you will complete our deal, and hand over Benson. We will leave with him and the vial, and you will not stay in New York. If you stay, I will drop this vial after you leave here, and that will be the end of all the vampires here."

"Fine, you win," the master motioned to one of the vampires. "Bring in the prisoner. We'll see how happy he is to see his friends," he turned to the agents. "After you have been bitten, you do not view things the same. He may still be human, but his mind set has changed." He looked at Kyle, who looked unsure now.

The vampires brought Agent Benson in, and shoved him over to the others. Kyle caught the wild-eyed agent, stabbing him with a needle. When Randy began to fall, Kyle picked him up. He was staying alert, just in case the infected agent decided to attack him.

"As promised, we will leave, but you must destroy that vial without smashing it," the vampire glared at Jorden. "Leave now, before I change my mind."

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"You don't have to tell us twice, but you had better let go of Bailey," Alex glared at the vampire. "We held up our end."

"Oh, sure," the master glanced at the other vampire, who pushed Bailey toward them. Alex caught him, pulling him close again. He noticed that his lover was very tightly wound with nervous energy.

"Let's leave, before they do change their evil minds," Mike glared at the master, spitting on the floor at his feet.

The vampires all escorted them out, gathering their things as they went. The master glanced at Jorden, who was still holding the vial, then disappeared in the night.

The all walked back to the vehicles quietly. There was not much to say.

## Chapter 20

Once they got back to the base, Alex turned to Jorden. "Thanks. I guess I haven't given you enough credit. You really do know how to deal with vampires."

"I know. That's what I have been telling you this entire time," Jorden smiled at them, but avoided looking at Bailey.

Alex turned to Kyle. "I would suggest getting him to the lab as soon as possible. They should still have some of Bailey's blood, so the poison can be flushed out thoroughly now," he smiled. "You need to be prepared to deal with the situation, in case he isn't himself."

Kyle nodded, smiling sadly down at the man in his arms. "I know. Thank you all for doing this. I know it was risky."

"It was worth it," Bailey voiced the opinions of all the other agents. Alex pulled him close, kissing his hair. He was just glad the speedster had not been sacrificed. If he had, he would not have been thanking Jorden, but rather, killing him.

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That night, they all slept well, having worked well over their scheduled times. The next morning, there was a meeting called, where the agents were all thanked for their service. After the others were dismissed, the captain held the leaders back, to speak with them separately.

Once the agents had left the room, Bailey turned to Jorden. "May I have a word with you?" He glanced at the others. "Alone."

"Certainly," Jorden smiled. He had not been alone with the speedster since the night in the tree. "My place or yours?"

Bailey grinned at the joke. "The courtyard, if that's okay."

"Sure," Jorden pulled his jacket on, watching the other man do to same.

They headed out to the courtyard quietly, walking along the paths. When they were passing one of the trees, Bailey stopped, pulling him down to the grass. When they were both sitting, he turned to Jorden.

"That really was an amazing thing you did for Agent Benson. He would not have left there alive, not to mention, the rest of us," he smiled at Jorden. "I know Alex isn't too fond of you, but maybe he can change his opinion. I know I have," he suddenly looked nervous. "I know I'm not supposed to do this, but I think you deserve it."

Before Jorden could react, Bailey had pushed him to the ground, capturing his lips with his own. Jorden scooted down, so their erections were rubbing against each other. Bailey noticed that Jorden's tongue was slightly rough, like a cat's, and it made him all the more horny. Thrusting his cock against the other man's, he set up a pace, which Jorden followed smoothly. They kissed and thrust against each other, until Jorden arched against him, crying out as he released at the same time as Bailey. The taller man rolled off of him, laying beside him as they both tried to catch their breath.

## S.T.A.R #2: Vampires

"This doesn't change anything," Bailey smiled at him. "That was just a thank you."

"I know," Jordan spoke quietly. "I know how you feel about Alex, but maybe someday, you will change your mind."

Bailey sat up. "I doubt it, Jordan. We should get back inside, before they start to wonder where we went."

"I agree," Jordan kissed him lightly. "I won't give up, though."

"I know," Bailey grinned at him.

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Neither one of them noticed the man walking away from the fence quietly, after taking several photos. He swore as he walked around the building.

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The next day, the results came back from Agent Benson's blood tests. There was not any sign of a taint in him, but the doctors were still keeping him separate. He did not have any idea about what had happened, which was what they had been hoping for.

The agents were given a few days off, since they had been through quite an ordeal. They were all very happy about it.

The End



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