

# The Clash of Light and Darkness

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Submitted: March 13, 2005

Updated: March 13, 2005

*A story of a young Vampire encountering a human that he befriends. She is held special to him after his brother rejecting him almost entirely, and she somehow finds it in her own soul to accept the mysterious boy whom has roamed and haunted her villa*

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<b>Chapter 2 - Who Are You?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 3 - Vampires and Apples Don't Mix</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chapter 4 - A School Dane and A Loving Brother</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Chapter 5 - Here's Kono</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Chapter 6 - It's A Pony!</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Chapter 7 - Dancing 'Til the Sun Comes Up</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Chapter 8 - Why We Don't Pet Vampires</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Chapter 9 - No One Deserves This</b>	<b>29</b>

## 2 - Who Are You?

### Chapter Two (Who are you?)

Kianna awoke with the sun as she had for the last fifteen years of her life. She stretched, popping her back and sat up wearily. She stood up shakily, quite pleased that she could put weight on her ankle again. She walked to a closet and slipped into a magenta kimono before tying her hair back in a loose braid that went to the middle of her back. Kianna looked at herself in the mirror and smiled. "I suppose that is the best that I can do for now." She walked out into the main room of her house where her mother was baking a pie from the berries that Kianna had picked the other day. "Mother when will that pie be ready?" Kianna's mother smiled. "Well it is ready now, but I want to let it cool off first." Kianna nodded. "When it cools off may I take a piece to one of my friends?" Her mother nodded. "Yes dear. Who is your friend?"

Kianna smiled. "Um, just a boy that I met yesterday..." Kianna's mother smiled kindly. "Ah, well alright dear." Kianna ran her fingers through her hair as she waited for the pie to cool. Finally her mother took a slice of pie and put it on a plate, then covered it with plastic wrap. Kianna picked up the plate and smiled. "Thank you mother." She nodded. "It is not a problem." Kianna walked to the door. "I will be back before dark." She walked out of the door quickly, hoping to get to the shade of the trees before the sun rose too high. Kianna was hoping that she might run into the vampire that she had seen yesterday. After all, he did save her from dying by that snakebite. She walked up the mountain as she usually did, then took the path that she had taken yesterday. When she got into the clearing she didn't see the vampire, but she decided that it may have been best to wait a while.

She sat down, putting her feet into the water as she stared up at the warm colored sky. Kianna looked into the water and traced her fingers along the surface, barely even making a ripple. "Wow. What a place." Kianna ran her fingers through her hair. "I need to wash my hair before I go insane." Kianna pulled up her kimono and slid into the water, trying not to get her kimono wet. She walked along the edge, where it was most shallow over to the waterfall. She put one hand under the water and smiled. "Good. Nice and cool." Kianna slipped her head underneath the water and let it rush over her black hair. Finally she gave up and just tossed her kimono onto the shore. "Oh well he obviously isn't here so no one will see me anyway..." Kianna slipped her entire body into the water and sighed with relief at the feel of getting cleaner.

After a few minutes of just relaxing, she saw that there was a large, smooth stone underneath the waterfall. She slid onto the stone and after adjusting to the pressure of the water on her body, she laid down, leaving her head out of the water so she could watch the clouds. "Ah, what a relief to be able to relax after being in my hell house for all that time." Kianna closed her eyes and rested for quite a while nearly falling asleep underneath the rushing water. Kianna felt a strange presence as she opened her eyes and saw the vampire that she had met yesterday, standing in front of the waterfall, on top of the water, staring at her with raised eyebrows. "Well, well. I am surprised that you returned." Kianna

shrieked and covered herself. “Y-Yeah I did...” The boy tilted his head to the side. “Do you always venture into waterfalls in the nude?”

Kianna shook her head and blushed terribly. “No, I didn't think anyone was watching. Could you please hand me my kimono?” The boy nodded and picked up the magenta kimono as he looked at it. “Well I wasn't watching you. I was asleep in a tree, but when I woke up there was a beautiful human just laying under the waterfall so I observed you for a few minutes.” He handed Kianna her kimono and she blushed. “Would you mind turning around?” The boy nodded and turned his back to her as she slid onto the land and changed into her kimono quickly. She wrung out her hair before tossing it over her shoulder and trying to calm her bright red cheeks. “Okay. Thank you.” The boy turned back around and bowed. “No problem.”

Kianna extended her hand. “My name is Kianna. I am sorry that I never properly introduced myself.” The boy took her hand and kissed it, which made Kianna shiver knowing that behind his soft, thin lips there were two long fangs. “Ah, and my name is Akaru, but you may call me Karu.” Kianna blinked. “Akaru? As in Akaru Maiako?” Karu nodded. “Yes that is me.” Kianna gasped. “So it's true, the rulers of the village are demons.” Karu shook his head. “No, only my father is. My mother is the goddess of vampry.” Kianna blinked. “Amazing. I suppose that is why all of the girls in the village are so attracted to you and Konoyukai. They say that you two are devastatingly handsome.”

Karu smiled. “Do you believe them?” Kianna turned crimson. “Well I...um...” Kianna pointed to the slice of pie that was on the ground. “I brought you this as a thank you.” Karu didn't honestly think that was a very good excuse for dodging his question, but then again that pie smelled very good. “Really now?” Karu walked over and sat down by the plate. “Mm, looks delicious.” Kianna nodded slightly and sat down as well. “My mother made it.” Karu sliced into the pie with his claws and ate a piece. “Excellent. Your mother is a great chief. I cook as well. Perhaps you should try my cooking one day.” Kianna nodded. “Yeah, that would be nice...” Karu looked at Kianna and perked a brow. “Is something troubling you?”

Kianna shrugged. “Well... I just always thought that vampires were nothing more than blood thirsty creatures that killed in order to survive... I never imagined that I would meet one as kind and well mannered as you.” Karu smiled. “Well though I do drink blood quite a bit. I have never drank the blood of a human.” Kianna smiled. “Well then I guess I was being rather stereotypical.” Karu nodded. “Yes, but you can't help that you have never met a vampire before.” Kianna smiled softly. “Well you seem nice enough, but you still make me a bit nervous.” Karu watched her carefully. “Why is that?” Kianna blushed. “Your fangs are just kind of threatening, Ya'know?” Karu chuckled and smiled. “Well I can understand that I suppose, but these aren't the form of fangs that I use to take blood.”

Kianna blinked. “Oh?” Karu's fangs suddenly lengthened and became as sharp as razor blades as he smiled. “These are what I use to take blood with.” Kianna's eyes widened as she slowly began moving back. Karu's fangs returned to their usual length as he smiled at Kianna. “You heart... it is beating twenty-seven beats faster than it was before I showed you my fangs.” Kianna met Karu's glance. “You can hear my heart?” Karu nodded. “Certainly. I am a vampire, I like to know how scared I make my victims.” Kianna laughed. “That is a bit strange, but whatever floats your boat I suppose.” Karu's eyes suddenly floated to a necklace that Kianna wore. It was a heart that had a name in it. Kianna saw Karu's hands move to her neck and she shrieked and slapped his hands away.

Karu cringed. "Jesus woman. What was that for?" Kianna shivered. "You were going for my neck!" Karu smirked. "No. If I was going for your neck I would do it like this." Karu's hands went to Kianna's shoulders as he pinned her to the ground and stared into her eyes. "You see. I don't like it when my victims are sitting up, they have too much power." Karu got on top of Kianna, straddling her as he put one hand on her face, turning her head to the side. Kianna felt her blood run cold as she began to tremble. She was so scared that she couldn't move as Karu's leaned down toward her neck. Kianna could feel Karu's breath on her skin as his lips went to her neck. She felt his fangs brush against her skin, and just when she expected to feel him bite, he stopped. Karu's lips went to Kianna's ear and he said. "But as I told you before. I have never bitten a human and I do not wish to start now."

Karu smirked. "I just want to see your necklace." Karu sat up and pulled Kianna up with him. Kianna had to catch her breath as she looked at him. "It's just a necklace that my older brother gave me before he went off to become a warrior in another realm." Kianna held the necklace up and Karu read it aloud. "Gray?" Kianna nodded. "Yeah, that is his name." Karu nodded. "I see. Well next time I will ask before I go for your neck I suppose." Kianna sighed with relief. "I am just glad that you didn't bite me." Karu smiled softly. "You have a beautiful heartbeat..." Kianna blushed. "Thank you I suppose." Karu locked eyes with Kianna. "I could hear the fear in your heart, but mind explaining why your heart skipped a beat when you felt my lips trace across you neck? That is a reaction of pleasure, not fear."

Kianna turned bright red and had to turn away. "Y-You must be mistaken. I was scared." Karu smiled. "Maybe, but apparently your neck is very sensitive. I will have to remember that the next time I try to make a move on you." Kianna pushed Karu over. "Stop that. You are embarrassing me!" Karu sat up and smiled. "Well now that is the point." Kianna sighed as her blush faded. "Jeez, not even human boys hit on me, so don't you start teasing me about such things." Karu raised an eyebrow. "Well why on earth don't the human boys like you?" Kianna pointed to her face. "My eyes. Most people say that I have the blood of some sort of strange creature in me and it scares them. Karu looked at her eyes and smiled. "You have very beautiful eyes and they are right, you aren't a full human." Kianna blinked. "Yes I am."

Karu shook his head. "No. Your blood smells different." Kianna's shoulders dropped. "What does my blood smell like?" Karu thought for a moment then smiled. "It smells as if one of your great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grandmothers fell in love with a fairy and then the rest of your family stuck with humans, but for some reason the fairy blood is affecting you more than most in your blood line." Kianna stared at Karu. "You are serious aren't you? Oh my gods, now how am I supposed to get a boyfriend when most of them hate fairies?" Karu smiled. "Find someone who likes fairies. I know that vampires find them the hard-to-get type, and that is always fun." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Yeah I am gonna be hard to get for *you* maybe Karu shivered sarcastically. "Brrr, that was cold."

Kianna nodded. "Well that is only what you deserve. I am afraid of vampires after all." Karu pouted. "You are afraid of me?" Kianna nodded. "Especially you." Karu smirked. "Then why did you draw a picture of me last night?" Kianna blushed bright red. "How did you know?" Karu smiled. "I can't exactly read minds, but I can get images of what others see." Kianna sighed. "You just look interesting, that's all." "So you find me attractive?" Kianna shook her head. "No. I do not like vampires." Karu smiled at her and said gently. "What if you found a human that looked like me?" Kianna thought that over then smiled. "I would most likely fall madly in love with him and seduce him."

Karu shivered. "Damn. Now I wish that I was a human." Kianna smirked. "But you aren't. Therefore I

am not interested in you." Karu sniffled. "I feel so neglected..." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Big deal." Karu smiled and waved his hand over his eyes, turning them a deep, beautiful blue. Kianna blinked. "What the...?" Suddenly Kianna could no longer see Karu's fangs as he smiled. "There, now I am human." Kianna laughed. "Nice try, but that won't fool anyone." Karu stood up. "You wanna bet?" Kianna blinked. "What are you planning?" Karu smiled. "A little trip down to the village. You find some girls and we will see if I can fool them." Kianna crossed her arms and stood. "And what if they see through your disguise?"

Karu shrugged. "I will do you a favor. Whatever you want. I can scare off annoying boys, make you cookies. Whatever you want." Kianna smiled and nodded. "Sounds good." Kianna headed down the mountain, but Karu grabbed her arm. "Not so fast. If I win, then I want something as well." Kianna blinked. "Name your price." Karu smiled. "You have to sneak out tonight and come back here. There are things that I wish to show you." Kianna shook Karu's hand. "You got yourself a deal." Karu smiled and walked down the mountain with Kianna. "So what do you think you want me to do if you win?" Kianna shrugged. "I don't know yet. Maybe I will have you pick berries for me next time so that I don't get bitten by that snake." Karu smiled. "Well that seems fair I suppose."

Karu and Kianna walked into the village and she led him over to where a few girls were sitting and gossiping as most girls did. "Hey guys I have someone that I want you to meet." The girls looked up. "Who?" Their eyes widened as they saw Karu. "Oh my gods Kianna..."

## 3 - Vampires and Apples Don't Mix

### Chapter Three (Vampires and apples don't mix)

Kianna smirked at Karu. "Hmm, this obviously won't last long." One of the girls grabbed Kianna. "Hunny tell us his name. He is so hot." Kianna blinked. "Say what now?" Karu smiled sweetly. "My name is Karu. I am visiting my old friend Kianna." All of the girls sighed in unison. "That is so thoughtful." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Yeah, but don't you notice anything *strange* about him?" One of the girls laughed. "Yeah, he is so cute that it should be illegal." Kianna could've cried as Karu smiled at her mockingly. "I guess I will be seeing you tonight then." Kianna sighed. "And what if I can't come?" Karu pat her head. "Then I will break into your house and drag your @\$@ out." Kianna sighed as she rolled her eyes. "Fine, fine." She smiled at the girls that were still practically drooling over Karu. "Hey I have to spilt girls."

The girls all waved to Kianna as she walked away, followed quickly by Karu. "Hmm, your friends seem to like me." Kianna nodded. "Yeah, because they aren't very picky." Karu pouted. "You realize that I don't consider you out of reach of my charm either. I actually enjoy a good challenge." Kianna stopped and stared at Karu. "What would you get out of winning me over anyway? My blood?" Karu laughed and met her gaze. "Not at all. I just would enjoy getting my first kiss from a beautiful girl." Kianna turned bright red. "I don't know what you are talking about. You did say beautiful after all." Kianna walked faster down the street and Karu grabbed her arm. "Yes I said beautiful and as I said before. I like fairies."

Kianna turned away. "I am not a fairy I am a human with a fairy ancestor... just get used to it." Kianna walked to her house and looked at Karu. "What time do you want me to go to the mountains?" Karu scratched his head. "Around midnight tonight." Kianna nodded. "Okay, a deal is a deal. I will be there." Karu smiled and bowed. "Mm, I look forward to it." Kianna walked inside and into the kitchen. "Hello Mother I am back." Kianna's mother smiled happily. "Oh good. Do you mind cleaning up the house?" Kianna shook her head. "No I don't mind." Kianna took a broom from a closet and began to clean the house as instructed. Kianna cleaned up the entire house then went to the kitchen to help her mother cook. After she had eaten her dinner it was around eight thirty at night. Kianna returned to her room and laid down on her bed, setting her alarm clock to go off at eleven thirty.

Kianna had no problems getting to sleep and she honestly didn't want to get up at eleven thirty, but she knew that she had to. She stood up wearily and changed into black shorts and a white tank top instead of her kimono. Kianna opened her window silently and slipped out of her house into the empty streets of the village. She ran swiftly through the streets and into the forest in the mountains to avoid being seen. Once she had finally gotten there she was a bit tired so she drank some of the water, cupping her hands to do so. "Well now fancy seeing you here." Kianna looked up at Karu and smiled. "What a lucky run in." Karu walked over to her and smiled. "Sorry that I got you out here so late." Kianna shrugged. "It is not big deal, but what did you want to show me?"

Karu smiled. "Well now, we have to wait a few more minutes before it happens..." Kianna blinked. "Before what happens?" Karu stared up at the crescent moon and then looked over at the waterfall. "Now." Suddenly the water began to glow an eerie silver and singing could be heard as small, multicolored lights began dancing around in the air. Kianna raised a brow. "What the..." A light came closer to Kianna and landed on her hand. It was a small woman that was glowing blue. "Karu is this the one you spoke of?" Karu nodded. "Yes she is." The woman hugged Kianna's finger. "Yes, I can sense that she has our blood in her." Kianna's eyes widened. "You're a... fairy..." The woman nodded. "Yes, yes and so are you." Kianna shook her head. "Do I look like a fairy to you?" The woman smiled and suddenly a beautiful green dress appeared on Kianna and elaborate jewelry covered her body.

"Now you look like one." Kianna felt very strange as the fairy smiled. "You are beautiful." Kianna blushed as she looked at her reflection in the water. Her long ebony hair seemed to be blowing in a breeze that was only affecting her. Though the dress was simple, it hugged her body and made her appear just like a fairy. "I..." Karu smiled. "You see now?" I told you that you were a fairy." Kianna took a deep breath as the fairies seemed to fade away to tend to their own business. "I guess that you were right..." Karu grinned, "Of course I was." Kianna looked at herself and smiled. "So Karu are you turned on now that I am a fairy?" Karu smirked. "Hmm, I really don't know."

Kianna laughed. "You are a liar." Karu shrugged and walked over the water, stretching a bit. "Kianna come here." Kianna laughed. "I can't walk on water." Karu grabbed her and pulled her on top of the water. "It appears that you can. When you come up here your magickal energy is awakened." Kianna walked around a bit absolutely amazed that she was standing on the surface of the water. Karu smiled as he watched her glide over the surface of the water. "You are very graceful..." Kianna shook her head and giggled. "Not in the least Karu..." Karu walked over to Kianna and grabbed her hand. "Follow me." Kianna blinked as Karu led her to the smooth stone that the waterfall splashed upon.

Karu stood up on the stone and pulled Kianna underneath the water with him. "Karu I don't want to get wet. I might catch a cold." Karu laughed as the water pounded down upon them, soaking them both to the bone. "You aren't going to catch a cold." The waterfall suddenly began glowing different colors around them as Kianna blinked. "What is going on?" Karu shrugged. "I don't know. Maybe it is your fairy energy." Kianna shook her head and laughed, "I highly doubt that Karu." Karu looked Kianna straight in the eyes and smiled softly. "Do not doubt the magick of a fairy. It is mysterious as is the magick of a vampire." Kianna crossed her arms and shook her head. "Well Karu I am sure that you have the vampiric magick figured out." Karu shook his head. "No, I have only a small range of understanding about vampiric magick..."

Kianna smiled and blushed slightly as she noticed that Karu was gazing at her with great interest. "What all do you know about your own magick?" Karu thought for a moment and chuckled. "I know that we are blessed with strangely good looks and when we touch someone they find it difficult to move." Kianna touched Karu's arm as if testing this and laughed. "I can still move." Karu wrapped his arms around Kianna's waist and gazed into her eyes. "Not that kind of touching Kianna. This kind." Karu suddenly kissed Kianna and she felt as if she had gone into shock. When Karu finally moved away he smiled. "See? You didn't move."

Kianna clenched her fist. "Well unfortunately for you. Now I can move." Kianna brought her hand up and slapped Karu hard. Karu chuckled as he touched his face. "Ouch, what a feisty lil' fairy." Kianna

rolled her eyes. "Karu I told you that I am not interested in vampires so just leave it." Karu smirked. "But now you will be even more of a prize when I finally win you over." Kianna stuck her tongue out at Karu. "Fat chance." Karu put his hands behind his head and shrugged. "Maybe so, but I still have a chance, yes?" Kianna's eyes seemed to scan Karu quickly. "Maybe a little, tiny, microscopic chance, but don't count on it." Karu chuckled. "Well that is better than nothing I suppose."

Kianna jumped out of the waterfall and Karu followed her. "Did I upset you that much?" Kianna shook her head. "No, I am just tired. I am headed off to catch some sleep." Kianna wrung her hair out then tossed it over her shoulder. "Kianna will you come back tomorrow?" Kianna shrugged. "Perhaps, but most likely I will have to wait a day." Karu nodded. "Alright I suppose..." Kianna looked at Karu for just a moment more before asking. "Karu, what possessed you to try and kiss me?" Karu chuckled. "You just looks so pretty and... your clothes are clinging to your body." Karu winked. "Rawwrr. Sexy lil' thing." Kianna's mouth dropped open. "AKARU MAIAKO I have never been so disgusted in my life!"

Karu smirked. "Really? Wow you should meet my brother." Kianna's eyes narrowed. "Goodbye Akaru. I will see you in a few days if you are lucky!!!" Karu laughed. "Well I will see you then my feisty fairy." Kianna turned away from him and walked out of the clearing, through the woods and down to her house. Kianna stелthfully snuck through her window and crawled back into her bed. "The nerve of him. Kissing me then...then...growling at me!" Kianna pulled the covers over her head. "Arrrggg! He is so immature!" After muttering to herself for a few more minutes Kianna finally fell asleep and stayed snuggled into her bed until her little brother had to come wake her up. "Kianna! Momma says get up before she has to come in here herself!"

Kianna groaned. "I don't wanna!" He pulled the covers off of her and smirked. "Ya have to, plus Mama is real mad at you." Kianna sat up; looking dazed. "Mad at me?" She stood and slipped into a plain blue kimono before she ran her fingers through her hair and went into the kitchen. "Hello mother..." Kianna's mother turned to her, tapping her fingers on the kitchen counter. "Don't even try playing innocent with me Kianna. Mr. Kortuno saw you sneaking through the town last night around twelve-thirty!" Kianna felt the color drain from her face as she gulped. "Yeah you are soooooo beyond busted!" She wiped her hands off on her apron. "You are grounded." Kianna's mouth dropped open. "What!?"

She sneered. "You are grounded. Now get to your room." Kianna sighed and walked off. "Okay Mom." Kianna threw herself back onto her bed, staring up at the ceiling as if it could solve all of her problems. "I can't believe I got caught." Kianna whimpered. "Grounded... I can't leave the house for who knows how long." She flipped over and began screaming into her pillow to let her anger out.

(Three days of not coming out of her room except for meals, chores, and school later) Kianna bit into a crisp apple that she had taken into her room from the kitchen. She leaned back against her wall and closed her eyes. "Mm, nothing like home grown apples..." Kianna felt a soft breeze on her face and she paused. "I didn't open a window..." Kianna suddenly felt the apple that she had been holding being snatched out of her hands and she heard a loud crunch. "Wow. There *is* nothing like homegrown apples! Eeek! My fangs are stuck!" Kianna's eyes shot open to see Karu struggling to pull the apple off of his fangs. "Karu what are you doing in my room!?"

Karu stared at her as if it was obvious what he was doing there then ignored her and continued trying to struggle with the apple. Kianna rolled her eyes and ripped the apple off of his fangs. "Now answer my question. What are you doing in my room?" Karu popped his jaw then stared at her blankly. "You said



you'd be back within two days if I was lucky. Why aren't you back yet?" Kianna sighed. "Grounded." Karu laughed. "You're grounded? What for?" Kianna threw the apple over her shoulder into a trashcan. "My mom found out that I snuck out and grounded me."

Karu looked quite disappointed and made a circle on the bed with his claws. "So it is my fault. You wouldn't have gotten caught if I hadn't made you come back?" Kianna shrugged and nodded. "Yeah, that is about right." Karu sighed. "Kianna I am so sorry. Is there anything I can do to make it up?" Kianna began to shake her head, then smiled. "Yes. Actually there is something that I would like you to do for me." Karu looked up at her and looked slightly relieved. "What is it?" Kianna scooted closer to Karu and he began blushing. "Yeeeeeeeeessss?"

Kianna smiled gently. "Tomorrow night you have to come back here around six, and I want you to wear something formal." Karu tilted his head to the side. "Uh-huh... Dare I ask why?" Kianna laughed. "Because you are going to be my date to the school dance."

## 4 - A School Dane and A Loving Brother

### Chapter Four (A school dance and a “loving” brother)

Karu looked so surprised that Kianna began to laugh. “A school dance? But you hate vampires...” Kianna nodded. “True though that may be, I don't have a date, and you are way more good looking than any boy at my school. Plus no one notices that you are a vampire, so you are perfect!” Karu blinked and blushed worse. “Well I guess I will clear up my schedule tomorrow...” Kianna smiled and nodded. “Please do.” Karu looked at Kianna for a moment before he began shuffling around her room, as if looking for something. Kianna watched him for a minute before asking. “Karu, what in blue blazes are you doing?” Karu looked back at her. “I am looking for a tape measurer.”

Kianna stared at him blankly and then pulled one out from her bed-stand drawer. “Why do you need it?” Karu smiled and snatched it from Kianna's hands. “Cause I am gonna see if I can get my bro to sew you a dress.” Kianna's eyebrows raised. “You brother sews?” Karu nodded and began taking Kianna's measurements. “Yeah. He used to make dresses all the time for...” Karu folded the tape measurer and Kianna looked at him curiously. “For who?” Karu sat on Kianna's bed. “His old girl friend, but she died a long time ago.” Kianna's smile faded. “Oh...I'm very sorry.”

Karu shrugged. “Don't be. You didn't know.” Kianna sighed and smiled softly. “Okay then.” Karu stood up and put his hands in his pockets. “Well I had better get going and beg my bro to make your dress.” Kianna smiled. “Thanks Karu.” Karu jumped onto the windowsill. “I guess I will see you around six then Kianna. Have a good evening.” Kianna nodded as she watched Karu disappear out the window and slip through the town unnoticed.” Kianna sighed and stood up. “Now for the next challenge...” Kianna hesitantly walked out of her room and down the hall until she reached the living room, where her mother was seated on the couch.

Her mother looked at Kianna. “Kianna is something wrong?” Kianna nodded and sat down by her mother. False tears coming to her eyes. “Y-Yes Mommy. Tomorrow is my school dance and my...crush, asked me out, but, but.... I am grounded because I was so disobedient!” Kianna began crying hysterically into her hands as her mother patted her back. “Oh Kianna.... Well if you promise to do extra chores tomorrow... I will let you go.” Kianna looked up at her mother with big eyes. “Oh thank you mother!” Kianna threw her arms around her neck and hugged her warmly.” Kianna's mom smiled. “No problem sweetie...”

Kianna stood up quickly. “Oh I must go tidy up!” Kianna bounded through the house and into the bathroom where she immediately began running hot water in the bathtub and pouring rose, scented bubbles into the steaming water. Kianna took off her clothing, placing them in different baskets for lights and darks.

“Mom is so awesome.” Kianna turned off the water and slipped into the warm bath, sighing with relief as

the warmth washed over her. "Mm, this is heaven." Kianna took a long, luxurious bath that lasted nearly an hour after washing her hair, shaving her legs and everything else.

Kianna stood and drained the water, then stepped out of the bathtub and immediately began drying herself off with a towel. She blow-dried her hair, then curled the tips as she wrapped the towel around herself and walked back into her room. Kianna looked over at a clock that read 5:55PM and she smiled. "Good. He should be here any minute." Kianna sat down on a stool, placed in front of her desk that had on it, a mirror and more make-up than she could use in a lifetime. Kianna looked at herself in the mirror before she felt a breeze and looked over her shoulder to where Karu stood.

He was dressed in all black, his shirt hugging his body just enough to show off his well-toned muscles. His raven-black hair was tied back in a tight ponytail, and his normally steel-gray eyes had turned a deep, beautiful blue to make him appear more human, though his looks were still far to perfect to be that of a normal human. Karu walked over to her and handed her a gorgeous, deep purple, silk dress that had a sliver mist wrapping around it, and huge, majestic ravens flying over it. Kianna gasped and took the dress. "It is so beautiful! Your brother is a miracle worker!"

Karu smiled. "Yeah he is, and he told me to tell you that you have a beautiful body." Kianna blushed. "Well tell him that I said thank you." Karu nodded. "I will. Now get dressed if you would." Kianna stared at him blankly. "Turn around." Karu let out an exasperated sigh as he turned around and Kianna slipped into the dress. Tying the huge, black sash around her. Kianna flipped her hair and sat down in front of the mirror as she began quickly, but carefully putting on make-up. "Okay Karu, you can turn around." Karu turned around on his heels and his eyes widened as his cheeks turned bright red.

Kianna's face was flawless. She had on light purple eye shadow with black eyeliner and mascara enhancing her gorgeous magenta eyes. Her lips were painted dark red and her face sparkled in the light. Karu shook his head to try and straighten his thoughts. "Kianna, you look amazing." Kianna smiled. "Glad you think so. Now let's go to the dance." Karu nodded and slipped out the window as Kianna walked down the hallway. "Kianna, my goodness you look beautiful!" Kianna smiled at her mother. "Oh, thank you mother. I hope my date thinks so. Suddenly there was a knock at the door and Kianna opened it as Karu smiled. "Hello my dear Kianna. Are you ready to go?" Kianna nodded and took Karu's arm. "Bye Mom." "Goodbye sweetheart!"

Kianna laughed. "My mother is priceless..." Karu nodded. "Indeed she is." Kianna began walking toward the school, but Karu pulled her back. "If you think someone looking this fine is going to walk, you are mistaken my dear." Karu whistled as out of nowhere a horse and carriage appeared. "You have got to be kidding me." Kianna's eyes were wide as Karu opened the door and she walked into the carriage. Taking a seat inside on the soft, velvet seats. Karu took a seat across from her as the carriage started up and he leaned back. Kianna seemed jumpy as she rubbed her wrists and looked around. Karu opened one eye to look at her. "Kianna is something wrong?"

Kianna smiled softly. "No. I just.... I feel out of place." Karu laughed. "Ah, so my little village girl is not used to riding in a horse drawn carriage with a boy that obviously is highly interested in her?" Kianna blushed. "No I am not used to it..." Karu laughed. "Well just relax. I assure that you will have a pleasant evening." Kianna smiled. "Alright Karu. I am trusting you." Karu nodded then moved over beside Kianna and smiled. "Hmm, I feel rather bad that my brother is surpassing me as far as gifts go. I suppose I must do something about that."

Karu took something out of his pocket and moved Kianna's hair behind her shoulders as he secured the clasp of a beautiful necklace that was made of diamonds and made Kianna glow even more than before." Kianna fingered the necklace slightly. "Karu it is beautiful..." Karu smiled. "I am glad that you think so Kianna." Kianna began blushing as she noticed Karu gazing into her eyes. She had never seen anyone look at her like that before. It was as if he was looking right into her soul. Karu carefully began leaning in toward Kianna and she closed her eyes.

The next thing Kianna felt was the carriage pulling to a stop and Karu taking his hand off of her shoulder. "Ah. I believe that we are at the school." Karu stood and leapt out of the carriage. Holding the door open for Kianna to slip out of. Kianna smiled and motioned toward the large, brick building that had music booming from within it. "Welcome to my school." Karu scratched his head. "Is it always this loud?" Kianna laughed and shook her head. "No. They are just playing music for the school dance." Karu nodded. "Oh, I suppose that makes sense..."

Kianna nodded and began walking toward the school, quickly followed by Karu. There were greeters at the door, one of them looking at Kianna with wide eyes and handing her a flower. "Have a nice time at the dance miss..." Kianna smiled and nodded. "I am sure that I will." Karu looked around the gym, where hundreds of students were all dancing and eating food. He sniffed the air. "They... *are* all humans." Kianna nodded. "Yep. No vampires, demons, elves, angelics, or fairies." Karu sighed. "How boring..." Kianna smiled. "It is more exciting than you may think. Now then, what do you want to do first?"

Karu shrugged. "I guess I would like to meet some of your human friends..." Kianna nodded. "Alright. I will introduce you." Karu smiled. "Alright." Kianna took Karu's arm and led him over to where a group of children were gathered. Laughing to themselves and socializing. "Hey guys. I want you to meet my date." The students turned around. All of them got strange looks on their faces. The girls began squealing excitedly and the boys simply perked a brow. The first to speak out was a boy who looked like he might be a gothic. "Hmm, I haven't seen him around here before."

"Is he from a different school?" Karu nodded. "Yes, I go to the White Shadow Academy." The boy's eyes widened. "Dude. You have got some real guts. That school lets all creatures attend! Have you ever seen a real demon?" Karu laughed and nodded. "Yes, actually I am good friends with one." Everyone seemed quite impressed with Karu as he told more about the different creatures that attended his school. After a few minutes however, Karu turned to Kianna and smiled. "So, do you want to dance my dear?" Kianna blinked. "Err... Sure."

Karu chuckled and took her hand as he led her out onto the dance floor. "So do you waltz? Tango? Slow dance?" Kianna shook her head. "I am not used to doing 'real' dances." Karu nodded slightly. "Slow dance it is." Karu gently took both of Kianna's hands and placed them on his shoulders before putting his own hands on her waist. "Alright Kianna, now repeat after me. Forward, back, slow, fast, fast, slow." Kianna tilted her head slightly and repeated. "Forward, back, slow, fast, fast, slow." Karu nodded. "Good. Now move with me and think of what you just said."

Karu suddenly pulled Kianna forward slowly, then moved back a bit faster, then stepped to the right slowly and went forward again quickly. Kianna smiled. "I think I get it." Karu nodded. "Then just keep moving with me." Karu led Kianna through five or six different dances before Kianna got tired and asked

for a break. Karu walked over toward where a buffet style table was set up with many different dishes. "Hmm..." His dark blue eyes scanned over the food and he finally grabbed a few slices of pizza and a soda. Kianna did the same and walked over to where Karu had already seated himself before a few of her good friends.

Kianna slid in beside Karu and opened her soda, drinking it down quickly. Karu carefully ate his pizza, as if not wanting to eat it so fast that it might be rude. He took a slow drink of his soda before one of the girls asked. "So... Karu do you have someone special in your life?" Karu looked up at her. "Someone... special?" She nodded. "Like a girl friend. If not I would love to get to know you better." The girl winked and Kianna immediately felt Karu's muscles tense. "I...umm... she is..." Kianna took another swig of her drink before saying. "I am Karu's girl friend."

The girl and Karu both stared at Kianna. "Oh, you are? Sorry Kianna, I thought I was bout to get me some action." Kianna smiled. "Sorry." Karu looked at Kianna curiously before leaning close to her so that only she could hear him. "Why did you cover for me?" Kianna shrugged. "Because I don't want anyone to find out that I am friends with a vampire." Karu nodded. "Ah, I see." Karu leaned back against the booth and closed his eyes, resting. Kianna watched him for a few minutes before asking. "Hey Karu. Are you alright?"

Karu shook his head. "No. I need blood. I am really thirsty." Kianna's pupils dilated. "Then we should go. Maybe we can find a raccoon or something..." Karu nodded and stood up shakily. "Yeah. Sure..." Karu walked out the doors, rather surprised to feel Kianna clung onto his arm as if she was actually his date. He walked outside and headed into the carriage again. Kianna sat by him and heard his breathing becoming shallower as her eyes filled with concern and the carriage set off, fast toward the woods. Karu's face turned paler than Kianna had ever seen it as his body began to tremble slightly.

"Karu, please just hold on a little longer..." Karu gulped and shook his head as he handed her a cell phone. "Please call my brother. He is on speed-dial." Without warning Karu suddenly let out a painful gasp and fell onto the floor of the carriage as Kianna nervously went to speed-dial #1. Labeled simply. "Bro." Kianna pressed send as she put the cell to her ear and listened. After about three rings she heard a voice at the other end. His voice was very smooth, but not as kind as Karu's as he said sharply. "Karu what do you want now?"

Kianna's voice trembled as she said shakily. "I-I'm not Karu. My name is Kianna and I was with Karu today. He just passed out and said that he needs blood. He asked me to call you so please help." Silence. Finally he replied. "Alright. Stay where you are and I will be there in one moment..." Kianna nodded and hung up the phone, then kneeled down beside Karu and put her hand on his forehead. Kianna actually had to pull her hand away, for his fever was ablaze and Kianna had never felt anything like it before. Kianna began to cry silently. She was very scared, for she had never been in such a dire situation in her entire life, and she wasn't ready for it.

Minutes passed. Nothing happened. All that Kianna could hear was Karu's short, shaky breaths. Suddenly there was a loud flapping sound and a thud on the roof of the carriage. Kianna trembled and waited, as she heard footsteps, then a soft thump on the ground. Suddenly the door to the carriage was jerked open as a boy stared down at her with two, emerald green eyes that were full of malice, hatred, and the smallest bit of concern.

## 5 - Here's Kono

### Chapter Five (Here's Kono!)

The boy was wearing black, silk pants and had to shirt, showing off many tattoos covering his chest and arms. He was almost as pale as Karu and his body was slightly more muscular. His hair was cut to his shoulders and thrown back into a jet-black ponytail, the only color being the blood red tips of his hair. He jumped into the carriage and looked at Karu, shaking his head. "You little dip-shoot. You should have eaten before you left. Kianna hurriedly moved out of the boy's way as he kneeled down by Karu and flicked him in the forehead. "P-Please don't hurt him." The boy looked up at Kianna, who was trembling with fear at the very presence of the strange boy.

He smirked. "Oh, you must be Kianna. I see you are wearing my dress." The boy extended a clawed hand. "My name is Konoyukai. Or better known as Kono." Kianna hesitantly shook Kono's hand before crossing her arms and going into fetal position. Kono snickered. "Humans..." Kono snapped his fingers as Karu suddenly lifted off of the floor and levitated at Kono's chest level. Kono looked at Kianna. "Do you want Karu to live?" Kianna nodded. "Y-Yes..."

Kono smirked. "Then come here." Kianna stood up shakily and approached him. Suddenly Kono latched onto her wrist. "Now then. You just made yourself a blood donor." Kianna's eyes widened. "No. I don't wanna be turned into a vampire!" Kono rolled his eyes. "Well that is why I am only using your wrist." Kono pulled Kianna closer and smiled. "This might hurt a bit. Karu isn't always gentle..." Kono suddenly put Kianna's wrist to Karu's cold lips and he began to stir. Beads of sweat formed on Kianna's forehead as she watched Karu's fangs turn into two, razor sharp killing weapons.

Within seconds Karu had sunk his fangs into Kianna's wrist. Causing her to cry out and her knees to buckle as she felt the blood drain out of her body. As Karu got his strength back, he brought his hands up, holding Kianna's wrist to his mouth so that he could continue drinking from her. Kianna began to feel weaker and she had to have Kono hold her up before Kono popped Karu a good punch in the stomach, causing him to release Kianna and his eyes to shoot open. He gasped for breath, then looked at Kono. "What the hell? You blood tastes better than usual."

Kono smirked. "Not my blood..." Kono suddenly pointed to Kianna, who was sitting on her knees, staring at her bleeding wrist with huge, fearful eyes. Karu began trembling as he kneeled beside her quickly and reached to comfort her, but she tore away from him. Karu's eyes turned back into his usual steel gray, but they were deeper now, full of pain and regret. "Kianna..." Kianna crawled backward until her back was against the wall as tears flowed down her cheeks. Karu moved closer to her, grabbing a hold of her arm as she screamed. "Stop it Karu! I don't want you to take any more of my blood!" Karu brought Kianna's wrist to his lips, gently licking the blood off of it until the bleeding stopped.

"I didn't want your blood in the first place Kianna..." Karu pulled Kianna into his arms, hugging her tightly

as his body shook. "I am so sorry." Kianna wanted to pull away from him, yet she couldn't find the strength to do so. She buried her face in his chest and began sobbing as Karu gently rubbed her back. "Kono... why did you make her do this?" Kono shrugged. "Hey, better her than me." Karu looked up at him and his eyes narrowed. "She could've died you idiot!" Kono smirked. "Yep, but relax. She is safe and sound in your arms. Is that not what you desire?"

Karu nodded ever so slightly. "Yes, but... I didn't want her to have to hurt..." Kono shook his head. "Dude, you fixed her wrist and she is just in shock. Give her time to chill." Karu held Kianna close to him as he stared at Kono. "I suppose I must thank you for saving my @\$@ anyway." Kono smirked. "I guess I get the best big bro award this year!" Karu sighed and shook his head. "You are such a prick..." Kono looked proud. "No shoot." Kono's eyes suddenly slipped to Kianna. "She looks good in that dress. She's got nice curves."

"Maybe I should be dating her. I would screw her within an hour." Kono never even saw Kianna's body shift and her foot land in between his legs, but boy did he feel it. Kono let out a blood-curdling scream and stumbled backward. "dog!" Kianna looked up at Kono with teary eyes. "You are a perverted bastard. So shut the hell up before I rack you so hard that you won't be able to walk for a week!" Kono's eyes widened. "Feisty much?" Kianna buried her face back in Karu's chest, who at the moment was laughing so hard that tears were in the corners of his eyes.

"Shut up Akaru!" Karu only laughed harder and toppled over, dragging Kianna down with him. Kono's eyes turned blood red and he clenched his teeth. "Damn it Karu..." Kono stormed out of the carriage, cussing all the way. Kianna smiled at Karu. "You feeling better?" Karu nodded. "Mhm, and your blood is absolutely delicious. Kianna flicked Karu in the forehead. "Oh *thanks a bunch* Karu." Karu laughed. "You are *very* welcome Kianna." Karu looked at Kianna's wrist, which now only had two deep puncture wounds from his fangs. "Jesus I can't believe I did that..." Kianna shrugged. "It is no big deal..."

Karu shook his head. "It is a big deal. If Kono hadn't punched me I wouldn't have stopped." Kianna smiled. "But you did stop and that is all that matters." Karu stared at the ceiling for a moment, sighing slightly. Kianna watched him, his face was so soft and calm, yet his eyes contained a melancholy chill within them. Kianna smiled slightly and hugged Karu gently. "Karu I am exhausted..." Karu looked down at her and pat the top of her head as the carriage started up again, making a U-turn for Kianna's house. "Alright my dear, I'll take you home so you can rest."

Kianna nodded and laid her head on Karu's shoulder as she listened to the sound of the carriage bumping over the dirt road. Karu smiled and listened to Kianna's breaths and heart beat as they went along. "Sixty-nine beats a minute..." Kianna looked up at him. "You are a freak Karu. Listening to my heart beat for amusement..." Karu smirked. "Yeah, well it is a nice heart beat. Very calm." Kianna rolled her eyes and put her hand over Karu's chest, then his neck, and finally his wrist. "You don't have one do you?" Karu shook his head. "Nope. Don't need one."

Kianna tilted her head to the side. "How strange. Your body is dead, yet you continue living..." Karu nodded. "Well yeah. That is just how vampires do it." Kianna looked up at Karu and touched his face. "Then why are you warm?" Karu smiled and touched her hand. "Because I'm happy." Kianna couldn't resist blushing as she took her hand away and smiled. "I'm glad that you are happy..." Karu chuckled as the carriage pulled to a stop in front of Kianna's house. Karu stood up, pulling Kianna up with him. "Well you are home my dear." Kianna nodded and stepped out of the carriage, followed by Karu who walked

her to her door.

Kianna looked at Karu and smiled at him. "I had a great time...other than that whole getting my blood sucked... thing." Karu laughed. "Well maybe we can go out again sometime." Kianna perked a brow. "Maybe..." Kianna opened the door and smiled at Karu. "Good night Karu." Karu stared at her, looking devastated. "No good night kiss?" Kianna grabbed Karu by the collar of his shirt and pulled him so close that his lips almost touched hers, then she released him and said simply. "Nope." Karu blinked as Kianna shut the door and walked back to her room. Kianna laid down on her bed, sighing loudly.

"What a night. I am so freaking tired." Kianna turned off her bedside lamp and closed her eyes, pulling the covers over her as she snuggled into her pillow, feeling very calm and comfortable. Kianna felt the sheets shift ever so slightly, but paid it no mind until she felt someone's lips press against her own and heard a voice say. "My fairy has lost her feistiness." Kianna brought her hand up to hit air, then turned on her lamp and screamed. "Karu!" There was no one in her room. Kianna looked around; wondering if she had just imagined it, until she saw a black rose on her bedside dresser and felt the breeze that was only present when her window had been opened.

Kianna blinked as she looked down at the rose. "How beautiful..." Kianna traced her fingers over the soft black petals and smiled. "Karu you are getting trickier... You actually got away with kissing me..." Kianna laid back down and turned off her lamp again as she stared into the darkness. "You won't be so lucky next time."



## 6 - It's A Pony!

### Chapter Six (It's a Pony!)

Kianna slept well into the morning the next day and when her mother came to wake her up, she immediately knew that something was wrong. Kianna's face was pale and she had dark rings under her eyes as if she had been drained of a large amount of energy in a short period of time. "Kianna, my goodness you look terrible. Are you sick?" Kianna looked up at her mother and nodded slightly. "Sick... yeah..." She sat down on Kianna's bed and felt her forehead. "Oh my dear, you need to relax. Go back to bed and I will bring you some soup later." Kianna nodded slightly and then leaned back against the backboard of her bed. "Damn it Karu I am weak from you sucking my blood..."

"Well SORRY Kianna..." Kianna looked over to where Karu was perched on her windowsill, looking rather distraught. "Karu why are you at my house?" Karu jumped down and smiled. "Cause I knew you would be ill today. I brought you a get well present though." Kianna rolled her eyes. "What is it?" Karu handed her a stuffed llama and smiled. "It's a pony!" Kianna stared at Karu blankly. "Karu... that is a llama..." Karu blinked. "Oh? Damn..." Kianna took the llama and hugged it. "Thanks anyway Karu." Karu smiled and blushed. "You are welcome Kianna."

Kianna stared up at her ceiling for a moment before saying. "I can not believe I missed..." Karu tilted his head to the side slightly. "Missed?" Kianna smirked. "Last night... when I tried to slap you after you..." Karu finished her sentence. "Kissed you?" Kianna nodded. "Yeah..." Karu sat down on the edge of Kianna's bed and grinned proudly. "I am just really fast." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Big whoop.... I just don't see why you did it..." Karu shrugged. "Because I like you." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Well no dip. You obviously are attracted to my fairy-like looks..."

Karu laughed. "No my dear. I didn't mean just liking how you look. I like you for who you are." Kianna felt her cheeks heat up and she stared downward and mumbled something under her breath. Karu chuckled at her bright red face and put his hands behind his head. "Ya know, you actually seem to be warming up to me too Kianna. Or will you not admit that?" Kianna looked at Karu and said plainly. "I refuse to admit to such nonsense." Karu sighed. "Mhm, I had a feeling you'd say that..." Kianna looked over at Karu, whose shoulders had dropped slightly.

His eyes were even sad. They were a deeper gray now and not even his faint smile could hide his disappointment. Kianna suddenly felt quite sorry for Karu as she punched him in the shoulder playfully. "Aw c'mon Karu. I like you as a friend, you know that!" Karu looked up at Kianna. She was smiling so radiantly that he couldn't help laughing. "Oh, well I am very glad my dear Kianna." Kianna sighed slightly. "Good Karu, now if you don't mind, I need to get some rest. Blood loss makes me sleepy." Karu nodded and got off of Kianna's bed. "I will come back later tonight. I will try to bring some sort of medicine."

Kianna smiled at Karu and laid down; hugging her stuffed llama to her chest. "Okay Karu. Goodnight." Karu disappeared out the window, but left it open so that Kianna could feel the breeze. Kianna smiled softly and closed her eyes. Within minutes she fell asleep, not even waking to her mother constantly checking up on her throughout the day. When Kianna finally did awake, it was just before sunset. She sat up slowly, stretching her muscles before letting out a loud yawn and looking around. "Hmm, I wonder what is for dinner..." Kianna stood up shakily and walked into the kitchen where her mother was busily cooking. She looked at Kianna and her eyes lit up. "Oh Kianna you are up. Are you feeling alright?"

Kianna smiled and nodded. "Yes mother I am doing just fine now. She walked over to the stove and sniffed the air. "Mm, what is that?" Kianna's mother chuckled. "It is beef stew silly. It will be ready in a moment. You go back in your room and I will bring some to you in a bit." Kianna laughed softly to herself. "Alright Mom, I'll be in my room." Kianna casually strode into her room and sat down at her desk. She looked over at the black rose that Karu had left her the night before and she gently touched the petals. "Such a pretty flower..." Kianna looked at it for a moment before saying. "I wonder why it hasn't wilted yet..." There was suddenly a knock at her door, distracting her from the thought as she looked back over her shoulder.

"Come in." Kianna's mother walked in, carrying a tray with a huge bowl of beef stew, a slice of thick, buttered bread, and a glass of apple juice. Kianna's eyes lit up. "Oh it looks delicious!" Her mother smiled and put the tray down in front of Kianna. "Why thank you sweet heart. You eat as much as you want." She chuckled pleasantly before walking back out into the kitchen, leaving Kianna to her food. Kianna grabbed a spoon and immediately began scooping the warm stew into her mouth as if she hadn't eaten in days. It took barely twenty minutes for Kianna to finish her meal, then she slowly drank down her apple juice. "Mm, mm, I love Mom's cooking."

Kianna leaned back in her chair and sighed happily. "Ah, I am stuffed!" "Aw, and I was hoping you would try my newest desert." Kianna leaned her head back to see Karu standing behind her holding a tray of steaming cookies. Kianna smelled the air and nearly drooled. "Oh I suppose I can fit down a bit more!" Karu laughed and put down the tray in front of Kianna. It had things ranging from, chocolate chip cookies, to peanut butter cookies, to sugar cookies, to steaming brownies and everything in between. "My gods Karu how did you make all of these!?" Karu winked. "Magick of course" Kianna squealed excitedly and grabbed a brownie, munching it down happily as she began humming. Karu watched her with a proud look on his face. "So, do you think I can cook?"

Kianna looked at him, dumbfounded. "Hell yes I think you can cook. These are the best brownies and cookies that I have ever had!" Karu seemed to glow with pride. "I am very glad that you approve." Kianna ate a few more cookies before wiping off her mouth and finishing her drink. "Karu you really need to open a bakery or something." Karu smiled. "Do you think so?" Kianna stood and ran her fingers through her hair. "Uh huh, you could make millions I bet." Karu looked at her and chuckled. "I have no use for money." Kianna stared at him blankly.

"Why not?" Karu shrugged. "I have always had everything that I need in my house. I wouldn't even come down to the village if not for you." Kianna blinked. "What do you mean, for me?" Karu sat down on Kianna's bed and looked at the ceiling thoughtfully. "Hold on, let me think how you humans say it. I am crushing on you? Is that right?" Kianna turned bright red and had to turn around so as to hide her embarrassment. "C-Crushing?" Karu smiled. "I will assume from your bright red cheeks that you

understand?" Kianna nodded. "Umm, yes..."

Karu looked at Kianna happily. "I am glad that you understand." Karu perked a brow. "But why is it that you are blushing and will not look me in the eye?" Kianna had to let her blush die down a bit before turning back around to face Karu. "Cause it is embarrassing!" Karu tilted his head to the side. "Why?" Kianna gawked. "Because no one has ever had a crush on me before, and it is weird!" Karu smiled. "Oh, so you are shy and nervous. I see now." Karu stood up and walked to Kianna, staring straight into her eyes. "But are you afraid of me?"

Kianna tried to avoid Karu's eyes, yet she couldn't help being drawn to them. She wanted to say what she had been telling herself all of her life. *I hate vampires*, and yet what slipped out was not what she had been training herself to say in front of a vampire. "No, not at all. I would trust you with my life." Karu continued gazing into her eyes. He could tell that she spoke the truth and it caused him to smile. "I am glad that you no longer fear me, even if I am a vampire." Kianna turned even redder. "*I-I can't believe I said that!*" She thought. Then she felt Karu playfully ruffle her hair. "Aw stop blushing Kianna. You shouldn't be embarrassed."

Kianna mumbled something under her breath then sighed. "No I guess not... but still... it is freaky deaky dutch." Karu chuckled. "Hmm, is that what you call it?" Kianna nodded. "Yeah." Karu looked at Kianna, then out the window. "Hmm...." "Don't even think about it Karu." Karu looked at Kianna with false innocence. "Think about what? Making you sneak out again?" Kianna nodded. "Yes. I will get caught so I can't." Karu thought for a moment. "I thought about that, then I remembered a trick that I have." Kianna blinked. "Trick?"

Karu nodded quickly. "Yes." He snapped his fingers and suddenly disappeared into thin air. Kianna looked around. "What the..." Kianna suddenly felt a clawed hand on her cheek and she backed away. "What in the seven hells..." Karu's voice was there even though Kianna couldn't see him. "This is my trick. Invisibility. The reason that you got caught was that someone in the town saw you sneaking out. If they do not see you, then you can not get caught." Kianna stared into the empty space where she knew Karu was standing. She walked forward slowly.

"But it is freaky... You are just... gone." Kianna put her hand out and Karu touched it gently. "I am not gone. You just can't see me." Kianna nodded, feeling Karu's hand somehow helped her become insured. "Alright. I will sneak out, but not for too long. I don't want to be missed." Karu snapped his fingers and appeared again, right where Kianna knew he had been. "I understand, but you had better go make sure that your mother doesn't bother us." Kianna nodded and let go of Karu's hand. "Okay. I'll be back in a moment. Kianna turned and walked out of her room, into the hallway.

"Mom!" "I'm in the living room dear!" Kianna walked down the hall, into the living room where her mother was sweeping the floor. "Hey Mommy. I am going to bed early. I feel much better, but please don't disturb me." Kianna's mother nodded. "Alright Kianna. Have a nice rest." Kianna smiled softly. "I will Mom..." Kianna turned and headed back into her room, but Karu was no where to be seen. "Karu I know you are here. Show yourself." Kianna walked to the middle of her room and heard Karu reply. "But that is no fun." Kianna looked around. "C'mon Karu. Be nice"

Kianna heard Karu chuckle, then felt herself being lifted up. She blinked and struggled to get down. "H-Hey stop that!" All in one moment Kianna felt herself being pulled closer to Karu and knew that he

had put the spell on her as well, for she could see him again. Karu beamed down at her and jumped up on the windowsill. "You act as if you have never been held before Kianna." Kianna blinked. "O-Of course I have Karu, now stop teasing me!" Karu rolled his eyes and out of no where, two huge, majestic, raven black wings sprouted from his back and he leapt into the air. With only a few flaps of his wings they were high into the air, far above the village. Kianna clung to Karu. "Oh my gods we are flying!"

Karu nodded and smiled. "Indeed we are." Kianna looked around shakily and Karu chuckled. "Are you worried that I'll drop you?" Kianna shook her head. "No, I just... I am nervous." Karu looked at Kianna curiously. "Oh, are you? It seems that you do not trust me. Let me prove myself to you." Without warning Karu released Kianna and she began falling toward the ground quickly. Kianna couldn't breath as she watched the beautiful midnight sky and silver clouds become farther away. She reached out toward nothing and let out a cry before closing her eyes tightly and letting a single tear stream down her cheek.

## 7 - Dancing 'Til the Sun Comes Up

### Chapter Seven (Dancing until the sun comes up)

Kianna fell a few dozen feet before Karu dove down and caught her swiftly. All Kianna felt were his strong arms holding her close to him as he flew upward again. "You see? I would never let you hit the ground." Kianna was so shocked that she could barely speak, all she could do was punch Karu in the chest. "How dare you scare me like that Karu! I was scared to death and I..." Suddenly Kianna began screaming and crying into Karu's chest. Karu looked down at Kianna and felt quite sorry. "Kianna I am sorry. I didn't know it would scare you that much..." Kianna clung to Karu more as if not knowing if he would drop her again or not.

Karu sighed and rubbed the sides of Kianna's arms gently. "I am sorry Kianna, please stop crying..." Kianna trembled slightly and looked up into Karu's eyes. "Okay Karu..." Karu blinked. "Oh, thank you..." Kianna seemed to calm down a bit as she settled back into Karu's arms comfortably. Karu sighed with relief and continued flying until he saw the waterfall beneath him. Karu began flying downward very quickly, right toward the water as he said. "Hold your breath Kianna." Kianna was confused and suddenly understood what Karu was about to do.

Kianna took a deep breath right as Karu pulled in his wings and dove into the water. Kianna felt a lot a pressure around her as the water closed around her. Kianna didn't dare open her eyes, for she knew that she had to stay as calm as possible as Karu stayed down in the water. Finally Karu shot back up to the surface with Kianna in his arms and said. "Whew, what a rush." Kianna nodded as the water dripped off of her and she blinked. "Well I guess that is one way of putting it..." Karu smiled down at Kianna and walked over to the shore, where he laid her down and sat beside her.

"I love doing that. Me and Kono used to do that all the time when we were kids." Kianna wrung out her hair and nodded. "I can picture that... but your brother seems pretty mean..." Karu shrugged. "Yeah, he is." Kianna looked at Karu's face and suddenly ran her fingers over the strange scars that were on his left cheek. "Did he do that?" Karu nodded. "Yep, just a few months ago. We were fighting and he lost control." Kianna nodded slightly as she looked into Karu's eyes. They contained a lot sadness as he spoke of Kono, and she could tell that it was ripping him apart.

"Karu you really love your brother, huh?" Karu nodded. "Well yeah, he is my best friend... He is all that I have." Kianna smiled softly. "Yeah I know the feeling, that is how I feel about Gray. I was torn apart when I found out that he was going in another realm to fight... it was just about a year ago, but I really haven't gotten over it." Kianna smiled softly. "You know, the funny thing is that you are the only person that can make me think of something other than missing him. It is kinda weird." Karu looked at Kianna and smiled. "You know, perhaps that means you have a crush on me as well."

Kianna shook her head. "No Karu. I like you as a really good friend... but I don't like you in that way. Karu

looked into her eyes and touched her hand. "I think that you are lying. Even without my ability to sense peoples' feelings I can tell that you are lying. Kianna pulled her hand away. "Stop it Karu. I don't like anyone in that way." Karu put his hand on her shoulder. "It is because you won't let yourself like them. What are you afraid of?" Kianna once again pulled away. "Karu stop it! Don't touch me. I am not afraid of anything." Sadness filled Karu's eyes as he shook his head. "You are afraid..."

Kianna sighed. "Karu I'm just not really interested in falling in love, okay? I just have to much to do." Karu looked at her sharply. "Stop lying to me Kianna! Why won't you just admit that you are afraid of being loved! I can see it in your eyes. They are filled with sadness and anger, but I do not understand where it has come from. Why won't you let anyone get close to you?!" Kianna pushed Karu away from her. "Because I hate everyone and they hate me. Now get away from me Karu!"

Before Kianna could react Karu had grabbed her by the waist and pulled her into a kiss. Kianna couldn't move, she could hardly even breath as Karu held her close to him. He finally stopped kissing her, but he still hugged her tightly. "Kianna stop acting as if you don't need anyone. You try to fight your feelings and it is killing you. So just stop it and don't fight me any more." Kianna didn't know what to say. She was still in shock from the kiss and what Karu had just said hit her like a train. "K-Karu..."

Karu continued holding her to him and his body began to shake slightly. "I am sorry Kianna, but I will not let you continue living like you do. You have no idea how beautiful you are, and you won't let anyone get close to you. I don't care if you hate me for showing my feelings for you, but I am not going to hold them back like you do!" Kianna felt tears swell in her eyes and she dug her fingers into Karu's arm. "Karu please let me go. I want to go home." Karu looked into Kianna's eyes and shook his head. "I can not do that Kianna. I will not let you go and act as if this never happened."

"You are not as strong as you pretend to be Kianna..." Kianna tried to push him away. "Karu let me go!" Karu only pulled her closer to him, he placed his head on her shoulder. Kianna continued to struggle, but finally just broke down. Tears were streaming down her cheeks as she said. "I am sorry Karu... I am sorry..." Karu listened to Kianna say she was sorry over and over before he put a finger over her lips and whispered. "Don't be Kianna..." Kianna continued crying and began pouring her heart out to Karu. She told him of how she missed her brother, how she hated her life many times, how no one in her school seemed to want to accept her, how she many times thought of death, and how she needed to be with someone.

Karu nodded and smoothed down her hair. "It is alright Kianna. I will stay with you." Kianna stayed curled up in Karu's arms and he held her like a small child that had just had a terrible nightmare. Karu was glad that he had finally gotten Kianna to let down her walls, but at the same time he felt terrible for making her accept the embrace of reality. It was after all, his fault that she was trembling in his arms like a terrified little girl. Karu squeezed Kianna gently and she lifted her head, her eyes still glimmering with wet tears as she gulped. "Kianna it grows late, you need rest." Kianna nodded. "Y-Yes Karu..." Karu gently picked her up and began walking in the opposite direction of the village.

Kianna tugged on Karu's shirt. "Karu this isn't the right way. My house is in the other direction." Karu continued walking and replied. "We aren't going to your house. We are going to mine." Kianna shook her head. "N-No Karu, my mother will be upset." Karu looked down at her as he walked. "I will cast a spell that makes an illusion of you being there. Humans don't know the difference." Kianna stared downward. "But why can't I just go home?" Karu stared straight ahead. "Because I wish to watch over

you for tonight. Besides, I have been to your house many times, yet you have never been to mine.”

Kianna nodded slightly. “That is true, but I still feel uncomfortable...” Karu rubbed her back gently. “It is alright. I will try to make you feel at home.” Kianna watched the winding path until Karu carried her all the way up the mountain, to a huge black mansion. Kianna could hear loud music playing as Karu opened the door and took her inside where there were many people gathered, most of them being women. Everyone seemed to notice Karu's arrival and they all stared like deer in headlights. Karu walked by one boy who looked especially interested in what Karu was up to. “Hello Hashi.”

Hashi smiled. “Yo Karu.... What is with the human?” Karu blinked. “She is my dear friend Kianna.” Hashi laughed. “Looks more like your next victim, or is she your mate?” Kianna looked appalled. “I most certainly am not his mate!” Kono was leaning back against a wall and he said. “Ooooo, can she be mine then?” Karu held Kianna close to him. “No. Mine!” Kianna began laughing. “My goodness aren't we grabby?” Karu shrugged and began walking upstairs. “Not at all. I don't mind fighting over such a beautiful prize.” Kianna sighed. “I am just so loved...” Karu walked all the way to the third floor where he placed Kianna gently on a canopy bed that had black silk sheets.

Everything in the room was painted black and there were even black candles burning around her. “Whoa...” Karu smiled. “This will be your room for the night.” Kianna smiled. “Thanks Karu.” Suddenly Kianna stood up and began walking out. Karu blinked. “Where are you going?” Kianna smiled. “There is a party downstairs silly. How can I ignore that?” Karu shrugged and stood up. “Well okay, I guess I will accompany you since I do not trust any of the men down there.” Kianna laughed and walked down the stairs casually. “Oh Karu how sweet.”

Kianna walked down back into the main party room and Hashi raised his eyebrows. “They return. Guess the girl wanted to party.” Kianna smiled gleefully. “Yep. I need it.” Hashi laughed and began dancing to the beat of the music. “Well okay, I guess that makes sense.” Kianna felt Karu wrap his arms around her and she smiled. “Hey Karu.” Karu smiled. “So you want to party huh?” Kianna nodded and began dancing slowly. “Mhm, I do indeed.” Karu released her and she faced him as she continued to dance. Kianna noticed that many girls seemed to like Karu, for they seemed ready to pounce the second that she turned her head.

Kianna danced closer to Karu and he grinned excitedly, enjoying it quite a lot. Karu looked over to Kono with begging eyes and Kono rolled his eyes and pressed a button on the CD player that switched it to a slightly slower song. Just as Karu had expected Kianna moved even closer to him and he walked behind her, wrapping his arms around her waist as she moved back against him. Karu began blushing as she pressed herself back against him, yet continued dancing. Kianna heard Karu growl playfully and she laughed. “Karu are you getting a bit excited?” Karu shook his head. “N-No please continue dancing... and shaking that fine @\$\$....” Karu said the last bit quietly enough that Kianna couldn't hear him, but she did exactly what he wanted.

Without warning Hashi came up to Kianna and Karu and said. “Mind if I cut in before Karu here explodes with... happiness?” Karu looked unsure, but released Kianna and let Hashi take her hands gently. “You are a human aren't you?” Kianna nodded. “Yes I am.” Hashi smiled. “That is good, but just a warning. You might wanna be careful around vampires. I hunt them for a living and I know that they can turn on you at any moment.” Hashi spun Kianna and she replied. “Karu isn't like that. He would never hurt me. Heck we aren't even dating.” Hashi sighed. “Even so. He is dangerous. I have seen him

and Kono fight, and it is not pretty.”

Kianna smiled. “Well thank you for being concerned, but I trust Karu with my life.” Hashi sighed. “That is your choice...” Hashi bowed and released Kianna back to Karu. “Just be careful...” Karu got back behind Kianna and put his head on her shoulder. “What was that about?” Kianna shrugged. “Oh, nothing.” Karu held Kianna close to him and kissed the back of her neck gently, causing her to shiver. “Karu that tickles.” Karu laughed. “Does it?” Karu began blowing gently on her neck and she leaned back against him, “Yeeeeeesss.”

Karu smiled. “Kianna you are quite entertaining.” Kianna looked back at Karu and pressed her body against his. “How so?” Karu gulped, trying to get a hold of himself. “You are beautiful, and smart, and funny, and a GREAT dancer.” Kianna laughed. “Well thank you Karu.” Karu smiled. “You are welcome Kianna...” Karu and Kianna danced close to each other for quite a while before Hashi said. “Yo, we had better get going. Our school has a curfew.” Karu nodded. “Alright. Goodnight Hashi, girls, and Kono.”

They all nodded and departed as Karu smiled at Kianna. “They come over almost every night and do this. You should come over more often. Karu took Kianna's hand and they began walking upstairs. “Yeah I guess I will. That was pretty fun.” Karu nodded and stopped in front of Kianna's room. “Well goodnight Kianna...” Kianna smiled and walked into her room.” Goodnight to you as well Karu.” Karu watched Kianna disappear into the darkness of the room before he sighed and walked down the hall. “I think I am starting to win her over... finally.”

Karu walked into his room and threw himself down on his bed. He watched the sun rise and it's golden rays flow over the mountain like a blanket. Karu's eyes became heavy as he watched, and after a few minutes he gave into sleep.



## 8 - Why We Don't Pet Vampires

### Chapter Eight (Why we don't pet vampires)

When Kianna awoke the next day it was late afternoon and she took a moment to remember where she was. Suddenly it all came back to her and she sat up, yawning. "What a night..." Kianna stood up, feeling the soft carpet with her bare feet as she walked out into the hallway. "Now where did Karu get to...?" Kianna walked down the hall, looking in every room until she saw a bed that had a lump under the covers and a few strands of long black hair falling over the edge of the bed. Kianna smiled and walked over to the bed. She sat down on it and poked the lump curiously. There was a groan from underneath the covers and it turned over, trying to escape Kianna.

Kianna rolled her eyes and tugged on the covers. "Hey sleeping beauty get up." The lump stirred in reply and curled into a tight ball as Kianna heard a sharp. "No." Kianna sighed and jerked the covers off of Karu who hissed and grabbed the covers, trying to yank them back. "Karu get up!" Karu looked up at Kianna and blinked. "Why?" Kianna smiled. "Because it is almost sun set." Karu shrugged and pulled the covers back over him. "Your point?" Kianna let out another exasperated sigh and replied. "If I can't sleep this late then neither can you."

Karu smirked. "I can fix that." Suddenly Karu grabbed Kianna's wrist and pulled her underneath the sheets with him. "Now sleep." Kianna blinked. "No." Karu rolled his eyes. "Is there no pleasing you!?" Kianna smiled. "Nope." Karu finally sat up, clinging to Kianna. "I don't wanna get up!" Karu frowned and Kianna ruffled Karu's hair. "Please Karu... for me?" Karu blinked. "Well... For you maybe..." Karu got up, yawning slightly as he scratched his head and walked into the bathroom. Kianna sat on the edge of the bed, swinging her legs back and fourth as she waited for Karu to get ready.

Within minutes Karu walked back to her and he looked as if he had spent hours getting himself ready. His hair was in a tight, neat ponytail; his clothes were pressed and ready; his teeth were unnaturally white; and his eyes were as kind as ever. Kianna stood up, circling around him curiously. "Wow you are fast." Karu shrugged. "I suppose so, to a human." Karu cracked his neck slightly before asking. "So Kianna are you ready to go back to your home?" Kianna nodded slightly. "Yeah sure, not that I am really looking forward to doing chores...." Karu smiled and chuckled. "Oh poor baby."

Kianna pouted. "Yes poor baby." Karu laughed and swept Kianna up into his arms, then walked out onto a balcony and leapt out into the air. Almost immediately, Karu's wings spread out and kept them from falling. Karu flew high up into the air and began swerving around and doing flips. Kianna clung to Karu. "Karu what are you doing?" Karu shrugged. "Just having some fun." Kianna smiled softly. "Oh I see..." Karu began humming as he turned over onto his back and continued flying. Kianna looked down at him and laughed. "Karu you are crazy."

Karu grinned. "This I know." Kianna looked down at the ground where she could see her village. "Oh,

there is my house.” Karu turned back over and snapped his fingers as they both became invisible. He dove down into the village, swerving through the streets until he got to Kianna's house. “Here we are.” Karu landed and jumped in through the window, gently putting Kianna down on her bed. “Well Kianna I enjoyed having you as company.” Kianna bowed her head. “Yeah, it was pretty fun for me too Karu.” Karu looked around for a moment before snapping his fingers and making Kianna visible again.

Kianna looked to where she knew Karu was still standing and heard him say. “I had best be off. I will come back tomorrow night after you return from school.” Kianna smiled. “Goodbye Karu.” Kianna heard the sound of running and then the flapping of wings as Karu flew off to attend to his business. Kianna sighed and stood up, walking over to her closet where she changed into a new kimono, then headed out to the kitchen. “Hey Mom.” Kianna's mother turned around and smiled. “Hello dear. How are you?” Kianna shrugged. “Okay...”

Her mother wiped her hands off on her apron before saying. “I hardly saw you at all today. What were you doing?” Kianna blinked. “Err... sleeping?” She smiled. “Oh, I guess you might be tired from being sick yesterday...” Kianna nodded and laughed softly. “Yeah... that is it... Well I am going to go in my room and draw.” “Alright dear. Have fun.” Kianna turned away and walked back into her room. She sat down on her bed and grabbed her sketchbook, sighing with relief. “I guess Karu was right. She didn't even notice that I was gone...”

Kianna took a pencil off of her bedside table and flipped her sketchbook open to a blank page. “Hmm, what should I draw?” Kianna paused and pondered for a moment before snapping her fingers. “Oh I know!” Kianna immediately began to draw on the paper, starting with the narrow face of Kono leaning against a wall. After she finished Kono she drew Karu standing a few feet away with girls staring at him. She then drew Hashi spinning her with a serious look on his face as he said. “Just be careful around vampires.” Once Kianna finished all of the people, she drew in the scenery of the party.

Kianna looked down at her work, beaming proudly. “Man I am good.” She looked around for a moment before grabbing a can and spraying something all over the paper. “Now it won't smudge.” Kianna looked over at her clock and blinked. “Wow, it is nine already and I am not even tired...” Kianna sighed and stared out of her window. “Damn it Karu you've turned me nocturnal and I have school tomorrow.” Kianna laid down on her bed, trying her best to make herself sleepy. She closed her eyes and began counting sheep, though strangely the sheep morphed into vampires, demons, angelics, and everything in between. After what seemed like an eternity, Kianna felt her eyelids becoming heavy.

She smiled happily and snuggled into her bed, and just when she was in between consciousness and the warm caress of sleep, she heard her mother yell. “Get up, time for school!” Kianna could've cried as she sat up and sputtered “B-But... no!” She stood up shakily, hardly able to believe that she had stayed up all night as she stumbled into the main room where her backpack was set out on a chair. Kianna hesitantly picked up her backpack, heavy with her books. “Oh my gods.” Kianna's little brother who was already heading out the door looked at her strangely. “Jesus Kianna you are a wreck.”

Kianna blinked. “Oh I am? Guess it is just lack of sleep...” Kianna sighed and dragged herself out of the house and into the streets of the village that were nearly empty. She walked down the dirt path for two blocks and finally reached her school that she had been going to for three years. Kianna stopped at the doors, sighing dramatically before pushing them open and stepping into the busy, familiar hallways of her school. As Kianna walked to her locker she was greeted by a group of excited girls. “Hey Kianna are

you feeling better?" Kianna nodded. "Oh, yes I am. Thanks."

As Kianna put her backpack away, one of the girls asked. "So Kianna. Tell us more about that Karu person that you were with at the dance." Kianna chuckled and grabbed some books. "Oh him? Well after the dance we talked for a while and then I went home. The next morning I felt really bad and he came later that day to cheer me up." The girls all smiled. "Then what?" Kianna shut her locker and looked at them. "I went to his house and stayed there for the night." All of the girls gasped. "You... slept with him!?" Kianna blushed. "No, no. We slept in different rooms. I just was at his house!"

The girls all sighed with relief. "Good. You had us worried there Kianna." Kianna laughed and walked down the hall into her English class. "No need to worry. All we did was kiss." All of the girls shrieked. "You KISSED him!?" Kianna blushed more. "Yes, but I can't tell you any more than that. Class is starting." Kianna took a seat and for the rest of the class and the day at that. Her friends pestered her nearly to death over Karu. After school Kianna headed quickly home, with arms full of homework for the last two days. As Kianna entered her home she immediately went to her room to get started on her work.

Kianna sat down in front of her desk and pulled out a sheet of lined paper and a pencil. "Okay first assignment... An essay describing my favorite season? This is child's play!" Kianna got to work on it immediately and finished within minutes. "Well that was easy... now math..." Kianna stared down at her work sheet with wide eyes. "Good gods this is not going to be fun." Kianna spent what seemed like an eternity on the problems, growing more frustrated as she worked. "Jesus you would have to be inhuman to get this!" Suddenly from behind her she heard Karu read out the answers to every problem right off the top of his head.

Kianna wrote down the answers as quickly as possible, then looked back at him. "You just proved my point Karu." Karu smiled at her and bowed slightly. "Glad to be of use..." Kianna sighed and stood up, stretching slightly. "Whew, thanks. That was a nightmare." Karu grinned. "No problem Kianna." Suddenly Kianna's eyes were drawn to a flask that Karu had in his hands. "What is that?" Karu smirked and took a swig of it's contents. A thick red liquid dripping off of his lips. "Blood." Kianna cringed. "Ewww!" He tilted his head to the side slightly and raised his eyebrows.

"What is wrong?" Kianna scowled. "How can you drink that?" Karu blinked. "Just like you drink water. It keeps me alive. Though I must admit, your blood tasted much better." Kianna grabbed her wrist defensively. "Tough luck Karu. You will never taste my blood again." Karu pouted slightly and drank down more of the blood. "Oh well. I can live with that." Kianna continued to watch Karu drink and after a moment he licked his lips and looked at her. "What is wrong? Is it that disgusting?" Kianna shook her head slightly. "No, it is just... different."

Karu smiled and held out the flask to Kianna. "Want some?" Kianna stared at Karu blankly. "Blood? Are you nuts Karu? I don't even know what it belongs to." Karu shrugged. "It is wolf blood. Very delicious. One of my personal favorites." Kianna cringed. "What does it taste like?" Karu thought for a moment. "Taste like... chicken!" Kianna blinked. "Then what does chicken taste like?" "Weasel." "And dare I ask what weasel tastes like?" "Chicken." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Okay I will try it."

Karu's eyes lit up. "Really? You will?" Kianna gulped. "Yeah..." Karu handed the flask of blood to Kianna and she accepted it with shaking hands. Kianna finally got up the strength to put the flask to her lips, but she began trembling. "I can't do it." Karu rolled his eyes. "Do you need help?" Kianna stared at

Karu. "Help?" Karu slipped his arm behind Kianna and made her lean back as he touched her hand, pouring the blood into her mouth. To Kianna's surprise, she actually swallowed, then shuddered. "Ewww!" Karu laughed and stood Kianna back up. "I am sorry Kianna."

Kianna looked up at Karu, who had his eyes aimed right on Kianna's lips, where she felt a little bit of blood still dripping. Kianna's eyes widened. "Karu don't you dare!" Karu didn't listen. Instead, he lunged toward Kianna, liking the blood off of her lips, then licking his own lips. "Mm, mm, mm! That is good!" Kianna gawked. "Damn it Karu, why must you always do that to me!?" Karu looked at Kianna and smiled. "Because you are beautiful." Kianna blushed slightly. "You know, it is getting harder to stay mad at you..."

Karu grinned devilishly. "That is because I am so cute!" Kianna burst out laughing and pet Karu's head. "Oh yeah Karu, sure!" To Kianna's surprise, Karu began nuzzling into her hand like an excited cat. "Ooooo, pet!" Kianna stared at Karu blankly. "You want me to pet you?" Karu nodded. "Yes please!" Kianna hesitantly began scratching behind Karu's ears and he sighed happily. "Yes, purrrfect!" Kianna chuckled. "Karu you weirdo." Karu nodded and sat down on Kianna's bed as she continued to rub his head and play with his hair.

Karu laid his head on her shoulder as she twirled a few strands of his hair around her fingers. "Wow, your hair is so soft." Karu smiled and closed his eyes. "Thanks." Kianna was so content playing with Karu's silky hair that she didn't notice him fall asleep. She looked over at him curiously. "Karu?" Karu didn't even react as he yawned. Kianna poked him in the forehead, but he was out cold. "Uh oh..." Kianna moved slightly, laying Karu down gently on her bed as she sighed. "Lazy." Kianna stood up, looking down at Karu. "Well I can't move him... I guess I will just have to leave him here."

## 9 - No One Deserves This

### Chapter Nine (No one deserves this)

After throwing a blanket over Karu to hide him. Kianna walked into the dining room where most of her family was already eating. Kianna strode into the kitchen and grabbed a few pieces of chicken before going back into the dining room and sitting down. She looked around at her family. Her mother, little brother, little sister, and grandmother were all there, just as they had always been. Kianna looked at her grandmother. "Hey grandma. You have lived in the village all of your life right?" Her grandmother nodded. "Yes, a full eighty-eight years now." Kianna cut a piece of chicken off. "Have you ever met the owner of the village?"

Her grandmother arched a brow at the strange question. "No, but I met his sons once. They were the most attractive boys that I have ever seen. Especially that Karu." Her grandmother blushed at the very memory and Kianna rolled her eyes. "What is so special about him?" "Just the fact that he was so damned hard to get. He wouldn't even look at any of the girls, only his brother did." Kianna laughed and muttered under her breath. "Hard to get indeed..." "Why did you want to know about that though Kianna?" Kianna shrugged and took a bite of her chicken. "No reason. I am just doing a ...school report on their family."

"Oh I see..." Kianna ate her dinner casually, then smiled. "I am going to my room now, okay?" Everyone nodded. "Whatever Kianna." Kianna put her plate in the sink before heading swiftly to her room where Karu was still asleep on her bed. Kianna rolled her eyes and sat down beside him. "Karu get up. I am tired and I would like my bed back." Karu groaned. "Do I have to get up?" Kianna sighed. "Yes, unless you plan on sharing a bed with me!" Karu opened one eye and smirked. "That works." Kianna's mouth dropped open. "Karu stop playing around!"

Kianna stubbornly laid down by Karu, pushing him back against the wall. "Move it." Karu yawned and scooted over. "Whatever..." Kianna closed her eyes. "You aren't actually going to sleep here are you?" Karu put one arm over Kianna and laid his head on her shoulder. "Of course I am." Kianna sighed and looked at Karu. "I can hardly believe you." Karu's lips curled into a smile. "Believe it. Now sleep." Karu snapped his fingers as the lamp turned off. Leaving Kianna in darkness." Kianna felt extremely ill at ease, yet her lack of sleep made it seem less apparent.

Within minutes Kianna fell asleep, acting as if she didn't have a care in the world. Kianna slept for the entire night and well into the morning. When Kianna finally did wake up, it was ten in the morning and she was still wrapped in Karu's arms. "What the hell am I still doing here!? I have school!" Karu winced at his rather loud wake up and he cupped his hand over Kianna's mouth. "Would you calm down. I already cast the spell to take care of it. As far as anyone is concerned, you are at school right now." Kianna sighed with relief. "Oh, okay."

Karu smiled and put his head back on her shoulder. "You need to relax. You are way too uptight." Kianna laughed softly. "Uptight? If I was uptight I would not be in the same room, let alone the same bed with a vampire who my grandmother thinks is hot." Karu blinked. "Oh? She must be one of the village girls from a long time ago..." Kianna nodded. "Yeah. She thinks you are really attractive." Karu grinned proudly. "Your grandmother has good taste." Kianna rolled her eyes. "Sure she does Karu..." Karu chuckled. "You think I am too. You just won't admit it."

Kianna shrugged. "I don't know. I think you are pretty hot actually." Karu gasped. "It is a miracle. You actually admitted it!" Kianna looked at Karu with a blank stare. "Yeah, so?" Karu grinned excitedly. "This is a cause for celebration!" Kianna blushed. "What are you talking about?" Karu smiled and took Kianna's hand, pulling her up with him as he chuckled. "Come on. Let's go to the tavern. I'll buy you a drink." Kianna blinked as Karu turned them both invisible and picked her up. "Karu I don't drink." Karu looked at her strangely as he jumped out of the window. "Really?" Oh well, just get what you want."

Kianna nodded as Karu began running and then leapt into the air and began to rise into the clouds. Kianna watched Karu curiously, then looked up at the clouds as they flew by them. Karu began descending again toward a rather large building that had a sign reading. "Black Rose Tavern and Inn." Karu landing neatly on the front porch and let down Kianna as they became visible to the world. "This is a great tavern. All kinds of interesting people in here, but you might wanna stay close. There are a few shady characters as well." Kianna stared at Karu as if he was crazy when he took her hand and walked into the tavern.

No one paid much mind to them, though they did get a few glances here and there, most aimed at Kianna. Karu went to the darkest corner of the tavern and took a seat across from Kianna, whose eyes were darting all around. "K-Karu, there are werewolves in here!" Karu nodded. "Yep, and vampires, and elves, and fairies, and demons, and dragons..." Kianna's mouth dropped open. "What if they attack me?" Karu shrugged slightly and snapped his fingers for a waiter. "I will protect you. They all know better than to attack a Maiako. We all have pretty fearsome reputations."

A waiter quickly walked over to Karu. "Sir, may I help you?" Karu smiled kindly, but made sure that the waiter saw his fangs. "Yes. I will have a blood wine and some chili cheese fries." Karu motioned over to Kianna and she looked up at the waiter. "I would like a green tea." Kianna got weird stares from both the waiter and Karu. "Yes ma'am. Your order will be out soon." With that, the waiter scurried off to place the orders and Karu looked at Kianna with raised eyebrows. "Aren't you hungry?" Kianna shrugged. "No, not really..." Karu rolled his eyes and laughed to himself. "Kianna you are a puzzle..."

Kianna blinked. "No I am not. I am way more normal than you." Karu put his hands behind his head and continued staring at her. "How do you figure that? I am quite normal for a vampire." Kianna crossed her arms. "And I am normal for a human." Karu suddenly broke out laughing. "Yeah sure Kianna. Need I remind you that you drank wolf's blood last night then slept with a vampire? If that is your definition of normal, then you pretty much fit the description." Kianna turned bright red and had to look away. "I didn't have much of a choice as far as sleeping with you. You wouldn't move!"

Karu flashed a toothy grin at Kianna. "You could have just left a trail of blood and I would have left, but you insisted on getting all cuddly and falling asleep." Kianna gasped. "Cuddly!? I don't know what you are talking about!" Karu laughed harder. "You are so fun to frustrate!" Kianna sunk down in her chair. "Whatever Karu..." Karu looked over at Kianna and sighed. "Kianna do not take it offensively. You know

that I am mean.” Kianna scowled at him and grabbed her green tea that the waiter finally delivered. She drank down the tea slowly, but her eyes had darkened slightly and Karu knew that she was pissed.

“Kianna please don't be like that!” Kianna stuck her tongue out at Karu and straightened up. “Like what? Upset that you are being a prick?” Karu nodded and took a sip of his blood wine. “Yeah, people normally don't take it so offensively. I guess you just aren't used to me yet.” Kianna stared at Karu blankly. “Oh I am plenty used to you. I just don't like being teased over something that is completely your fault and acting as if I am the one who should be ashamed when you are the one who should feel bad about it.” Karu grinned mischievously. “Me? Feel bad about it?”

“Are you insane? I loved it!” Kianna spit her tea across the table as her mouth dropped open. “You what!?!?!?” Karu lapped up more of his blood wine. “Hello Kianna, I am a guy. I got to have you pressed up against me all night. Of course I loved it. Hell you should mess with my hair and make me fall asleep on your bed more often.” Kianna stared at Karu with wide eyes. “Still, that is just strange and wrong. Now I am questioning what you were thinking about last night. Oh my gods I completely let my guard down. You could've done anything!”

Karu smiled. “That is true, but I didn't do anything. You made me really sleepy by petting me so I didn't have the chance, but believe me, if I hadn't been so damned tired then you would've been in trouble. Karu winked at Kianna suggestively. “So if you wanna have another go tonight. I am all for it.” Kianna made a gagging sound and scowled at him. “No way in the seven hells Karu. I am not like that.” Karu smiled and rubbed his leg against hers. “But I am.” Kianna stood straight up and looked down at Karu with disgust. “Too bad, you would've made a good boyfriend.”

Without warning Kianna walked out of the tavern, leaving Karu in shock. “Whoa, she is cold...” Karu knew that he shouldn't go after her, for it might make things worse. However... out of the corner of his eye he saw a group of vampires slip out of the tavern silently. “They are up to no good...” Kianna was steaming as she stomped out of the tavern. “The nerve of him! He is such a pervert.” Kianna looked around, then decided to cut through the woods in order to get back into the village. Kianna walked into the dark forest that was unfamiliar to her. “This is stupid, maybe I should go back and find Karu... No way, he is getting the cold shoulder for at least twenty-four hours, or until I hear an apology!”

Kianna walked deeper into the woods, feeling uneasy as she watched shadows shift around her. “Oh man this is bad...” From behind her she heard a low, hissing voice say. “Little girls shouldn't venture into the woods alone. It can be hazardous...” Suddenly Kianna felt two different people grasp her wrists and she tried to pull away. “Let go of me!” A man walked into the light. He had a thin, pale face and his cheeks were sunken in. “Oh we will. After we rape and kill you.” From back in front of the tavern Karu heard a glass-shattering scream that he recognized as Kianna's. “Oh shoot.”

Karu took off through the woods as quick as lightning. His eyes darting around, following the scent of Kianna and the scent of alcohol from other people. As Karu finally located Kianna, there were about four men around her, hissing lowly and slowly cutting her clothing with their claws. Karu's eyes turned the color of fresh blood under the moonlight as his fangs and claws lengthened and he screamed. “Release the girl!” The men all turned around to see Karu and three of them approached him while the third one held Kianna still.

Karu moved so fast that no one could even see him, but all of them felt his talon-like nails cut across

their guts as he ran around them. "Someone catch that little brat!" All of the men began swinging like mad into what seemed like emptiness, until they heard Kianna scream again. The man that was holding her had completely ripped off her shirt and had a knife to her stomach. "Show yourself or I will kill her!" From out of no where Karu appeared. The fires of hell were burning within his eyes as he lunged right to the man holding Kianna. Within seconds the knife was pinning the man to a tree by his shoulder, and Kianna had fallen on all fours, crying her heart out.

The three men left alive all scattered through the forest; none daring to face Karu. Karu gently kneeled beside Kianna who was trying desperately to cover herself as she sobbed. "Are you alright...?" Kianna looked up at Karu with wide, fearful eyes and suddenly threw herself at him, clinging to him desperately as she screamed into his chest. "Karu I was so scared!" Karu wrapped his arms around her and held her to him gently. "I know Kianna, but it is okay now..." Karu let Kianna wail into him for a few minutes before he took off his shirt and threw it at Kianna. "Put this on... it isn't much, but it will cover you up."

Kianna nodded slowly; turning around as she put on his shirt, and hugged herself tightly. "I am sorry Karu..." Karu looked at her with understanding eyes. "Don't be sorry Kianna, I am the one who insulted you and it is my fault..." Kianna closed her eyes tighter. "I am such an idiot! You could've really gotten hurt and it would be my fault for coming out here alone! I deserved what I got!" Kianna felt Karu wrap his arms around her from behind, holding her tightly. He was shaking slightly as he said. "No you didn't and don't you dare say that again! No one deserves that, not you, not Luna, not anyone!" Karu felt Kianna's muscles relax slightly as she turned around to face him.

Her eyes were deep and there were still tears in the edges, yet she seemed more calm now as she looked into the face of the boy that risked his life just to save hers. Kianna touched Karu's face gently. "Karu..." Without warning, Kianna gently kissed Karu's lips, sending a wave of warmth and security into him as he wrapped his arms around her, pulling her closer. Neither of them knew how long they were there, just holding each other. No words were said, for it was not necessary. They both knew exactly what the other was feeling and saying at that moment. "I love you."