



# The Master's Holiday

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**Category:** Romance, Adult, M-m Romance, Paranormal, Vampires

**Description:** When you're a Master Vampire like Nik Hadden, trouble seems to follow wherever you go...

Nikolas Hadden, Master of the Hadden Coven, wants to take his beloved, Walker Hall, on a luxury romantic getaway. After the trials and tribulations of the last few months, he wants to spend some time reconnecting with his beloved. Walker has been talking about this exclusive lodge in the mountains, and Nik is determined to give Walker the perfect vacation.

What starts as a luxury getaway quickly dissolves into trouble and chaos. Surrounded by humans and far from Hadden Coven territory, Nik has to delicately navigate the situation and keep his beloved from harm.

Nothing is ever simple when you are Nik Hadden.

**Total Pages (Source):** 9

## CHAPTER ONE

"It's for the weekend, Friday through Sunday. We'll be back Sunday night, and it's something I need to do for Walker. He's stood by me through all the upheaval, providing support and love, unconditional love, and I want to give back. I want to do something special for him." Nik explained to Josef the plans that he and Walker had put together.

It was going to be a time and a place where they could focus on each other and enjoy simply being together. There would be no crisis, no curses, no urgencies that would pull them apart, and it would be peace and relaxation.

"I think that's a great idea. Walker deserves to have you to himself, and you deserve to have a few days serving only your beloved." Josef, too, understood the sacrifices that Walker had made. "Walker has been talking to Isaac about a place in the Poconos, a very exclusive lodge, and he called it his dream vacation. I assume that's probably where you are headed." Josef smiled.

Nik nodded. "I made the reservation yesterday at the Glendale Lodge. It was short notice, but as we all know, money works wonders at opening doors and softening resistance, especially with humans." Nik grinned, and Josef agreed wholeheartedly. When dealing with humans, the best bait is cold, hard cash.

"I booked the large suite with the river view and the terrace that he had spoken of so fondly. Nothing was going to deter me. I might have used a low-grade glamour to secure cooperation, but nothing will stand in the way of me giving Walker the weekend he so desired." Nik was looking forward to the time alone and the rest he

only knew when in the company of his beloved.

"Whatever it takes, Nik." Josef was behind him one hundred percent. "Walker has earned this and so much more."

"He is the love of my life, Josef, and I would give him the moon if he asked for it. He is my ideal match and my greatest love, and I intend to make this weekend perfect. He will see his dream vacation come to life." Nik vowed.

"Walker, you need to pack some swimwear for the hot tub. Make sure it's sexy." Stanley, his best friend, relaxed on the bed while Walker went through his closet, picking out what he wanted for the weekend getaway that Nik had arranged.

"The Glendale is too sophisticated to have hot tubs in the rooms, but they do offer that spa experience. I'm not sure if I'm the spa experience type, though. I like my sexy times private, not in and among various service workers." Stanley laughed at Walker's modesty.

"You won't show them anything they haven't seen a thousand times." Stanley retorted.

"Maybe so, but they haven't seen me, and they sure as hell are not going to see Nik." There was a little ferocity attached to the end of that statement, and Stanley chuckled while Walker gave him the side eye. "How would you feel if strangers were ogling your beloved Iker's finer features?"

"The ogling would last just long enough for me to gouge their eyes out," Stanley responded truthfully.

"Just as I thought." Walker tossed a few shirts and a couple pairs of jeans into his bag.

“You might need to dress up at some point during the weekend. You should bring a suit.” Stanley suggested and started rummaging through Walker’s closet. “My God you still have this.” He gasped and pulled out the suit Stanley had loaned him for his first visit to the Imperial Club and where he first met Nikolas Hadden. It had originally belonged to Stanley’s father who let Walker keep it for sentimental reasons.

“That’s my lucky suit Stanley and I will never part with it.” Walker smiled and held the vintage black suit up against him. “Still looks great.”

“But it’s not suitable for the Glendale.” Stanley continued to look through his closet and came out with a nice classic black suit. “Now this is more like it.” He took it and added a white shirt and tie and proper accessories and carefully packed it into a garment bag. “There now when you need it everything is in one place.”

"I don't know what I would do without you, Stanley." Walker teased.

“Of course you don’t.” Stanley faked the demeanor of the long-suffering and continued to add things to Walker's bag.

“Take a couple guards with you Nik you don’t know what you might encounter out in the woods.” Josef was insisting.

“I’ve taken on sorcerers from the underworld and devils from alternate dimensions, so I think I can handle a lodge full of humans on vacation, Josef. There is no need for reinforcements." Nik chuckled.

"I'm not questioning your ability, Nik, but it would be handy to have at least one of your own close by. Besides, you need a driver.” Josef carefully pointed out the positives of taking a guard with him. “Your driver Ellis and his beloved are on leave, so let me choose a suitable guard. He'll be there if you need him and out of your way

if you don't." Josef would have preferred him to have two guards, but he would be lucky if he got Nik to agree to have one so he didn't push too hard.

"Okay, I'll take one guard because I would like to have a driver." Nik agreed.

"Thank you. Is there anyone you would prefer?"

"No, I trust your judgment."

"Dumas," Josef stated the name and waited.

"The hellhound. Do you really think I need a hellhound to accompany me and my beloved on our romantic getaway?" The sarcasm was not lost.

"Humor me." Josef had nothing left.

"Okay." Nik sensed Josef's need for Nik and Walker to be properly protected and cared for. He understood, and honestly, he appreciated his concern. "It's just a lodge owned and operated by humans and frequented by humans. I think any dangers are minimal."

"Dumas has already been contacted and is ready to go when you are." Josef told him. Nik side eyed him suspiciously but then smiled and patted him on the back.

## Page 2

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

"We'll be fine, Josef." He assured.

"Our things are being loaded now, so we should be ready to leave in the next ten minutes or so." Nik found his beloved in their apartment, turning off lights and fans and making sure the place was buttoned up. It was his upbringing and his way, and Nik never interfered with the things that brought him comfort. He waited patiently until Walker was satisfied that the place was secure.

"I'm really excited about this, Nik." Walker turned when Nik came up behind him and moved in for a kiss that was equal parts sensual and sweet. "Oh yeah, now that's a nice beginning to our weekend."

"I have so much more in store for you, my love. . . so much more." He kissed him again, and Walker melted in his arms like always. Nik had the ability to bring him to his knees every single time. They'd been together for a while now, and still, he thrilled Walker as much as he had that very first night in his office shortly after they'd first met.

Life with Nik Hadden was amazing and loving and caring and everything one could ever hope for in a relationship. Accepting Stanley's invitation to the Imperial Club that night years ago was the smartest thing he'd ever done. He met the love of his life and was awakened to a world that never failed to excite and fascinate.

"We better go, or we may never leave," Nik spoke softly against his ear and rained kisses down the side of his neck. "You drive me crazy, baby."

"Save it for the lodge Nik." Walker teased. "I'm looking forward to being taken on

every flat surface available in that suite," Walker responded sensually.

"Only the flat surfaces? I prefer no restrictions." Nik chuckled, grabbed Walker's hand, and headed for the door.

"No restrictions, Nik, absolutely no restrictions."

Josef informed Dumas of the limitations that would be present at the Glendale Lodge regarding using language or acting in any way that would raise questions. "The Lodge is all human the owners and the staff are all human no paranormals. Also, my information indicates at this point in time there are no paranormal guests other than you and the Master."

"I'll keep that in mind, sir." Dumas had worked in the human world before coming to the Hadden Coven, so he knew how to maintain a low profile.

"The Lodge is outfitted with an extensive system of cameras in the public areas and on the grounds, so be cognizant of that."

"I will, sir."

"One last thing." Josef stepped up to him and spoke softly. "Walker is a trained auto mechanic. He was a working mechanic when he and the Master met. He knows a lot about cars, and he's a genuinely nice man, so he has a habit of stepping in to help whenever he comes across someone having trouble with their automobile. Be prepared for that and steer him away whenever possible."

"I'll do my best, sir." Dumas was impressed with the humble beginnings of the Master's beloved, which made the small human even more likable. He'd only met him once formally when he joined the coven, but he'd heard many good things about the young man. "I'll take good care of them, sir." He finished, and Josef nodded. Nik

and Walker got off the elevator and walked over to the vehicle.

Dumas introduced himself and opened the back door for them and held it as they got in. Josep wished them well and soon they were on their way to the peaceful nature resort. The Glendale Lodge was approximately eighty miles to the north well outside Pittsburgh and Master Hadden's influence.

There were no paranormal groups in the area be they shifters or vampires that section of Pennsylvania was primarily human. Nik was looking forward to getting away from the paranormal world and enjoying a nice relaxing weekend with his gorgeous beloved.

## CHAPTER TWO

The drive was a little over an hour long and the Lodge was everything Walker had imagined it would be. Elegant yet woodsy, open and spacious, yet possessing every convenience. They had a room, or rather a suite that was exactly what you'd expect a luxurious bedroom in the forest to look like. He took a deep breath breathing in the fragrances and the fresh air.

"I love it, Nik." Walker quickly made himself at home.

"I'm glad it meets your expectations, my love." He turned and took the luggage from Dumas. He told him to check in every morning and evening but otherwise he was instructed to leave them alone.

"Yes, sir, and enjoy your stay, sir." He said as he turned to the door.

"We will, and thank you." Nik closed and locked the door and then went in search of his sexy little beloved.



Dumas decided to check out the place after finding his room and settling in. He wanted to be familiar with the area and the human occupants. Dumas was well aware of the duplicity and dishonesty of which humans were capable. He also understood that they tended to violence when life did not go their way or if they felt slighted or if they happened to get up on the wrong side of the bed. In a word, they could be volatile.

He checked the SUV where it was tucked away in a large garage that looked like a barn. It was safe and in good hands the attendants were present and observant. The outdoor amenities were well cared for, and servers were also present and observant.

Once inside the Lodge Dumas noticed the same attention, a focused attention from all except the tall bartender in the main bar of the Terrace Room which was attached to the Terrace Restaurant. There was also a doorman that seemed more interested in his phone than his job.

The two men gave him pause, but there was no reason to suspect them of anything. He roughed out a diagram of the Lodge with exits clearly marked and the design flow indicated, along with the location of every camera. It was always good to know the flow of the structure you were residing in and to be aware of all the exits. He then texted that diagram to the Master.

He entered the main lobby and was greeted by the concierge, Mr. Regan Marshal. "Hello, you're Mr. Hadden's driver." He identified him, and Dumas nodded. "Is there anything I can do for you? Is there anything you need?" He was a small man with an eager and excited personality, but he seemed sincere.

"No, there is nothing that I need." Dumas was honest and turned away, dismissing the man.

"Certainly, please enjoy your stay with us." He gave the standard line and the

standard forced smile.

## Page 3

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

“I will, thank you.” It was a nice place, well-staffed, and located in a beautiful, secluded forest. Dumas planned to have an easy weekend guarding the Master and his beloved.

“What do you want to do first?” Walker thoroughly checked out the suite finding all the special treats of chocolates and champagne and a variety of snack items. “They really know how to stage a room.” He said as he ate a bag of chips and sipped on sparkling water.

“Only the best for you baby.” Nik walked over to him and took him into his arms and started a flurry of kisses that disarmed and thrilled leaving his lover breathless and wanting. He took the chips and the water and set them aside while gathering his beloved closer. “You’re all mine baby.” He teased.

"All yours, Nik. . . all yours." Clothes were discarded, and soon they lay together naked, wrapped in each other's arms on the soft, thick comforter. The bed was roomy and solid, with large soft pillows. It harkened to the thick, dark wooded peace of the forest beyond their doors and brought a sense of freedom and release.

“Your body excites me. Every time I look at you, it's as exhilarating as the very first time I looked at this marvelous body of yours and made you my own.” Nik never thought he’d find anyone who could make him bend and beg for their love, but he was proved wrong the night he saw that gorgeous young man leaning against the wall playing on his phone.

It was a special night at the Imperial and there were important people and influential dealings going on but all he could see was the blonde man in the second hand suit

looking bored and out of place. That night was the beginning of their lives together and it has been better than he ever thought possible.

Everyone dreams about their beloved, but no one really knows the depth of devotion and the love that comes with a Fated true match. He will be forever grateful for the young man he has the privilege to have and to hold. Walker was so unexpected and so unlikely, yet he is perfection down to the smallest consideration.

Nik rolled on top of Walker and again rained kisses down his throat and across his shoulder. "I love you, Walker, so much more than you could ever imagine." He whispered the endearing words against the smooth, warm flesh of Walker's chest. He was rewarded with a soft moan of appreciation.

He spread Walker's legs apart and moved between to press his hard shaft against Walker's throbbing flesh. His heart pounded in his chest, and the need he felt bubbling up and overtaking him was wonderful and amazing. Nik took particular care, as he always did when preparing his lover. The sensual kisses continued while he covered Walker's alluring entrance with enough lubricant to make everything easy and slick.

Walker moved with him, enhancing every sensation and tempting Nik to go further. "I'm ready, Nik." He urged, but Nik was not convinced, so he plunged his fingers inside, stretching and massaging the tight muscles until he was sure there would be no pain. He would always make sure that his lover would know only pleasure and satisfaction.

Walker wrapped his legs around Nik's waist and held on tight. Nik slid his fingers from that glorious hole and pressed his own hard cock to the trembling flesh. "You ready for me, baby?" He tempted him with several shallow thrusts. Walker responded by grinding his hips against Nik's highly sensitized flesh, exciting and invigorating.

Nik drove his throbbing cock deep inside his lover with one hard, swift thrust. Walker jerked and moaned, gripping Nik's shoulders and tightening his hands into fists. "More, more." He chanted.

Nik pulled out and plunged inside again, going deep and swirling his hips to give his little lover the best experience. He hit every pleasure point, knowing everything that Walker enjoyed. His timing and pressure were set to Walker's ultimate pleasure.

Walker was writhing beneath him, lost in the feelings and emotions racing through him. Nik took him hard, thrusting deep and intensifying the sensations. He lifted him up in order to plunge even deeper with maximum effect. He had Walker's legs slung over each arm and pounded away until the climax swamped him in a sudden wave of ecstasy.

Nik sunk his teeth into Walker's neck and drank of the sweetest nectar in all the world. It soothed, invigorated and nourished and it was all Walker his forever love and the absolute center of his life. He felt the telltale warmth spread between them a sure sign that Walker had thoroughly enjoyed himself.

He pulled his teeth free and licked the wound closed before gently pulling out and lowering Walker's legs back to the bed. "That was so good." Walker declared on a ragged breath and turned his head to stare lovingly at Nik. It was a look he'd seen hundreds of times and every time, he melted. It struck him so deeply knowing that someone like Walker could love him perfectly and unconditionally.

Nik pulled him into a snug embrace. "That's just the beginning, sweetheart."

The Master and his beloved Walker were having dinner in their suite tonight so Dumas decided to go to the main restaurant to check out the clientele. Like the Master, many guests have dinner delivered but others enjoyed showing off to the crowd and to their companions. It was an upscale establishment the Glendale Lodge

had been in operation for over fifty years and had served most of the influential in northern Pennsylvania over the years.

They were known for their service, special and varied amenities and privacy. When he walked in it was clear that the place still drew many from the cream of society. As an associate of Nikolas Hadden, he was quickly seated but as his driver he was placed at a smaller table near the kitchen. It was the social pecking order which was adhered to religiously in the human sector.

“A waiter will be with you shortly sir.” The hostess told him and quickly headed back to guide a couple to their table near the windows. Dumas didn’t mind the table being in the back gave him a clear view of the entire room. Dinner was good, not great but very good and the service was impeccable.

He ordered another glass of wine when he saw two men come in and be seated. They were human and dressed in expensive suits, but their look was slightly off. They did not present the manners one would expect of suits like those in a restaurant like this.

It wasn’t anything clumsy or overt, just a tell that said these men were more the working man than the business elite. Perhaps it was a case of new money and nothing to concern himself about, but the way they kept their heads down and spoke softly yet urgently kept drawing Dumas’ attention.

He finished his meal and left the restaurant but waited outside and when the two men left he followed them. They continued to talk in urgent whispers, and he heard some of it but couldn’t tell if it was business or personal. Something was happening and they were integral to the process, but they weren’t satisfied with who was running the operation whatever it was.

They were sharing a room it appeared, but Dumas could sense three humans in the room. It was odd but didn’t point to anything that should cause him interest. Both

men were armed but then so were he and Master Hadden. Was he paranoid because he was used to there being trouble around every corner. The Lodge was quiet and low keyed and perhaps too good to be real.

Dumas went outside and walked the perimeter of the Lodge before returning to his room for the night. He would probably do another walk later just for his own peace of mind. There was something about the place that made him question and observe but he couldn't decide, as yet, what it was.

He checked in with the Master at eleven and then began background checks on the staff members of whom he'd covertly taken pictures. He also checked out the two guys from the restaurant.

"Dinner was excellent," Walker stated and slipped off the silken robe he had been wearing for most of the evening. He held it at his wrists so that it was slung just below his amazing pert, round ass. Nik loved his ass, and Walker liked to show it off as often as possible. They'd worked their way through all the flat surfaces in the bedroom and had made erotic use of the wonderfully large shower, and now Walker was checking out the living room.

Nik's cell rang and he answered. "Hello." He listened and Walker could see by the look on his face that something was concerning him so when he closed the call, he asked.

"Is everything okay?" He slipped his robe back on and tied it, walking over to stand next to Nik.

"Nothing we need to worry about." He said, and Walker asked again.

## Page 4

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

“What is it?”

“Dumas is under the impression that there may be a heist of some sort that is being planned. He isn’t sure of the intended target or targets.”

"Should we say something to warn someone?" Walker wasn't sure what to do.

“This is a human matter. We can't involve ourselves without ending up as a part of it. We cannot expose ourselves to the authorities. This area of Pennsylvania is human. We have no connections here and things could get out of hand very quickly. Besides what would we tell them? We don’t know what’s going on, we only have our suspicions." Walker understood but still it burned him that crooks could be getting away with robbing people.

"You have a very kind heart, Walker, but humans have gotten along without our interference for an eternity. This is a very secure establishment, and I'm sure they have people handling this issue even as we speak." Nik made his feelings clear.

“I should have done more research and chosen a place more suited to the paranormal." Walker suddenly felt guilty for bringing them to a place so outside their influence.

“Hey, none of that now . . ." Nik soothed and pulled Walker into his arms. "This Lodge is impressive as far as country dwellings are concerned. We haven't had a chance to explore or experience anything other than this room so far, but I’m telling you that I am very happy.”



“Dumas will keep an eye on things and alert us if anything changes.”

“Okay.” Walker smiled and grabbed a chocolate from the gift basket on the counter and popped it into his mouth. “They sure know how to pamper and I love being pampered.”

Nik dropped his robe and gathered Walker closer. "You want to be pampered, baby?" Walker nodded his head. "Then lose that robe and show me that gorgeous ass of yours." Walker slipped free and slowly sauntered across the room while looking provocatively over his shoulder at Nik.

He then dropped his robe and bent over the back of the sofa in a suggestive manner. He massaged one cheek provocatively and moaned. Walker's ass was on full display, and Nik was not going to deny himself the pleasure. He was behind him in an instant and running his hands over that smooth muscled back and that firm round ass.

“You never fail to excite and disarm me with your every move and every look. I love you to distraction my sweet, sweet love.” Nik massaged and thrust his hips against his beloved seductively teasing him with each move. “Everything about you entices me baby.”

Walker held onto the back of the sofa and moved his hips in time with Nik's movements. The building of the heat was irresistible, and Walker could feel it to his bones. Nik was an amazing lover, always leaving him panting and trembling and begging for more.

His sex life had been fine, nothing spectacular, but okay, until he met Nikolas Hadden, and then it became explosive, thrilling, and mind-bending. He brought Walker to the edge of the universe on more than one occasion. Amazing was the word he always used, but even that didn't come close to describing the level of extravagant pleasure that Nik brought him.

He loved this man for everything and nothing and for always thinking of him in every situation. He was never taken for granted, and he was never overlooked; he was the Master's Beloved.

Nik spread him, touching, teasing, stimulating, and baring him completely before filling him fully. He pushed inside, stretching and forcing himself further and deeper while Walker bent over while pushing back as Nik thrust forward. Nik held him by the hips, keeping him steady when Nik began to hammer inside his tight, velvety, soft channel.

This weekend was exactly what he needed. Walker had been feeling a little on edge and a bit pent up after the curse, and then the issues with the mutants and the dragons were a lot to process. Having Nik all to himself with no interruptions was soothing and satisfying his every need. Nik held his hips and picked him up off the floor and then abruptly slammed inside and exploded. The sensations were sharp and multitude.

Walker squeezed his eyes shut and held on as he was swamped with the most intense vibrations that set every nerve ending on fire. His skin prickled, and his heart stopped, and then he, too, exploded in a release that was both powerful and satiating. "You make my body sing." Walker panted out the words, and Nik continued to pound against his tender flesh, working every nerve.

Nik gradually pulled out and picked his exhausted beloved up into his arms and carried him to the bedroom. "I think you need some rest my love and I need to hold you in my arms." Nik told him and deposited him onto the bed fixing the pillows and pulling the comforter up to cover him. He then slid into bed beside him pulling him close and Walker rested his head on Nik's shoulder. Life was beautiful and perfect.

"Sleep, sweetheart. Our weekend has only just begun." He kissed him lightly on the forehead.

"I love you, Nik, forever and always." Walker closed his eyes and settled in.

"Forever and always, baby, you and me."

### CHAPTER THREE

Nik had made reservations for brunch at the Terrace Restaurant wanting Walker to have the full experience of dining outdoors but also the convenience and quality of a full service restaurant. He made the reservations for three and invited Dumas to join them. He wanted to discuss his theories regarding the possible robbery.

It was wonderful getting away for a weekend and spending uninterrupted quality time with his beloved. It was invigorating and rejuvenating and just what his heart and mind needed after the upheaval of the last few months. The presence of his beloved having him in his arms and feeling his life force wrapped around him was something indescribable.

Someone who is not bonded would never be capable of understanding that feeling because there is nothing in life that can compare. It is that powerful and that important. Walker, the laid back easy going young auto mechanic who happened to walk into Nik's club one evening became his focus, his obsession and the love of his life in a split second.

That's how Fate worked, the needs and the desires were there, and she made the connection possible. Long drawn out relationships were unnecessary because recognition was immediate between Fated couples. Of all the possible connections Fate could have made he was honored that she had chosen for him Walker Hall.

He saw him for who he was, he saw his heart and his soul. He didn't see him for what he could do for him or what he could give him those things didn't matter to Walker. All he wanted was love and loyalty and Nik could and would provide that in

abundance.

Nik walked into the bedroom and Walker was putting his shoes on. “Ready for brunch?” He asked and dropped a kiss to the top of his head. “I’d like to escort you to what I’m told will be a fine meal with inspiring aesthetics at the Terrace Restaurant.” Nik held out his hand and Walker took it with an expectant smile.

“Inspiring aesthetics, wow.” Walker teased.

## Page 5

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

“We will be seated on the terrace, and the grounds are beautiful, so it very well could be inspiring,” Nik responded with slight sarcasm.

“I’m loving this place Nik.” He commented thoughtfully and then grabbed his phone and wallet. “I know there’s some issues playing out in the background that are not particularly pleasant but over all this Lodge is charming and comfortable. I’d give it a four point five stars.”

“Not five?”

“My favorite place is the penthouse of the Hadden Center with you and nothing else can compare. This place is great, but home is always a five star.” Walker told him. Nik was again touched by Walker’s sweet, sincerity.

“I love you, baby.” Nik bent and took Walker's lips in a loving embrace. The walk to the restaurant took them both inside and outside the Lodge, and it was interesting. He noticed Walker taking in the surroundings and the people they passed.

"Dumas will be joining us for brunch." Nik stated as they approached the entrance to the Terrace Restaurant. “I wanted to discuss his theories and get a clearer picture of those he suspects are involved.”

“Aren’t you worried someone might overhear?” Walker whispered.

“I have my ways.” He smiled. “No one will hear.”

They were seated and had ordered coffee when Dumas arrived and took a seat at the

round table. There were about ten tables total on the terrace and seven were occupied so they had some distance between themselves and the other tables.

“Good morning sir and sir.” Dumas addressed them both. They ordered a light brunch and discussion got under way immediately. When Dumas finished sharing his information, Nik was contemplating leaving the Lodge not wanting to get caught up in whatever may be going on. But he didn’t want to act too hasty considering this was the trip Walker had asked for specifically.

“The men you followed tell me more. I'm sure you did a background.” Nik asked.

“They both live in Harrisburg. The blond is a delivery driver, and the brunet works security at a nightclub. They both have records for assault and the blond for robbery. I think whatever this is may be a job beyond their usual skill level.” Dumas responded and took a drink of his coffee while looking around at the patrons on the terrace.

"Any idea as to who hired them or if they are working for themselves?"

“They don’t act like men who could plan something like this. The Glendale has adequate security and regular patrols on the grounds. They are well protected, so I’d guess they have someone on the inside helping them.” Nik noticed Walker listening closely but still enjoying his brunch.

“Do you know who?”

"Not certain, but the general manager has an aura that is clouded and deceitful. His first assistant reads the same. Also, the bartender at the Terrace bar across from here gives me pause. I had questions about the night doorman. His name is Albert, but his distraction is caused by pain and worry. His girlfriend is cheating on him, and he has evidence that it is true." Dumas clearly felt sorry for the poor man, as did Walker

when he heard about it.

“That is so trashy I don’t understand how people can be so cruel. Why don’t they just leave if they’re unhappy.” Walker spoke up. Nik adored his beloved. “How did you find out about the girlfriend?” He asked.

"A lot of the staff are gossiping about him," Dumas responded with a look that said he agreed with Walker’s assessment of the situation.

Walker sighed sadly. “That makes it so much worse.”

“So, the prevailing theory is that it is an inside job?” Nik brought the discussion back to the issue at hand.

“Yes, sir.”

Walker then spoke up. “I don’t want to sound reactionary because I’m not, but this background shadow of intrigue and robbery is playing on my mind and making the weekend just a tad less enjoyable.” He suggested exactly what Nik had been considering, and his agreement was very welcome.

“You want to go back to Pittsburgh?” Nik asked and took his hand.

“Yes, if you don't mind. I know this was all my idea, and now I want to run away, but I just have a bad feeling about this place now. And I doubt I’d ever be able to look the doorman in the eye again. I just hate games and betrayal, the poor man.” Nik leaned over and kissed him softly.

“I love your heart Walker, and I will do whatever makes you happy. Leaving probably would be best in case the local authorities get involved.” Nik offered and Walker was nodding his head.

"I'll get you checked out and bring the car around," Dumas said as he stood up. He very much agreed with the decision to leave. Humans were so damned unpredictable, and with all the cameras and staff at the Lodge, it would be dangerous to let their supernatural powers show.

One wrong move on their part and the loose ends could go on forever. It's one thing to mind sweep a few but this could turn into hundreds if word started to spread, or God forbid a video ended up online. It was time to go.

They left the terrace and walked back inside and out into the lobby area before Nik and Dumas suddenly came to an abrupt stop. They looked around and then looked at each other. "What's wrong?" Walker asked, and Nik squeezed his hand a little tighter.

"Blood, there's blood in the air," Nik said very softly.

"A lot of blood," Dumas interjected.



## Page 6

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

"Someone is dead." Nik stated and Dumas nodded. Nik glanced over at Dumas, and he quickly headed for the door intent on getting the car. They were getting out there before it all hit the fan. "We have to move fast Walker." He said and Walker fell into step. "We need to be out of here before the body is found."

They packed and were in the lobby when their car pulled up out front. Dumas jogged inside and took their luggage. Before he got to the door, the room blew up. Bullets hit the ceiling and walls in rapid succession, and screams filled the room as chaos took over.

Dumas stood shoulder to shoulder with Nik, and they kept Walker covered and secure behind them. Nik also put a shield around Walker, making sure no errant projectile would harm him. "We didn't act fast enough, sir," Dumas uttered, clearly annoyed at himself.

"We can handle this, Dumas," Nik assured him. "Be conscious of the cameras and the other patrons, but you have permission to do whatever you have to do, and we'll sort it out later."

Dumas reached over, grabbed a man, and pushed him to the floor just as more gunfire rang out. Several of the bullets hit Dumas, but no one seemed to notice in the commotion. "Stay down and get behind the furniture." He told him, and the man did as he was told. Everyone was dropping to the floor and searching for cover or trying to run from the room.

The three of them slowly and strategically moved backward until a wall was behind them. They observed the room, and it was obvious the two with the automatic rifles

were not purposely trying to kill anyone. They were shooting wild and mostly at the ceiling. Their faces were covered, but Dumas recognized them as the two men from the restaurant the previous night.

Things gradually settled and the two started shouting orders for everyone to move up against the wall where Nik along with Walker and Dumas were already standing. They kept Walker behind them shielding him from any possible harm.

Nik would definitely thank Josef when they returned home. He thought bringing any security, and certainly, a hellhound, was overkill for such a basic leisure trip. Right now, he was damn glad to have Dumas at his side.

“Do as we say, and no one will get hurt.” The larger one yelled. He then motioned for the smaller one to approach and he started sorting through the group of people at the wall confiscating all the electronics phones, tablets whatever they were carrying. Nik wiped their phones with just a touch before they were taken.

He started separating people, some he kept against the wall and others he moved over toward the front desk. It became clear that he was separating out those he believed to be less affluent or influential. They kept Nik and his party along with three other groups, one of which Nik recognized from the financial pages. It was beginning to look like they may be considering extortion.

The others were herded into a conference room while those still standing at the wall were instructed to go into the restaurant. Nik maintained the shield around Walker making sure he was safe no matter what the outcome. As they walked to the restaurant three more masked individuals came in through the front doors with several more patrons who had obviously been enjoying the grounds and other amenities. They were taken to the conference room.

The people in the conference room were left with just one guard at the door, and the

others returned to stand with the two covering the entrance to the restaurant. There were five so far, but there were probably more. They would have to secure the grounds and make sure no one else entered, which would take manpower.

Nik glanced over at the conference room doors and threw a glamour of protection around the room. People could leave the room, but no one could enter, and that should keep them safe for now. Nik then turned his attention to the people around him and those who kept them prisoners.

They were the two Dumas had spoken of and the bartender along with two who were strangers. Nik reached into the mind of the large one who had spoken to them all in the lobby. The mystery about the smell of blood was answered.

"The general manager and his assistant manager are both dead in the back office," Nik informed them. Walker immediately looked sad, but Nik raised his hand. "Don't cry for them; they were in on it and decided to try to betray the others."

"What a clusterfuck," Dumas commented.

"It gets worse." Nik continued. "The general manager was the only one who had the combination to the safe. That's why things have blown up in this manner."

"How much money could a country lodge be holding that would tempt men like this to go to such lengths to rob it?" Dumas was puzzled. This looked like a lot of manpower for a little country safe.

"Apparently, the safe has a secure multilayered defense system. Therefore, it is used as a drop for all the earnings of businesses in the area that are owned by the group that owns The Glendale. The money is picked up once a week, and collection is tomorrow morning, so that safe is bursting with cash at the moment." Nik spelled it out and both Dumas and Walker were nodding their heads.

“It all makes sense except for the part where they killed the guy with the combination.” Walker offered his two cents worth.

“They’re going to try and make up for the loss with extortion. Each person in this room is going to be told to donate if they want to leave this Lodge alive.” Nik said, glanced at the men standing outside the door. “Bad plan. They went from a quick heist to a crime that is going to be plastered across the state, and everybody and their brothers will be involved.”

“What a mess.”

“Indeed.”

“Have you determined the issue with the Master’s phone?” Josef stood at Cole’s desk. Cole’s title was head of cyber-security along with so many other technical titles. If there was a serious problem Cole was the go to solution.

“The phone is completely out of operation. My guess is that it has been destroyed along with Dumas’ phone and Walker’s phone. None of them can be traced or read.” Cole gave the disappointing news.

“Did you try the Lodge?” Josef asked.

“No response and I tried every number even the Terrace Restaurant Maître D. No one is answering.” Cole looked as worried as Josef felt. “What’s next?”

“Keep trying to contact someone in the area. I’m taking a few guards and we’re heading to the Glendale.” Josef flew from the room and within ten minutes they were on the road. He wasn’t taking any chances considering what had been going on the last few months. Nik would not purposely refuse to answer his phone, and the fact no other phones were working made the matter that much worse.

If they'd had contacts in the police department it would have helped tremendously but that area of Pennsylvania was a dead spot as far as the paranormal was concerned. He didn't doubt that Nik and Dumas could well take care of themselves but still it didn't hurt to have reinforcements.

Not knowing and not being able to contact them was getting under Josef's skin. Even during the darkest days of the curse, they could still maintain a level of contact, so this was unacceptable.

## Page 7

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

He brought Micheal and his team which consisted of many of the new members all of whom had proven themselves qualified and capable. They were a great group of men and an excellent addition to the Hadden Coven. During the ride Josef continued to try and contact someone at the Lodge but so far nothing.

He thought about calling the police but that could go very wrong depending upon the reasons for the cut in contact. They would be there before dark and then the questions would be answered. In his heart he knew there was something wrong, so he urged his driver to go faster.

### CHAPTER FOUR

Walker was shocked and dismayed, to say the very least. His perfect weekend getaway had turned into some sort of dreadful action movie. Worst of all, they were trapped, unable to use the skills available to them because they were among humans and surveillance cameras.

This place had been his dream, having heard about it from a friend at the garage who had brought his wife and had a splendid time. Walker had researched it with the help of his best friend Stanley, and it looked like the perfect, private place to spend a lovely weekend with your significant other. He presented the idea to Nik, and although it took a while, Nik had never forgotten his request, and when it was possible, he booked the weekend.

"I wish I'd never heard of this place. I wish I could go back in time and find something else, something less violent with fewer bullets." Walker grumbled.

“I have no complaint up until, as you say, the bullets started flying. Yesterday and last night were wonderful, and I loved spending them with you in our gorgeous room with a lovely view of the forest and the lake. The food and service were impeccable. Do not blame yourself, my love. This difficulty will be resolved soon.” Walker saw him glance at Dumas when he made the final statement, and Dumas nodded.

“How many in total do you think are involved?” He asked Nik.

“The five here of course and then whoever they have guarding the property and keeping people out so guards at the gates probably at least two so we’re looking at least seven.” Nik responded. “I didn’t get a number when I checked out the large one’s mind. The people he’s working with are not a priority to him, but people like this don’t usually show a lot of loyalty.”

The large one came to their table and held open a cloth bag, thrusting it toward them. “All your valuables in here.” He barked, and Walker was about to hand over his watch when Nik captured the man’s eyes, holding him entranced. It was a subtle glamour and would not be recognized if caught on camera.

“You have all of our things now move onto the next table.” He told him and kept his voice low and Walker saw the man nod and walk to the next table. He worked his way around the room and then took a stance by the door.

“Now it’s time to pull out your wallets and start to transfer money. I know you have it so don’t even try to play any games. He took his handgun out and shot out the chandelier and also the mirrors on the far wall. It was performative but effective people immediately started reaching for their wallets.

“We’ve already killed two people, so a few more will not matter.” He seemed to be bragging, which was in really bad taste.

“I hate that guy.” Walker couldn’t hold back his opinion.

“Yeah, he's easy to hate," Dumas added.

The guy opened the door and the shorter heavy set man walked in and started making the rounds getting people to wire them cash. Walker assumed it was some kind of secret account otherwise it would be pretty easy to follow the money. "I wish they could have just robbed the safe and left because it would have made life easier for all of us.” Walker voiced his thoughts.

The short man came to Nik’s table and tried a heavy-handed approach, but he calmed him down and backed him off with a dark stare and a wave of his hand. He stepped back, confused by his own behavior. "You're Nikolas Hadden, everybody knows you." He scoffed. "Either hand over some cash, or we may find it necessary to kill that pretty piece of fluff sitting behind you.” The man smiled sickly at Walker. “My rifle could really tear you to pieces, sweet thing." He acted tough, but even Walker could sense that he had little to back up that attitude apart from his rifle. The words, though, did have an effect on Nik.

Walker could sense that Nik was using every ounce of restraint he had to stop himself from ripping this man apart. His knuckles turned white as his fingers curled into tight fists.

“I could cut up your bodyguard here and make you watch, and that would be entertaining for all of us." He spoke in a weird, melodic voice. It was becoming clear that the man was not rational.

“Take your best shot.” Dumas stated and captured the short one’s gaze and Walker saw the flash of the hellhound in his eyes and the man jumped back startled. It threw him off for a moment, but he then shook it off and moved away from Dumas.



"I can open the safe," Nik stated flatly, but Walker had no idea what he was planning. He reached out and clutched Nik by the upper arm, not wanting him to leave.

"Take me to your safe, I can open it." He repeated and put his hand over Walkers and channeled a quiet calm. Walker relaxed but kept his eyes on Nik and that ridiculous goon. The guy reached out to grab Nik but in the last second thought better of it and simply asked him to stand.

Walker hated the idea of them being separated but he trusted Nik and figured he had a plan. He would try and not make it worse by getting worried and upset which would simply end up splitting Nik's attention.

"Come with us." He said to Nik, and Dumas made to stand, but the man turned back and shot a couple rounds into the floor. The guy seemed taken aback when no one at the table flinched. "Your hired muscle and your piece of ass will stay here." Nik winked at him, and Walker knew at that moment that everything was fine.

Nik followed the guy back out into the lobby, where they were met with two more men in masks holding guns. "What are you doing?" One of them reacted and got into the guy's face. "Take him back to the restaurant."

"He said he can open the safe." The guy explained and the others stared at Nik speculatively wondering if he was serious or working some angle to escape. Their minds were filled with chaos and attempts at plans to salvage this mess.

"How would you know how to open this safe?" One of them asked and stepped forward. Nik rattled off the name and number and all the specifics regarding this particular safe. He'd pulled this information from the guy's mind. It seemed to impress him enough that he stepped back and became interested.

"Take him to the office and see if he's telling the truth." He finally decided and then

shot a round into the floor at Nik's feet for effect. The theatrics were becoming tiring. "If he's lying, kill him." He said, then turned his back on them and headed for the conference room.

Nik watched as he tried to open the door, but it would not budge. "Get this door open." He said to one of the others who rushed over and tried to open it to no avail. Nik found the display mildly entertaining.

"This is Nikolas Hadden of Pittsburgh if we kill him we will be hunted to the ends of the earth." The short one warned, and Nik decided perhaps he was smarter than he looked.

## Page 8

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

"I don't give a fuck who he is. If he's lying, shoot him in the fucking face." Nik caught the guy's gaze and held it captive for a few seconds, and sent every horrific thought and nightmare that had ever entered the guy's mind back at him in real-time. This man was the bartender that Dumas had suspected was involved. The guy gasped and dropped back behind the others standing there. Then, he closed his eyes and grabbed his head with both hands. "What the fuck was that?"

The others stood there confounded as to what he was referring to. They ended up not saying anything and stood there silently waiting for more.

He caught his breath and straightened, looking around at the others. Finally, one spoke to him. "What's wrong with you?"

"Nothing, nothing that a few thousand bucks wouldn't fix." He spat. "Now get that conference door open and make sure you get all their valuables."

"The door won't open. Maybe they locked it from the inside. We should try the windows."

"There are no locks on these doors. It's a conference room; for fuck sake, now knock it down if you have to." The short one eventually grew bored with watching them try and open that door and guided Nik to the office behind the front desk.

When he stepped inside, he saw the bodies of two men lying near the desk. "Don't let them bother you. They got what they deserved."

"Did you kill them?" Nik asked, already knowing that he'd killed the assistant

manager and his partner, the larger man from the restaurant, had killed the manager.

“Open the safe.” He demanded and pointed to the safe located in a side room behind the manager’s desk. Nik moved around the desk and toward the side room when the office door opened and the large one walked in.

“He’s going to open the safe?” He asked.

“He said he knows how.” The short one responded.

“Bullshit.”

“We’ll know soon enough.”

Nik stepped into the side room and waited until both of them had joined him. He stepped back and sized them up to their consternation.

“Open it.” The large one shouted and raised his gun, and Nik struck. He entered the man's mind, and in a split second, the man turned his gun on his friend and shot him, and the friend returned fire. Still half alive, they started peppering each other with bullets until they fell to the floor, both dead and, in the words of the short one, having gotten what they deserved.

Nik would have preferred killing them with his bare hands, but that would have been difficult to explain to the police and no doubt the police would arrive soon. He moved around the bodies and went back to the office. “Two down and five to go.”

“Come out of there with your hands up.” Someone yelled from beyond the office door. “We have your friends, so come out, or they die.” Somehow, they knew that Nik was the survivor.

“What happened?” The bartender asked and made an aggressive step toward Nik but then stepped back again, not comfortable being too close. Nik wanted to rip their hearts out so badly.

He looked over at Walker and Dumas and could see they were okay. Walker was protected, and Dumas could take care of himself, so they had nothing to fear from these morons. The disrespect was getting on his nerves, and this being careful and waiting was wearing thin. He recalled the diagram that Dumas had sent him, pointing out where all the cameras were located.

In the lobby, there were only two, one by the front doors giving a clear view of the front desk and the general manager's office door, one by the desk giving a clear view of the front doors. There were no cameras inside the office.

He needed to get them into the office, and there they could be killed. Having them all suddenly shooting each other here in the lobby could possibly raise some awkward questions. Away from the cameras, Nik could concoct whatever story would fit the scene.

"They started to argue, and then they shot each other," Nik stated flatly and with a calm that had a chilling effect.

“Why didn’t they shoot you?”

“I wasn’t arguing.”

The bartender put his gun to Walker’s temple, and before he could pull the trigger, Nik had taken the gun, which was now pointed at the shooter, who was on his knees. His comrades did not know what to do at this point as they all came rushing to the lobby, so once again, chaos rang out at the Glendale Lodge. Shots were fired recklessly. Dumas had gotten Walker away from the melee and was standing guard

over him near the front doors.

Nik made sure that a spray of bullets took out both cameras before taking the man on his knees and lifting him to his feet to stand before him. "You were going to murder my husband," Nik stated clearly and calmly as if they weren't standing in the center of complete pandemonium. The man saw bullets flying around them, and not one hit Nikolas Hadden, although several were absorbed by his flesh. They burned and bled, and Hadden still did not move or flinch.

"What are you?" He asked between trembling lips. Nik allowed his vampire to come forward. His face distorted, and his eyes turned into a raging fire. The man screamed and tried to fight, but he was already a dead man the moment he threatened the beloved of the Master.

"I am the Master." He said and caught the man's gaze and bore into his mind stripping it of all thoughts and emotions all signs of life and vitality until there was nothing and this man was nothing. He dropped him onto the floor and then took a moment to observe the madness that surrounded them. He raised his hand and motioned to Dumas and Walker.

Dumas had performed admirably during this ill-fated vacation and had provided Walker with a level of protection near to Nik's own. The would be robbers were currently killing each other so Nik did not interfere. He met Dumas and Walker, who were standing near the doors. Dumas had moved behind a halfwall that separated the lobby from the little coffee lounge but still gave them a clear view of the entire area.

"That looked satisfying, sir," Dumas said with a grin, referring to the demise of the man who threatened Walker.

## Page 9

*Source Creation Date: May 21, 2025, 2:46 am*

“It was. His panic and fear at the end were very satisfying.” Nik responded casually.

“Well, your piece of ass, thanks you for getting me away from that creep,” Walker spoke up from behind them.

“My gorgeous, magnificent, and adorable piece of ass.” Nik corrected and turned to drop a quick kiss on the top of Walker's head.

“We still have whoever they have guarding the gates and the grounds,” Dumas spoke up as the lobby began to fall quiet. They had managed to kill one another in a most efficient style.

“I don’t think we have to worry about that.” Nik said and glanced over at the main doors where Josef was busting through. “I believe the grounds are secured.” He stepped out from behind the wall and greeted him.

“Hello Josef, it’s so nice to see you.” The sarcasm was thick, but so was the gratitude.

“My God, what happened here?” Josef looked around the lobby and then at the room behind them filled with people who were tentatively stepping out. Nik waved his hand, and the conference room doors disengaged and soon those patrons were also joining them.

“No guests were harmed, and I do believe no criminal survived. I assume that the grounds are cleared.” Nik commented.

Josef nodded. "The grounds are cleared. Two were at the gate, and three were

roaming the grounds; all disappeared. Michael and his team are combing the area, making sure none remain.”

“Good, good, the less explaining, the better.”

Josef took a cursory glance at the lobby and cocked an eyebrow at Nik. “It looks like there will be plenty of explaining.”

“Yes, but nothing supernatural.” Nik reached out and pulled Walker up to his side. He then told him what had taken place that day and about Dumas' suspicions of the prior evening.

“What a fuck up. All these men and not a one knew how to carry out a proper heist?” Josef shook his head. “They killed the only man who had the combination to the safe.” He was astonished at their level of incompetence. “The research, the planning, the recruitment involved with this and then to do everything wrong.”

“They had more anger than ambition, and apart from the money, they seemed to want to wreak havoc on the lives of people who they saw as having too much. It was doomed from the start, I believe.” Nik gave his opinion. Walker looked back over his shoulder at the remainder of the mayhem behind him.

“I now know what it means to reap the whirlwind.” He said softly and Nik gathered him more tightly to him.

The other patrons were starting to approach them and ask questions for which they all had the same answers. “They simply turned on each other.” The police showed up and after hours of sitting and waiting and filling out reports they were cleared to leave.

Nik felt bad for his beloved and wished that their weekend had been more what he'd expected. He held him close in the car on their drive back to Pittsburgh. “I'm sorry



this ended so badly my love.” Nik said softly while running his fingers gently through Walker’s stunning blond hair.

"Like you said, the first night was beautiful, and I had a wonderful time. I'm going to focus on that and forget what came after, although it was impressive how you and Dumas managed to get the upper hand even without supernatural assistance.” Walker smiled and ran his hand down Nik’s chest to gently grasp his hardening cock.

Nik caught his breath and closed his eyes for a moment, savoring the touch of his beloved. "Any time spent with you is wonderful, baby," Nik commented in a soft, raspy voice. Walker's hand had slipped inside and was now cradling his aching erection. Nik bent forward and closed the panel separating the front seat from the back for privacy. He then opened the front of his pants in order to give Walker easier access.

"Maybe next time we can just turn off the phones, lock the doors, and have a vacation in our apartment," Walker suggested.

“Whatever you wish, my love, I will make it happen." Nik laid his head back against the upholstery and closed his eyes as Walker took him down his throat, swallowing his hot, throbbing cock and loving him like only a beloved can.

"I love you, Walker.” He said.

Walker popped off the end of his cock just long enough to respond. “I love you too, Nik." This was going to be an absolutely delicious ride home.

THE END