



Remortality

By Selina A. Fenech

Complete summary including spoilers.

Kitty—who goes by Kaitlyn now—is onsite finishing up her last scene for her most recent film. Afterwards, she finds Owen waiting for her in her trailer, and he says he has a special surprise for her. Ever since Owen was cured, he's had to keep a low profile, because he can't let other vampires know that he is human now, anymore than he can let humans know he was once a vampire. He's had to avoid being seen in public with Kaitlyn, lest a photo of them together be taken and shared on social media.

The more famous Kaitlyn gets, the harder it is to hide their relationship. Owen wishes that she'd wear the Nemexia perfume

he gave her more often, but he hasn't explained why.

As Owen takes Kaitlyn onto a private jet to bring her to his surprise, he feels that nothing could possibly mar the perfection of his new life.

Kaitlyn and Owen land in Slovakia, and he takes her to a castle, which he is gifting to her. It used to be his, but he wants to repay her for giving him back his life. While they explore the castle, an unexpected visitor arrives: Lance, a vampire that Owen used to be friends with. Lance spotted them at the airport and trailed them there, intrigued to find Owen a human now. When he smells Kaitlyn, he attacks her and begins to feed. No longer in possession of his old vampire strength, Owen struggles to defend her.

Owen drifts back into consciousness to find a blue-lipped Kaitlyn and a confused Lance. He begs Lance to help him save Kaitlyn's life. Lance retrieves first aid supplies, and treats both Kaitlyn's and Owen's wounds from the altercation. Then Lance locks them up, and leaves.

Owen explains to Kaitlyn that Lance was once his best friend, and had served as a mentor for Owen after Adelle—but something changed with Lance. He became cynical, hateful, and violent toward humans, though he used to be someone who always tried to do the right thing.

Owen tells Kaitlyn that the Nemexia perfume he gave her is based on corpse flower, a fragrance that can knock out vampires. Newly imprisoned—without current access to the perfume—all they can do is wait.

Lance returns and asks Owen if it was Kaitlyn's blood that made him human again. Owen tries to lie, but Lance sees right through it. Owen threatens to kill Lance if he tries to take anymore of her blood, but Lance assures him he doesn't want it—he doesn't want to be human.

But Lance has unfortunate news: he has told the council about Owen's transformation, and two more vampires arrive to escort Owen and Kaitlyn to the Synedron. The new arrivals are Joss and Ash,

members of the Ebonguard. A helicopter comes to pick them up, and Kaitlyn and Owen are delivered to Umbravallis, a vampire settlement in Romania where the powerful vampire council resides.

On their way, Lance apologizes and admits he may have made a mistake betraying their secret, and that even having just a little bit of Kaitlyn's blood has changed him and reminded him that he used to be a better man.

The Ebonguard escort Kaitlyn and Owen through a crowd of vampires, keeping them safe. Owen runs into a vampire called Dante, one of Adelle's lovers. Dante accuses Owen of having murdered Adelle, and assures Owen that one day, he will prove his guilt, claiming to have seen Owen take something from Adelle's ashes when she died.

Kaitlyn and Owen are escorted to the large council chamber where the vampire council awaits them: Delphine, Shirina, Milton, Lin, Viatrix, Toren, and Bertha. Lance gives his report on his encounter with Owen and Kaitlyn to the council. Milton insists on putting Kaitlyn to death, but Bertha wants to let her and Owen live and keep them as pets. Delphine hints that Kaitlyn has already been claimed—by Lance. Owen finds this comment upsetting.

The council votes on whether Kaitlyn and Owen should live or die. Lin, Shirina, and Toren vote for them to live. Milton, Delphine, and Viatrix advocate for their deaths. Bertha abstains, which means they will live—for now.

Back in their quarters, Owen is enraged, and wishes he were still a vampire so that he could have the strength to protect Kaitlyn. They ask Lance to help them escape, but Lance explains that even if they were able to flee, they'd be hunted no matter where they went. Owen and Lance clash, and Owen struggles with his newfound anger, unaccustomed to the emotion after several blissful months with Kaitlyn—and years of not feeling anything.

Ewan, a vampire doctor, arrives to take blood samples from both Kaitlyn and Owen, to be studied in the lab. Lance and Owen explain to Kaitlyn that although Synedrion is the largest community of vampires, there are others, too—others that might try to weaponize her blood against them. Owen is annoyed when Lance compliments Kaitlyn. He holds onto one hope: he still has the cursed ring.

Kaitlyn grapples with Owen's anger and darkness, which reminds her of the monster she thought she'd left behind when he became human—and she fears she doesn't know him as well as she thought. She and Owen agree that they must try to escape, somehow.

They hear a ruckus outside their door, and when they open it, they find that Delphine has assaulted their two Ebonguard sentries with Nemexia. She enters their room and informs them that it is time for them to die, because they pose too great a risk to the community to wait on a council decision. Owen and Kaitlyn try to fight back, but then a group of hooded figures arrive and rip Delphine's head off. Then the figures come after Kaitlyn and Owen, stealing them away.

When she becomes conscious, Kaitlyn is aware that the vampires are carrying them through a tunnel. She manages to knock off one of their masks to discover a terrifying, shriveled face with wrinkled lips sewn shut. Then she and Owen are locked into separate cells.

Alone, Owen explains to Kaitlyn that this group calls themselves the Starved—a cult of vampires who don't feed because they don't want human blood to taint their purity. Kaitlyn is angry with Owen for withholding so much information from her about vampires, and laments being torn from the life she had just begun as a successful actor. Then, the Starved return and drag her from her cell.

They take her to a large cavern full of vampires, centered around a giant statue of a demonic creature. The Starved leader draws blood from her and confirms that she is the one they have been waiting for—the one with the strawberry blood. Kissare's chalice, he says, always delivers the truth, and that they have found the one who will give them a child to cure their thirst forever.

Then the Starved leader cuts Kaitlyn's contraceptive implant from her arm with a knife, and draws a symbol of fertility on her abdomen, announcing that they have three days.

Back in her cell, Kaitlyn and Owen whittle two wooden stakes and prepare for what's to come. Kaitlyn fears being forced to be pregnant, but she knows that Owen would never do that to her. Ever.

Three days later, the Starved return and enthrall Owen so that they can force him upon Kaitlyn, as they hope to impregnate her. He tries to fight it. Before things can escalate, though, Lance comes to their rescue, spraying the room of vampires with wormwood-infused alcohol, which causes them to burst into flames. When Lance runs out of fuel, though, he knows he cannot escape with both of them. Kaitlyn urges him to take Owen and run, knowing they won't kill her. Lance escapes with Owen, leaving Kaitlyn alone with the Starved.

With no human present to impregnate Kaitlyn, the Starved try a new ritual. Scarl performs a sacrificial ceremony in which he drinks Kaitlyn's blood to become human so that he'll be able to do the deed. Using a shard of glass she'd found, Kaitlyn cuts through one of her bindings and slashes the newly human Scarl. The blood attracts the appetite of the Starved, and they set upon Kaitlyn and Scarl, eager to feed despite their leader's commands to stop.

Suddenly, a group Ebonguard arrive, along with Owen and Lance. Rather than be taken captive by the Ebonguard, many of the Starved begin to take their own lives. Joss and Lance speed Kaitlyn and Owen to safety, where Ewan attends to Kaitlyn's wounds.

Back at the Synedrion, Kaitlyn learns that Delphine's position on the council has been taken over by Dante de Silva—the same vampire who attacked Owen when they first arrived. She also learns that Scarl's punishment will be to face Alam's dagger, which is one of the most sacred relicts of the original seven, along with Kissare's chalice and Tiamet's Ring.

Kaitlyn and Owen enjoy a passionate exchange with heightened emotions after recent events. Ewan returns for more blood samples, and informs Kaitlyn that she has a rare blood type of Rh Null.

Kaitlyn and Owen return to the council chamber for their fates to be decided. Milton, Viatrix, and Dante vote for them to be put to death. Toren, Lin, Shirina, and Bertha vote for them to live—Kaitlyn’s blood, Lin explains, could offer hope for those who wish to be human again.

Dante focuses on Owen, who he wants to be punished for past crimes. The council argues about whether to keep Owen and Kaitlyn locked up or enthralled, but Kaitlyn announces that they have both been claimed by Lance, and are therefore under his protection.

After, Lin informs Kaitlyn that they found something remarkable in her blood, beyond simply having a rare blood type—something that might allow them to make artificial blood.

Privately, Owen continues to resent his weak human form. The Scarl is sentenced to Alam’s dagger and turned to stone, and the captured Starved are taken to the Sun Shrine for their punishment, where they undergo a torturous sun binding ceremony. Owen reflects on the cursed ring—Tiamat’s ring—he secretly has in his possession, hidden in a safe place. He knows that if they ever found out he knew the location of one of the most sacred items in vampire culture, he’d be out there in the Sun Shrine himself.

Lance and Owen are alone, Lance confesses that he had a family when he was still human, and confides in Owen that one day he did terrible things to a man who attacked his descendants—but those terrible things were blamed on his great-granddaughters, who were then burned at the stake as witches. Since then, he’s cared little for humans—until now.

As their “owner,” Lance gives Kaitlyn and Owen permission to return to their lives. Free from the Synedrion, Kaitlyn and Owen depart on a plane, and Kaitlyn learns that she got an acting part she really wanted.

Then Kaitlyn confesses something that Lin had confirmed to her that morning: she’s pregnant.

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