

FLASH FICTION

The Woman Neither Monster Could Bite

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Amara Vale knew Blackthorne Castle had secrets.

She simply hadn't expected those secrets to have fangs.

Lucien Veyr revealed himself first.

She discovered him standing beneath the moon after a masquerade, another

man's blood staining his mouth.

She ran.

Straight into Kael Blackwood.

"Don't scream."

His eyes turned gold.

Amara screamed.

Then the hunters arrived.

Silver arrows struck Kael.

Lucien moved faster than sight.

The forest erupted into violence.

Amara stumbled backward until someone seized her.

A blade sliced her palm.

Blood filled the night air.

Lucien froze.

Kael froze.

Every supernatural creature surrounding them turned toward her.

The hunter smiled.

"Found you."

Lucien attacked.

Kael transformed.

Minutes later, Amara found herself trapped between vampire and wolf.

"Someone," she demanded, "tell me what's happening."

Lucien stared at her bleeding hand.

"Your blood."

"What about it?"

"I can hear every heartbeat within two miles."

Kael inhaled slowly.

"I can identify almost any bloodline by scent."

"And?"

The enemies exchanged a glance.

Lucien answered.

"Neither of us knows what you are."

Amara laughed nervously.

"I'm human."

"No," Kael whispered.

Lucien approached.

"May I?"

Every survival instinct told her to refuse.

Instead she offered her wounded hand.

Lucien touched one drop of her blood to his tongue.

His eyes widened.

He collapsed.

"Lucien!"

Amara knelt.

Kael grabbed her wrist.

Another drop touched a wound on his chest.

His injuries healed instantly.

Silence.

Lucien slowly looked up.

"Your blood weakened me."

Kael stared at his healed chest.

"And strengthened me."

Amara's heartbeat thundered.

"Why?"

Neither knew.

But something ancient did.

Deep beneath Blackthorne Castle, a sealed stone door
opened for the first

time in nine hundred years.

Carved across it were three figures.

A vampire.

A wolf.

And between them...

a woman.

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