

Chapter 11

“Let’s Call it Love”

Great.



The wizard and his group of friends were moving further and further from him as he willingly allowed himself to be pulled into the woods by a very seductive voice that offered no bodily pleasures, from what he could tell.

“Follow me Sarantos.”

He felt her nudging him deeper into the dark forest, although she didn’t need to. Her alluring voice drove him especially mad with anticipation and he imagined he would have followed her anywhere without any prodding whatsoever.

“Where are we going?”

“To my home.”

He kept his eyes closed because he’d awakened with a violent headache. While lying there, he tried to remember what happened after being led through the woods by only her sweet voice.

He was on something soft and he smelled an incense of some sort. This was a smell he didn’t recognize though. He slowly opened his eyes. He found himself in a small room on top of a bed made of very exotic and colorful leaves. The walls looked like the bark of an ancient tree and a soft white glow came from several stones set about the room floor. An iridescent pink mold grew up the walls and offered an unusual light to the space, as it shimmered and changed colors reflecting

the objects around it. It seemed as if it was alive. It moved like a gentle wild breeze. It gave him the creeps because he could feel a presence coming from it - one he could not explain.

“Hello, Sarantos.”

He again received the chill of seduction from her voice. He desperately tried to shake it off. “Where am I and who are you?”



“You’re in my home and I’m one of the nameless ones.”

“Okay, so what does that mean exactly? Where is your home and who are the nameless ones?”

“My home is where you’re at and I’m one of the nameless ones.”

Well, this line of questioning wasn’t getting him anywhere! He would try a different tactic. “Okay, is this a tree? Is the light crawling up the walls alive? What’s your name?”

Her breath gently filled the room and entered through his ears and moved down his body causing his toes to tingle, as she whispered teasingly, “Yes, it’s a tree of sorts. Yes, the light is a sentient being. I’m the nameless one.”

A little more information. “So you have no name. What do I call you and why have you brought me here? Please show yourself.” He wasn’t sure if he wanted to see her or not, because it might be more than he could handle, after all her voice . . . was too much.

“You don’t call me. I’m not to be called by you. You are here because I brought you here and I have a deal for you that’ll be to your liking. My existence is simply

not for your eyes. You do not have the capacity to understand. You have to be a nameless one to even look upon another nameless one. No Sarantos, your eyes could not handle my beauty. It would blind you, my delicate mortal.”

He couldn't help himself, as a chuckle escaped his mouth and seemed to dance across the room. The sentient being that climbed the walls created many mysterious hands that seemed to grab at the laughter and put it into a variety of unusual mouths that suddenly appeared, before going back to being a gentle glowing light.

That fact she'd called him a delicate mortal was hilarious, but at the same time the glowing goo caused him to feel tangible fear. He decided to find out more about the deal she had for him so he could possibly leave this place quickly. His friends must be frantic by now about his disappearance.

“What's this deal you mentioned?”

“I can use the vampire that haunts you, because she was born in this world. She had become a useless humanoid to us and I can convert all of those types of pointless creatures into a useful entity for all of eternity. It's a lesson she needs taught and is in turn the key to my own survival. See that blue vial on the table?”

His mind raced to keep up. He glanced around the room and spotted a small stump where a blue vial sat harmlessly. There were white flowers placed under a platter and the vial rested on it. “Yes, I see it.”

“Good. You'll have to do exactly as I say. Another humanoid has to attend this ceremony to capture another humanoid creature. I choose you, because of love. I'm a lover of love and see you have love for a woman in your passionate heart, a woman who is being tortured by a useless entity. I will reunite you with her and remove the obstacle to your love at the same time. You'll only need to open the vial and I will speak the magic words and move into the opening. Then I'll tell you when to seal it with the cork. You will carry me to your love and open the cork. I'll grab the horrible creature and return with her to the vial. I only need one promise from you.”

“Okay, you have my attention. What’s the promise you need from me?”

“Once I capture her, you’ll have to return me to my home and release me and then she will be the pink upon my wall or another tree for a nameless one. Our kind is eternal and has to replenish our breath by breathing in life from the pink moss, and our trees. We can only gather it from a despicable humanoid who has forfeited their lives in the most shallow of ways. In your world you might call it a form of recycling.”

Sarantos loved that concept. It seemed too easy but he had no other choice. “Okay, we have a deal.”



He got up and went over and retrieved the vial, popped the cork and said, “Hop in.”

She started speaking in a tongue he couldn’t understand but that totally drove him wild. He tried to hold his hands over his ears, but it didn’t help. When the room went silent he had to restrain an uncontrollable urge. It wasn’t easy. It wasn’t easy at all!

“I’m in here, please put the lid on now.”

He nodded and placed the cork on the vial.

“Sarantos . . . Sarantos where are you?”

He was on the ground and couldn't remember how he'd gotten there. A dream? Some weird dream if it was one, but in his hand now was the blue vial. He listened again for the wizard's voice. Instead Blayke's scream rose above the wizard's.

"Sarantos!" Blayke yelled as he walked out of the woods and suddenly came into view.

"Yeah, I'm over here." His head hurt worse now.

"What happened to you?" Blayke pulled him to his feet and continued, "my friend, you look horrible."

"Thanks, buddy. I love you too."



Blayke yelled, "Over here everyone. He's over here!"

Soon the clearing Sarantos had been left in was noisy with questions and happy pats on the back accompanied by warm hugs from all of his friends. Mika leapt on top of him knocking him back to the ground.

He looked at their concerned faces, "You're not going to believe this one!"

Wallis had that wizardly insight as he glanced at the blue vial and winked knowingly, "Try us, my friend."

Wallis decided the story could wait until they'd made it back into town. Everyone in the party met in the men's sleeping quarters to listen to the fascinating story of the nameless one. Adela, Wallis, and Aurora, alias Halo, had all known about the existence of the nameless ones, but until this point had never encountered one, nor spoken to someone who had actually met one. The narratives of their existence were fairy tales told to young children as some of the best nighttime stories ever imagined. This was a thrilling moment in their lives. Their enthusiasm and childlike interest made Sarantos smile. He loved the questions and the excitement of his friends. He also loved the fact that they might finally have an answer on how to defeat their enemy and finally bring back Leigh.

Food was brought to their room and Sarantos felt as though he could eat his dinner and the food everyone else had on their plates, as well.

The wizard stood up and said, "I'm very excited for this turn of events and feel quite happy that our new friend will handle our common enemy. She should have no problem in doing so and I strongly believe it has secured our ability to, at long last, free Leigh."

Sarantos grinned from ear to ear. He was glad they'd decided to come to this land of chaos after all.

They'd continued eating and enjoying the pleasantness arranged at the table. There hadn't been this type of genuine happiness among all of them in a very long time.

Wallis patted his belly after partaking of a larger meal than he was accustomed to and said, "Well, I'll inform Harry that we won't be needing his contact's service after all. He'll manage him just fine. I'll leave some money as a gesture of good faith. I'll be back in a little while and then we'll go home." Wallis smiled and left the room.



Blayke grinned and smacked Sarantos on the back, “Well, done, my friend. I can’t wait to go back home and to tell Brad about your new name.”

“What new name??”

Switch burst out laughing. “Yes, I think you’ve earned the right to be called ‘Terminator.’”

“You two are real funny.”

Blayke jumped in, “Well, I think Brad will get a real kick out of the story. We do have to come back

with a few good tales to entertain our friends! After all, no truly great journey is without them.”

“I suppose you’re right,” he said smiling.

“Well, I don’t understand why you don’t sing about that fierce battle in song? After all, you are the mighty Bard.” He chuckled and winked at Sarantos.

Derek chimed in, “Oh, ignore them Sarantos, they’re just jealous of your singing, I mean fighting ability.”

Everyone at the table burst out laughing.

He confronted them from across the table and using his most serious tone he said, “You’re so right Derek, that look of jealousy is just ferocious and I think I might write a song about that great battle of mine.”

He watched as they all looked at each other with confusion written deeply on their faces. Then he picked up his coffee and took a long sip before continuing, “However, my version of the song will be quite different. I will sing about the way I jumped into battle without hesitation. I will sing about not receiving help from a well seasoned warrior named Blayke who stood idly by looking rather frightened, before running out the door screaming for his momma. My voice will rise highest when I share the unique ability I have that allowed me to grapple to the ground the largest member of the huge and vicious mob, while a nasty little dwarf named Switch sat there cowering and stuffing his face with extremely large morsels of food while allowing them to fall back out of his mouth, down his beard and onto the plate. Oh what a song this will be, and I’m just getting started!”

Switch was picking his teeth, but turned to stare into the eyes of Sarantos as his eyebrows lifted in amusement. Blayke shook his head and gave a belly laugh before stating, “Well, my friend, it seems you would have the better of us, since it’s you that writes the songs.” He looked at Switch, “We better be careful little dwarf, lest we find ourselves named in his song wearing mush on our faces.”

Before Switch had time to agree, Wallis strolled into the room in a delightful mood.

“Let’s go. Aurora will do the honors. Is everyone returning with us. Deanna do you need to get home?”

“No, Sandwort and I will accompany you to your homeland. I’d love to see it.”

The wizard smiled, “Then let’s be off. Our time here is done”



In the blink of an eye, they all appeared in front of Brazon's home as a startled Brad was just heading towards them and ran directly into Sandwort, causing him to jump backwards and pull out his sword.

He placed himself in a ready position and aimed his weapon at Sandwort, then Deanna, and Sarantos. His worried warriors expression quickly changed into a gentle smile when he

recognized his long-lost friend. Brad sheathed his sword and ran to him. He threw his arms around him and lifted Sarantos right off the ground.

"My friend, I thought I'd never see you again," his voice was raised in uninhibited excitement.

Sarantos smiled, "It's good to see you too, Brad. I've missed your humor and our long-winded talks."

Brad looked at the wizard, "You old scoundrel. It sure took you long enough. Where's Mika?"

He no sooner got the words out when the giant cat decided to reappear.

“There she is,” Brad said while rubbing down her soft back, as the cat showed her affection with extremely boisterous purrs.

“Well, let’s go inside, then. I need to check in with Brazon. Come Brad,” said the wizard.

Brad grinned at Sarantos, “Nice to know some things never change.”

Sarantos nodded.

Everyone had been introduced, but the wizard had no time for stories about their adventure. He was keen to hear an update of what had been happening since their absence.

Brazon and Brad explained that a large portion of the population had decided to buckle down together to fight off the attacking vampires. Citizens took up residence with others to defend in packs and for the first time in the last year the vampires seemed to have gone into hiding. Many of their kind were killed when they tried to come against the forces of families and friends united together.

While they were chatting, Sojan came into the room carrying wood and when he saw Derek he dropped it and ran to his son. “You’re home. I’ve missed your face and now, I look upon the face of a grown man instead of a boy. You’ve aged quickly, my son.”

He hugged him tightly and Derek said, “You’ve not aged a bit father. You look well rested and healthier than I’ve seen you in years. To what do we owe this? We haven’t been gone that long.”

“It’s this hard work and fighting for a cause with an understanding that others share your burden and work next to you.” He smiled, “Not only that, but the food is wonderful and the women very charming!”

“Oh, father,” he laughed and reached for Deanna.

“Who’s this beautiful woman?”

“This is Deanna - a guardian of her world and I intend on returning with her and asking for her hand in marriage. Her father is King Blaze in the land called Ethel.”

Sojan looked shocked for a moment, but slowly nodded his head in approval. “Has Deanna agreed to this?”

“Yes, she has,” Deanna spoke up.

“Father, I have to return to ask for her hand and then he’ll have to decide on an answer. It might take months for his decision but I will return home no matter the outcome. She’ll prepare all of it including proper wedding ceremonies that will take over a year to complete. It’s customary to ask two years in advance before wanting to complete the unity of marriage in their world.”

“I see. Then you shall return and let me know of the outcome.” He patted him on the back, “You have my blessing my son.”



“Thanks, Father.”

“Enough,” the wizard interjected. “We must go Sarantos and bring your vial with you. Brad, Blayke, Switch, Mika and Murielle you’re with me, as well.”

The wizard looked around, “Where’s Murielle?”

“Here I am you old wizard,” she jumped on his lap and wrapped her arms around his neck, kissing him on his cheek.

He smiled and blushed, “Adela, please meet Murielle, one of my dearest and

oldest friends.”

“I see. She must be.” She chuckled and added, “I think I should accompany you to defeat the she-vampire. You might need my help.”

The wizard frowned, “No, Adela, please stay here and get acquainted with everyone. This is something special this small group must finish. Not to mention, we’re much more familiar with the situation at hand. You stay here and be at peace. We shan’t be long.”

She agreed as Brazon took it upon himself to show everyone around his place accompanied by Sojan.

Aurora had convinced the wizard to take her with them. She could teleport them in and out quite easily. After teleporting in, they stood facing a room full of vampires that appeared to be rather sated at the moment. Only two of them bothered to look up. Blood dripped from their exposed fangs onto the very sheer fabric that couldn’t actually have been referred to as clothing.

The female had dark hair as black as a raven’s that hung to her waist in one long braid. The male was tall and muscular. As he lifted himself into a standing position, he exposed a lot more than a finely tuned physique. He appeared irritated and hissed at the group of friends as fresh blood ran down his mouth and onto the body of a slumped over female. They had something similar to spidey senses and as the blood hit her on the back, she lifted her violet eyes and looked into the soul of Sarantos. He shivered and quickly wondered why men were so weak in her presence. He wanted to drown in those eyes and she pulled him in.

Her body was voluptuous. As he moved closer she crawled up his leg dragging her scantily clad body against his with a slow deliberate motion. His heart felt faint. He forgot all about Leigh. He was turbulently in love until Blayke pried her off of him and slung her against the tall man causing her to bellow in anguish.

The vampire grabbed her and pulled back her blonde curls and dug his fangs into her neck. The woman with a braid jumped on top of her and bit into the other side

of her neck. The blonde went limp. Sarantos wanted to join them. He wanted to give in to his primal urges right here and now!

Blayke pulled him back to the group and the wizard slapped him in the face instantly releasing the hypnotic effect they had on his soul. "Stay by Blayke Sarantos." The wizard turned towards Blayke, "Watch him closely."

Wallis continued out of the room mumbling to himself about vampires and their seductive enticements for the weak humans. He was glad he belonged to The Sixties and was above such shameless displays of rabid behavior.

They walked down a corridor with huge gold doors to either side. Sarantos didn't know how they would ever find Leigh in this maze.

Mika stopped at a double door at the end of the hallway. It had blood all over it and gave him an uneasy feeling. *Leigh.*

The door was locked. The wizard started chanting and when he finished the door blew into the room and ended up on the far wall some 80 feet away.



They entered the room in fours.

Drained bodies were strewn about the marble floor. Sarantos wondered why all vampires, male and female, were beautifully endowed with an artistic infusion of pure unadulterated sexual attraction.

He heard a hiss and looked up. There she was in all her glorious mesmerizing beauty. The she-vampire was on her mighty throne with at least twenty men around her feet and with five men giving her multiple types of pleasure. He

assumed she must be weaker in her room of bliss.

One of the men massaging her body turned and said, “Go away humans, you bore us. Don’t make us take you where you stand. We aren’t as weak as you might believe. This is the goddesses’ home and you don’t have an invitation. Leave at once!”

His voice danced through the air threatening to devour them in his own personal storm.

“Sarantos, let her free, now.” The wizard said in a menacing tone.

The male vampires started to move toward them and when they got up off of the floor he saw a woman bleeding and obviously quite sated. *Another gorgeous vampir...*

“Leigh!” He screamed, “It’s Leigh!”

The males moved quickly covering the distance so rapidly Sarantos barely had time to think. Brad pulled his sword, along with Blayke. Mika slowly crouched down ready to pounce. Muriele’s bow was like lightening as her magic arrows disintegrated each vampire she impaled. Aurora took the form of a werewolf and stood alongside Mika.

Wallis lifted his staff and screamed, “Release her Sarantos. Release her now!”

He removed his eyes from Leigh and held up the blue vial, pulling out the cork. A vapor moved into the room promptly advancing towards the throned vampire.

Sarantos watched as the body of the undead witch went into spasms. She screamed in agony and floated across the room to the vial in his hand. The male vampires tried to grab her and stop her from being pulled through the air. The voice of the nameless one caused them all to fall to their knees while quivering with desire.



The group of friends couldn't pry their eyes from the scene unfolding in front of them. It was surreal and quick but seemed to be happening in slow motion. When the vampire reached the vial, her hands grabbed onto Sarantos and looked into his eyes begging for mercy. Even though he had none to give after what she'd done to Leigh, he felt a twinge of fear for what she was about to become.

That look would haunt him and cause nightmares for many years to come.

Her scream was excruciating as her body ultimately become vapor and went inside the vial.

"I'm done here, Sarantos. Take me home now. You must keep your promise. You will know the clearing where I left you and you can release me there. Thank you so much! This helps feed our kind and eliminates her diseased heart and much hatred from your world."

He put the cork back on the bottle and placed it in his backpack.

The male vampires between them and Leigh were on the ground moaning and writhing about. Sarantos knew the impact of the nameless one would keep them down so he ran to Leigh. *Oh God, don't be dead, please don't be dead.*

She was bloody and appeared to be in a trance. He sat down next to her and cradled her in his arms.

Tears flowed down his cheeks and landed on her beautiful face, “Leigh, oh Leigh, remember when you changed the world for me? It was supposed to be me and you all along, Leigh. Don’t break my heart. Please don’t ever leave me, my darling, my beautiful Angel. We spend too much time apart. I can’t do that anymore. I want you for me, always Leigh, answer me, please answer me. What do you call this in your world when you can’t live without someone? I’ve never felt this way before. Tell me how to make it right, please Leigh. I think I feel love. Let’s call it love. Leigh, let’s call it love. On Earth, we call this love! Speak to me my love. Is this love? Do you feel it too?”

He looked up back into the eyes of his friends as they watched him trembling like a child. Wallis was weeping and knelt down to give her the vial that they hoped would cure her vampirism.

The wizard forced it down her throat. Within minutes her features softened into the Leigh Sarantos remembered. Blayke covered her with his cloak. Aurora transformed back into her original self.

“Excuse me Wallis, let me get in next to her.”

He moved out of the way and she knelt on the floor to the opposite side of Sarantos. She lifted Leigh’s hand and announced, “She’s almost dead.”

She opened Leigh’s mouth and breathed into it sending a vapor from her mouth into Leigh’s. As a soft purple glow passed between Aurora and Leigh, the color flickered about their hair and skin.

The dwarf was crying, “Come back to me my friend, my beautiful lady. Please don’t break his heart.”

Muriel moved to softly put her hand on his back and also knelt down putting her head on his shoulder. Tears stained her face. Mika laid her head on Leigh’s lap as the colors of the rainbow washed through her eyes. Sarantos knew Mika was assisting. The three of them were linked. The energy was palpable to all.



After what felt like an eternity, Aurora sat up and looked at Sarantos while her hand slid over the face of Mika.

Leigh stirred and whispered something he couldn't hear. He kissed her lips tenderly, then her forehead and then each eyelid.

She weakly whispered again, "Sarantos, yes, let's call it love."

The end of the first book of the series.