

Once Upon a Nightwalker

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Synopsis

ELLEN is a Nightwalker (vampire) who has recently returned to her job as a Marketing Director after six years estranged from her friends, family, and coworkers while she dealt with unwillingly becoming a vampire as part of a global catastrophe that left tens of millions in the same state.

Tonight is an important night for the company, and for her; they're pitching a campaign to a big customer, and are pulling an all-nighter to finish the pitch in time. Being a vampire, Ellen has trouble focusing during daylight hours, so she only works at night, which has made it difficult to feel like part of the team. This is her first opportunity since returning to work to interact with coworkers who knew her before she turned, and who haven't exactly welcomed her back.

ROSETTA approaches warmly but with clear hesitation across the evening sunlight barrier that separates Ellen from the others and asks for her help. Even though the task is below her level, Ellen excitedly accepts.

After a brief struggle with the task, Ellen calls to FAVIAN for help. Favian is less eager to help, however. He eventually vents his disgust over what Ellen has become and leaves her to her fate. Dejected, Ellen gets some hemofruit juice from the kitchen and runs into DELA, a blunt redhead who claims she's here to watch everyone. Before Ellen can find out why, her husband calls and cancels their therapy session, making her even more depressed.

Then, to top it off, her oft-abusive boss MR. HARGREAVES calls her into his office and reiterates how important the project is, and that he expects more from Ellen than what she's been delivering. Ellen leaves with her tail between her legs and seeks help from a data analyst she knew from before, who Rosetta had explicitly said she could not contact. The data analyst warmly agrees to help.

Dela supports her decision and brashly reminds Ellen of who she was, suggesting the change in people's attitude toward her may be less because she's a Nightwalker than her own insecurity. And the moment the sun sets, freeing up her mind, Ellen sees it as true.

She also notices a severe problem with the presentation that could damage her company's reputation and end Rosetta's career, and vows to fix the situation as someone in her position should. Worse, she notes that the data she'd been given appears to have been manipulated. The culprit is likely someone in the office, but Ellen doesn't know who.

She starts with Favian. After an open interrogation session, she discovers that his harshness toward her was because of decisions she'd made in the past, conflicting with his enormous respect for her, that spawned his poor attitude. She then sets a trap for Hargreaves, who merrily springs it, yielding surprising results.

Ellen confronts Rosetta, who had professed to be her friend, and discovers that she had deliberately sabotaged the data to make Ellen look bad in retaliation for Ellen's rapid climb up the corporate ladder, which she viewed as stealing opportunities from her. Ellen sends her packing, then discovers that Dela was tightly involved in the event that transformed her into a Nightwalker in the first place. Ellen thanks her for helping, then vows to work with Favian, earn the client account, and patch things with her husband, just like she would have before becoming a Nightwalker.